

Toe Cane Beekeepers Association  
Minutes 2/27/18

President Susan Spruill called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. at the United Community Bank in Burnsville. This was the first meeting of 2018. Approximately 30 members attended, in addition to several members of the Yancey County Master Gardeners. Attendees provided a pot luck dinner.

Susan made several announcement including:

1) All meetings this year will begin at 6 p.m to allow time for announcements, fellowship/dinner, and guest speakers.

2) The club has a new website ([www.toecanebeekeepers.net](http://www.toecanebeekeepers.net)). The site will be growing in the future, and we need members to send in great photos of bee-related interest. The site also has a section on resources and vendors, so members were asked to send that information as well. Send photos and other materials to Debbie at [djgriff2@gmail.com](mailto:djgriff2@gmail.com).

3)Upcoming activities:

a) The club plans a summer members picnic and hive inspection, place and time to be announced.

b) The Dig-In Hive sponsored by the club will be installed as soon as possible this spring.

c) The Mayland Black Jar Honey Contest will once again be held by the club sometime in the fall at Homeplace Beer Co. in Burnsville. Details to be announced later this year. Last year's club winner, Debbie Griffith, entered her honey in the International Contest and is currently in the semi-finals with winners to be announced in June.

d) A booth sponsored by the club will be a part of the Mt. Mitchell Craft Fair in Burnsville in September. Members are asked to contribute honey to be sold at the fair as a fundraiser for the club.

4) Recognitions

a) TCBA will be working on submitting an application for the state beekeepers association's Golden Achievement Program, which recognizes chapters that have made significant accomplishments in support of North Carolina beekeeping over the previous year.

b)Michelle Mejia won a NCSBA grant for 12 new hives. She was one of only a few beekeepers who were selected.

5) Other announcements

c) The club is working on a possible centralized library location for books, videos and other materials owned by the club. The materials would be available for borrowing by club members.

d) Plans are in the works with the Yancey County Cooperative Extension Service for a site that will allow members to do honey extractions with club equipment in a small building adjacent to the extension office.

e) Members interested in being contacted to capture swarms or do cut-outs of bee colonies were asked to sign up. The list will be used by the extension office to contact interested beekeepers when the office receives calls for assistance.

Guest speaker for the evening was Dr. Scott Pearson of Mars Hill University presenting "Effects of land use change on native species with a special focus on pollinators."

Next Meeting: The March meeting of the club will be March 27, 2018 at United Community Bank in Burnsville. The speaker will be Lewis Cauble, state bee inspector, who will discuss Spring Management and Maintenance.

Respectfully submitted by Debbie Griffith, secretary, March 4, 2018