

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

October 22, 2015

President Mickey Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm, Thursday, October 22, 2015, in Room 201, Galax Hall, Wytheville Community College.

Minutes of the September meeting were reviewed; one correction noted: Tim Service's name recorded as "Surface". It was moved, and seconded, to approve the minutes as corrected and posted on the MEBA website. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: None reported

Old Business:

- Sourwood Tree Seedlings: those who received the seedlings report that they are planted and doing well.
- Farm Bureau presentation follow-up: the presentation was informative.
- Nominations Committee report: currently have nominees for president, vice-president and treasurer; secretary nomination will be finalized within the next week.

New Business:

- Youth Beekeepers scholarship program: we have received no feedback from the youth who received nucs, and the youth have attended no meetings and have not joined the association. After discussion, Tim Service moved, and Ethel Parks seconded to close the youth program. Motion carried.
- Information received from Brian Kreowski, State Bee Inspector:
 - Recent studies have determined that honeybees are responsible for 7% of pollination worldwide instead of the 33% as previously thought.
 - Stink Bug Spray (Dinotefuran) (approved by EPA for use on pome and stone fruits) use in Virginia expired on October 15, 2015. This pesticide proved to be highly toxic to honey bees.
 - Honey bee colonies are on the rise in Virginia; this good news is tempered by Virginia's 33% winter loss.

Discussion: Winterizing your hives:

- Honey-B-Healthy recipe distributed (will be posted on web site).
- Making sugar candy (fondant) for winter feeding. Combine 10 lbs. sugar, 2 lbs. honey, 4 lbs. white corn syrup, 1 1/2 Tablespoon Honey-B-Healthy, and @1/8 Teaspoon mineralized salt. Bring to 230-242 degrees Fahrenheit; add 1/4 Teaspoon cream of tartar mixed with 2-3 Tablespoons water; stir until the candy reaches @190 degrees. Spoon into plastic containers or gallon plastic bags. You may add 3-4 drops essential oils (peppermint, spearmint, wintergreen) as desired (will be posted on web site).
- Fondant should be placed on top of the frames in the second deep hive body on top of frames, then place inner cover and the top.
- Don't open hives if temps fall below 50 degrees.
- Secret to winter survival is sufficient food, survivable queen.
- Combining hives: put weak hive in with strong hive.
- Make sure hives are ventilated (little notch in inner cover is for ventilation); this prevents moisture build-up.
- Reduce entrance to prevent mice coming into the hives.

Announcements:

The next meeting will be **November 19, 2015, in Grayson Hall, Room 219**. This one-time **location change** is because the WCC Board meeting which will be held in our usual meeting room. The **date change** is because the fourth Thursday is Thanksgiving Day.

Dues for 2016 membership will be collected beginning at the November meeting; cash or check, please. Dues are \$11 local membership, \$20 local and state membership.

Raffle: No raffle was held during this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Cunningham

Secretary, MEBA