

OCBA Meeting Minutes, November 8, 2018

Cynthia Speed

Our pre-meeting dinner was held in the Fireplace Room at Radius Pizzeria in Hillsborough with 15 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 Lou Rascoe, Jeanne Arnts, and Michael Morrissey.

The t-shirts turned out great. The colors were vivid and the printing was nicely done. Good job John! John Rintoul made quick work of designing and ordering our club t-shirts. They were distributed at the meeting.

Guy Fricks was our speaker for the evening. He owns Fricks Farm & Apiaries a homestead-based family farm in Chapel Hill where he produces and sells his honey as well as pasture-raised chicken eggs, beeswax candles, lip balm and pollination services. He provides open-mated queens and instrumentally inseminated breeder queens from local NC stock in addition to bee packages, and nucleus colonies seasonally. He presented a short talk on breeder queens and artificial insemination. Open-mated queens mate in the wild while in flight with as many as 20 drones with unknown traits. Breeder queens are instrumentally inseminated allowing careful selection of desirable traits through control of drone stock. He raises his own drones. We heard about his efforts since 2002 to purchase and raise hygienic breeder queens with desired traits with little success. He started learning instrumental insemination in March 2018 with a partial funding from a RAFI (Rural Advancement Foundation International) grant. He attended a workshop given by Dr. Sue Cobey of Washington State University. He invested in the required equipment and after lots of trial and error produced his own viable queens that are currently in use. He discussed the benefits of instrumental insemination allowing complete control of desired genetics and has successfully sold queens since 2005. Currently, his sophisticated lab is located in his wife's kitchen and he showed us some of the delicate instruments that he utilizes.

Both of our apprentices this year gave their reports. Megan Talikoff, mentored by Mark Powers, said that keeping bees was the most interesting thing she had ever done. In spite of her new hives swarming, the stings, and a shocking jump in mite count, she learned a great deal from Eloise, Frances and Harriet (her hives). She enjoyed attending the Summer NCSBA conference and has started a bee club at her high school.

Catherine Trusky, mentored by Elizabeth Pratson, said that she was obsessed with her bees and that her experience with them was incredible. She was impressed with how

quickly her colonies, named Twinkie and Slurpie, built new combs as early packages. She has become interested in bee photography and has also started a bee club at her high school. We really struck gold with these apprentices. Their enthusiasm was apparent.

Our Treasurer, Nerissa Rivera is gearing up to accept 2019 membership registrations. She prefers that member sign up on line at our OCBA website. For NC State Beekeepers Association renewals and new memberships, please sign up on line at the NCSBA website.

Louise Rascoe was presented her Journeyman certificate by our Regional Director, Randall Austin. Congratulations Lou! Randall, coordinator for OCBA's Bee School announced that 30 had already signed up for bee school which is typically capped at 75 due to room size restrictions. Durham County Beekeepers Assoc bee school is already filled with people from their wait list from last year so Randall predicts that we may get a few from Durham.

Lisa Vogel, Director of Mentoring and Apprenticeship, announced that it was time again to take application for the 2 apprentices that we will sponsor next year. They must be between the ages of 10 and 16 and live in Orange County. Their scholarship will include enrollment in the OCBA Bee School at no charge, an experienced beekeeping mentor, two free packages of bees, two free hives with protective gear and accessories, and a one year membership in the OCBA. Lisa had sent out a lot of notices to schools and organizations and asked the membership to consider their families and friends. Visit the web site for the application and qualifications. The dead line is December 3rd.

Cynthia Speed, Secretary and co-chair for the GAP committee, distributed completed GAP activity sheets that needed signatures and urged the membership to continue to report their outreach activities in the community.

Chris Apple, Director of Outreach, talked about the amazing job the Girl Scout did in preparing materials for the club. While earning her Girl Scout Gold Award, Jennifer Persia, purchased and donated several bee related books for elementary aged children, a 3-ring binder of craft suggestions, honey bee power points, and written talking points for outreach. If you have hesitated to get involved in an outreach opportunity because you didn't know what to say or needed materials, Chris has what you need. There's no need to start from scratch.

Executive officers for 2019 were approved and installed:

Ryan Chamberlain – President
Louise Rascoe – Vice President
Nerissa Rivera – Treasurer
Cynthia Speed – Secretary
Randall Austin – Director of Education

Chris Apple – Director of Outreach
Lisa Vogel Director of Mentoring and Apprenticeship

There were 50 in attendance.



