

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

January 26, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Gaynell Shawver in room 201, Galax Hall Wytheville Community College. Twenty nine members and 4 guests attended.

**Minutes and Treasurer's Report:** Motion to approve--Mick Cunningham, seconded by Diana Gardner. Minutes approved. Mick presented the treasurers report. \$44.00 was collected for raffles in November 2016 , as well as \$139.00 for membership dues for a total of \$183.00 received. A balance of \$1,606.04 with a pending deposit of \$366.00 for January was presented for a total of \$1,972.04 with \$20.00 cash on hand. The report was filed for audit.

**MEBA New Year's Quiz** – Linda Bracken and Diana Gardner tied both with 16 correct answers. Both received three raffle tickets for their prize.

**Speakers:** Dustin Richardson, sales representative from Southwest Farm Supply was our first guest speaker who gave information about products for sale at their store located at 675 Meadow Street, Galax, Virginia. Mr. Richardson has just recently launched a new Facebook site called **SW Bee Buzz** that members may want to check out. For any questions Mr. Richardson can be contacted at [dustin94@vt.edu](mailto:dustin94@vt.edu) or at the store (276) 236-3721.

The second guest speaker of the night was James Wilson, Extension Apiculturist at Virginia Tech who gave a slide show presentation entitled, Why Do They Spray Anyway? Qualifying Risk in Honeybees. His presentation covered his research of the squash bug in cucurbits (flowers) with relation to the treatment of this pest and pollinators in Virginia. A Facebook article, Restatement of Recent Advances in The Natural Science Evidence Base Concerning Neonicotinoid Insecticides and insect Pollinators was discussed, as well as Managed Pollinator Protection Plans (MP3).

James Wilson can be contacted at [keepbees@vt.edu](mailto:keepbees@vt.edu) or Brice Hall at Virginia Tech.

**Bees in the News:**

- Mickey Cunningham shared an article regarding Varroa Mites and bee deaths.

**Old Business:**

- The vote to decide whether or not to start meeting at 6:30 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m. will be tabled until the February meeting when the president returns.
- The new beekeepers class will start February 21, 2017 at 6:30p.m. at Galax Hall room 201.

#### **New Business:**

- Due to an increase in costs, the new beekeepers class will increase \$2.00. The total cost of the class is \$42.00.
- Tina Cunningham will contact the webmaster with a problem with the Event Calendar dates.
- Highlands Beekeepers Association will sponsor **A Honeybee Symposium** Saturday April 8, 2017 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. at the Southwest VA Higher Education Center in Abingdon, Virginia. Pre-registration fee is \$40.00. Registration at the door is \$50.00. Cutoff date for preregistration is March 31. Online registration available at [www.highlandsbeekeepers.com](http://www.highlandsbeekeepers.com). Vendors will be on site. Register early due to a limit of 250 attendees. Registration and check can be mailed to Phil Blevins, Extension Agent Washington Co. Extension Service 234 W. Valley St. Abingdon, Virginia 24211. For questions call (276) 676-6309.

#### **What are we doing with our bees right now?**

- Feed bees fondant or granulated sugar. (NOT confectioners' sugar due to it causing constipation)
- In February pollen can be feed to bees.
- Check for dead-outs (dead hives), get rid of them

#### **Raffle:**

- S & W Farm Supply donated a bee decorated dish towel for the raffle.
- A screen bottom board with a mite board
- 2 Emer Spacer Kits

Adjourned at 8:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Armentrout

Secretary, MEBA