

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

April 26, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Anthony Ellis in room 105, Fincastle Hall Wytheville Community College. 36 members and 3 guests were present.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve minutes—Alana Yates, seconded by Cathy Hounshell. Minutes approved. Mickey Cunningham presented the treasurers report. The report was filed for audit.

Speaker: Ms. Morgan Roth Graduate student at Virginia Tech – mroth11@vt.edu

Presentation: Hive Beetles and Mites –What's New?

Ms. Roth spoke about methods for controlling two pests that affect the European honey bee (*Apis Mellifera*). The two pests discussed were the varroa mite (*Varroa destructor*) and the small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*). A brief history of the varroa mite life stages were explained, as well as, the impacts of the varroa mites due to viruses. The most prevalent disease discussed was Deformed Wing Virus (DWV). Methods for controlling the varroa mite through an integrated pest management system or IPM were discussed.

The complete Power Point presentation can be found at www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org

Ms. Roth also explained her research on effectiveness of IPM strategies in Varroa mite at the VT extension and teaching apiaries.

Demonstration: Willis Richardson - One Brick Can Tell All

Willis demonstrated a method for managing our hives using one brick positioned strategically on top of each hive to help indicate what work needs to be done or has been done. This method provides an easily seen and quick way to determine hive needs.

Old Business:

- The United Nations have declared May 20 World Bee Day. Every year on this day, the attention of the global public will be drawn to the importance of preserving bees and other pollinators. People will be reminded of the importance of bees for the entire humanity and invited to take concrete action to preserve and protect them. https://www.huffingtonpost.com/mr-dejan-idan/world-bee-day-to-bee-or-n_b_10055350.html

New Business:

- Highland Beekeepers Association is sponsoring a **Queen Rearing workshop May 5, 2018** preregistration is requested. Registration can be found at the following link: <http://www.highlandsbeekeepers.com/registration-for-queen-rearing-workshop.html>
- On-line registration for the **Virginia State Beekeeper's Association 100th Anniversary June 15-16** in Roanoke is now available. The website is <https://bpt.me/3381742>.
- Tim Service was contacted by the Wytheville Farmers Market who would like MEBA to participate in the Pollinator Week again this year.
- The annual MEBA bee workshop and picnic will be May 12, 2018 at Priscilla and Eural Clippard's home (between Rural Retreat and Crockett) rather than at the Cove Spring location. Parking will be in the pasture across the road, food can be set up in the workshop, and there are bathrooms available - no need for port-a-potties. The address is **856 Musser's Mill Road, Crockett, Virginia 24323**. The club will provide sandwiches from the Dutch Pantry, drinks, condiments and paper products. Members can bring salads, desserts etc... A silent auction will be held at the picnic. Marsha Turpin will be running the silent auction.
- Anyone interested in 55 gallon drums of sugar contact Jeff Mullins at (276) 620-0130.
- Instead of nucs for the young students from our bee class, they will receive packages for \$125.00. Another \$125.00 will be used for beeware.
- To sign up for the Bee Informed Newsletter go to <https://beeinformed.org/newsletter/>

What Should You Be Doing with Your Hives?

Watch for Swarm cells

Feeding

Look out for Small Hive Beetles -SHB

Raffle Winners:

Robert Dillman– unassembled nuc box

Robert Dillman–hive tool

John Slingerland – frame gripper/lifter

Gaynell Brackens – 10 frames of wax foundation

Linda Bracken- honey dippers

Connie Armentrout- 2 pant suits

Jacob Turski- frame bottom replacement parts

Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Armentrout

Secretary, MEBA