

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes of July 25, 2013

Meeting called to order by President, Peter French at 7:11 pm in Room 118, Carroll Hall.

Secretary's Report: Volunteers are needed to help with preparation and cleanup for Saturdays Picnic. About 20 people in attendance raised their hands, stating that they were planning on attending the picnic. We are estimating a turnout of around 30 members.

There will be a basic beekeeping class in Galax at Matthews State Forest – main building. Time and date for the class - to be determined, advertisements for the class to begin soon.

Also on August 9th, there will be a Bee and Honey Day at the Independence Farmers Market. There will be displays, demos, and honey and bee products for sale.

Treasurer's Report: Mickey is currently on vacation, but has reported that the treasury is the same as last month. He did inform us that he received a "Thank you" card from the Cancer Society for the donation in memory of Sharon Ratliff.

- July:**
- 50-50 on honey production. The wet weather is putting a damper on honey production in a lot of areas.
 - There are still a couple swarms here and there
 - Sourwood is in full bloom in Wytheville. In other areas the bloom hasn't started yet.

Meeting Details:

Galax Farm Supply has extractors for rent.

Peter has found that bee escapes work really well for extracting honey.

Walter T Kelly has nutrition labels available for purchase.

Vernon has been doing research and been in contact with VDACS in regards to proper labeling requirements. "On July 1, 2013 an amendment to section § 3.2-5130 of the Code of Virginia goes into effect that greatly expands the types of prepared foods individuals can make and sell from their homes or at farmers markets without a state inspection." Specific code information can be found here: <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?131+ful+CHAP0285+pdf>

The honey processing main points will be posted to the website; members were given a paper copy during the meeting.

Raffled off- beekeeping gloves, frame grips, and an entrance reducer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M. by the club President, Peter French.

Submitted by,
Robyn Llull
MEBA Secretary