

OCBA Meeting Minutes, November 12, 2020

Cynthia Speed, Secretary

Celeste Mayer, president and Carrie Donley, vice president set up OCBA's virtual meeting for November using zoom video conferencing. At least 58 participants tuned in and the meeting was recorded for future viewing. Celeste opened the meeting 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, Don Hopkins, Apiary Inspection Supervisor and our local inspector employed by NC Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Services. He has been an inspector since 1989 and has kept bees since the age of 10. His talk on the Use of Oxalic Acid in the treatment of Varroa Mites began with a review of the varroa mite and its early discovery along with some great slides of its life cycle and some of the two dozen various viruses that it transmits. He talked about some of the early treatments such as Apistan and Coumaphos that have run their course and exhibited mite resistance as well as some of the modern treatments that show promise. He discussed instructions for using Oxalic Acid and encouraged the use of mask and eye protection as well as nitrile gloves due to its caustic nature. His talk was excellent and well received generating a lot of discussion and questions from the participants. Oxalic Acid should be applied to the colony when the cluster of bees is close but not tight at temps between 30 and 45 degrees. The biggest drawback to using Oxalic acid is that the optimum time doesn't coincide with the greatest necessity for its use. The colony must be close to broodless. It doesn't promote periodic use. It's off label to do so. Don was adamant that he does not promote using it with brood. He said that using it with a new package or a captured swarm would be acceptable although many times a swarm has absconded due to mite pressure.

Celeste opened the business portion of the meeting.

New officers were voted on and accepted by a show of virtual "hands". The slate of new board of director members:

Carrie Donley	President
Tim Struttman	Vice President
Karen Lauterbach	Secretary
Vicki & Kent Robertson	Co-Mentorship Directors

Celeste thanked those who had stepped up to new roles, those who worked hard in previous positions and those who are continuing to serve.

Celeste reported that 6 applicants were chosen out of 17 for the two apprenticeship positions with interviews scheduled for 11/15.

Randall Austin, Director of Bee School, reported that 33 people have signed up for Bee School so far.

Dawn Rogers, Director of Outreach, reported that she will present the new in hive inspection video created by her and a teacher, to students during a Q & A on Tuesday. She said that the UNC Science Expo will be an online event this year and she has an inquiry for a visit to Montessorri – Pinewood.

Randall said that now is the time to renew your membership for the Jan thru Dec 2021 membership year. Those planning to take part in beekeeper certification need to be members of the state organization, the NCSBA as well.

Carrie reported that the Holiday Planning Committee is planning the December 10th virtual party and needs everyone's help in advance to make the party a success.

1. Submit an item for the online auction for the party by Thanksgiving by contacting Celeste.
2. Submit a honey bee themed photo to the photo contest. The goal is to collect photos for every season to post on the OCBA website. To encourage submission, the contest winners will receive prizes from Bailey Bee Supply. A vote will take place at the party. Look for an email from the OCBA Google groups with details.