

OCBA Meeting Minutes, March 8, 2018

Cynthia Speed

Our pre-meeting dinner was held in a private room at Radius Pizzeria with 15 in attendance.

During the social period, 7:00 – 7:15, members chatted with each other and enjoyed refreshments provided by Jeannie Arnts, Jennifer Phelan and Elizabeth Strong. President Mark Powers opened the meeting by letting us know that he has received several requests from members saying that they were not receiving emails from our Google groups list. He reminded everyone that access to OCBA's discussion forum is not automatic with membership. You must apply via the website.

John Rintoul was called on to describe our efforts to compete for the GAP (Golden Achievement Award) and to report on our progress so far. At the meeting last month, John explained that through this program, the NCSBA recognizes one Chapter each year that has made significant accomplishments in support of North Carolina beekeeping over the previous year. Points are given for various Chapter activities and accomplishments. A monetary prize of \$700.00 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. John circulated a clip board for signups by those interested in serving on one of the GAP subcommittees.

Cynthia Speed, Secretary 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. Completed sheets may be returned to Cynthia at a meeting or at Katrina501@aol.com

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; and 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 the OCBA discussion forum.

Randall Austin, Education Coordinator, offered members needing to take the written certification exam an opportunity to test with the current Bee School students on March 20th at the end of Bee School. Let Randall know within the next week so that he can secure more exams.

Karen Lauterbach is taking over coordination of our Pollinator Garden. It has been overseen by Lucy Wilson since its dedication in 2011. Karen circulated a signup sheet for volunteers to work in the garden 1 hour per month for the remainder of the year.

Chris Apple, Outreach Coordinator, circulated a list for volunteers to sign up for some fun activities in April and one in June so far. On Saturday March 10th at 2:00 pm, Flyleaf Books located in Chapel Hill is hosting a book signing. Paige Embry author of the new book, "Our Native Bees: North America's Endangered Pollinators and the Fight to Save Them" will be present to discuss her book. Chris will join her to discuss honey bees, as well. Flyleaf books stocks new and used adult and children's titles and offers trade credit for used books. Drop in and checkout the new book.

Mark announced that Lisa Vogel, Mentoring and Apprentice Coordinator will be meeting with the mentors for this year's beekeeping clusters on Sunday, March 18 at 3:00 pm at the Orange County Library in Hillsborough.

Brad Kosiba, keeper of our extractors explained that thanks to the generosity of David Bailey of Bailey Bee Supply, we have a second, smaller extractor. It is a polypropylene, tangential extractor for small jobs as it will only extract two frames at a time. OCBA members who pay their dues before April 1, 2018 are eligible to rent the extractors in 2018. The rental fee is \$5.00. Look for Extractor Rental on the OCBA website under OCBA Policies and Guidelines for details on renting.

It was our good fortune once again to host an excellent speaker. "Hey Buddy, Mind If I Grab These Honeybees?" was the title of Chris Richmond's talk. He circulated a Swarm Patrol signup sheet for members who would like to be called when he gets the word that a honeybee swarm has appeared. Read about Chris on his website www.swarmhunter.org and call him or send him a text message at 919 932-1335 if you spot a swarm. His main expertise is in performing "cut-outs" which is the removal and relocation of an established colony of honeybees from a structure such as a home or building. He thinks of his job as performing a community service to keep bees in hives instead of in eaves and crawl spaces. To do his job, you need carpentry competence and serious tenacity. During his talk he gave us a list of tools and equipment to have on hand if you plan to pick up a swarm. He discussed swarm behavior, why you don't want your bees to swarm, and some tips on preventing swarms. He presented a great talk with some excellent pictures.

Items raffled off were two swarm lures donated by Mark, a ceramic honeypot with dipper, and a solar honeybee light.

There were 52 in attendance.