

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

August 24, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Tim Service in room 201, Galax Hall Wytheville Community College. 19 members were present.

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

Pop Quiz- “Were You Really Paying Attention Last Month”-

How many eyes do bees have? Answer-5, winner Cathy Hounshell, prize – soap

What are the little eyes used for? Answer – Navigating, winner Connie Armentrout, prize – honey pot

What are the two types of eyes that bees have? Answer –compound and simple, winner Alana Yates – prize tea strainer

What spectrum of light do bees see that humans can not? Answer – Ultra Violet, winner Diana Gardner, – prize lotion

Speaker: W. Brian Kreowski, Agricultural Inspector Office of Plant Industry Services Division of Consumer Protection
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Presentation:

*He is the local bee inspector since 2006.

*When you get an inspection of your apiary, it is good for the calendar year.

* 23% honey bee colonies are up.

*There are 12% more beekeepers.

*By law you must have an apiary inspection to prove your apiary is disease free if you are planning to sale used equipment, hives, etc.

*This law went into place in the 1950's. This used to be a bad problem.

* The most common diseases are American Foul Brood, European Foul Brood and varroa mite viruses.

* Replace frames frequently to avoid American Foul Brood (every 3-5 years).

* Test kits for testing American Foul Brood and European Foul Brood are now \$15.00.

* These test kits can be purchased at bee supply stores. Dadant has them.

* The Mite-A-Thon is Sept. 16- The first week of September gets everyone to do a mite count.

Break- 10 minutes

Bee Biology – Jaws or Mandibles of The Honey bee

*They move side to side like throngs.

* It protects the tongue.

Some of their uses include:

- (1.) Cut away the cappings of its cell.
- (2.) Packing in Pollen
- (3.) Removing debris and dead bees
- (4.) Manipulating and molding wax –When there is a good flow in the spring, bees let out wax
- (5.) Fighting
- (6.) Working propolis into cracks and crevices
- (7.) Carving pieces of bee bread from storage inside the hive
- (8.) Grooming themselves and queen
- (9.) Cutting drones from their cells and helping them emerge
- (10.) Tearing down unused queen cells
- (11.) Biting flower petals if possible to access pollen or nectar
- (12.) Chewing wood to enlarge entrances

* Time lapsed photography [The New World Carnolian Project by Susan Cobey- YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYmLoZdkYe0)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYmLoZdkYe0>

Old Business:

Gaynell Shawver reported that people were very interested in helping the bees with seed bombs almost more than honey at the National Pollinator Week Event .

New Business:

*Use IPM bottom board discourage hive beetles

*Use Dyer sheets (unscented and untreated) to trap hive beetles. Beetle Bee Gone can be purchased at Millers Bee Supply. Put clothes on top of the brood box on top of the frames.

* Ants do not like cinnamon or Cream of Wheat.

* Tim Service uses Formic Acid pads to treat for mites. It is organic.

*Formic Acid pad (Mite Away Quick Strips) can be used to treat for mites. You must use nitro gloves, leave for 1 week. It is temperature sensitive; you can't use it in the summer. (No higher than 85 °and no lower than 55°)It does not affect the honey. It goes through the cell wall to kill the mites.

*Hop Guard is new and considered organic. Hang over frames for 2 weeks, once a year.

*Oxalic Acid 2 methods- 1. Dribble with a turkey baster 2. Vapor- only kills the phoretic (on the bees not in the brood) mites

*Fogging with mineral oil can be used to treat mites.

Bees in the News:

1. <http://www.post-gazette.com/news/environment/2017/08/02/Good-news-for-bees-as-numbers-rise-and-mystery-malady-wanes/stories/201708020222>
2. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-08-01/good-news-for-bees-as-numbers-recover-while-mystery-malady-wanes>
3. <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/06/controversial-pesticides-can-decimate-honey-bees-large-study-finds>
4. <https://www.agweb.com/article/usda-will-spend-4-million-to-help-honey-bees-associated-press/>

What We Should Be Doing with Our Bees Right Now

- Feeding
- Add robber screens
- Perform mite count checks
- Treat for mites if necessary
- Remove and clean up any dead outs

Raffle:

Winners:

Kirk Burkett – Beekeeper suit

Marsha Turpin – Deep hive body

Tom Lavelle – Plastic foundation

Connie Armentrout – Quart of honey

Cathy Hounshell- bee brush

Kirk Burkett- Frame grip

Linda Bracken – Queen Castle

Adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Armentrout

Secretary, MEBA