

Beekeeping Meeting Minutes – 3-28-16 By: Karen Lineberger

President, Sarah Mellon, opened the March 28, 2016 meeting of the CCBA, held at the CC Extension Auditorium, at 6:30 p.m. Four lists were circulated during the meeting for members to sign up, if interested. The lists included a mentor list, swarm list, educational speaking list, and a list for ideas for future meeting speakers or programs. A different format was followed for this meeting, program first, business last.

Steve Padgett, director of the small business center at Cleveland Community College dropped by to remind us that they are available to help, phone 704-669-4146. He holds seminars every Thursday evening at the Legrand Center, and elsewhere, other times, to promote small business, as this is what makes the economy grow. These seminars are free of charge. He brought CPA, Bob Watson to answer tax questions. Members interested in this aspect of small business education met separately in the kitchen with them.

The main speaker was Hal Bryant, well known artist from our area, who teaches art and photography at Cleveland Community College. He presented the basics of digital photography, with emphasis on macro photography. He prepared and distributed several handouts which cast much needed light on the subject. He explained the critical balance between aperture, shutter speed and ISO. If the aperture is increased to let more light in the subject will be detailed while the background will be blurred, which is great for portraits. A smaller aperture gives greater depth of field. A faster shutter speed is desired for action photos. ISO adjusts the camera's sensitivity to light. He explained how different values of each of these would affect a photograph.

He distributed tips for better macro photography, including use of an LED flashlight to create more three dimensional form in the subject. Try to focus toward the front of subjects or the head of bees and insects. Cameras with the ability to extend the lens are best for close photos. Also, use a dark poster board behind subjects to simplify the background. Pop up camera flashes don't work well for macro, and most importantly, focusing is critical for macro, so a tripod is necessary for stability. Copies of his handouts are available in the meeting minutes manual if members are interested.

Extremely helpful was his explanation of the common exposure modes on cameras, and whether you need aperture priority or shutter priority. He spoke about exposure and preventing under and over exposure. The camera histogram was explained that maps out how many dark pixels vs. how many light pixels are displayed. Good exposure has a good balance, neither leaning to the left or right on the histogram.

Thanks to Hal Bryant for his detailed, informative program which, hopefully sparked our interest in photographing our bees. He reminded us to be patient and stay curious. A whole new world awaits us in our own backyards.

In business, treasurer, Judy Gibson, reported that CCBA has around \$3500. In the account, and 63 members. See Judy if you have not paid your dues. Also, see her if you are interested in the fair committee.

The status of the honey house is unsure at this time, may or may not be ready by the honey flow.

Eric Gantt announced an outreach opportunity at Hebron Church, along with Reggie Endsley, and Wes Voight on April 23. Contact him at 828-748-3227 if you would like to help.

There will be further discussion on donating \$100. To a state agricultural facility. It must be clear that the information they promote is research based. The purchase of bee suits for the fair outreach was voted on and approved, around \$120., as they would add interest for kids visiting the cabin.

The April field meeting will be held at the home of Jonathan Davis and will include setting up a queen castle with a follow-up visit in May to view the progress. Splits will also be demonstrated and Lewis Cauble will probably attend.

Dave Bracken was kind enough to bring several items for show and tell after the meeting, including a swarm catcher.