

MOUNTAIN EMPIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

March 26, 2015 MEETING

MINUTES

President Mickey Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, Thursday, March 26, 2015, in Room 201, Galax Hall, Wytheville Community College. [Galax Hall will be the meeting place for 2015 meetings and classes.] Thirty-nine members attended.

Minutes of the January, 2015, meeting were presented; James Rose moved and Ellen Crigger seconded to approve the minutes as presented; motion carried without discussion.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance, \$5,244; \$1,450 was deposited from the Basic Beekeeping class. The Treasurer's Report was filed for audit.

Guest Speaker: Brian Kreowski, bee inspector for 10 SW Virginia counties, spoke on the Virginia apiary inspection program. Brian addressed the following issues: why beekeepers are regulated; who needs an inspection, scheduling an appointment, what happens on inspection day, penalty for violations, 2014 statistics for the southwestern Virginia area, honey houses, problems with bears, and who takes care of pesticide kills.

Basic Beekeeping Class: Mickey reports that there are 41 students registered and attending. Because of inclement weather, the class started two weeks late and will conclude March 31.

Youth Beekeeper Incentive: Judy Ogle reported that the committee is recommending \$125 for qualifying youth. A friendly amendment to the previous motion was made by Judy Ogle, and seconded by Stanley Meadows that the \$125 be used to purchase local nucs. Motion carried. Local beekeeper Tim Service received a check for \$250 to purchase two nucs for Hunter Jackson and Branden Marshall, two youth in the current Basic Beekeeping class.

Spring Workshop: the workshop will be held May 16 (May 23 rain date) at Eural Clippard's beeyard. Tina will both mail and email the information, including a strip map. Gaynell Shawyer moved that we raffle a four-frame radial manual extractor at the workshop; Roxy St. Clair seconded the motion; the motion passed. Peter French, Judy Ogle, Tim Spraker, Ken Armstrong, and Gaynell Shawyer volunteered to help weed-whack and prepare for the workshop. Mickey asked for volunteers at team leaders to demonstrate how to inspect a frame, inspect a hive, etc. We need five team leaders for work groups; Tim Spraker, Peter French, JL Crigger, and Tim Service volunteered. Additional team leaders are needed; volunteers will be sought in the April meeting. Judy Ogle suggested that we solicit donations for silent auction items to raise money for the Youth Beekeeper Incentive.

Status of members' hives: general discussion of late spring in most areas, not much willow out, but maple is blooming; feeding syrup, making greasy patties, etc. Nine members reported winter kill.

Next month: April 23. Presentation on nectar and pollen producing plants and their sources, and finalization of plans for spring workshop.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Cunningham

Secretary, MEBA