

OCBA Meeting Minutes, February 9, 2018

Cynthia Speed

Our pre-meeting dinner was held in a private room at Radius Pizzeria with 17 in attendance.

During the social period, 7:00 – 7:15, members chatted with each other and enjoyed refreshments provided by Celeste Mayer and Carrie Donley. President Mark Powers opened the meeting by introducing the speaker for the evening, our own Chris Apple, Director of Outreach. Chris gave an excellent talk with great power point slides on Honey Bee Communication. It was interesting to hear how honey bees communicate in the dark, how they recruit their fellow hive mates to forage at fruitful sites, and how they avoid getting lost when it's cloudy with no visible sun. She talked not only about the wagtail dance and the sickle dance, but the "groom me dance", the "I'm so happy dance" and the "get to work dance" just to name a few. She also discussed pheromones, a complex topic, but one that she explained very well. She explained that pheromones were the clue to why you don't want to eat bananas near your hives, what the heck virgin fecal pheromones do, and why there's a come hither pheromone. Don Hopkins, lead Apiary Inspector was present and offered comments during the talk.

The Business meeting followed the presentation. Mark called on John Rintoul who suggested that OCBA's demonstration hives at Carrboro High School be used for members to demonstrate their practical skills to earn their Certified Beekeeper status. Randall Austin stated that details are being worked out, but plans are being made for hive inspection practicals to be given at least once a month. With multiple testing days many members will be in a position to receive their practical and become certified beekeepers.

John spoke in depth about the GAP. The NCSBA Golden Achievement Program recognizes one Chapter each year that has made significant accomplishments in support of North Carolina beekeeping over the past year. Points are given for various Chapter activities and accomplishments. The Program runs from January 1 through December 31 of each year. A monetary prize as well as an award is given to the most outstanding Chapter. OCBA is applying for the award in 2019 which means we will be documenting and collecting relevant data from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

Cynthia Speed encouraged the group to participate and passed out the individual activities sheet for each person to document their activities. Sheets will be available at each meeting, on the OCBA web site, and on the NCSBA web site. John also circulated a clip board for signups by those interested in serving on one of the GAP subcommittees.

To give you an idea of points worthy activities, a few are: giving presentations at schools, civic clubs, churches etc.; becoming a Certified, Journeyman, or Master beekeeper; attending a NCSBA Spring or Summer meeting; winning a ribbon at the fair in a bee-related category; conducting a field day, conducting a local beekeeping school; maintaining a swarm hotline; having chapter members that are also NCSBA members; having name tags, refreshments, and sign in sheets at meetings. These are only a few of the many ways that we can maintain a healthy club to support beekeeping. With everyone's involvement we can be recognized for the great club that we are. Look for frequent postings and updates to come on OCBA google groups.

Door prizes raffled off included a hive tool donated by Bailey Bee Supply, bee motif napkin rings, and a ceramic honey jar with dipper.

There were 51 members and guests in attendance.