

# Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes of February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Meeting called to order by President Peter French at 7:02 pm in Room 118, Carroll Hall.

**Secretary's Report:** There will be a Go Green Event hosted in partnership with the New River Soil and Water Conservation District and the Virginia Department of Forestry. This will be on March 17<sup>th</sup> at Matthews State Forest. The event was interested in MEBA operating an educational booth about beekeeping. Carroll Hill and David Cooper volunteered to host the booth.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mickey is currently on vacation.

**Bee Class:** Around 60 people attended the class this year and it was a great success. Thanks to everyone who helped out with the class. An advanced/intermediate beekeeping class was proposed for later this year or next year. The class will involve swarm management, splitting hives, making nucs, and queen rearing.

**March:** - Start cleaning out dead colonies that didn't make it over the winter

- It's best to swap frames of honey from hives that didn't survive to other hives
- Most bees starve to death in March when the population booms. Carroll Hill has had good success with Dadant Brood Builder
- Check for Wax Moths

**Bee Inspections:** If you're selling bees or if the bees are suspected of being diseased, the VDACS office in Wytheville can do hive inspections. To contact them their phone number is (276)228-5501.

**Open Discussion:** Steve from S&W informed the club about the stores beekeeping supplies. He also passed out a current price list of products. A few of the items they carry are: pollen patties, menthol, beekeeping attire, hive materials and tools.

Bear Issues – Solar, electric wire doesn't do too well. Barbed wire electric fencing may be a better choice.

Baiting the bears with bacon or peanut butter on the wire may help too.

When introducing new queens or installing packages it's good to add honeybee healthy to the syrup spray to neutralize the pheromones so the bees will more readily accept the queen.

The MEBA Facebook page will be set up by next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Submitted by,  
Robyn Llull  
MEBA Secretary