

OCBA Meeting Minutes, September 11, 2019

Cynthia Speed

Our pre-meeting dinner was held in the Fireplace Room at Radius Pizzeria in Hillsborough with 12 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 Chris Apple, Amy Singleton, and Cynthia Speed.

Ryan Chamberlain, OCBA President, opened the meeting by welcoming all members and visitors and made a few introductions.

Cynthia Speed, OCBA Secretary and Co-chair for the GAP explained for any new comers the intent of the GAP and congratulated everyone for their hard work and efforts. She pointed out the banner and gifts we received and urged everyone to peruse the notebook that was submitted in two volumes due to the extraordinary participation. She said that Melinda Miller, chairperson for the GAP committee had emailed her asking if anyone in the chapter would be interested in serving on the GAP committee for next year. Cynthia had confirmed with the chairman of the MBP committee that serving would meet the requirements for one public service credit towards achievement of the Journeyman or Master level of certification.

In addition to the many benefits of OCBA membership, we now own a polariscope! Larry Arnold built one and donated it to the club. He gave a short power point presentation on how it works. Prior to the meeting he sent a note to the google group inviting members to bring honey to view so several members checked it out after his talk.

Lisa Vogel, OCBA Mentor and Apprenticeship Director, talked about the apprenticeship program and said that scholarship applications for the 2020 apprenticeship program are being accepted now.

In lieu of a speaker, the presentation for the meeting was the annual and ever popular "Ask the Experts Panel". This year Chris Apple, Randall Austin, and David Fruchtenicht responded to questions. Many received answers to their most puzzling beekeeping issues. There was a wide range of questions. A recent article in American Bee Journal stated that drift between colonies may be as high as 10% to 40%. This opened a discussion that a robber screen might reduce drift and potential spread of varroa. A big discussion on management of mites followed and included to feed or not to feed or collect honey while treating. Everyone was encouraged to refer to the Honeybee Health

Coalition for answers regarding varroa monitoring and treatment especially their new decision making tool. Other topics were: using queen excluders; ways to protect frames from moths; most common causes of queen loss; remedies for laying workers; making winter bees and much more.

Chris Apple, OCBA Outreach Director informed us of some upcoming outreach opportunities for which volunteers are needed:

- Sept 26, at Blackwood Farm Park – 40 kids; veils are needed
- Sept 29, 3:00 – 3:45 Kindergarten children at the Chapel Hill Library; Chris has a planned craft but needs volunteers.
- Oct 13, 10:00 - 4:00 Outlandish Hillsborough Festival – Ayr Mount Historic Site; a weekend of activities centered around the popular Outlander series

Chris Apple, NCSBA Director presented the Journeyman certificate to Mark Smith. Congratulations Mark!

Dawn Rogers, state fair display coordinator, said that almost all entries are filled but people are needed to help work on the display.

Ryan reported that the executive committee was working on a slate of candidates for officers for the OCBA to be presented to the membership next month. Contact him soon if you would like to hold a position or would like to nominate a friend. He reminded us that holding an office qualifies as one service credit towards Journeyman or Master level certification.

Ryan informed us that our storage of supplies will be moved to Blackwood where it will be at no charge. We are extremely grateful to Brad Kosiba for his excellent management of the honey extractor rental. We will need a member who lives closer to the new location to become the new honey extractor coordinator.

Nerissa Rivera, OCBA Treasurer, informed us that it is time to renew your membership for the Jan thru Dec 2020 year.

Randall Austin, OCBA Education Director said that Bee School begins Jan 21st and goes live for sign up Oct 1st. He has a full line up of instructors ready to include Don Hopkins.

Brand new raffle prizes came from the loot we won as best chapter in the state of North Carolina:

- 10 unassembled deep frames
- 1 case of 40 mini honey jars
- 1 division board feeder
- 1 large silicone bucket with handles filled with seed packets and gardening supplies

There were 64 in attendance.