

MT. EMPIRE BEEKEEPER'S ASSOCIATION

Minutes

January 28, 2010

1. Bernie introduced our web page [www.mountainempirebeekeepers.com](http://www.mountainempirebeekeepers.com) and briefly showed some of the new features and navigation. Focus was given to the criteria and applications for Tobacco Grant money.
2. Treasurer's report: current balance is \$1080.60. Due to changes in constitution, member's who have previously paid 2009-2010 dues will only owe \$5.00 for this year.
3. Secretary's report: minutes of last meeting can be found on the web page or by contacting the secretary. Members are encouraged to send pictures for the web page. Also, any member who has woodenware, honey, or other beekeeping supplies for sale can send that information to Sharon to be placed on the "Marketplace" page of our web site.
4. Discussion of the bees:
  - Integrated Pest Management
  - Some queen's are starting to lay – depending on type of bees, laying begins as early as January 1
  - March starvation issues – more hives starve in March as there are brood to feed and no flow
  - Winter feeding - use various methods if needed; when you start depends on what you will do with hives (splits, nucs, etc.); once feeding is started MUST keep feeding until flow begins, as feeding simulates flow and stimulates queen to lay
  - options for feeding: syrup, granulated sugar, fondant, greasy patties, pollen patties, high fructose corn syrup
5. Election of Officers for 2010
  - The following slate of officers was voted in:
    - Bernie Bradley, President
    - Cathy Wheeler, Vice President
    - Janice McGrath, Treasurer
    - Sharon Ratcliff, Secretary
6. Constitution Changes
  - Members voted to accept the proposed changes to the Constitution. The new constitution can be found on our website.

7. TIC Grant
  - Bernie discussed the criteria, process for application, application dates
  - Southwest AG will administer funds
  - Application forms can be found on our website
8. VSBA Spring Meeting
  - will be held in Wytheville on April 16-17, 2010
  - everything is in place – facility, food, technical
  - volunteers will be asked for at the March meeting
9. Beginning Beekeeper's Class
  - February 23 – March 23, 2010 – Tuesday evenings, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, Wytheville Community College, Bland Hall, Rm 104
  - Ads have been placed with area radio stations and newspapers
  - members please encourage new/interested beekeepers to attend
10. Next meeting: February 25, 2010  
Judy Dalton will bring refreshments
11. Door prizes
12. Meeting adjourned and refreshments