

## **OCBA Meeting Minutes, August 10, 2017**

Cynthia Speed, Secretary

Our pre-meeting dinner was held in the private room at Radius Pizzeria with 9 in attendance.

President John Rintoul opened the meeting. He mentioned that some members have notified him that they no longer received listserv postings. He recommended signing up again for members who are not getting listserv posts. The club may investigate another service such as Google Groups to resolve the listserv issues.

The NCSBA centennial conference was attended by 27 OCBA members and boasted a record attendance of almost 813 members. Randall Austin took 1st place for his dry mead and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for his Melamel. Mark Powers took 1<sup>st</sup> place for his photo. Cynthia raised \$760.00 for apiary research with a honeybee quilt wall hanging. The collection of 100 live pollinating plants sold at the end of the conference brought in \$265.00 and were collected and orchestrated by Chris Apple, Celeste Mayer, Lisa Vogel, Karen Lauterbach, Amber Tarter, Mary Leonhardi and Jeanne Arnts.

Copies of the Taste of Honey Cookbook, centennial edition, were distributed to members who ordered in advance.

Next week is National Honeybee Week. Chris Apple and Celeste Mayer have put together an outreach program for August 12<sup>th</sup> for the Chapel Hill Farmer's Market. There will be live bees and honey sales with word search and coloring pages for the kids. The following Saturday August 19<sup>th</sup> ends the week at the Eno River Farmer's Market. Chris and Elizabeth Pratson will represent us on site again, but without honey sales. Burt's Bees is donating lip balm and Bayer is donating wildflower seeds.

Chris Apple, Ryan Chamberlain, and Cynthia Speed will present a program at Chapel Hill Library to two groups of 20 youngsters on August 17. John reminded the group that OCBA's Outreach Programs needs more warm bodies to help Chris out with the numerous requests she has been getting for honeybee outreach.

We have received one offer to help out with the state fair display. Unless more interest is generated, OCBA will decline this year. Participation would offer public service credit towards certification.

John Rintoul met with representatives of Orange County to discuss the possibility of a joint venture between the County and OCBA to include a honey house – honey extraction demonstration facility in the proposed administration building at Blackwood Farm Park. The county was looking for some sort of farm-to-table educational facility at the park and was excited at the prospect of a honey extraction exhibit. No formal decisions

have been made. Ideally this facility would give OCBA members the opportunity to extract honey using OCBA equipment while educating the public at the same time. One side of the building would be open to the public via observation windows as the public would not be allowed inside the honey house. A microphone/speaker system would allow the public to ask questions and allow the beekeepers to provide a running commentary while they are extracting. In order to allow the facility to serve an educational purpose well into the fall months, a freezer would be provided for beekeepers to store honey frames for later extraction. The County representatives and OCBA will meet again in September. OCBA will need to form a Honey House Committee with members who can make a firm time commitment to this project.

Brad Kosiba repaired the OCBA extractor with a new handle ordered from Dadant, but it failed immediately. A second handle has been installed and will be tested by the next member to extract.

Raffle ticket prizes were mouse guard/entrance reducer, 1 lb. packet of buckwheat seeds, a beetle jail, and frame rest protectors donated by Bailey Bee Supply.

Will Hicks, NC Bee Inspector, spoke on "The Good, the Bad, the Ugly. What You Might See In Your Colony." He has seen a lot more European Foul Brood this year, but not to epidemic proportions. He gave an excellent talk on how to identify what we are seeing in our hives in terms of disease symptoms and hive pest damage. Randall mentioned that a free resource with a great pictorial guide to what Will was talking about is "The Field Guide to Honeybees and their Maladies:"

<http://extension.psu.edu/publications/agrs-116/view>. Will urged everyone to volunteer to staff the state beekeeping information center at the state fair.

The meeting was adjourned and the group enjoyed refreshments brought by Marianne McCollough, Celeste Meyer, and Meredith Friedrich. 54 members attended the meeting.