

OCBA Meeting Minutes, April 11, 2013

Lizabeth B. Collins

1. Geneva Green welcomed members and guests. She pointed out the two new hives located on the church grounds, and shared a thank you note from the church to the club for the hives.
2. Dick Merritt reminded everyone to sign in on the clipboards for attendance and to pick up membership cards on the same table.
3. Geneva and the club thanked Todd Walker for running an amazing Bee School.
4. Todd announced free back copies of a bee magazine which is also offering a discount subscription. He reported that the club had a grant to sponsor two 4-H'ers, and that more money was generously donated so that we are sponsoring two more. Each young person is set up with hives, equipment, bee packages, and a mentor. He introduced Molly Carlson who installed her own package without waiting for her mentor! Logan Kroothoep is in his second year and is a very active volunteer.
5. David Bailey (baileybeesupply.com) reminded folk and apologized for the delay in delivery of bee packages. There will also be demonstrations at his shop in Daniel Boone Village on smoker lighting and package installations at 11:00 and 12:00 on the Friday and Saturday of both weekends that bee packages are available. He needs some volunteers to help.
6. Rex Williams mentioned the last two volunteer events and thanked them. Check out more volunteer opportunities on the website.
7. Watty Bowes did not bring the extractor use policy to this meeting due to miscommunication about sharing it with the members. It is now scheduled for the May meeting.
8. Lewis Cauble announced that Chestnut Ridge needs four frames, if anyone is interested in donating. These will be used in their demonstration hive.

Geneva turned the program over to Chris Richmond, who presented on swarming at Durham Tech several weeks ago. He was asked, "Why not just let 'em swarm?" Chris mentioned several reasons, one of which was that a swarm of bees creates a problem in the neighborhood. Last year Chris responded to 30+/- cut out calls (extraction of bees from buildings). He has kept bees for four years and began because a swarm landed in his yard. He captured it and that was his first experience with bees. Bees that are swarming are 'pretty sweet' (because they are loaded up with honey to move to their new location) and gentle. But bees in a cut out are protecting their home, their brood, their queen, and their honey, and they are not sweet. Chris dons protective gear and still has to psych himself up to do a cut out. If you are going to answer swarm calls, Chris recommends that you travel with a nuc and a couple of frames of drawn comb in your vehicle, so you don't have to go home first. If you are interested in cut

outs, you will need veil and gloves, bee vac with a smooth interior hose, a shop vac to power it, hive tools, long sleeved shirt, long pants, duct tape, heat sensor to detect bees inside walls, smoker, ladder, ropes, suitcase frames (cut comb to fit), and a queen cage. If possible, cage the queen. Chris's presentation was enhanced by the many photos of swarms and swarm captures, and cut outs.

The meeting was adjourned. Members enjoyed refreshments and conversations.

Respectfully submitted,

'Lizabeth Collins