

OCBA Meeting Minutes, February 13, 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 Elizabeth Pratson, and Mark Powers.

Lisa Vogel introduced Harrison Huffner, the scholarship recipient from last year and explained the Apprenticeship program. Harrison made a brief but delightful presentation, "To Bee or Not To Bee", describing his year as a new bee keeper.

Carrie Donley, our Vice President introduced the evening's speaker, Adolphus Leonard. He is one of six N. C. regional inspectors in a program designed to promote and protect the state's honey bees, offer fumigation services, and give talks at the state and county organization levels. They coordinate Bees and Honey at the NC state fair. Be sure to contact them for help with your hives.

Adolphus urged everyone to use their services, free inspection of your hives when you have a problem especially with a disease that you can't identify. Adolphus gave an excellent talk on "Successful Wintering", Reducing Colony Mortality. He talked a lot about the challenges confronting honey bees at this time due to the unseasonably warm winter weather. He discussed the phenomenon of "Dwindling" where clusters enter winter at a good size but get smaller and smaller. He talked about what to feed, when to feed, overfeeding and starvation and the importance of managing queen events as well as controlling varroa. His discussion was very timely and very well presented. Adolphus ended with a plug for the state fair encouraging everyone to consider a personal entry if not a club display. He thanked and congratulated us on our efforts last year.

Tim Struttman, coordinator for the collaboratives said that the collaboratives were going well as 35 have signed up! You can do so until the cut off date, March 14th. Participants locations will then be geo mapped and leaders identified. Celeste added that this is a great resource for continuing to learn.

Carrie circulated the refreshments list because there were empty slots for a few more volunteers. She also passed around a binder developed by Dawn Rogers, Outreach Director, that detailed upcoming events in need of volunteers.

Celeste said that a group has been formed that will rebrand and redesign our website utilizing the funds acquired from winning the Golden Achievement Award. They will follow suggestions obtained from the survey which 67 members completed.

We will still have an OCBA meeting in March in spite of the spring NCSBA conference.

The raffle prizes were a package of muth jars with corks, a bee themed tea towel, and a package of bees from Bailey Bee Supply.

There were 21 in attendance at Radius and 65 at the general meeting.