

OCBA Meeting Minutes, October 12, 2017

Cynthia Speed

Our pre-meeting dinner was held in a private room at Radius Pizzeria with 6 members in attendance.

President John Rintoul opened the meeting and called on Lewis Cauble to tell us about the State Fair. Lewis noticed that OCBA did not have a display this year and said that it was OK to take a break every 10 years. He went on to say that Wake County won 1st place with their display and Chatham County came in 2nd place but only missed 1st place by 1 point. He said that Molly Carlson, a previous OCBA apprentice, won several blue ribbons. Chris Apple won 1st place for creamed honey, and David Eckert won a blue ribbon for his light amber honey and Best of Show. He got a high of 95½ for his amber honey but 1 through 6 had scores of 96 or better.

Meredith Friedrich brought some recent Bee Culture and American Bee Journal magazines as giveaways. It was a good opportunity for those who don't subscribe to try them out. If you do subscribe, please bring them to future meetings to share with other beekeepers rather than discard them.

John Friedrich has several thousand Tulip Poplar saplings from a logging venture that he offered to pot up and bring free to those interested. Celeste also had 1 potted Catalpa free to anyone.

Elections will be held at next month's meeting. We have a full slate at this point but are still accepting nominations and self-nominations. The proposed slate: Mark Powers for President, Ryan Chamberlain for Vice President, Nerissa Rivera for Treasurer, and Cynthia Speed for Secretary, and Lisa Vogel for Director of Apprentices and Cluster/Mentoring. Chris Apple as Director of Outreach and Randall Austin as Director of Education are in the middle of their terms.

The Apprentice application process has begun. It's a great program. No charge enrollment in the OCBA Bee School; an assigned experienced beekeeper mentor; honey bees and beekeeping equipment; and a 1 year membership in OCBA. Members were asked to spread the word to future beekeepers between the ages of 10 and 16. Details are on the OCBA website.

Door prizes this month were bee earrings, bionic calf skin gloves, and glass honey bear jars.

Congratulations are in order for Mark Powers who earned his Journeyman certification presented to him by Randall Austin. Mark brought his award winning photo which took grand prize at the NCSBA centennial conference this year.

Our speaker for the evening was Randall Austin, Master Beekeeper, whose topic was, "3 Absolutely Critical Things To Do To Reduce or Eliminate Winter Losses." During his excellent and humorous talk, he recommended a good read, "The Buzz about Bees - Biology of a Superorganism" by Jurgen Tautz. He used the analogy of a 3-legged stool.

1. Treat for Varroa (the best time is August)
2. Feed bees if you want bees (carbohydrates are key, not protein)
3. Cull (weak hives don't get better over winter; combine with strong)

He recommended visiting The Honey Bee Health Coalition on line for timely Varroa information. Randall was a very engaging speaker and answered many, many questions. For those unable to attend, two links that cover most of what he discussed can be found in two of Randall's articles written for Bailey's Bee Supply.

[Controlling Winter Losses](#)

[A Few More Wintering Tips](#)

He also reminded members to post their beekeeping questions to the listserv to get help.

The meeting was adjourned and the group enjoyed refreshments brought by Cathy Starks. Sixty-three people were in attendance.