

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

September 28, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Tim Service in room 201, Galax Hall Wytheville Community College. 27 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”-**

Who has to have their bees and/or equipment inspected? Answer-Anyone interested in selling bees or equipment, winner Herman Hearn

How many hives can a beekeeper have without having them inspected? Answer – Any amount if you do not sell them, winner Kirk Burkett

What is the first job that a honeybee does with its mandibles? Answer –Cut its way out of its cell, winner Marsha Turpin

How can Handi-wipes help a beekeeper? Answer – Get rid of hive beetles, winner Ted Gardner

**Speaker:** Tim Service

**Presentation:** Making and Using Double Frame Nucs – from Michael Palmer in Vermont  
Better Bees have them - [https://www.betterbee.com/images/Double\\_nuc\\_instruction.pdf](https://www.betterbee.com/images/Double_nuc_instruction.pdf)  
Brushy Mt. sells them as well.

**Break- 10 minutes**

**Speaker:** Gary Tolley

**Presentation:** Making Mead

Mead is water and honey fermented with yeast. There are two types of mead, sweet and dry. Fruit, grain, spices and herbs can be used for different variations.

Basic recipe- 1 part honey by volume, 3 parts water by volume and 1 package of yeast or

15lbs of honey to 4 gallons of water -will yield 15 gallons of mead

This will yield mead with about 10% alcohol content.

Some Meaderies near us are:

Blacksnake Meadery in Dugspur, Virginia

Silver Hand Meadery in Williamsburg, Virginia

Black Heath Meadery in Richmond, Virginia

SKjald Meadery in Altavista, Virginia

Honey Girl Meadery in Durham, North Carolina

Resources for Making Mead

American Home Brewers Association

[www.Homebrewersassociation.org](http://www.Homebrewersassociation.org)

Meadist.com

Northern Brewer Northernbrewer.com

Eats of Blacksburg – Supplies for brewing equipment

Vintage Cellars of Blacksburg – retail wine shop with a selection of meads

## **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.
- A motion to use \$200.00 to buy raffle items for the bee class while the Brushy Mt. sale is going on was made by Mickey Cunningham, and seconded by Connie Armentrout.
- The November meeting will have a honey tasting.
- ***The October meeting will be in a new location.*** ([Wytheville Community College- Bland Hall room 104](#))
- The January meeting –Be thinking about possibly making a group order from Mann Lake for March Madness in order to save money.
- Fillmore Containers- A good place to purchase containers for honey, etc.

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

- Marijuana laced honey blossom – Cannahoney

### **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:**

Harry Jo Yates – Division Board Feeder  
Peter French – Top Board Feeder  
Herman Hearn – 12 -1lb. Muth jars and corks  
Teresa Hearn – Mead book  
Trenna Reynolds - Slats  
Ethel Parks – Insulation wraps  
Kirk Burkett - Plastic Gripper

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

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Armentrout

Secretary, MEBA