

OCBA Meeting Minutes, April 12, 2018

Cynthia Speed

Our pre-meeting dinner was held in the private dining room at Radius Pizzeria with 18 members in attendance.

During the social period, 7:00 – 7:15, members chatted with each other and enjoyed refreshments provided by Jessica Mjelde, Ian Rasmussen, and Cali Ajeta.

President Mark Powers opened the meeting by thanking Rose Wilson for donating bags and bags of bee-themed gifts to share as raffle prizes.

Mark introduced Geneva Green as our speaker for the evening. She is a current member of OCBA, a Master Beekeeper, and a plant expert. Her approach was refreshing as it engaged the audience and allowed lots of interaction. She reminded us that during a six week period, a honey bee produces 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey and flies 1½ times the earth's circumference.

Using her own home as an example, Geneva described forage that was available within ¼, ½, 1, and 3 miles of her colonies. She showed beautiful slides of nectar and pollinator plants found in many landscape foundation plantings, flower beds, garden fields, ditches/roadsides and woods. She seemed impressed and delighted at how knowledgeable the membership was when quizzed on the identity of many of the plants. This also included a number of "evil" plants on her Hate List. She recommended visiting Wikipedia's lists of [Northern American nectar sources for honey bees](#) and [Pollen sources for honey bees](#).

Members left with new ideas about what to plant for pollinators especially those who won the raffle prizes of two large buckets of a mix of honey bee attractive plants donated by Geneva, one mountain mint in a small tote bag, one borage, and a mountain mint donated by our members.

Typically, the NC State Beekeepers Association's Summer Conference is held in July on a day that falls on our meeting day. That is not the case this year, so Mark polled the members to see if they would still like to meet. The conference is scheduled for July 19-21. OCBA is scheduled to meet July 12th. The decision was to have our regularly scheduled 2nd Thursday of the month meeting.

Cynthia Speed, secretary is serving as an advisor to a Girl Scout, Jennifer Persia, who is working on her Gold Award which is the highest award a Girl Scout can earn. It is comparable to the Eagle Scout award in Boy Scouts. Cynthia introduced Jennifer who spoke briefly about her project. She distributed some copies of a question and answer member survey that she developed and explained that it would be an ongoing system

for effectively polling members and compiling their individual expertise/experience. This would help us better target requests for assistance and potentially improve our outreach and education. The second part of her project, still in progress, is the creation of a second traveling box for community presentations, which would make it easier to solicit more outreach volunteers if age related talks and tools were already prepared. The club will be responsible for maintaining, updating and making additions as technologies change and new information becomes available. The goal of Jennifer's project is to create a sustainable information system for OCBA. We expect the survey to be rolled out to the members shortly. Jennifer plans to return to show us what we will find in the new outreach box.

Mark said that next month's program will involve a speaker from Bee Downtown about urban beekeeping and hives kept on rooftops. Catherine Trusky, one of our apprentices will also give a talk on her experience with stingless bees in Central America.

There were 70 members and guests in attendance.