

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

October 26, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Tim Service in room 104, Bland Hall Wytheville Community College. 21 members were present.

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

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

What are the main ingredients in mead? Answer-Honey, Yeast and Water; winner Anthony Ellis

How many variations of mead are there? Answer – Infinite, winner Connie Armentrout

How many wax glands does a honeybee have? Answer –4 pair, winners Linda bracken and Alana Yates

Where are the wax glands located? Answer – Wax glands are located on sternites 4, 5, 6 and 7, winner Mickey Cunningham

**Speaker:** Tim Service

**Presentation: Preparing Your Bees for Winter**

- Bees can live along time on just honey.
- 60lbs to 90lbs of honey stores needed (Less for Carniolan and Russian bees)
- Bees grow when they have protein.
- Pollen is their source of their protein.
- Pollen is the basis of brood food.
- It is responsible for the production of royal jelly.
- Winter Bees have fat bodies where they transform pollen into a substance called Vitellogenin, also known as the fountain of youth.
- Honey bees deposit **vitellogenin** molecules in Fat Bodies in their abdomen and heads. The Fat Body is a liver-like mass located near the wax glands. The fat bodies act as a food storage reservoir. Vitellogenin is made up of sugar, fats and protein.
- Summer bees have little fat. They need to be light weight. They eat nectar and honey.
- Winter bees have abundant fat in order to be able to survive at least 6 months of a long cold winter.
- Overwintering mites consumes the bee’s fat body! It shortens the lifespan of the bee by 2 to 3 weeks. It is important to check for mites.

**Factors affecting Pollen:**

- Viruses – At least 14 viruses can be found on pollen. Mites crawling around on blossoms hitch a ride on bees
- Fungicides – If this is sprayed on blossoms when bees are there, they bring it back to the hive. (on pollen)

**3 Common Methods for Checking for Mites:**

- Sticky Boards (Vaseline –wait 24 hours to count mites)  
<http://www.greatlakesipm.com/WEBCAT17.pdf> - computer generated mite sticky boards
- Sugar Shake (spritzer bottle, confectioner sugar, paper plate, Mason jar with screen top lid, 100 bees about ½ cup, The spray bottle of water help to see the mites.) Premade kits for purchase-  
<https://www.mannlakeltd.com/bee-squad-varroa-mite-testing-kit>  
<http://www.brushymountainbeefarm.com/Varroa-Testing-Kit>
- Alcohol Wash (Kills the bees ☹) (Put the bees in a jar with rubbing alcohol. Mites will be left in the bottom of the jar. )

## Choices of Treatment:

\*Remember mites get resistant after a while and it is a good idea to have more than one type of treatment

- Apilife Var
- HopGuard (Only treats the phoretic mites- Those found on the bee.)
- Api Var
- CheckMite - <https://www.mannlakeltd.com/checkmite-trade-10-pack>
- Formic Acid – 85 degrees is the cut off temperature to use this. It targets mites under the brood cap!
- Oxalic Acid – only works on phoretic mites (Shop towel method, Drizzle, Vaporizer-needs to be done every 7 days for 3 weeks)
- Mineral Oil fogger- Charlie Vanover has used this method. (Only treats phoretic mites)
- Mr. Clippard shared his mite treatment, which he learned about in the American Bee Journal, using Menthol and shop towels cut in half: Heat 2lbs. of Canola oil and 1 lbs. of menthol crystals in a 1 gallon, cleaned out can such as a tomato can. Add the shop towels that have been cut in half. Put in a metal paint can (never plastic because it will evaporate through the plastic) If you put it in the freezer, it will help prevent it from evaporating. Put one shop towel sheet on the top bar of the hive body of the brood chamber. You can also put two ApiStan strips on a paint stirrer and leave 45 days. <http://www.brushymountainbeefarm.com/100-pack-Apistan-Strips>

\*Treat mites in August or as late as you can in the fall.

## Another Pest: Hive Beetles:

\*They are looking for a place to lay eggs

## Methods of Small Hive Beetle control (SHB Control)

- Traps – Beetle Blaster or Plastic Beetle Jail -reusable  
[https://www.dadant.com/catalog/m01543-baitable-beetle-jail-trap-each?utm\\_source=google\\_shopping&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI3cP\\_pS31wIVgxuBCh2j3AO2EAQYAyABEgK9ZPD\\_BwE](https://www.dadant.com/catalog/m01543-baitable-beetle-jail-trap-each?utm_source=google_shopping&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI3cP_pS31wIVgxuBCh2j3AO2EAQYAyABEgK9ZPD_BwE) or
- [https://www.betterbee.com/pest-management-and-medications/betr1-reusablebeetletrap.asp?mkwid=s&pcrid=203917320924&pkw=&pmt=&pdv=c&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI3cP\\_pS31wIVgxuBCh2j3AO2EAQYAiABEgLS7\\_D\\_BwE](https://www.betterbee.com/pest-management-and-medications/betr1-reusablebeetletrap.asp?mkwid=s&pcrid=203917320924&pkw=&pmt=&pdv=c&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI3cP_pS31wIVgxuBCh2j3AO2EAQYAiABEgLS7_D_BwE)



- CD Case <http://beehivejournal.blogspot.com/2009/02/cd-case-small-hive-beetle-trap.html>  
John Pluta from Georgia puts a tray on the bottom board and put oil in it.  
<http://georgiabees.blogspot.com/2009/08/small-hive-beetles-beetle-control.html>
- Diatomaceous Earth (Put under the hive or below the entrance)- <http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/degen.htm> fact sheet
- Swiffer Clothes –**unscented**- Lay on top bars. Put in each hive body. Beetles get stuck in cloth. – or purchase from <https://millerbeesupply.com/catalog/beetle-gone-pr-423.php> or Amazon 72 wipes 22" x 11"
- Instant Gratification- smash them yourself.

### Another Pest: Mice:

- Put mouse guards at entrance- metal or hardware cloth (1/2" hardware cloth for mouse guards) FYI...Pollen traps have #5 hardware cloth

### Wrapping for the Winter:

- If exposed to high wind- (Black 30lb. tar paper, Mann Lake sells Bee Cozy <https://www.mannlakeltd.com/2-storey-bee-cozy>)

### Break- 10 minutes

### Bee Biology – Wax Glands and Beeswax

- Wax glands are found on the honeybee's belly
- There are four pairs of glands located under segments 4-7 of the abdomen.
- They consist of three types of cells. (Epithelial, Oenocytes, and Adipocytes)
- Fat is the main ingredient in beeswax.
- They need lots of pollen and honey to make wax.
- Mann Lake and Better Bee have a large variety of candle wax molds.
- Beeswax can sell for \$16.00 per pound.

### Old Business:

None

### New Business:

- Mickey Cunningham let everyone know that the Virginia Beekeepers Association (VSBA) meeting November 8 is off of exit 235.
- The November meeting will have a honey tasting. Please bring some honey to share in an easy to access squeeze bottom.
- ***The November meeting will be in a new location. (Wytheville Community College- the USDA room ~219 –same as last year- Grayson Hall)*** \*Remember we will meet the third Thursday in November since the fourth Thursday is Thanksgiving.
- The Ladies Homestead Gathering Wytheville chapter will be our guests at the next meeting.
- Discussion was held about, do we want to continue meeting in Galax Hall as our usual meeting place except for the November meeting. It was agreed that we do want to continue meeting in Galax Hall. Mickey Cunningham will put in the request for the room.
- The fall meeting of the Virginia Beekeepers Association will be at Weaver's Cave November 4 just south of Harrisonburg. Registration begins at 8:00a.m.
- Thoughts and prayers for Mickey Cunningham as he will be having surgery in November on his leg. Due to being immobile for two weeks, he will not be at the November meeting.
- Elections will be held in November. It will be the last meeting to be held until January 2018. There will be no raffle next month.
- The January meeting –Be thinking about possibly making a group order from Mann Lake for March Madness in order to save money.
- American Bee Journal Nov. 2017 has a nice article about mite treatments.

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

- Cedarcide: Using Cedar Oil spray to get rid of Small Hive Beetles (Does not harm bees) Use at entrance board, bottom board, ground, Mountain Rose is a source for essential oils. <https://www.cedarcide.com/> (Linda Bracken shared)
- <http://playwithbees.blogspot.com/2014/03/cedar-oil-spray-testing-continues.html>

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

- Feeding
- Add mouse guards
- Add winter wraps
- Remove and clean up any dead outs

### **Raffle Winners:**

William "Willie" Richardson – Deep Hive Body  
Linda Bracken – Cedar Top Feeder  
Joe Turpin – Top Feeder  
Anthony Ellis – Insulator Wrap –Bee Cozy  
Connie Armentrout - – Insulator Wrap –Bee Cozy  
Diane Garner – Cedar Robbing Screen  
Tom Lavelle – Bee Brush  
Gaynell Sarver – Seed Bombs

**Adjourned** at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Armentrout

Secretary, MEBA