

OCBA Meeting Minutes, July 12, 2018

Cynthia Speed

Our pre-meeting dinner was held in the Fireplace Room at Radius Pizzeria in Hillsborough with 19 in attendance.

President Mark Powers opened the meeting following the brief social period from 7:00 to 7:15 when members enjoyed refreshments and talked about their bees. Members who needed to rush off before the meeting ended, had an opportunity to talk with each other and refreshments were available throughout the meeting. Refreshments were provided by Louise Rascoe, John Rintoul, and Nancy Oglesby.

Tonight's meeting marked our second annual "Ask the Experts" program. Walter Starks, Randall Austin, and State Inspector, Will Hicks were our expert panelists. Although it's important if not essential to keep up to date with the latest in honey bee husbandry by reading the latest books, periodicals, and research papers, nothing beats first-hand experience. No scripted program was prepared. Those present at the meeting shared their concerns, asked for guidance, and posed pointed questions to the panel. The very first question dealt with concerns about Nosema and its treatment. The only treatment available was Fumigillin and this has recently been discontinued because the raw materials are no longer available to the producer. Thankfully, a severe infection is not only uncommon and not widespread, but difficult to determine and treatment may have done more harm than good in some cases. Robbing under different scenarios was a popular concern. Conditions under which it might occur and different ways to handle it were discussed. How to get swarms to stay, how to lower the moisture content in honey in the comb, and the importance of reading the label on treatments for varroa were also discussed. The use of plastic foundation was debated as well as other topics. It was a fun meeting with lots of humor, discovery, reassurance, and education.

Cynthia Speed said that she was pleased that OCBA club members are still participating in Bee themed events and in community outreach activities. She urged people to continue the good work and to document for the Golden Achievement Award Program. She has high hopes that under the leadership of Rob Jewett, State Fair Coordinator, we will continue to accumulate points with a grand Fair display and many entries in competitive categories. Please send any ideas for a unique display to Rob at historyguy.learn@gmail.com.

It has been a challenge for Mark to find willing participants for the Bee Bowl Team at the NCSBA Conference. Katherine Trusky, one of our young apprentices volunteered at the meeting but we need more people. Please consider and give Mark a call

The club has acquired a refractometer to bring to future meetings to test samples of honey brought in by members. Brad Kosiba, keeper of the club's honey extractor will

tell you the moisture content of your honey.

Bailey Bee Supply has donated two nucs to the club. They will be used to back fill hives lost in the club apiaries. John Rintoul will check the storage unit to make sure that we have the necessary woodenware to set up a nuc.

Raffle items given away were a dozen Muth jars donated by Anne Cabell, an electric capping knife donated by Cedric Pearce, and a pair of bee socks donated by Anne Cabell.

There were 54 in attendance.