

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

March 23, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Tim Service in room 201, Galax Hall Wytheville Community College. 39 people present, 2 of who were potential new members. (Richard Turner and Chris Dove of Austinville)

Minutes and Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve minutes—Gaynell Shawver, seconded by Mickey Cunningham. Minutes approved. Mickey presented the treasurers report. Motion to approve treasure's report. – Harry Joe Yates, seconded Kenneth Wright. The report was filed for audit.

Pop Quiz- Where is the heart located?- Open Circulatory system (red tube)- winner Linda Brachen –prize Bert's Bee's product; What is the name of bee blood? Hemolymph-winner Connie Armentrout- prize soap; What do ostia do? Picks up fresh nutrients and hormones carries them to organs –winner Kayron C. Carowan – prize soap; What is a Robo bee? Robo Drone –to fix pollination problem -winner Anthony Ellis –prize towel

Speaker: Tim Service

Presentation: Limited Liability and Best Management Practices

Code of Virginia title 3.2 Chapter 44. Beekeeping <http://law.justia.com/codes/virginia/2010/title-3-2/chapter-44>

§ 3.2-4411.1. Apiaries; limitation on liability.

A. Any person owning or operating an apiary that is not located on his own property shall post the name and address of the owner or operator in a conspicuous place in the apiary.

B. A person who operates an apiary in a reasonable manner, in compliance with local zoning restrictions, and in conformance with the written best management practices as provided by regulation of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall not be liable for any personal injury or property damage that occurs in connection with his keeping and maintaining of bees, bee equipment, queen breeding equipment, apiaries, or appliances. The limitation of liability established by this section does not apply to intentional tortious conduct or acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or negligence.

C. The limitation of liability in this section shall not take effect until regulations are adopted by the Board. The Board may adopt initial regulations under this section to implement the provisions of this section to be effective no later than November 1, 2016. Such initial regulations shall be exempt from the requirements of Article 2 (§ 2.2-4006 et seq.) of the Administrative Process Act; however, the Board shall publish proposed regulations in the Virginia Register of Regulations and allow at least 30 days for public comment, to include an online public comment forum on the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall, after publication. Any amendments to such initial regulations or any subsequent regulations adopted pursuant to this section shall comply with the requirements of Article 2 of the Administrative Process Act. Any regulations adopted shall include best management practices for the operation of apiaries.

2016, c. 564.

The chapters of the acts of assembly referenced in the historical citation at the end of this section may not constitute a comprehensive list of such chapters and may exclude chapters whose provisions have expired.

<http://register.dls.virginia.gov/vol33/iss02/v33i02.pdf>

“CHAPTER 319 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR THE OPERATION OF APIARIES IN ORDER TO LIMIT OPERATOR LIABILITY 2VAC5-319-10. Definitions. The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following

meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise: "Apiary" means any place where one or more colonies of bees are kept. "Apiary operator" means a person who operates an apiary and seeks to limit his liability for any personal injury or property damage that occurs in connection with his keeping and maintaining of bees, bee equipment, queen breeding equipment, apiaries, or appliances as provided for in § 3.2- 4411.1 of the Code of Virginia. "Bee" means the honey bee, *Apis mellifera* and genetic variations thereof, at any living stage and may include other hymenopterous insects that depend on pollen and nectar for food. "Bee equipment" means hives [and;] hive parts [,] including frames, supers, covers, [and] bottom boards [, ;] and beekeeping apparel. "Colony" means a queenright assemblage of social bees capable of reproducing. "Comb" means a mass of six-sided cells used by honey bees in which brood is reared and honey and pollen are stored. "Disease" means departure from a sound state of health of bees characterized by visible symptoms including American foulbrood and any other diseases, insects, mites, or bee pests. "Division" means to separate a bee colony into two or more hives. "EHB" mean European honey bees. "Foundation" means a template, base, or midrib used for the production of straight, movable comb in a frame. "Frame" means a wooden or plastic form, usually consisting of four sides, designed to hold comb spaced between 1/4 inch and 3/8 inch apart and to allow for removal of the frame without damage to the comb. "Hive" means a box, skep, barrel, log gum, or other container used as a domicile for bees. "Split" means a division of a bee colony for the purposes of increasing the number of hives. "Swarm" or "swarming" means a form of propagation of bees in which all or a portion of a colony, usually containing at least one queen, departs from its original hive to establish a new colony.

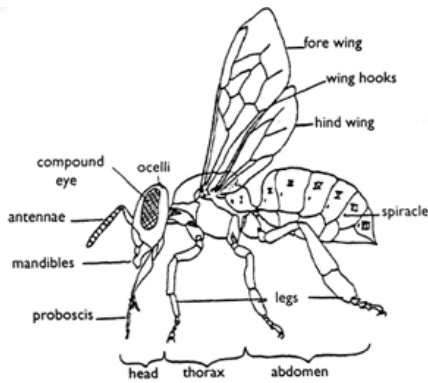
2VAC5-319-20. Limitation of liability. A. An apiary operator operating in conformance with § 3.2- 4411.1 of the Code of Virginia and this chapter shall not be liable for any personal injury or property damage that occurs Regulations Volume 33, Issue 2 Virginia Register of Regulations September 19, 2016 38 in connection with his keeping and maintaining of bees, bee equipment, queen breeding equipment, apiaries, or appliances. This limitation of liability does not apply to intentional tortious conduct or acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or negligence. B. A person is not required to comply with the provisions of this chapter unless he seeks to limit his liability as provided for in § 3.2-4411.1 of the Code of Virginia. [2VAC5-319-25. Best management practices. An apiary operator shall comply with local, state, and federal ordinances, regulations, and laws pertaining to beekeeping. This section shall apply to an apiary operator keeping any honey bee, *Apis mellifera* and genetic variations thereof, at any living stage, or other hymenopterous insect that depends on pollen and nectar for food.] 2VAC5-319-30. Best management practices [for the keeping of honey bees]. A. [An apiary operator shall comply with local, state, and federal ordinances, regulations, and laws pertaining to beekeeping For the purpose of this section, "bee" means the honey bee, *Apis mellifera* and genetic variations thereof, at any living stage, and does not mean other hymenopterous insects that depend on pollen and nectar for food]. B. An apiary operator shall maintain a healthy populous colony of bees by: 1. Removing or securely sealing any empty bee equipment in an apiary. For the purpose of this subdivision, "empty" means without bees but containing comb or other materials attractive to bees [and does not include equipment in use as a bait hive for capturing a swarm]; 2. Removing all colonies in a state of decline [or,] combining such colonies with other colonies [, or taking other action to establish a healthy populous condition in such colonies]; 3. Repairing or replacing [old, worn, damaged] or defective hive boxes, frames, and other bee equipment; 4. Replacing frames containing old comb with new or cleaned frames containing foundation such that all comb in a hive is replaced every five to seven years; 5. [Maintaining a minimum of 20 pounds Feeding or maintaining an adequate amount] of honey [and pollen] in a hive [with the equivalent of one frame of pollen stores] for brood production during the growing season; 6. Preventing disturbance or injury to bee colony or hive by vertebrate pests; and 7. [Monitoring disease and pest levels to ensure that treatment thresholds are not exceeded. An apiary operator shall manage Managing] the colony to address any disease or pest infestation or remove all disease or pest-infested hives that may be detrimental to the health of other colonies in the vicinity of the apiary. An apiary operator shall inspect hives for disease at least once every three months. C. For the purposes of this subsection, (i) "full hive" means a hive consisting of a minimum of two eight-frame deep hive boxes for a Langstroth-style hive, or a hive of equivalent capacity, that has movable frames with combs, and (ii) "nucleus hive" means a hive with less capacity than a full hive. A full hive should enter the winter with a minimum of 60 pounds of honey and the equivalent of four frames of pollen stores. A nucleus hive should enter the winter with a minimum of 30 pounds of honey and the equivalent of two frames of pollen stores. D. An apiary operator shall practice proper management and control techniques to reduce the likelihood of swarming. E. An apiary operator shall maintain all colonies at least 10 feet away from property lines to prevent an individual from impeding normal bee flight activity from a hive. An apiary

operator shall place all colonies that are less than 40 feet from a property line behind a barrier that is no less than six feet in height and is located between the colony and the property line [or elevate the hive entrance no less than six feet above the property line]. Barriers should be of sufficient density, length, and height to establish bee flyways six feet or higher above ground level. F. [An When an apiary is located in an area in which the apiary operator should reasonably expect that the bees may rely on a nearby unnatural source of water, the] apiary operator shall maintain a water source within 50 feet of a colony or less than one-half the distance to the nearest unnatural [water] source [of water], whichever is closest. An unnatural [water] source [of water] includes a swimming pool, bird bath, and pet or livestock watering receptacle. [G. An apiary operator shall not maintain an apiary within 50 feet of any animal that is tethered, kenneled, or otherwise prevented from escaping a possible stinging incident. H. G.] An apiary operator shall avoid opening or disturbing a colony when [the apiary operator has knowledge that] another person is participating in outside non-beekeeping activities or using machinery within 150 feet of the apiary. [I. H.] An apiary operator shall only maintain a colony with EHB or EHB hybrid stock and shall: 1. [Obtain Purchase] queens, packaged bees, nucleus colonies, or established hives from suppliers providing EHB stock, or obtain a queen and bees from a local supplier [or raise queens from stock owned by the apiary operator, provided the origin and EHB status of the mother queen is known]; 2. Not obtain queens or bees from suppliers within 100 miles from known Africanized honey bee populations; 3. Introduce queens from healthy stock when making divisions or splits of established colonies; Regulations Volume 33, Issue 2 Virginia Register of Regulations September 19, 2016 39 4. Replace queens in all captured or trapped swarms within [30 45] days of capturing or trapping swarms; 5. Replace queens in all colonies every two years to minimize swarming behavior; and 6. Mark the thorax or clip a wing of the queens [in a manner that allows the age of the queens to be determined] prior to their introduction to splits, swarms, [and or] colonies. [I. An apiary operator shall limit the number of colonies that he places in his apiary as follows: 1. If the property on which the apiary is located is 1/4 acre or smaller, the apiary shall not have more than two colonies. The apiary operator may increase the number of colonies up to four colonies for not more than 60 consecutive days for the purpose of queen mating and swarm control. 2. If the property on which the apiary is located is more than 1/4 acre, but less than 1/2 acre, the apiary shall not have more than four colonies. The apiary operator may increase the number of colonies up to eight colonies for not more than 60 consecutive days for the purpose of queen mating and swarm control. 3. If the property on which the apiary is located is 1/2 acre or more, but less than one acre, the apiary shall not have more than six colonies. The apiary operator may increase the number of colonies up to 12 colonies for not more than 60 consecutive days for the purpose of queen mating and swarm control. 4. If the property on which the apiary is located is one acre or more, the apiary shall not have more than six colonies per acre. The apiary operator may increase the number of colonies up to 12 colonies per acre for not more than 60 consecutive days for the purpose of queen mating and swarm control. 5. If all colonies are placed at least 200 feet from all property lines, there is no limit on the number of colonies that an apiary operator may place in his apiary.] VA.R. Doc. No. R16-4712; Filed August 31, 2016, 11:24 a.m. “

The state Apiarist, Keith Tegner will be speaking and answering questions about the proposed legislation at the Carroll County Beekeepers Association on the first Monday in April at 6:30pm. Located at the Carroll County Extension office on Oak Street. This legislation came about when a person was stung in West Virginia and sued a beekeeper. The beekeeper won the court case. What came out of this was that beekeepers need to follow best management practices. This may become law in Virginia. Virginia’s proposed law is very similar to what West Virginia adopted as best management practices.

Break- 10 minutes

Bee Biology- “Spiracle on 34th Street” – Spiracles are air intake organs that are tiny holes used for breathing that are located laterally along both sides of the abdomen. Bees get oxygen through a system of spiracles and trachea system- a system for bringing air directly to the tissues. Hairs prevent dust from entering the atrial opening of the trachea. The first spiracle is hidden beneath the spiracle lobe, a large hair-fringed backward extension of the first thoracic segment. This is the spiracle which is invaded by tracheal mites. If you mark the queen, make sure you mark her on the top of the thorax so as to not block the spiracle and suffocate the queen.



Bees in the News:

- Cheerios – Help bring back the bees by giving away seeds. – This was a problem because some of these seeds were invasive in certain areas. <http://uproxx.com/life/cheerios-wildflower-seed/> - **Cheerios Is Under Fire For Giving Away Billions Of Invasive Wildflower Seeds** BY ABIGAIL EASTWOOD 03.20.17

- **Less bees buzzing could lead to problems**

By: [Maggie Smolka](#) Posted: Mar 22, 2017 06:46 PM EDT <http://www.wcyb.com/top-stories/less-bees-buzzing-could-lead-to-problems/409210380>

"Statewide this year we're going to probably experience a 70% honeybee loss, which means out of every 100 bees in the state, 70 of them will not make it through the winter," Beekeeper Joe Pollick said. "It's wildly concerning. They pollinate so many things that we take for granted as far as fruits and vegetables and all the different produce that we use."

"It's been estimated for example that honeybees are responsible for one out of three bites of food we eat everyday,"- Agricultural Extension Agent Phil Blevins

Old Business:

- New start time is 6:30 p.m. starting April 27, 2017.
- National Pollinator Week is week 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.
- Charlie Vanover has nucs for sale \$110.00 with you providing your own box. (276) 608-7696
- Tina Cunningham has posed a question to the webmaster regarding a forum on the website. She is waiting to hear back from him.

New Business:

- More cash on-hand for the treasurer to be able to make change when needed.
- Highlands Beekeepers Association will sponsor **A Honeybee Symposium** Saturday April 8, 2017 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. at the Southwest VA Higher Education Center in Abingdon, Virginia. Pre-registration fee is \$40.00. Registration at the door is \$50.00. Cutoff date for preregistration is March 31. Online registration available at www.highlandsbeekeepers.com. Vendors will be on site. Register early due to a limit of 250 attendees. Registration and check can be mailed to Phil Blevins, Extension Agent Washington Co. Extension Service 234 W. Valley St. Abingdon, Virginia 24211. For questions call (276) 676-6309.
- Anthony Ellis brought up a discussion about MEBA hosting a beekeepers symposium in the future similar to the one being held in Abingdon on April 8, 2017.

- 43 out of 45 people have been attending the beginning beekeepers class regularly. There is only one class left.
- The silent auction at the spring workshop will continue with Gaynell organizing it. An extractor will be raffled off again. The Spring Workshop will be held Saturday May 13, 2017. (Also Mickey Cunningham’s birthday. Tim Services’ birthday is May 14.)
- Tractor Supply is offering bee outfits, gloves, etc... cheaper than a lot of other places.
- Walmart, in the Garden Center, can order bee supplies.

What We Should Be Doing with Our Bees Right Now

- Clean up any dead outs. Salvage any good frames of honey and drawn comb for re-use.
- Prepare equipment for spring: Assemble, paint, add foundation, etc...
- Be ready to add supers. Weather will be changing soon.
- Get ready for swarms!
- As far as reversing brood boxes- Jeff recommends waiting another 2 weeks to reverse the brood boxes or they could starve if it gets cold again!
- Mickey says, “Over super in the spring and under super in the fall”. There is a fine line....If you give too much space it is not good. You could get hive beetles. If you don’t give enough space, they could swarm.
- The international Standard Color Code for the queen this year is yellow. See the table below:



The image shows a table titled "International Queen Marking Color Code" with a dark background and light text. The table has two columns: "Color:" and "For Year Ending In:". The rows are: White(or gray) for 1 or 6, Yellow for 2 or 7, Red for 3 or 8, Green for 4 or 9, and Blue for 5 or 0.

Color:	For Year Ending In:
White(or gray)	1 or 6
Yellow	2 or 7
Red	3 or 8
Green	4 or 9
Blue	5 or 0

Raffle:

Complete Nuc without frames- winner – Jeff Wyatt!

Adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Armentrout

Secretary, MEBA