

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

July 27, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Tim Service in room 201, Galax Hall Wytheville Community College. 25 members and 1 guest were present.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve minutes—Mickey Cunningham, seconded by Harry Jo Yates. Minutes approved. Mickey Cunningham presented the treasurers report. The report was filed for audit.

Pop Quiz- "Were You Really Paying Attention Last Month"-

What do Varroa mites suck from bees? Answer-blood, winner Tina Cunningham, prize – ceramic honey bear pot

Where is the honeybee's Fat Body located? Answer – belly, winner Anthony Ellis, prize - key ring

What insect pest can be controlled with the use of Diatomaceous Earth? Answer -Hive Beetle, winner Diana Gardner – prize hand lotion

Viruses can be introduced to honeybees by varroa mites and ? Answer - pollen, winner Kirk Burkett, – prize chocolate

Speaker: Tim Service

Presentation: An open question and answer discussion session was held.

Mickey Cunningham shared an article in American Bee Journal.

Peter French shared how he used a double screen to produce queens.

Tim Service discussed Brood Minder- <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/broodminder-beehive-health-telemetry#/> He uses this to upload information about his hives into the "Cloud".

Break- 10 minutes

Bee Biology - The Eye of The Honeybees

The honeybee has two types of eyes.

1. **Ocelli or Simple Eyes** – They have **three** of these on top of the head that help with orienting.
2. **Compound Eyes** – They help with identifying objects (ie. flowers, etc...). They have **two** of these eyes.
 - Bees have polarized vision that helps them find the location of the sun even on cloudy days.
 - They can see Ultra Violet light (UV). The ability to see UV light can help them find pollen.

Old Business:

- A report on how the National Pollinator Week Event went for the Hillsville Farmer's Market and the Wytheville Farmers Market was presented by the attending volunteers. 27 seed bomb packages gave a net gain of \$54.00. Literature was also given out. Seed packages with 10 seed bombs were sold for \$2.00.

New Business:

- A discussion was had on cut-outs and traps-outs.
- Zachary Gentry needs help getting rid of bees. He is located at 230 Maple Street Gladespring, Virginia. His phone number is 276-525-2630. Jeff Wyatt stated he had been at his place. The bees are very high, and it will be very challenging to get the bees.

Bees in the News:

- The Voluntary Pollinator Protection Program was approved. This mostly affects pesticide operators. The beekeeper has to know where the pesticide operators are and give their contact information so they can close up their hives to protect the bees. <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/press-releases-170608-bees.shtml>
- July 20, 2017 NBC News utube video - Science, Art and Nature Combine to Celebrate the Sound of the Beehive – <http://www.nbcnews.com/video/hive-installation-at-london-s-kew-gardens-interprets-beehive-activity-1004238915723>

What We Should Be Doing with Our Bees Right Now

- Feed
- Add robber screens
- Perform mite count checks
- Treat for mites if necessary

Raffle:

Winners:

Joe Turpin – medium plastic frames

Willis Richardson – hive body

Anthony Ellis – frame gripper

Kenneth Wright – Drone frames deep

Austin Reynolds- bee frame holder

Adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Armentrout

Secretary, MEBA