

OCBA Meeting Minutes, July 14, 2011

'Lizabeth B. Collins

1. John Harrell welcomed members and guests and briefly reflected on the NCSBA summer conference held last week in the Town of Elon and the Festival on the Eno. Lewis Cauble passed around a frame of Purple Brood, possibly caused by a plant not usually accessible to honey bees in Orange County.
2. Wattie Bowes announced a Hive Inspection Workshop to be held on Saturday, August 6, at the home of Toni and Fred Fesel. State Inspector Don Hopkins will conduct the workshop, which will be followed by a potluck supper. OCBA will supply buns and burgers or hot dogs; participants will provide side dishes and beverages. The workshop will begin at 3:30 pm and we'll wrap things up by 7 pm. Elisabeth Curtis asked if someone would be willing to videotape the workshop; Dave Eckert volunteered.
3. Next Wattie announced that Geneva Green will conduct an Introduction to Beekeeping course, primarily for people who are interested in becoming beekeepers, at the beginning of November. The workshop will be at the Unitarian Church with registration from 8:30 to 9 am and class from 9 to noon. The date will be determined soon.
4. John was understandably disappointed that the Golden Achievement Award at the Summer Meeting went to Johnson County. However, the three clubs in competition for the Chapter of the Year "tied," and Orange was recognized for service with a check for \$300; Brushy Mountain also contributed a check for \$100. OCBA members are encouraged to record (text and photos) any and all public service events throughout the year, and turn them over to 'Lizabeth Collins (club secretary).
5. Sandra K. committed to head up the State Fair booth committee and requested many volunteers to help. Contact her to help.
6. John pointed out that the club extractor has seen some use this summer. Some comments were made about its portability and stability. Fred Fesel suggested that one member be in charge of the extractor's coming and going, and he volunteered to take on that job. Sandra suggested a calendar on the OCBA website to show the dates that the extractor is reserved. Geneva pointed out that other equipment – specifically the observation hive – could benefit from the same type of policy. Wattie stated that there should be a deposit in addition to the \$5/day fee, which could be used to insure that the extractor is returned in a clean, mechanically sound condition. Geneva shared her dream of having a club site with areas for meeting, extracting honey, and storing equipment.
7. Dick Merritt's treasury report : \$2489.39/checking; \$800.45/money market; \$25.43/shares (\$2,318.27 total).

8. 'Lizabeth Collins recorded members present and encouraged guests to sign in.
9. John asked for volunteers to help extract bee swarms/colonies in structures.

Todd Walker introduced our speaker, Dick Rogers, who discussed bee health investigations. "Honeybees are the sparkplugs of agriculture," was the opening statement of his presentation. We learned that seventeen states have the honey bee as their state insect, that Bayer has a research apiary called Beesboro in Clayton, NC, that Hive Tracks is a free record keeping program for beekeepers, and that there are two hives at Duke Homestead in Durham (beekeepers needed to help there). He suggested some solutions to the honey bee health crisis and discussed the following: monitoring, IPM for bee pests, integrated bee management, supportive agriculture policies, attitudes, and communication of ideas.

Members enjoyed fellowship together following the meeting. Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments at the September, October and November meetings. Sandra volunteered to provide August's refreshments (Thanks, Sandra!)

Respectfully submitted,

'Lizabeth Collins