

OCBA Meeting Minutes, January 9, 2020

Cynthia Speed, Secretary

Our pre-meeting dinner was held in the Fireplace Room at Radius Pizzeria in Hillsborough with 12 in attendance.

President Celeste Mayer 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 James and Tracie Greco, Chris Apple, Celeste Mayer and Carrie Donley.

Celeste called for any new members and several introduced themselves.

She stated that the silent auction held at last month's meeting earned \$575.00. It was donated to state apiary research along with an annual donation of \$2,500.00 from the club's treasury. The \$700.00 prize money from winning the GAP last year was approved by the state organization to redesign and rebrand our website. We welcome everyone's suggestions. Please give us your feedback through the survey that will be released tomorrow. We will also need a project committee. If you have ever seen a website, you qualify.

Chris Apple announced that she and David Eckert will deliver this year's OCBA's annual study. They will meet on the 2nd Tues beginning in February at the Seymour Senior Center in Chapel Hill from 6 – 8 p.m. This group meets to help you prepare for the NCSBA Journeyman and Master certifications.

Tim Struttman, coordinator for our Beekeeping Collaboratives announced that they would continue again this year. Sign-ups are available on the club website under the Information tab beginning now through the 2nd week of March. It is based on the model created for the clusters where members of a group visit each other's apiaries. Groups will be geographically dispersed. It's a great way to continue learning and to be part of the bee community.

Dawn Rogers, coordinator for Outreach said that events requesting beekeepers are starting to come in. Expect information on the google groups email. People love to hear about bees and really appreciate an opportunity to learn more.

Lisa Vogel, coordinator for Mentors and Apprentices introduced this year's new apprentices: Philip (Fen) Hensel, a 9th grader at Chapel Hill High and Brennan Davis-Rawlins, a 7th grader at C.W. Stanford Middle School in Hillsborough.

David Bailey of Bailey Bee Supply announced that he is expanding and making good his threat of several years to begin queen breeding. He will create bee habitat on 48 acres and solicited from the group help both part-time and full-time in his bee yards. The only requirement is that you be a beekeeper.

Mary Leonhardi passed along a message from Meredith Friedrich that several little ventilated containers were available for free at the member table. They can be used as tiny observation hives or queen cages.

Carrie Donley, Vice President introduced our speaker for the evening: Debbie Roos, Chatham County Cooperative Extension Agriculture Agent. She gave a wonderful talk with lots of beautiful pictures of bees and flowers from the pollinator garden in Pittsboro. She discussed the importance of floral diversity to honey bees and native bees and gave a lot of useful tips on how we can plant to create a healthier forage for our bees. Also, see attached a great hand out listing "Top 25 Native Pollinator Plants for North Carolina" (available at www.carolinapollinatorgarden.org). She also handed out a list of local Native Plant & Seed Suppliers, also attached.

The raffle prizes were a jar of wild flower honey, a pair of gardening gloves, a handmade bee themed tote bag, and a package of bees from Bailey Bee Supply.

There were 13 in attendance at Radius and 70 at the general meeting.