

## Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association Minutes June 23, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Tim Service

**Pop Quiz** questions from May, 2016 meeting by Tim Service.

**Presentation:** Queens for Pennies by Jerry Borger. Jerry's presentation was based on [scientificbeekeeping.com/queens-for-pennies](http://scientificbeekeeping.com/queens-for-pennies) by Randy Oliver.

On Jerry's first attempt he grafted 17 queen cells and 15 took.

What to do with queens: sell mini-nucs, adding a great queen to a weak colony more than doubled the number of bees in a weak colony. Introducing a new queen with newspaper is a great way to introduce her. Preferably kill the old poor queen the day before.

### **Bee Biology**

Honey Bee Glands – Tarsal glands and the foot print pheromone – also called the “trail pheromone”. Everywhere they walk the bees leave a foot print that is attractive and oily and stays. The tarsal gland is on the 5<sup>th</sup> tarsomere of the fore, mid, and hind legs of adult bees. The end is a long hooked part, the tarsal gland. The sac is inside the hollow leg, a reservoir. It is different than other glands because there is no duct to transfer secretions. They are transferred from where they are produced like a sharpie, wherever they walk there is a little mark. All adult bees have tarsal glands. The queen has 12 unique substances in her secretions and produces substances that inhibit worker bees from making queen cups. A 6-month old queen produces twice as much as a 2-year old queen. In a crowded hive the queen seldom visits the bottom bar where the workers no longer sense a queen and make queen cups then when she visits she puts an egg in. Workers produce 11 compounds specific to them and the smell is unique to their hive. The bees forage at different places and visit different flowers and they can tell how recently another bee has been on certain flower. Drones have one unique compound. All kinds of substances cause behavior modification for bees. The nasonov gland produces a pheromone and bees turn up their abdomen and swarm bees march in. The presence of both of these pheromones is powerful together to bring bees in.

### **Bees in the News**

- “Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee,” is one of Muhammad Ali's many memorable lines, and is perhaps his most famous phrase. In a strange twist of fate, a bee hive swarmed on a tree right next to the mural that bears those words in his hometown of Louisville, Kentucky.[BALTIMORE (WJZ)]
- July 6/23/16 WDBJ reported that apocephalus borealis (zombie flies that cause zombees) was found in Norfolk, Virginia so they are now in Virginia. If odd behavior in bees is observed the bee(s) can be put in a jar and observed to see if larva pops out.

**Minutes.** Jeff Wyatt moved that the May minutes be approved and Connie Armentrout seconded. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's report** – balance \$5, 084.65 (by Tim).

**What to do this month.**

- Poplars gone, flow is over. If nothing is coming in now need to feed especially if they are Italian derived or the queen will stop laying. Some people have sourwood about to bloom others said there has been no rain and nothing blooming.
- What is blooming next? Crepe myrtle, milkweed, chestnuts, thistle, sumac.
- Farm Service Agency will pay \$150 per acre for planting for pollinators and \$85.00 per year per acre. It's a 10-15 year contract. Small plots can be done. Details and application process are available at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/economic-and-policy-analysis/natural-resources-analysis/pollinators/index>
- Inspect hives regularly and check for wax moths. They can take over in a heartbeat. If a big hive scaled back, remove some frames. Check for small hive beetles. Bees will keep these in check if they are not left with too much space.
- Make nucs using a queen with brood and with a month of a strong nectar flow by fall they will grow and make it through the winter. Tim talked about dividing a 10 frame box to keep 2 nucs together over the winter.
- It's good to have an extra queen in case one queen dies. You can have nucs and steal brood.

Many thanks to Diana Gardner for taking notes!

Adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Gardner for  
Tina Cunningham  
Secretary, MEBA