

OCBA Meeting Minutes, November 14, 2019

Cynthia Speed, Secretary

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 Larry Arnold, Carrie Donley and Harrison Huffman .

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.

Ryan said that seven applicants had applied for apprenticeships. A final decision will be made in January.

Dawn Rogers, this year's state fair display coordinator, described our beautiful booth that took 2nd place and thanked all of the participants. She attributed the success of the booth to an early start in the spring, meetings every week, and the large participation.

Ryan encouraged anyone who is interested in setting up a display next year to start now. Dawn said that the painted hive featured in the display will be available for bids at the silent auction planned for the Holiday party in December in lieu of a December meeting. Please bring items to auction. Proceeds will go to NC State apiary research.

Celeste Mayer, OCBA president elect, for 2020, announced that our GAP project proposal was accepted and we will receive the \$700.00 award!

Our speaker for the evening was Lauren Russert, one of David Tarpy's students at NC State who will graduate in 1 month with her Master's degree and hopefully pursue her PhD at UC-Davis. She talked about some of the many honey bee research projects underway at the university. In her research, she found surprisingly that varroa have no impact on queen quality. Some of the research studies include: How pollinator habitat impacts native bees; Pesticide exposure and effects on queen and larva survival; Reproductive quality of queens and why they fail prematurely; Specific factors affecting queen health. Lauren was an excellent speaker and it was fascinating to hear just how much research is devoted to our honey bee. Lauren reminded us that a Honey bee queen and disease clinic is available to us at cost:

- Reproductive Quality
- Standard pathogen screen

Apiary pathogen screen
Mitotyping (Africanization)
Genotyping (mating number)

Ryan reminded us that membership renewal is due now.

Lisa Vogel and John Rintoul reported that apiary hives were doing well.

Jane Stuart gave a brief report of the status of the Bee Collaboratives. They have gone well and participants have found them helpful. Larry Arnold appears to have the strongest group with 7 – 8 meetings with an average of 7 beekeepers. Jane said that the collaboratives require strong leaders that take charge. She made several recommendations. The collaboratives need more visibility on the website. People need to know what the geographical regions are and how to plug in and sign up. She also recommended flexibility to jump from one collaborative to another.

Randall Austin, Director of Education reported that 43 students have signed up for bee school with a cap at 75. He urged members to send any interested people to the website.

Ryan mentioned that we are still searching for an extractor coordinator.

Motions were passed and seconded for **new officers for next year:

**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

Chris Apple, this year's Director of Outreach presented her handmade embroidered apron to Dawn, next year's Outreach Director.

Next month's meeting will feature a potluck dinner and no speaker.

Given away as raffle prizes:
2 pair of Bee Cozies
3 Frame Feeders
1 large bag of honey candy

There were 43 in attendance.