

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

September 24, 2015

Vice President Clyde King called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, Thursday September 24, 2015, in Room 201, Galax Hall, Wytheville Community College.

Minutes of the August meeting were reviewed; Gaynell Shawver moved, Connie Armentrout seconded, to approve the minutes as posted on the MEBA website. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: None reported

Old Business:

- Sourwood Tree Seedlings: Clyde King distributed the seedlings at the end of the meeting to members who had order the sourwood tree seedlings from the nursery located in Warrensville, NC.

New Business:

- Mark Dawson, Senior District Field Services Director from the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation gave a presentation that included the history, mission & purpose, programs and benefits of membership.
- Jeff Wyatt stressed the importance to "feed, feed, feed" during times of a nectar dearth.
- Tim Surface recommended feeding with a 1:1 sugar syrup with essential oils to stimulate the queen to lay while there are still blossoms. The 1:1 sugar syrup emulates nectar flow. After the blossoms are gone, he recommends switching to 2:1 sugar syrup.
- A swarm was observed by a member of late. A discussion ensued about the need to use newspaper between hive bodies to merge bees with an existing hive to help them get used to each other's pheromones. This will help them to except each other and not kill each other.
- Clyde King shared information about three 5 gallon Quail feeders he used to feed his bees.
- Tim Surface shared that Costco's sugar was less expensive than Walmart.
- Jeff Wyatt shared that a place in Florida sold "next to food grade" sugar at 18 cents per pound.
- It was discussed that feeding pollen patties by late January was important because this provides needed protein for raising brood.
- Clyde King shared about the "Right to Know" law. i.e. If a neighbor is spraying pesticides, insecticides, etc... The Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) gives information on a chemical's risk's, safety, and effects on the environment.
- A discussion took place between members about how much honey should be left for the bees. "If you can't lift it, then you probably have enough honey for the winter".
- Clyde King asked members to report names of nominees to him regarding next year's officers.
- It was noted that the MEBA website was currently down, but Mickey Cunningham would be working on getting it back up and running.

The next meeting will be October 22, 2015.

Raffle: No raffle was held during this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Armentrout

Substitute for Secretary MEBA