

# MOUNTAIN EMPIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

July 23, 2015 MEETING

## MINUTES

President Mickey Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, Thursday, July 23, 2015, in Room 201, Galax Hall, Wytheville Community College. Twenty-one members attended.

The meeting began with a YouTube video of larval development; it was very informative and generated lots of discussion, including mites visible in the cells.

Minutes of the May and June meeting were approved as posted on the MEBA website.

Treasurer's Report: Opening balance was \$4,332.13; some dues received, leaving a closing balance of \$4,374.19. The treasurer's report was filed for audit.

### Old Business:

- A glass bowl, plastic container and knife were left after the May workshop. Contact Tina Cunningham to claim.
- Grayson LandCare will show the film, "Vanishing Bees", on August 7 at The Church of the Good Shepherd, 9441 Grayson Parkway, Galax. All MEBA members will have free admission, and are encouraged to attend. The film starts at 7 pm. MEBA is sponsoring the film.
- Sourwood Tree Seedlings: a sign-up sheet was passed around for fall purchase of local sourwood tree seedlings; each tree costs \$5; the nursery is located in Warrensville, NC. We will pick them up in September and distribute at the September meeting.

### New Business:

- Discussion of swarms and ways to control swarming:
- Splitting--pulling out frames of brood plus frames of honey and pollen; use last year's honey, especially if made of sugar water; add a queen.
- Telescoping/checker-boarding: take out every other frame of brood.
- You can place a nuc next to a mother hive; however, turn it at 180 degrees from the mother hive; the field bees will return to the nuc because they can't find the mother hive.
- Hive is failing if workers begin to lay eggs.
- Charles Vanover reported he has been losing queens; a discussion of queen management and maintenance ensued.
- Mite control
- Oxalic acid has just been legalized this year; it is organic, and can be vaporized, sprayed on or applied as a liquid. Connie Armentrout demonstrated a home-made vaporizer which costs about \$9 and runs on the cigarette lighter in an automobile or a battery. [Note: Brushy Mountain has an oxalic acid vaporizer for \$115.]

Raffle: A hive tool and Honey-B-Healthy were raffled.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Cunningham

Secretary, MEBA