

## Minutes

The June meeting of the Toe-Cane Beekeepers Association was held at the United Community Bank in Burnsville, NC. The meeting began at 6:30 pm. President Rick Harty started off the meeting by welcoming all attendees asking everyone to go around the room to introduce themselves and give a brief update of their beekeeping status. The meeting was well attended.

Rick then introduced the speaker for the evening, Sarah McKinney. Sarah is the owner of Wild Mountain Bees in Weaverville, NC. She is also a beekeeper and consultant on beekeeping. She currently manages 80 hives. Sarah's talk was about the life of a honey bee and their roles in the hives. It was a very interesting presentation packed with many facts like:

- The average queen lays 1500-2500 eggs a day during brood season
- When bees link together to form a chain (called festooning), then are measuring the distance or space in their hive
- Approximately 40% of hives have 2 laying queens
- Drones are a vital part of the hive. His presence is more than just mating.

Sarah also mentioned a good book on the inner working of a honey bees hive, "honeybee Democracy" by Tomas Seeley.

Sarah closed her presentation with a short set of slides showing bear damage to bee hives and expressing the importance of good bear fences.

At the end of the presentation, Deborah Palmer pulled 5 winners to receive a door prize. Among the prizes were metal awnings for landing boards, a gift certificate to Wild Mountain Bees, and a honeybee theme trivet. Winners were Alex Tyndall, Dan McKinney, Debbie Griffith, Mary Sheldon, and Dennis Hughes.

The drawing for the hive raffle was also done at the end of the evening. Monty Hogan was the winning. Susan will call Monty to let him know and to have him schedule the pickup from Joe Capps.

The next meeting will be held on July 26, 2016 at the United Community Bank in Burnsville, NC at 6:30 pm. The guest speaker will be David George who will give a presentation on the use of Oxalic Acid for mite control.