

# Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes of June 27th, 2013

Meeting called to order by President, Peter French at 7:07 pm in Room 118, Carroll Hall.

**Secretary's Report:** Remembrance goes to Sharon Ratcliff, who died in an accident at her farm on June 25<sup>th</sup>. MEBA members proposed and passed a motion to donate \$100 in honor of Sharon. The \$100 will be split evenly between the American Cancer Society and American Diabetes Association.

Anyone that attended the 2013 beekeeping class and reserved bees from Billiray Armstrong, he now has 8 nucs available. \*Class members get priority. His number is 276-979-7391.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mickey proposed to contract with a local artist to create a piece that relates to beekeeping or bees in some way that will be donated to the Wytheville Community College. WCC has been allowing us to host our monthly meeting and we currently have a surplus in the MEBA account. Mickey will have to meet with the college President to arrange it. Someone also suggested creating a scholarship.

**June:**

- It's split season - one member reported doing 20 splits.
- Bees are currently harvesting from milkweed, thistle, elderberry
- May want to begin powdered sugar treatments
- If weather is dry, keep water supply close. Will get more honey since the bees won't have to spend more time traveling for water.

**Clover:** Did you know that white clover only has a harvest window of about 2 hours? Mickey Cunningham shared his technique for getting a good flow every 12 days. Let the clover bloom - just when the tops are turning brown is when the bees can get nectar. After it blooms, mow the clover to about 4-5" tall (higher than usual). Mow once every 13 days to cycle the clover.

**July Picnic:** This year's picnic will take place at Bill and Marsha Blackwell's Blueberry farm in Wytheville on July 27th at 11 a.m. The club will supply hamburgers, hot dogs, and some pork cuts, while members are encouraged to bring fruit, vegetable, and desert dishes

Henley Mountain Berry Farm  
879 Matney Flats Road  
Wytheville, VA 24382

**Directions:** Follow Main Street (US Highway 21) south approximately 8 miles to the four-way intersection with Highway 690 (Cripple Creek Road).

Turn left onto Highway 690 and go 1.9 miles to Matney Flats Road.

Turn left onto Matney Flats Road and go 1.3 miles to mailbox 879.

Turn right and go up the hill one quarter mile to Henley Mountain Berry Farm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M. by the club President, Peter French.

Submitted by,  
Robyn Llull  
MEBA Secretary