

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

February 22, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Anthony Ellis in room 105, Fincastle Hall Wytheville Community College. 28 members and 1 guest were present.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve minutes—Dr. Tom Lavelle, seconded by Harry Joe Yates. Minutes approved. Mickey Cunningham presented the treasurers report. The report was filed for audit.

Speaker: Phil Blevins, Unit Coordinator Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources

276-676-6309

pblevins@vt.edu

234 West Valley Street

Suite B

Abingdon, VA 24210

Presentation: Spring Honeybee Management

The presentation touched on pollen and syrup feeding, and swarm prevention. The importance of record keeping was stressed, and using the international color system for marking queens. Evaluating your hives for diseases such as bacteria, fungi and viruses were discussed as well.

Keith Doull 1980 conducted research on RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CONSUMPTION OF A POLLEN SUPPLEMENT, HONEY PRODUCTION AND BROODREARING IN COLONIES OF HONEYBEES APIS MELLIFERA L. II.

https://www.apidologie.org/articles/apido/pdf/1980/04/Apidologie_0044-8435_1980_11_4_ART0005.pdf

The link below has 14 regions of the Ayers and Harman honey bee forage map. Click on the map to see a list of honey bee forage species and their blooming periods for any region within a state.

<https://honeybeenet.gsfc.nasa.gov/Honeybees/Forage.htm>

Click on the map for our region to get a list of Honey Bee Forage Species within Region 11 for the state of Virginia.

https://honeybeenet.gsfc.nasa.gov/Honeybees/ForageRegion.php?StReg=VA_11

Klein Schmidt 1986 – Getting Ready for Spring – Economic Honey Production Levels

<http://sierrabeekeepers.com/images/Feeding%20Bees/honey-bee-nutrition-supplementary-feeding.pdf>

Old Business:

- Jim Atwell - Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services - Division of **Consumer Protection**
James.atwell@vdacs.virginia.gov 276-228-5501, 276-223-2434, 276-228-6579 Wytheville Investigator
<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/about-division-of-consumer-protection.shtml>

New Business:

- Representatives from the USDA, Ron Hale- Washington and Smith Counties and Aaron Blackburn- Wythe and Bland Counties, spoke about an insurance policy ELAP – Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program and other financial assistance programs. One must have at least a 15% loss to qualify. For more information: Washington & Smith Counties (276) 628-8186, Wythe & Bland (276) 228-3513.
- Tim Service is selling package bees for \$125.00. Delivery will be around April 21, 2018. If interested contact Tim at canoemaker@centurylink.net or (276)- 952-5077.
- Highland Beekeepers Association is sponsoring a Queen Rearing workshop May 5, 2018 preregistration is requested.

- Tim Service was contacted by the Wytheville Farmers Market who would like MEBA to participate in the Pollinator Week again this year.
- A motion by Mickey Cunningham for two youth from the beekeeping class to receive a nuc each was passed. Connie Armentrout seconded the motion. The youths will either receive a nuc or be reimbursed the price of a nuc.

Bees in the News:

- 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

Raffle Winners:

Gaynell Brackens – Frame holder

Linda Bracken – Bottom board

Ronnie Dillman – Ten frames

Adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Armentrout
Secretary, MEBA