

ASHE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

March 14, 2024 - 6:00 PM - NC Co-op

6:00 PM – Meeting Called to Order by Todd Swanson, President.

NEW BUSINESS

Todd recognized new visitors to the meeting.

Todd informed the group that the club would be meeting at Midway Baptist Church for our April meeting.

Beekeeper Spotlight – Each month a beekeeper will briefly describe their journey in beekeeping as a way for us to learn more about each other. This month Carrie & Justin Vargus talked about their farm & their beekeeping experience.

Also, Tyler & Brian, from Miller Bee Supply was present and talked about the company, products, bees, and field trips. They have nucs available 4/12/2024 and they are \$210; packages of bees are \$150

Ken Jenkins provided the Treasurer’s Report (as of 2/5/2024):

Finance Report February Activity

Assets

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Bank Balance | \$469.22 |
| Petty Cash | <u>\$90.00</u> |
| Total | \$559.22 |

Major Income

| | |
|------|----------|
| Dues | \$140.00 |
|------|----------|

Major Expenses

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Midway Baptist | \$150.00 |
|----------------|----------|

Todd requested volunteers for the following positions:

- Christmas in July Coordinator
- Social Media Director

- Food Chairperson

Jim Rash gave an update on the Mentoring Program.

- 9 Mentors are available, and we have 13-14 mentees.
- There are good beekeeping classes available from the University of Arkansas (YouTube)
- New beekeepers can sign up for the Certified Beekeeper exam through Jim.

Kim Pitts, Education Committee

- Caboose Kids opportunities for presenting information about bees.

Blake William – Ashe County Agricultural Agent, Horticulture

- Discussed all of the different resources available through the Extension
- Master Gardener program starting in April
- Get landscape questions answered
- Soil tests
- Seed Swap, 4/6/24 from 2-5p

Main Presentation:

Anton Joubert, NCDA & CS Apiary Inspector for our area.

Some info about Anton:

- From South Africa, immigrated to the USA in 1990
- BS in Biology from UNC-G
- Started out testing pesticides and used the bee as model for how it affects the colony.

What does he do as a bee inspector for the NCDA &CS?

- Identification of disease of the honeybee (Brood disease, varroa, Nosema, etc)
- Provide “Permit to Sell” honeybees – if you sell more than 10 hives, you must have a Permit (cost \$25)
- Hives are inspected by Anton prior to selling and will receive a Health Inspection Certificate.

CLOSING

The next meeting will be April 11 – Brandon Simmons, honeybee breeding.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm