

## OCBA Meeting Minutes, January 10, 2019

Cynthia Speed

Our pre-meeting dinner was held in the Fireplace Room at Radius Pizzeria in Hillsborough with a record 22 members and guests in attendance.

President Ryan Chamberlain 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 Ryan Chamberlain, Chris Apple, and Lisa Vogel.

Ryan recognized visitors and new members including one from the UK. He mentioned that we had a record number of diners.

James Withrow a PhD Candidate researcher in Dr Tarpy's Lab was our speaker for the evening. His research thus far was fascinating and drew quite the crowd. He discussed his current research "*Sharing the throne: Establishing honey bee colonies with multiple queens.*" His studies, still ongoing, have resolved many questions but raised a number of questions as well. Queen age is an important driver of aggression. As queens age, aggression toward other queens diminishes. Emerging brood more readily accept multiple queens than older bees do. Surgical ablation (removal) of queen mandibles does not stop aggression. If one of the queens dies, there is no supersedure.

Open questions: What behavior would multiple queens display in a swarm? Would the different genetics appeal to the workers and be accepted or would certain brood be rejected? Would multiple queens increase the size of the brood chamber? James was an excellent speaker and open to returning at the conclusion of his research to further enlighten us.

Lisa Vogel, Director of Mentoring, introduced our new apprentices for this year. Harrison Hufner from New Hope Creek Academy will be mentored by Louise Rascoe and Finley Stinchcombe from Orange High will be mentored by Vicki Robertson. These youngsters were selected from a number of applicants and will receive everything at no cost to them, that they will need to become good beekeepers throughout their apprentice year.

Chris Apple, NCSBA Regional Director and our contact for the state organization, presented Journeyman certificates to Lisa Vogel, Dawn Rogers, and Phillip Moore.

There are spaces left in the MBP (Master Beekeeper Program) study group. Membership in both OCBA and the NCSBA are required. Many members who have participated in this group have gone on to earn advanced certifications.

Tim Struttman is leading a Beyond the First Year Cluster Group. Many times at the end of the first cluster mentoring year, the participants have requested an opportunity to continue visiting each other's apiaries and sharing information. The group will be called the Orange County Bee Collaborative and have already had their first meeting where they agreed to follow the Journeyman curriculum guidelines.

Nerissa Rivera, club treasurer, described the club's new queen rearing group. The participants attended one of the two 8 hour 2017 Born & Bred workshops sponsored by the NCSBA held in Statesville and Greenville and a subsequent follow up grafting workshop held at the conference. The goal is a pilot program that will attempt to raise healthy local queens. A successful project might lead to training sessions for new participants or queens for sale. Local experts have agreed to share their experience. Guy Frick of Frick's Farm and Apiaries with experience in queen rearing and artificial insemination was contacted as well as David Arnold of 5 Counties Beekeepers Association who has led his club in the same project. Due to popular demand, the NCSBA will schedule more Born & Bred workshops this year.

Nerissa also mentioned that renewal or new memberships to OCBA and to the NCSBA are handled separately at the respective web sites.

John Wallace brought blank magazine subscription forms for the American Bee Journal that offer a significant discount for club members.

John Rintoul's end of the year plea to the membership for donations to support beekeeping research in North Carolina has been a great success! He has received a very positive response. In total, we donated \$3,466.00 to the Apiculture Science Fund of the North Carolina Agricultural Foundation. This includes a \$491.00 special collection taken up within a few minutes when a hat was passed around during our June meeting. Another bonus is the awarding of GAP points for every dollar donated.

Cynthia Speed, club secretary and co-chair of the GAP committee reminded the members that it isn't too late to submit forms for activities performed last year. The documentation will be turned in at the Spring meeting in Monroe, NC March 1 & 2.

Ryan solicited for more raffle items from the members. Please bring in any bee themed items that we can share as raffle gifts. A new smoker was won by Cynthia Woodsong, a clear crystal honeypot with lid and dipper was won by David Eckert, \$10.00 gift certificates were won by Robert Parrish and Jayne Stuart, and a tiny plastic honeybee was won by Chris Richmond.

There were 63 in attendance.