

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

November 30, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. by Tim Service in room 201, Galax Hall Wytheville Community College. 27 members were present and 3 guests.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve minutes—Herman Hearn, seconded by Gaynell Shawver. Minutes approved. Mickey Cunningham presented the treasurers report. 40 text books were ordered for the next bee class. The report was filed for audit.

Pop Quiz- No quiz

Speaker/Presenter: Tim Service

Bee Biology - Antennae

- *Antennae is plural, Antenna is singular
- * An elbow or joint on the antenna gives more mobility. They are covered with little sensors.
- *Bees use their antennae to help determine the speed of their flight.
- *Antennae are used to help with landing.
- *Bees smell with their antennae, and can sense pheromones.
- * Antennae have a handedness like we are right handed or left handed. Bees prefer their right antennae.
- * The Proboscis Extension Response (PER) in honey bees is a natural behavioral reflex in which the honey bee extends its proboscis in response to antennal stimulation with a sugar solution. During normal foraging behavior, PER occurs when the honey bee finds nectar in a flower.
- * Ocelli are the three simple lens eyes located on the dorsal surface of the head. These are the eyes that are used for guidance and navigation.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

- The January meeting –Be thinking about possibly making a group order from Mann Lake for March Madness in order to save money.
- Trena Reynolds of The Ladies Homestead Gathering Wythe County Chapter and other members were guests for the November meeting. The LHG began in Wythe County in 2011. There are 23 chapters presently across the U.S. Monthly meetings are held every 3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at the VFW Bingo Hall in Wytheville.
- There is a new staff person at the USDA office, Lindsey Carico located in Galax, Virginia. She can be contacted at lindseycarico@virginia.usda.gov
- A motion by Mickey Cunningham to subsidize the cost of the beekeeping class of \$25.00 for the Ladies Homestead Gathering was made. Eurel Chippard seconded the motion.

Bees in the News:

- <https://www.gradschool.umd.edu/newsroom/3835>

Doctoral Candidate Samuel Ramsey Wins UMD Three Minute Thesis Competition. He discovered that mites suck the fat body. He did his PHD work on this.

Honey Tasting:

- UC Davis has come up with 118 different honeys.
- Check out the book 2 Million Blossoms: Discovering the Medicinal Benefits of Honey by **Kirsten S Traynor**

- In order to label your honey a certain flavor, it needs to be at least 51% of that flavor. Texas A & M will test your honey to determine this. Do not filter it as much in order to get a better read. Pollen is how they determine what honey it is.
- A big thank you goes out to everyone who brought honey to share for the honey tasting. A good time was had by all.

Election of Officers:

President – Anthony Ellis
Vice President – Gary Tolley
Treasurer- Mickey Cunningham
Secretary – Connie Armentrout
Librarian- Linda Bracken

Raffle Winners: No Raffle

Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Armentrout

Secretary, MEBA