

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

April 27, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Tim Service in room 201, Galax Hall Wytheville Community College. 35 people present, 7 of who were potential new members.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve minutes—Anthony Ellis, seconded by Gaynell Shawver. Minutes approved. Mickey presented the treasurers report. The report was filed for audit.

Pop Quiz- How (where) does air get inside of the honeybee?- Spiracles- winner Cathy Hounshell—prize honey candy; Where are the honeybee's lungs located?- Bees do not have lungs -winner Gary Tolley- prize soap; What will make a beekeeper less likely to be successfully sued by someone for getting stung? The Limited Liability Law —winner Diana Gardner – prize No Drip Honey Pump; In order to be protected by the Limited Liability Law, what must a beekeeper be using? Best Management Practices -winner Alana Yates —prize lip balm

Speaker: Jerry Borger twoltcols@verizon.net (540) 382-1798

Presentation: Hobbyist Queens Using a Double Screen

Why use a double screen: 1. Dampen the swarming urge. 2. Maximum honey nectar reserves 3. Encourage queen cells to be produced to keep a line of a good queen going without taking a hive out of production.

Use the hive that is up and working early in the morning. This is the one that you want to duplicate.

A queen castle is a box that has 4 compartments that holds two frames. Each face has an opening. A double screen is keeping bees from touching each other and spreading the queen pheromone.

Jerry Borger handouts will be posted.

Break- 10 minutes

Bee Biology- None

Video -Michael Palmer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9Qnzf-2BAU>

The Duct Tape Method – A method of record keeping in the field.

Bees in the News:



- Bee Swarm found on the trunk of a car – Swarm of bees follows car for 2 days to rescue queen trapped in back
- Greenville, Tennessee – Beekeeper: 300,000 bees killed by poison
<http://www.wbir.com/news/local/beekeeper-300000-bees-poisoned/431960319>
- Bee Lab in Beltsville, Maryland is suspending its services– no lab to test inspections

Old Business:

- National Pollinator Week Event is coming up. Tim has made contact with Greg of the Hillsville Farmer's Market for a possible event at the new facility. He is waiting to hear back from him. A booth will be set up at the Hillsville Farmer's Market June 24 9:00-2:00, and at the Wytheville Farmer's Market 8:00-12:00.
- The Spring Workshop will be held Saturday May 13, 2017. It is also Mickey Cunningham's birthday (73 years young.) Tim Services' birthday is May 14. (62 years young.) Volunteers to help are being asked. Peter French, Gary Tolley and Jeff Wyatt will be there the day before to help mow. A sign-up sheet was sent around to help the day of the workshop to set up and clean up. The silent auction at the spring workshop will continue with Gaynell Shawver organizing it. Contact her if you would be willing to help with the silent auction. An extractor will be raffled off again. There will be three teams this year. Heading those teams will be Charlie Vanover, Vernon Simon and Peter French. We will eat outside weather permitting. Bring clothes you do not mind getting dirty. We will be making seed bombs for the National Pollinator Week Events.

New Business:

- There was some discussion of having a communal extractor to be shared by MEBA members that was initiated by Cathy Hounshell.

What We Should Be Doing with Our Bees Right Now

- Add supers
- Get ready for swarms
- Set swarm traps (lemongrass and queen pheromone)

Raffle: None

Adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Armentrout

Secretary, MEBA