

## Minutes

A regular meeting of the Toe-Cane Beekeepers Association met on April 26, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the United Community Bank in Burnsville, NC. It was a well-attended potluck event.

President Rick Harty was not able to attend so Vice President Joe Capps started off the meeting by welcoming all attendees. He announced that the Annual Toe-Cane Picnic would be held on Saturday, May 21, 2016 at his residence and a complete hive with bees and equipment would be raffled off at the event. Tickets are \$5 each. The picnic would start around 12 noon, followed by a visit to the Capps Bee Yard and raffle drawing. [Secretary's note: Since this meeting, the picnic has been canceled, due to illness in the Capps family. A later date will be set for the raffle drawing].

Joe then blessed the food and asked attendees to enjoy their meal while Toe-Cane member and communications coordinator, Leigh Knott, gave a presentation on pollinator plantings. Prior to starting her pollinator presentation, Leigh also gave a brief presentation on the importance and use of epi-pens (epinephrine auto injection pens). She recommended having epi-pens even if you were not reactive to bee stings in case anyone visiting your bee yard was reactive. Leigh noted that epi-pens were expensive and subject to expiring after about 1 year. However, they were very easy to use, requiring no formal training. An alternative to epi-pens is epinephrine in glass ampules. While these are much cheaper, they require a separate purchase of diabetic gauges needles and knowledge on how to draw up a syringe of epinephrine for emergency treatment. Leigh closed the epi-pen presentation by noting to ALWAYS call 911 or be prepared to drive the victim to an emergency room as soon as epinephrine is delivered.

In spite of projection failure, Leigh gave a wonderful presentation on her experiences with planting plants that benefited honey bees and other pollinating insects. One of the memorable discussions about planting was the use of 3 dimensions. Leigh discussed how people often think of planting annuals or perennial flowers, but rarely think of taking the pollinator garden to "new heights". She discussed how so much more could be planted in a small space if plantings were staged by height, acknowledging that trees were the main source of pollen and nectar for honey bees. This included non-ornamental trees such as maples, popular and ash. Leigh's presentation can be found on the Toe-Cane Beekeepers Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/toecane/](https://www.facebook.com/toecane/) or on google drive at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0ByyTeT8AA89BTkFQSZFGMFNXazQ/view?pref=2&pli=1>

At the end of the presentation, Deborah pulled 5 winners to receive a door prize. Among the prizes were wildflower seed packets, a poster of pollinators and a book on gardening for pollinators. Winners were Sylvia Archer, Billy Buchanan, Dan Glenn, Donna Hughes and Nancy Henkelman.

Due to the need to cancel the Toe-Cane Picnic, the next meeting will be held on May 24, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the United Community Bank in Burnsville, NC. It will be movie night featuring "More Than Honey". "More Than Honey" tackles the vexing issue of why bees, worldwide, are facing extinction. Follow the global investigation through California, Switzerland, China and Australia as the bee hive reveals that their complex world is in crisis.