

## **OCBA Meeting Minutes, October 10, 2019**

Cynthia Speed, Secretary

Our pre-meeting dinner was held in the Fireplace Room at Radius Pizzeria in Hillsborough with 8 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 Cynthia Speed, Mark Rogers, and John Rintoul.

Ryan called on Cathy Starks, membership secretary, who welcomed visitors and new members and introduced some of them. She encouraged them to sign up for the OCBA google group for answers to their questions about beekeeping.

In the absence of Lisa Vogel, Director of Apprentices and Mentorship, Ryan reminded the members that applications are being accepted now until November 3 for young people who would be interested in becoming beekeepers. The club supports and sponsors two young people by enrolling them in the OCBA Bee School at no charge, assigning an experienced beekeeping mentor, gifting honey bees and beekeeping equipment, and a one year membership in OCBA. If you know of an interested youngster between the ages of 10 and 16 who lives in Orange County, have them review requirements on the OCBA website and register.

Along those same lines, Ryan reported that Catherine Trusky, one of our apprentices has just received a \$1000.00 grant from the Bayer Corp.

Dawn Rogers, this year's state fair coordinator reminded us that the NC state fair starts next Thursday. We will be competing against 9 associations. Everyone has been working hard and all is going well. Many entries have been submitted and the display will be awesome. Dawn encouraged everyone to check out the booth during the fair from Oct 17 – Oct 27. OCBA will be setting up on Sun, Mon and Tues. If you'd like to help, call, text, or email Dawn. The fun starts on Sunday around noon.

Ryan stated that as proud recipients of this year's Golden Achievement Program Award, we are required to send in a one page description of the intended use of the \$700.00 award. Ryan called on Celeste Mayer who explained that after soliciting ideas from the membership at our September meeting, it was decided that we would update the OCBA website and logo. Members will be invited to contribute ideas. A requisite article will be written for the Bee Buzz. We are required to donate a representative for the GAP committee for three years and Ryan has agreed to join for the 1<sup>st</sup> year.

The OCBA website and logo have not been updated since its design in 2008 and its functionality by today's standards is limited. Three website designers will be contacted.

We hope to better serve members through easier access to information and to build membership numbers with a positive first impression through the website. The proposal was moved and seconded. The deadline is Oct 14, so Celeste will complete the application and submit.

Don Hopkins, supervisor for the state apiary inspectors was our speaker for the evening. He wowed us with his many exploits to Bolivia to work with Africanized honeybees. He talked about how he got started and gave a synopsis of 15 years of trips. Some familiar names such as Dewey Caron, renowned author, Will Hicks, past apiary inspector, and Jennifer Keller, lead honeybee researcher at NC State have worked with him there. He amused and entertained us with stories of his adventures. In Cochabamba, rustic hives perched at the tops of Eucalyptus trees 40 feet off the ground are common practice due to the defensive nature of the bees and there are often times cattle below. We learned more about the tiny stingless bee, *Melipona beecheii*, which when being robbed, pulls wings off of attacking predators. He shared a sobering video of mites crawling all over exposed drone brood. He said that Africanized bees are limited at the moment to Florida, Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Oklahoma, and California. He also explained the phenomena of usurpation.

Nerissa Rivera, OCBA treasurer said that it's time to renew memberships. You can pay as early as Nov 1 to be a member in good standing in 2020.

Ryan contacted Blackwood Farm Park and secured equipment storage at no charge and Cynthia Speed, OCBA treasurer managed the move of equipment. We now have the use of the old Milk Room, a free standing shed with a screened in porch.

Ian Rasmussen, one of our past apprentices invited everyone to sample several different jars of honey that he had brought back from a visit to France.

Mark Powers, past president of OCBA showed samples of small attractive signs indicating a no spray mosquito zone he received by giving a donation when he attended the Pollinator movie. He urged everyone to do the same and to check out the company website: [toxicfreenc.org](http://toxicfreenc.org)

Ryan gave a list of our new slate of candidates for officers next year which we will vote on next month. \*\*New candidates

\*\*President: Celeste Mayer

\*\*Vice President: Carrie Donley

Secretary: Cynthia Speed

\*\*Treasurer: Larry Arnold

Director of Education: Randall Austin

Director of Apprentices and Mentorship: Lisa Vogel

**\*\*Director of Outreach: Dawn Rogers**

Randall Austin, Director of Education said that 22 students have signed up for Bee School since enrollment opened on Oct 1. He said we cap at 75 and urged members to send any interested people to the website.

Given away as raffle prizes:

Honey Pot

Standard Smoker

Domed Smoker

Standard Hive tool

Lauren Russert, researcher at the state Bee Lab will be speaker at our November meeting.

There were 54 in attendance.