

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

May 25, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Tim Service in room 201, Galax Hall Wytheville Community College. 30 people present and 2 guests.

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

Pop Quiz- "Were You Really Paying Attention Last Month"-

What was the name of the contraption presented at last month's meeting? Double Screen- winner- Gaynell Shawver
What does a double screen prevent from getting into the upper box? Pheromones and the queen –winner –Dave Fields
What method did we learn about last month for beekeepers keeping records? Duct Tape Method of Michael Palmer- winner Alana Yates

What are three ingredients that make up seed bombs? Soil/potting mix, clay, seeds –winner Herman Hearn

Speaker: Tim Service

Presentation: A review of last month's presentation for using a double screen was discussed, as well as a draft of amendments to the Best Management Practices (BMP). Suggestions and concerns with the draft were discussed, as well as a suggestion to start a thread on the MEBA website forum to continue this discussion regarding any other suggestions and/or concerns that members may come up with later.

Break- 10 minutes

Bee Biology- Wings- Honey Bees (*Apis Mellifera*) have 2 pairs of wings on each side for a total of 4 wings (Fore Wing and Hind Wing) Rows of hooks act like Velcro on the underside of the wing called Hamuli. Two viruses that affect wings are the K-Wing virus and the Deformed Wing Virus. The K-Wing virus is caused from a varroa mite and makes the wings thin. Bee with this virus can still fly, but not well. Bees with the Deformed Wing Virus can't fly.

What to do for wings? **1.** Monitor and treat for mites – Treat in August for mites when cooler than normal weather occurs. Mite-Away Treatment Strips, Alcohol Shake, Oxalic Acid drip or fog. **2.** Stock hives with mite-resistant, hygienic queens

Old Business:

- National Pollinator Week Event is coming up. A booth will be set up at the Hillsville Farmer's Market June 24 9:00-2:00, and at the Wytheville Farmer's Market 8:00-12:00. Volunteers for these events were Gaynell Shawver and Marsha & Joe Turpin. Cathy Hounshell may possibly be able to help volunteer as well. Seed packages with 10 seed bombs will be sold for \$2.00.
- Anthony Ellis gave a report on possibly hosting a beekeepers symposium. The Abingdon Beekeepers are a 501c3. There was an approximate loss of \$1,500.00. \$40.00 was the price that was charged which included lunch, a hive tool and seed packs. Their vendors will not be coming back next year. It was discussed that MEBA, NRVBA, and Abingdon could possibly go in together to host a symposium. A space where 100 or more people could meet is needed. Wytheville Wellness Center was discussed as a possible location for the symposium.
- Gary Tolley has used the new forum on the MEBA website. He explained directions:
 1. First log-in on the MEBA website
 2. On the left side of the screen it will ask for a username. Make up a username. (This username will show up when you are on the forum.)
 3. Submit your email address. It will give you a password.

Ideas for topic groups on the forum will be discussed next month.

- **Mac & Cheese Crockpot recipe from the spring workshop:**

- 1 8oz pkg macaronic cooked and drained
- 3 eggs beaten
- 1 12oz can of evaporated milk
- 1 stick margarine melted
- 3-4 cups shredded Cheddar cheese

Mix all ingredients except for 1 cup of cheese in crockpot. Sprinkle remaining cup of cheese on top and cook on low for 3 hours. Do not open lid until ready to serve. * I doubled the recipe for the cookout.

New Business:

- Tim Services shared that some nucs have starved due to multiple cold wet spells.

Bees in the News:

- The Great California Bee Heist: Authorities Identify Russian-Ukrainian Suspect
<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/great-california-bee-heist-authorities-identify-russian-ukrainian-suspect-n759886>
- Killer Bees Elevator Prank- You Tube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-FK6fNfTeA>
- Diatomaceous Earth and Bees <https://www.planetnatural.com/diatomaceous-earth-bees/>

What We Should Be Doing with Our Bees Right Now

- Add supers
- Keep catching swarms
- Make splits

Raffle:

Winners:

Marsha Turpin-5 frame nuc

Joseph Yoder –frame rest

Joseph Yoder- frame gripper

Herman Hearn- double screen

Teresa Hearn- 10 sheets plastic wax

Connie Armentrout- bee brush

Adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Armentrout

Secretary, MEBA