

Toe Cane Beekeepers Association
Minutes March 27, 2018

President Susan Spruill called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Several announcements were made while about 30 members enjoyed a pot luck dinner.

Announcements

1. Our next meeting on April 24 will have guest speaker Phyllis Styles from Bee City USA. She will discuss the group's goal of creating sustainable habitats for pollinators, which are vital to feeding the planet. As always the meeting begins at 6 p.m. at United Community Bank in Burnsville.
2. The club web site is up and running (toecanebeekeepers.net) with more information being added. Members are asked to send any interesting articles, photographs or other materials for the web site to Debbie Griffith (djgriff2@gmail.com)
3. One of our members, Michelle Mejia, was featured on the front page of the Yancey Times Journal. The subject of the story (submitted by our club) was Mejia's winning a grant for 12 new beehives awarded by the NC Agricultural Development facilitated by the State Beekeepers Association and the NC Department of Agriculture. Story is also posted on our the club website under "Recent News."
4. Members who have honey that needs to be extracted early this year (perhaps due to winter hive losses) should contact Past President Rick Harty to make arrangements to borrow the club's equipment. He can be reached at hartyfarm1@msn.com.
5. Members were asked to participate in club committees, and a list of committees and chairpersons was distributed.
6. Members introduced themselves including some information on winter losses. Many members reported worse-than-usual losses of hives.

Guest speaker Lewis Cauble, state bee inspector, gave a presentation concerning "Spring Management". Some interesting highlights included:

The winter of 2017 was very difficult for honey bees. He estimated that 95 percent of losses were due to mites and viruses. He recommended beginning to monitor surviving hives in April with sugar shake method and continue to monitor every 4-6 weeks through October. If more than 2-3 mites per 100 you should consider some form of treatment or management (medications, brood interruption, etc.) He recommends Honey Bee Health Coalition's "Tools for Varroa Management" as a resource. It can be found here: <https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/>

--Respectfully submitted by Debbie Griffith, secretary