

# MOUNTAIN EMPIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

August 27, 2015 MEETING

## MINUTES

President Mickey Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, Thursday, August 27, 2015, in Room 201, Galax Hall, Wytheville Community College. Twenty-five members attended.

Minutes of the July meeting were reviewed; Gaynell Shawver moved, Charlie Van Over seconded, to approve the minutes as posted on the MEBA website. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Closing balance of \$4,239.5. All outstanding bills were paid. The treasurer's report was filed for audit.

### Old Business:

- The film "Vanishing Bees" was shown on August 7 at The Church of the Good Shepherd, 9441 Grayson Parkway, Galax. This was the most successful of Grayson LandCare's First Friday film series. MEBA sponsored the film.
- Sourwood Tree Seedlings: a sign-up sheet was passed around for fall purchase of local sourwood tree seedlings; each tree costs \$5; the nursery is located in Warrensville, NC. Mickey & Tina will pick them up in September; distribution will be made at the September meeting.

### New Business:

- Mickey ordered 5 hive tools, 2 wax scratchers, and oxalic acid from Brushy Mountain to use as raffle items for the 2016 Basic Beekeeping Class. These items were on sale and were purchased at a considerable savings.
- Connie Armentrout demonstrated a home-made vaporizer for oxalic acid which costs about \$9 and runs on the cigarette lighter in an automobile or a battery. [Note: Brushy Mountain has an oxalic acid vaporizer for \$115.]
- Notes from Brian Kreowski, state apiarist:
  - A new study shows that honey bees are responsible for pollination of 7% of the world's food supply, not 33% as previously thought.
  - Hive count in Virginia is on the rise, but only counts new nucs.
- Mickey reported he did 11 presentations on beekeeping for 4th graders at Ag Day in Sparta, NC. Fourth-graders from Allegheny (NC) and Grayson (VA) Counties are brought in annually for agricultural exhibits.
- Farm Bureaus now has an option on bee insurance. Gaynell Shawver moved, and Eural Clippard seconded, that the representative make a presentation at the September meeting. Motion approved.
- Discussion of plants that bees love; membership indicated an interest in having Dr. B. Townes make a presentation in 2016.

- Demonstration of how to put package bees into a hive body, and how to make a "bee condo" of two nucs for winter protection.
- Nominations committee: contact Clyde King to serve on committee; must elect president, treasurer, and possibly secretary in October.
- Eural Clippard told a hive success story: a swam hive has produced 5 shallow supers of honey this season.
- Time to start preparations for winterizing: bottom boards, make sure you have good strong queens, adequate food supply.

The next meeting will be September 24. Clyde King will preside.

Raffle: A hive tool and top feeder were raffled.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Cunningham

Secretary, MEBA