

Minutes

The Toe Cane Beekeepers Association (TCBA) met at 6:30 pm on April 25, 2017 at the United Community Bank (UCB) meeting room in Burnsville, NC. It was the third meeting of 2017 and was well attended with approximately 25 attendees.

Association Business

At the request of Rick Harty, Susan Spruill ran the business portion of the meeting. The meeting was opened by welcoming the members and guests. Susan made a few announcements:

- 1) At the Earth Day event, a few people came to the Pollinator education booth requesting information about finding beekeepers interested in placing hives on their properties. Susan has a list of contacts, if any beekeepers are interested.
- 2) We have application forms for the NC License Plates for SAVE THE BEES, if any one would like to get a specialty plate.
- 3) A draft of the TCBA Bylaws was made available for members to pick up. In addition, Susan mentioned that she would mail/email copies for review. Comments are due back by June 1, 2017.

The meeting was a Potluck and as attendees were getting their food, Susan asked them to go around the room and introduce themselves and tell a little about their beekeeping experiences and how their hives were doing.

Treasury Report

Susan forgot to ask Alice for the treasury report (Sorry!).

Speaker

Our Vice President, Michelle Mejia, who runs Poplar Creek Farm and Apiary, was the presenter. Michelle's presentation was about catching swarms and setting bait hives to lure swarms to take up residence.

Michelle started out by talking about why bees swarm and what the condition in the hive need to be for bees to want to swarm. She then talked about what to do when you see a hive swarming and how to catch the swarm once it settles on a safe and accessible location. The presentation was augmented with excellent photos and videos of swarms in action and successful swarm collection.

She then moved to the part of her talk about setting up bait hives to catch swarms in manageable containers. Michelle gave detailed information on the proper dimensions of the hive cavity, entrance size and recipes for using lemongrass or pheromones to attract bees to investigate a bait hive. She also talked about obeying the laws and being mindful of property encroachments and other beekeepers.

Michelle ended her talk with a few comments about Tom Seeley's book entitled *Honeybee Democracy* which can serve as a guide for those interested in learning more about hive behavior and swarm management.

Door Prize

At the end of the evening Laura drew names for door prizes. The door prizes included a hive brush, beekeeping journal, TCBA hats and TCBA t-shirts. The winners were: Jim Ludwig, Yael Goldman, Mark Wright, Loree Capps and Lou Iserhardt.

New members

Mark Wright joined TCBA.

Next Meeting

The meeting ended at 8:30 pm. The next TCBA meeting will be held on May 23, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the UCB community room in Burnsville, NC. The speaker will be member Tim Trescott. He will be talking about wax rendering.