

MOUNTAIN EMPIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 22, 2015 MEETING

MINUTES

President Mickey Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, Thursday, January 22, 2015, in Room 201, Galax Hall, Wytheville Community College. [Galax Hall will be the meeting place for 2015 meetings and classes.] Thirty-eight members attended.

Minutes of the November, 2014 meeting were presented; a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as presented; motion carried without discussion.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance, \$4,007.53. The Treasurer's Report was filed for audit.

Old Business: The website is moving forward; MEBA has obtained the services of Pat Murphy to update and post new information.

New Business:

- Discussion of queens and bees for spring. Need to identify who is raising queens and will have nucs for sale in spring. The best way to be successful is to buy disease-free packages locally. The question was raised of where are bees inspected? If more than 250 lbs. of honey is sold, or more than five hives, apiary must be inspected. Inspection should occur before mite season or after treatment for mites.
- Follow-up needed: determine inspection rules; get info on where bee packages bought at Galax Farm Supply are inspected; get list of inspectors and contact info for each county in association.
- Solicitation from American Cancer Society. Mr. Clippard moved to make memorial contributions as appropriate, not an annual contribution. Motion seconded; no further discussion. Motion carried.
- Valley Bee Supply as source of bee packages; noted that prices are higher than locally.
- Basic Beekeepers Class: class enrollment already at 25 students; Mickey will need a check from MEBA to order additional textbooks. Motion made, seconded and passed. Penn State is updating the publication; the next edition (with color photos) will be published in 2016.
- Announcement of free Nosema workshop, Marion, NC, March 7. [Look for registration information on MEBA website.]
- The Carroll County High School wood classes will be producing woodware. Products can be obtained by contacting the instructor, Alan Webb, at 276-733-7571 or 276-398-3571.
- Local bee activity: some members report that their queens are already laying; heat should be added during cold weather or workers will starve. Put two pollen patties (2" square) into a second hive body; place on the second or third frame, at opposite diagonal corners. Don't try to take off wax coating.
- Queen purchasing: Tim Service was mentioned as a queen producer. Order queens early.

- Local bee loss: few members report bee losses. Drizzle warm syrup over the cold wax so that bees can eat their honey.
- Report from January 2015 American Bee Journal: British don't burn their European foul brood woodware; they soak in acetic acid (vinegar) and set in the sun.
- Concerns: Clyde King was contacted by the agriculture teach at Rural Retreat High School about members doing a class and setting up a hive. After discussion, members felt that we could set something up with the school. Mickey and Clyde will visit the school. Liability issues were brought up.
- Young beekeepers Education: Charles Howery's woodware donation garnered \$1,108 from the Spring Workshop Silent Auction. This is earmarked for education of young beekeepers. Katy Trozzo, a PhD candidate from Virginia Tech and intern with Grayson LandCare is applying for a grant to do conservation work at Matthews Living History Farm Museum near Galax. This is a matching grant. Mickey requested that the members consider donating \$500 for this grant, with the stipulation that bee hives will be part of the installation at Matthews. A motion was made to donate \$250 from MEBA operating funds, and \$250 from the Howery fund to support the grant. Motion seconded, and carried. The grant, if approved, will begin in June.

Next month: February 26. Presentation on nectar and pollen producing plants and their sources.

Raffle: Honey B Healthy, hive tool, hat, 2 calendars.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Cunningham

Secretary, MEBA