

## OCBA Meeting Minutes, July 11, 2019

Cynthia Speed

Our pre-meeting dinner was held in the Fireplace Room at Radius Pizzeria in Hillsborough with 23 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 MaryAnn McCollough, Jayne Stuart, and Cathy Starks.

Ryan opened the meeting by calling on Dawn Rogers, this year's state fair display coordinator. She and Beatrice, the manikin dressed in beekeeping attire who holds court at Bailey Bee Supply talked about the progress being made towards preparations for the fair. She gave a quick review of rules for entries and encouraged everyone to register with the club rather than individual in order to collect points towards our display. David Bailey donated a case of honey jars which Dawn gave out at the close of the meeting to those who want to try their hand at competing.

Cathy Starks gave a warm welcome to our visitors and introduced some of them.

Ryan introduced Dr. Tarpy, associate professor of entomology and plant pathology and extension apiculturist. Dr. Tarpy brought with him seven of his talented REU Students. NC State's summer Research Experience for Undergraduates program offers hands on research experiences to undergrads introducing them to all aspects of research with assigned mentors. Hearing from each of these brilliant young researchers was quite a treat. All of them sounded like post docs as they briefly described their research projects.

Our very own, Randall Austin was the program speaker for the evening. He livened up an otherwise heavy topic, "Ninja Wars: Death by a Thousand Cuts (How Viruses Are Secretly Killing Your Bees) and gave an excellent presentation. He warned us that visible threats such as bears, SHB, and varroa get attention, while many threats aren't apparent until damage is imminent. He discussed how viruses cannot reproduce but can still spread and discussed how they are transmitted and how we might foil the attack by maintaining healthy hives, reducing mite pressure, and requeening.

Ryan reminded us that there would be no meeting in August due to the NCSBA Conference in Hickory being held Aug 7 – 11, during our meeting date. The next OCBA meeting will be on September 12<sup>th</sup> with the popular, "Ask the Experts" panel. He alerted us to the fact that a tentative schedule for the NCSBA conference is now up on the state site.

Brad Kosiba, keeper of the association's honey extractors announced that he brought the refractometer for free moisture checks of honey and a show and tell of wax cappings at the close of the meeting.

Raffle items given away were a bee pottery piece, Muth jars, and a hand embroidered bee purse.

There were 60 in attendance.