

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

June 22, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Tim Service in room 201, Galax Hall Wytheville Community College. 15 members present and 1 guest.

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

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

What legislation are local beekeepers trying to get amended in the Commonwealth of Virginia? Limited Liability- winner-Alana Yates

How many wings do honey bees have? 4 –winner –Diana Garner

What hooks the pairs of honeybee wings together? Hamuli-winner Linda Bracken

Who was responsible for The Great California Bee Heist? Russia-Ukrainian man, Pavel Tveretinov–winner- Connie Armentrout

All winners of the pop quiz received a raffle ticket.

**Speaker:** Tim Service

**Presentation:** A question, answer and discussion session was held.

\*Linda Bracken shared that she had two queens coexisting in one hive. This is rare, but has happened.

\*The July issue of American Bee Journal had an article about how long you should leave a queen in a hive. \*Best Management Practices suggest replacing a queen every 2 years. Virginia Tech replaces a queen every year.

\*Bee inspections in Virginia are free. If you sale frames, you will need an inspection. If you sale more than 250 gallons of honey per year, you will need an inspection.

\*A review of the double screen was discussed, as well as the double nuc developed by Michael Palmer. Brushy Mountain sales double nucs.

\*Hive beetles can crawl 3 feet and can fly 16 miles per day. Peter French recommends placing Diatomaceous Earth around the hives followed by gravel. This can be purchased at SW Farm Supply.

**Break- 10 minutes**

**Bee Biology-** Fat bodies are very important for the bees. Protein is needed for growth. The source of this protein comes from pollen. Yellow pollen is fresh while orange pollen is older. The pollen goes through a fermentation process that helps to preserve it which also makes it more nutritious.

Factors That Affect Pollen:

1. Viruses- They can be on the pollen or on mites. The viruses can be transmitted by windblown/air borne or carried on the honey bee.
2. Fungicides- This affects the microbes in the honeybee gut. Almonds are sprayed with fungicides. It does not kill the bee, but it does affect the health of the honeybee. Fungicides are not good for the microbes in the gut of the honeybee.

Pollen is the basis of brood food. Secretions from the hypopharyngeal gland are rich in protein and help them make royal jelly.

Pollen is important for two main reasons:

1. Pollen is responsible for the production of royal jelly.
2. Pollen contains a substance known as vitellogenin. This protein influences behavior and stress resilience. Bees store vitellogenin in a liver–like mass called the Fat Body. Summer bees have little fat and live 4 to 6 weeks. Winter bees have abundant fat and live up to 6 months. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/11/111129092428.htm>

It was once thought that varroa mites lived on the hemplymph/blood of the honeybee. References for this go back 50 years, but we now know this is not true! They live on the fat body of the honeybee. Samuel (Sammy) Ramsey recently proved this with his doctoral thesis. Samuel Ramsey recently presented at the 99<sup>th</sup> Virginia State Beekeepers meeting last week.

The time to kill mites is August to September. These bees need to be healthy going into the winter.

"When golden rod comes in, treat for mites." Mickey Cunningham

#### **Old Business:**

- National Pollinator Week Event volunteers for the Hillsville Farmer's Market June 24 9:00-2:00 are Tim Service and possibly Peter French. Volunteers for the Wytheville Farmer's Market 8:00-12:00 are Gaynelle Sawyer, and Marsha & Joe Turpin. Seed packages with 10 seed bombs will be sold for \$2.00.
- Tina Cunningham spoke about someone who needed to get rid of bees in a home on Claytor Lake.
- Peter French and Eural Clippard shared an article in the Wytheville Enterprise on June 14, 2017, "*Beekeepers Have a Good Time at Annual Event.*"

#### **New Business:**

- A new bee supply store has been opened by Heather Mabe located at the intersection of Rt. 52 and Rt. 58.
- The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Virginia State Beekeepers Association will be held in Roanoke next year. The Blue Ridge Beekeepers will be hosting it. Mickey Cunningham suggested that South County Public Library might be a good location.

#### **Bees in the News:**

*Posted June 1, 2017*

##### **Social Bees Have Kept Their Gut Microbes for 80 Million Years**

<http://americanbeejournal.com/social-bees-kept-gut-microbes-80-million-years/>

#### **What We Should Be Doing with Our Bees Right Now**

- Add supers
- Keep catching swarms

#### **Raffle:**

##### **Winners:**

Connie Armentrout- Muth jar of honey

Dave Fields –frame rest

Diana Gardner- frame gripper

Ethel Parks- double screen

Ethel Parks- 10 sheets medium plastic foundation

Diana Gardner- 10 frame deep hive body, unassembled

Vernon Stepp- bee brush

**Adjourned** at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Armentrout

Secretary, MEBA