

# MOUNTAIN EMPIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

April 23, 2015 MEETING

## MINUTES

President Mickey Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:0 pm, Thursday, April 23, 2015, in Room 201, Galax Hall, Wytheville Community College. [Galax Hall will be the meeting place for 2015 meetings and classes.] Gaynell Shawver volunteered to take minutes as the Secretary was absent. Twenty-eight members attended.

Minutes of the March, 2015, meeting were presented; a motion from the floor to approve the minutes as presented was made and seconded; motion carried without discussion.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance, \$5,844; \$600 was deposited from class tuition and membership dues. The Treasurer's Report was filed for audit.

### Old Business:

- **Spring Workshop:** the workshop will be held May 23 at Eural Clippard's bee yard, 743 Crockett's Cove Road, Wytheville, from 10 am -2pm. Tina will both mail and email the information, including a strip map. Area clean-up (mowing, weed-whacking) will be held on Friday, May 22, weather permitting. team leaders for work groups; Tim Spraker, Peter French, JL Crigger, Tim Service and Charles Vernon volunteered. Judy Ogle is soliciting donations for silent auction items to raise money for the Youth Beekeeper Incentive.
- The 4-Frame Extractor for the raffle has been ordered and should arrive within the week. Each - chance/ticket will be \$5.00. Drawing will be after lunch; must be present to win (standing rules).
- Food Committee: Sandwiches, drink, paper and plastic ware will be provided by MEBA. Roger has the bankcard/credit card. Marsha Turpin volunteered to help purchase items. Members and guests will provide side items or desserts. How many to plan for?
- Ordering of "Porta-Potties": R&R Septic will be contracted to provide; bill to be sent to Roger Crigger, Treasurer, 4024 Backlick Rd, Rural Retreat, VA 24368.
- Charles Vernon volunteered to be the fifth instructional team leader.
- Safety equipment, i.e., bee suits, hats and gloves, will be required.

### New Business:

- **Website and Facebook Page:** The Secretary and webmaster have updated the website and Facebook page. The "Meba Virginia" page on Facebook has been deleted; MEBA's "official" Facebook page is "Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association". Members can post items on the Facebook page if you have "liked" the page; send items (photos, articles, etc.) for the website to Tina.

- **Mailing List:** If you are not receiving a meeting reminder by email or by postcard, please send Tina your contact information (coltinac@hughes.net or 276-579-2123), or renew your membership by contacting Roger, the treasurer.
- **Status of members' hives:** It is wax moth and mouse season; check your bees weekly until mid-May, and consider putting on mouse guards or entrance reducers. If you plan to sell bees, arrange to have your bees inspected.
- **Bee Placement:** Valerie Mesedahl, 387 Short Leaf Ln, Ivanhoe, VA (203-722-0776) has land on which MEBA members may place bees.
- **Bee-Informed Partnership:** University of Maryland is looking for beekeepers across the United States with 5 or more hives to participate in a six-month study for Varroa and Nosema. If you want to participate, send an email to askbeeinformed@gmail.com, including your names, mailing address, and number of colonies. You will be contacted if selected.
- **Mentors Needed:** Many new beekeepers will be receiving Nucs this weekend or before the workshop. Mentors are needed; the ZIP Code roster for the Winter 2015 Basic Beekeeping Class was passed around for members to review and sign up to help these new beekeepers. Please be active since Mickey bragged on our members during class.

#### Presentations:

- Tim Service brought his double nuc to demonstrate. He did a presentation to show how he built it and how he feeds. He showed several size feeders that fit inside the nuc and told how the double nuc winters.
- Mickey Cunningham presented a program "Landscaping for Honey Bees". A number of easy-to-obtain garden flowers, shrubs and trees was presented. Handouts on plants and their sources were distributed

Next month: Share your marketing ideas for farm markets, direct sales. Bring bottles, signage, whatever you use to sell your honey.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gaynell Shawver for Tina Cunningham

Secretary, MEBA