

## OCBA Meeting Minutes, April 11, 2019

Cynthia Speed

Our pre-meeting dinner was held in the Fireplace Room at Radius Pizzeria in Hillsborough with 10 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 Mary Leonhardi, Mark Powers and Karen Lauterbach.

Ryan introduced our new Membership Coordinator, Cathy Starks. She extended a warm welcome to our visitors introducing them and giving a little information on each one.

Karen Lauterbach introduced Geneva Green and Lucy Wilson as the founders of the OCBA pollinator garden many years ago. The pollinator garden is located right next door to the Dickson House where the Hillsborough Garden Tour will begin on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 10 – 6 p.m. Karen recruited volunteers for OCBA's presence at the Tour by circulating a clipboard for 2 hour shift sign-ups. Honey and pollinator plants can be sold at our booth.

Ryan introduced Geneva Green, our speaker for the evening. She is an NCSBA Master Beekeeper and former OCBA President. She is currently the specialty gardens crew chief for UNC-Chapel Hill and has a background in landscape design. Geneva introduced Nissa Coit who is the President of the UNC Bee Club. Nissa explained that UNC is officially a Bee Campus and promotes pollinators, pollinator habitat, and events such as Earth Day. UNC has 2 hives. OCBA donated a bee package and equipment while Geneva and Chris Apple mentored them.

Geneva gave a very timely and excellent talk about what's growing around your apiary entitled, "The Ideal Bee Yard". She urged everyone to go to Google Maps Earth to look at the landscape and water sources surrounding your apiary. She used her own property location as an example showing pictures of aerial views in radiuses from 1/2 mile up to 3 miles. She discussed the great pictures she shared of plants that might be growing now in your woodlands, ditches, and fields around your property as well as in your garden, flowerbeds, and foundation around your house.

The wildflower of the year is Mountain Mint, (*Pycnanthemum incanum*). She left us with a couple of good references.

Nectar Chart:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Northern\\_American\\_Nectar\\_sources\\_for\\_honey\\_bees](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Northern_American_Nectar_sources_for_honey_bees) and

Pollen Chart: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_pollen\\_sources](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_pollen_sources).

Club apiary report – Lisa Vogel replaces David DiGiuseppe and is now caretaker for the Langstroth hives at Blackwood along with Cynthia Woodsong. Cynthia W. caught and hived a swarm a couple of weeks ago bringing the total number of Langstroth hives at the apiary to three. Lisa reported that she went to the apiary to feed the swarm. While there, Eben who is one of the farm caretakers found another swarm deep in a large clump of grass which he and Lisa collected successfully. Cynthia Speed who is caretaker for the top bar hives along with Mary Leonhardi reported that they had several days ago created a split into two nucs from the two top bar hives in the apiary in hopes of preventing swarms. Keith Yow, cabinet making teacher at the High School supplied the nucs bringing the total number of top bar hive colonies in the apiary to four. The hives at the apiary have experienced difficulty with queens and have had little overwintering success in the past. The current events at Blackwood are the best the apiary has seen since its inception.

Ryan mentioned that Brad Kosiba, keeper of the extractor will be bringing the refractometer to each meeting so that beekeepers can check their honey.

Chris Richmond, coordinator for the Swarm Patrol, chronicled a busy swarm season. He received a call for one today (Thursday), one on Tuesday, one on Wednesday and four on the past Sunday. He checked with the group to be sure that everyone had been receiving swarm alerts and reminded those on the list to respond directly to him and not to the entire group of 40.

Ryan said that the 1<sup>st</sup> year clusters are in full swing and should be meeting now.

Tim Struttman, said that the Orange County Bee Collaborative (2<sup>nd</sup> year clusters and beyond) is under way and two groups will be meeting on Saturday.

Queen Rearing, Pilot Program – Walter Starks reported that 6 out of 36 attempted cells were drawn out. He said that Nerissa candled them and thought she saw two but Walter doesn't think there are larvae in any of them. They have not yet hatched. The second attempt to raise more queens will be made in June.

Dawn Rogers, who will be coordinating our State Fair display this fall, asked the group to start preparing now by thinking about entering hive products, pictures, baked goods and bee related art. Celeste Mayer, also on the committee, is studying a book on principles of exhibits.

Randall Austin, education coordinator, mentioned that Bailey Bee Supply has extra bee packages for this week's shipment, so walk-ins are welcomed.

Winners of this month's raffle took away plastic honey bears, smoker fuel, a kit of bee Legos, and a 5 gallon bucket with attached honey gate.

Next month's speaker will be our own Chris Apple, master beekeeper, who will tell us about the honey bees' age related task regression or temporal polytheism.

There were 54 in attendance.