

Minutes

First regular meeting of the Toe-Cane Beekeepers Association met on February 23, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the United Community Bank in Burnsville, NC.

President Rick Harty welcomed members back and announced that a local beekeeper was selling old hive equipment. If anyone was interested, he would put them in contact with the seller. He noted that some equipment was in need of repairs.

Rick then announced that Treasurer Alice Harty regretfully was going to be missing some meetings while she is recovering from illness in later 2015. Susan Spruill (secretary) will act on Alice's behalf during the meetings to collect any dues and record transactions. He then introduced other officers and asked them to give an overview of their club responsibilities. Other officers included are:

Joe Capps – Vice President
Susan Spruill – Secretary
Leigh Knott – Communications Coordinator
Deborah Palmer – Programs Coordinator

All other attendees were asked to introduce themselves and give a brief update on their hive survival since the regular meeting in October, 2015.

Leigh noted that our club members are seeing approximately 40% over-winter survival, down from 72% in Spring of 2015.

Joe Capps is now selling raffle tickets for the Toe-Cane Picnic give-away. The tickets are \$5 each and the prize is a new hive from Joe's bee yard.

Rick then introduced the speaker, Lewis Cauble who is the new western NC bee inspector, replacing Jack Hanel who retired last year. Lewis shared his email (lewiscauble@ncagr.gov) and phone number (828-230-1544) with the club and encouraged members to utilize his office as a resource.

Lewis gave a presentation on Spring Build-up. He indicated that the follow pollen sources are now or would be available in the coming weeks:

- Maple (yellow)
- Henbit (red)
- Alder (gray)
- Willow (pale yellow)

Lewis' talk stressed proper Spring hive inspection, feeding and varroa mite management planning. He referenced the Honey-Bee Health Coalition guide to Varroa Mite

Management and indicated it was available as a PDF online. Lewis also talked about newly available miticides that have been in NC, in particular Hopguard II which is made from hops.

At the end of the presentation, Deborah pulled 3 winners to receive a gift certificate from Wild Mountain Bee Supply in Weaverville. Winners were Leigh Knott, Susan Spruill and Dan McKinney.

Members who paid dues at the meeting were:

- Dan McKinney
- Dan Glenn
- Sandra Chuck-Pickens

The next regular club meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the United Community Bank in Burnsville, NC.

The executive committee of the Toe-Cane Beekeepers Association met on January 28, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the Western Sizzlin' in Spruce Pine, NC.

Attendees were:

- Rick Harty (President)
- Joe Capps (VP)
- Loree Capps ("second lady")
- Susan Spruill (Secretary)
- Leigh Knott (Communications)

Absent were:

- Alice Harty (treasurer)
- Deborah Palmer (programs)

Rick opened the meeting with an update on the club's treasury.

We currently have \$4019.22, which is the most money the club has ever had since its initiation. Most of that was due to the success of the inaugural Mayland Black Jar Honey Tasting Contest that was held back in September, 2015 at the Spoon in Spruce Pine. That event raised \$600 for the club. Also, the booth at the Mt Mitchell Crafts Fair (August 2015) was a big success bringing in \$756 after booth fees were paid. In addition, the club received several grants from the Yancey and Mitchell county extension agencies as well as from the Farm Credit Bureau to offset the cost of having Ross Conrad speak in November 2015. Rick suggested that Leigh pull together a committee to determine how to spend the Honey Tasting Contest earnings since it was advertised to go towards plantings and education.

Other items of business included securing a regular meeting place for the 2016 season, program planning, and identifying topics to discuss during the first regular club meeting scheduled to take place February 23, 2016.

Susan agreed to contact the United Community Bank regarding availability of their meeting room, with the Yancey County Library as a possible backup plan (Susan has since secured the UCB meeting room for all 4th Tuesdays between February 23 and November 22, 2016).

The committee asked Joe to consider presenting a seasonal bloom program as the February presentation if no other programs were planned. Rick also agreed to contact the new WNC Bee Inspector as a possible program for the February meeting (Rick has since secured the WNC Bee Inspector for the February meeting. Joe will present a seasonal bloom program later in the year).

Joe and Loree have agreed to host the 2016 club picnic, but have asked to move it to May instead of June. The committee has agreed to tentatively move the picnic May 21, 2016 pending agreement with the rest of the club at the February meeting.

Since Deborah Palmer was not available to attend the January meeting, no other programs were discussed. A program calendar will be generated after the February meeting. We will need 10 programs for 2016 (since the January meeting Deb, Leigh and Rick have been working on putting together a calendar).

Leigh reminded the committee that Michael Palmer will be in Hendersonville in March. Tickets for the event are on sale for \$25 early purchase or \$35 at the door.

Rick reminded the committee that he will be teaching beekeeping classes at the Mayland Community College on February 2 – March 24 and Advanced Beekeeping on March 31, 2016.

Susan volunteered to work with Alice (treasurer) and Norma (Yancey Extension office) to clean up the email list of interested beekeepers.

The next beekeepers meeting will be February 23, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the United Community Bank.