

OCBA Meeting Minutes, June 11, 2020

Cynthia Speed, Secretary

Celeste Mayer, president and Carrie Donley, vice president set up OCBA's virtual meeting for May using zoom video conferencing. At least 81 participants tuned in.

Celeste opened the meeting by welcoming everyone then turned the meeting over to Carrie. The agenda followed the same order as last month with the speaker presenting first, followed by the business meeting. Due to the exclusivity of the speaker, the session was not taped. Carrie introduced our speaker for the evening. It was a great honor to welcome Dr. Thomas D. Seeley who is a world renown speaker, educator, and researcher on the behavior and social life of honey bees. He has authored three books in which his work is summarized: Honeybee Ecology, The Wisdom of the Hive, and Honeybee Democracy. He has received numerous awards and fellowships, and a species of bee has been named after him. These are just a few of his many accomplishments. He talked about the many parallels in the honey production process compared to human factories. He spoke in depth about the division of labor between the youngest bees, nurses from 1 – 10 days old, the most flexible middle age bees, food storers from 10 – 19 days old and the oldest bees, foragers from 16 – 28 days old. His explanations and videos of the waggle dance, shaking signals, tremble dance and stop signal and how the bees use them was fascinating. Karl von Frisch in 1923 was credited with translating the meaning of the waggle dance. He published that the tremble dance was of no importance in honey bee communication but it was exciting to learn that it was our very own Dr. Seeley who discovered the true meaning and its importance in bee language. The presentation was interactive and lots of thoughtful questions were posed and answered. It was an excellent presentation and our president and vice president out did themselves in securing such a prestigious speaker.

Randall Austin mentioned that another great episode of our OCBA Q & A Series via Zoom is coming up on Tuesday evening, June 23rd, 7:00 to 8:30 pm. This one will feature David Eckert and Randall who will attempt to answer any and all questions about Varroa mite checks and treatments. It is open to anxious first timers as well as folks who have found methods that seem to work for them and are willing to share.

Tim Struttman, coordinator for the beekeeper collaboratives, said that groups were meeting in small numbers and going well. Collaborative leaders are Nancy Oglesby for Orange, Michael Del Signore for Green, John McCune for Yellow, and Larry Arnold for Red. Participants are looking forward to meeting in larger groups.

Lisa Vogel, Director for mentoring and apprenticeships, said clusters are doing well and as are apprentices who are getting a lot of support.

Ryan Chamberlain quickly reviewed the procedure for renting the extractor. See the website under OCBA Policies and guidelines if you have questions.

Celeste reported that the web design committee continues to meet. They have set up a website in test function and loaded it. They are also working with an artist to develop a logo.

Carrie revealed that our speaker next month would be Dr. Juliana Rangel, Associate Professor of Apiculture, Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University who will speak on reproductive biology of queens and drones.