

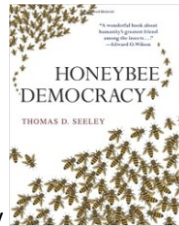
The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Anthony Ellis in room 201, Galax Hall Wytheville Community College. 26 members were present and 12 new guest.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve minutes—Mickey Cunningham, seconded by Alana Yates. Minutes approved. Gary Tolley presented the treasurers report. The report was filed for audit.

Speaker: Anthony Ellis

Presentation: Swarm Traps and Swarm Catchers

Anatomy of Swarms



Recommended book- **Honeybee Democracy** by Thomas D. Seeley

What Causes Swarms/ Precursors of Swarms

- *Crowded Hives
- * Lots of capped and uncapped brood
- * No storage for nectar being brought in. This leads to idle workers
- *Drone Cells around the bottom

Swarm box needs to be around 40 to 45 liters in volume.

They like dark comb

1 frame with no wax except a start wax strip

No honey frames or you will get robbers and ants

Put boxes out now. – Scout bees are out looking.

Give them about 1 week to get used to the swarm box.

Peach leaves rubbed on the inside of swarm box helps.

WWW.beesouce.com

Taking a nuc box and turning it into a swarm box

Build it – Free plans for a lot of things

Utube –Mike the bee catcher, Swarm trap construction. Using 4' x 8' sheet of plywood

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLai0LnPySo>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xYAdy7TKH9Q5SVErDdkGBucC4FvUcaWT/view> plans

Northwest New Jersey Bee Association (NWNJBA) Gadget Garage compilation video -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xWA49Oy5Skk&feature=youtu.be> Helpful ideas

Miller has an attachment for a 5 gallon bucket to catch a swarm for about \$35.00-\$45.00.

New bee keepers this video shows what you really need to raise bees the first year.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yhTCJvnIDw>

Old Business:

- The Farmers Market Pollinators' Day is coming up June 30.

New Business:

- Jerome Blankenship which is a member of the Highlands Beekeepers Association in Abingdon is taking orders for 5-frames nucs for around May 15 or around that date. These are mutts! They will be in a E-Z nuc box...They are \$165.00 each. His email address is Jerome Blankenship blankenshipjerome@gmail.com. If anyone has trouble with this email address please send your order and contact information to Anthony Ellis and He will get it to Jerome.
- **Workshop for Experienced Beekeepers on: Saturday, May 4, 2019 - 9 am to 3 pm.** "Small Hive Beetle Control and In-Hive Integrated Pest Management" presented by Dr. James Wilson, VT Sponsored by the Highland Beekeepers Association \$35.00
- **Anyone who is interested in being a Facebook administrator for MEBA, contact Tina Cunningham.** Presently, Billy Ray Armstrong, Peter French and Tina Cunningham are listed as Facebook administrators for MEBA.
- **Grayson County will be having an agriculture fair on August 10, 2019 in Elk Creek on route 21.** Mickey Cunningham is on the committee for the fair. There may be a honey show. Stay tuned for more information on this. If there is a honey show, the rules would be the same as the rules with the Eastern Apiculture Society.
<http://www.easternapiculture.org/conferences/eas-2019/2019-honey-show.html>

There are tips for how to get your honey ready for the show. <http://easternapiculture.org/resources/honey-show-tips.html>

One bottle will be needed to taste and another bottle to be observation.

***It was noted that Willie Richardson won a blue ribbon first place for Class and a gold ribbon for first place Best in Show for his honey in a the 2018 Salem State Fair honey show!

- Mickey Cunningham announced that Heather Strentz with Mann Lake in Scottsville, Virginia said that if we want to buy club packages (at least 50), we could get them for \$100.00 each. (434) 286-2145
- www.beeclub.com – An order of \$200.00 will get up 25% off.
- Mickey Cunningham knows of a place in North Carolina that is selling over-wintered nucs for \$250.00. Another place in Marion is selling over-wintered nucs for \$275.00.
- A motion was made by Gary Tolley to have individual checks from members deposited into our MEBA account in order for MEBA to write one check in order for us to get a club discount. John Todd seconded the motion.
- Mickey Cunningham proposed a motion that a committee be set up to do a procurement to find discounts that could benefit the club. Connie Armentrout seconded the motion.
- Mickey Cunningham made a motion to pitch the idea and invite the Abingdon Beekeepers Association, NRV Beekeepers Association, Carroll County Beekeepers Association and the Ash County Beekeepers Association in Sparta North Carolina to participate in the Grayson County Agriculture Fair Honey show. Cathy Hounshell seconded the motion.
- Kathy Hounshell will take the library materials home for Herman and Teresa Hearn since they will out of town.
- The Virginia State Beekeepers Association meeting will be May 31 and June 1, 2019 in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Hive Report: What Should You Be Doing with Your Hives?

- Check bees and feed- If they are on top, you need to feed them. Feed, Feed, Feed – Can start liquid sugar syrup 1:1
- Check for swarm cells
- Reverse boxes
- Classico Roasted Garlic sauce jar is the same size as a mason jar and you can use the lid as well. (Recycle)

Raffle: Muth Jars and corks – Connie Armentrout, Deep frames (unassembled) -Herman Hearn, Top hive beetle trap – Gaynell Brackens, Cooling iCool towels – Jeff Wyatt, Ultrabee bee feed – Teresa Hearn, Honey Sieve – Mickey Cunningham, Uncapping knife – Joe Turpin, 5 Gallon bucket of sugar – Alana Yates
Cookie cutters – hive, bee, hexagon- Anita Parks, Wax scraper – Gary Tolley

Next Month: Brad Ohlinger PhD research student at VA Tech –April 25, 2019

Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Armentrout, MEBA Secretary