

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association  
Minutes  
October 27, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Vice-President Gaynell Shawver. Fifteen members were in attendance.

**Pop Quiz** questions from the September, 2016 meeting by Gaynell. Three questions were answered correctly.

**Presentation:**

Richard Reid spoke on "Winterizing Bee Hives in the Virginia Mountains". Mr. Reid has 90 production hives and 105 nucs.

- In August, hives should be weighed. Use a package scale (many available through Amazon.com); don't inspect the hives first because it breaks apart the boxes and they will slip. A healthy hive should weight 165 lbs.
- Weather variance; days of cold and severity require 2 deeps & 1 shallow =120-125 lbs.
- How to get bees up to weight
  - Heat from bees keep syrup warmer
  - Feed all at once; does not stimulate brooding, using 1 gal. container.
  - 2 to 1 syrup: add sugar to the mixing container; mark the sugar level on the container; add water to mark and stir; let set, then add hot water again to line.
- Poor ventilation--third greatest killer of bees
  - Use foam insulation on top of hive to prevent condensation; without insulation, warm moist air hits cold metal cover, condenses & freezes
- Mice--big problem--mice eat comb and cold bees; 1/2" hardware cloth.

Indications of mite infested hives

- If mites are present, there won't be a large enough cluster to heat the colony or heat the honey for food
- What causes cluster to get small?
  - Varroa mite and viruses; viruses cause colony collapse.

**Break.**

**Minutes.** The minutes were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report.** Balance \$3,484.82. Filed for audit.

**Old Business:** The November meeting will be in Room 217 in Grayson Hall.

**Bee Biology** Year in review:

- Honey stomach crops
- Proventriculus--filter valve

- Bee tongues--ligula or glossa
- Salivary gland--head gland-post cerebral
- IDGF4--growth substance
- Thoracic gland--active 15-25 days to make silk for cocoon
- Hypopharyngeal gland--bee milk or royal jelly mixes with IDGF4 to enrich royal jelly preservative
- Tarsal gland--footprints or track pheromone
- Queens have 12 unique pheromone compounds; workers 11, drone 1
- Pollen basket--pollen basket, comb and rake
- Bees gather pollen in 3 methods--static charge, vibrations and mechanical
- Nasarov gland--other bee attractant attracts bees to swarms, blossoms.

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

- Seven bee species have been added to the endangered species list for Hawaii.
- Zika spraying has killed bees in South Carolina.

#### **New Business:**

- There will be a honey tasting at the November meeting; please bring a sample of your honey to share.
- Organic traps for wax moths and wasps: Mix together 1 cup sugar, 1 cup water, 1/2 cup vinegar and one banana peel (keeps honey bees out). Let ferment for a couple of days.
- 2017 National Pollinator Week will be June 19-25, 2017. We need to begin planning for MEBA participation.
- Rotational use of extractor was tabled until February 2017.
- Basic Beekeeping Class: Mick would like to have two members on hand for each class to answer student questions, mentor. Announcement of the 2017 classes will begin in January; watch for notices in local papers, on website.
- Members requested that the Fondant and Honey B Healthy recipes and organic Wax Moth Control formulation be placed on website. [Note: Honey B Healthy has been on website for six months or more. Fondant recipe and wax moth formulation will be added.]
- Election of officers will take place during the November meeting.

Adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Cunningham  
Secretary, MEBA