

OCBA Meeting Minutes, October 8, 2020

Cynthia Speed, Secretary

Celeste Mayer, president and Carrie Donley, vice president set up OCBA's virtual meeting for October using zoom video conferencing. At least 33 participants tuned in.

Celeste opened the meeting at 7:04 pm and welcomed everyone to the broadcast. The agenda followed the same order as last month with the speaker presenting first, followed by the business meeting. Carrie introduced our speaker for the evening, Dr. Olav Rueppell from the University of Alberta in Canada. His topic was "The Honey Bee Ovary: The obvious and the obscure". He was originally scheduled to talk to us in March but was canceled due to the pandemic. We learned a lot about his research most as yet unpublished. Like many of our speakers it is always fascinating just how much effort and time has been and is being spent on studying the honey bee. He discussed the role of the honey bee ovary in honey bee evolution, division of labor, ageing, different egg sizes, virus transmission (eggs are a vehicle for disease passed down to the next generation). One study showed how insulin like signaling changes behaviors. Reproductive workers outlive their "regular" nestmates. Workers who switch on reproduction live longer and have increased survival of abiotic/biotic stress which protects them from pesticides. Surprisingly, he found that pollen restricted colonies had larger eggs while overfed colonies had eggs of the same size. The larger the colony size the smaller the egg size and the smaller colony size had increased egg size. The large eggs survive longer. Queens adjust the egg size to increase survival. Once again, we were gifted with a fascinating and interesting speaker.

Celeste opened the business portion of the meeting.

Lisa Vogel, Mentorship Director, reported that Apprenticeship applications will be available on the website from October 1 – 31. Two applicants will be accepted. She has contacted science teachers in the county informing them as well as some others of this wonderful opportunity. Youth between the ages of 10 and 16 who live in Orange County will receive without charge bee school enrollment, project mentors throughout the year, live honey bees, equipment, protective clothing, and club membership. Look for the application on line. The Apprentices will be chosen in November. Ian and Fin, this year's apprentices did quite well and passed their certified beekeeper written exam.

Randall Austin, Director of Education was delighted to give an update on the virtual bee school. The set-up has gone well with 20 enrolled so far from Durham, Waynesville, Raleigh, Burlington Sanford and even Mt Vernon, NY. All made possible due to on line learning.

Dawn Rogers, Outreach Director, reported that a friend of Loraine Tuck painted and donated a photo board and Lou Rascoe had given one as well. Dawn mentioned that she and a teacher from Carrboro Elementary School filmed a demo for the kids of Dawn inspecting a hive and pointing out the queen. They are in the process of setting up a zoom Q & A with the teachers and students there.

Carrie displayed a slide of the current slate of the proposed leadership for OCBA in 2021.

Immediate Past President	Celeste Mayer
President	Carrie Donley
Vice President	Tim Struttman
Treasurer	Larry Arnold
Secretary	Karen Lauterbach
Education Director	Randall Austin
Outreach Director	Dawn Rogers

Mentorship Co-Directors
Membership Co-Directors

Vicki and Kent Robertson
Wayne Vanderberg and Mary Anne Rhyne

She said that we are looking for a volunteer to serve as Extractor Coordinator and some volunteers for the Holiday Party Planning Committee.

On Tuesday October 20 at 7:00 pm, OCBA will present a screening of the talk given by Cindy Bee at the Georgia State Beekeepers Association Conference.

Our speaker for November will be Suzy Spencer from 5 County Beekeepers Association on the "Slovenian Approach to Beekeeping." She has kept bees for many years and is a Master Craftsman with the NCSBA.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.