**Mountain Empire Beekeeper’s Association**

June 28, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by the Club President at 7:10 pm in Galax Hall.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer was not in attendance.

Summer Picnic: Majority voted in favor of having a picnic this year. It was proposed that the picnic be on August 18th, starting at 11 am at Cove Creek. The association will provide drinks, hamburgers, hot dogs, etc. Members shall provide pot luck dishes and chairs.

It was brought up that the extension agent of Grayson County would like the contact information of Grayson County Members for:

* Notifying members of events and educational programs
* Expertise in regards to educational programs and swarms

The agent may come to a future meeting to discuss this.

Beekeeping in June

* Laying Worker Hive Remedies: Dumping out hives being the tried and true solution for members.
* Extraction: if there is uncapped honey, take the frame out and shake it. If honey spills out, it’s not good for extraction.
* Pest Management: is necessary if there are 50+ mites on the mite board in a 24 hr period. Powdered sugar and breaking the brood cycle by separating or pinching the queen along with various medications are effective.
* Sources of honey include: Clover, sourwood, and bugloss.

Open Discussion: There was a lot of discussion about GMO – Monsanto corn degrading the health of hives.

A guest speaker with an Entomology degree from Va Tech will be attending the July meeting to speak about various issues facing beekeepers today.

A couple items were raffled off, including a queen from one of the club members.

The meeting ended at 7:50 pm.