

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

October 24, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Anthony Ellis in room 201, Galax Hall Wytheville Community College. 19 members present.

**Minutes and Treasurer's Report:** Motion to approve minutes—Mickey Cunningham, seconded by Linda Brachen. Minutes approved.

**Speaker:** John Slingerland

**Presentation:** Creamed Honey

John Slingerland gave a presentation on the pros and cons of creamed honey, and the process to make creamed honey. A kit can be purchased from Dadant for making creamed honey at:

<https://www.dadant.com/catalog/catalogsearch/result/?q=creamed+honey>

Directions for making creamed honey can be purchased at Dadant's website as well.

<https://www.dadant.com/catalog/m00506-03-creamed-honey-instructions>

There are two ways to make creamed honey, which you can either make a starter yourself from granulated honey or buy the starter. By buying your starter already made you can control the texture and taste better this way. If you make your own starter, take granulated honey and grind it with a mortar and pestle. Take 10% to add to honey. The ratio of honey to starter to honey is 10 pounds of honey to 1 pound of starter. It takes about a week to make at around 55°. When mixing you do not want air. Using a cork mixer attachment makes less air. After it is mixed, you can add your flavors if you choose to do so. If adding fruit, the fruit must be dried fruit.

The father of creamed honey was Elton J. Dyce. He patented the first method for producing creamed honey in 1935. Other names for creamed honey are spun honey or whipped honey.

Your creamed honey should be stored in a cellar or wine cooler. If left in an area 90° or higher, it will liquefy.

**Old Business:**

- Membership dues – Only about half of the membership dues have been paid. This notice has been put in the minutes to remind everyone to please pay as soon as possible if you have not done so already. If you are not sure if you have or not, see Gary Tolley. If you are ready to pay, see Gary Tolley as well. Our calendar year starts over January of every year.
- A motion was made by Gary Tolley to have the treasure's report presented quarterly instead of every monthly meeting. Cathy Hounshell seconded the motion.
- Anthony Ellis asked everyone to give his/her thoughts about the dinner meeting with Jude Colt, should we decide to do this again next year, to consider moving the meeting up an hour so that she would not be getting home so late. Possibly having the meeting at Jude Colt's farm was discussed, and possibly on a Saturday during the day was discussed as well.
- Mickey Cunningham made a motion to have a meeting during 2020-2021 with George Wilson presenting on how to get your honey ready for a honey show. The month of April was suggested as a possible good month for this presentation. George Wilson has exhibited honey in the London honey show and is responsible for helping start the Virginia honey show as well. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Connie Armentrout.
- Herman Hearn announced that there is a new book on beekeeping in the library.

- Herman Hearn also announced that Omega Printing in Hillsville was less expensive than Avery labels. There is a \$5.00 set up fee.
- Eural Clippard shared the mite treatment article from American Bee Journal magazine 1997 entitled Tracheal Mites, Menthol, and Shop Towels by Don Jackson. Eural explained the menthol is dissolved in canola oil. This should be done in September after you get honey off and the temperature starts to cool. Bees don't seem to get resistant to this treatment. Put the menthol and oil in a metal paint can, **never plastic**.
- Cathy Hounshell shared that she will be teaching the beekeeping class starting February 4 and running for 5 weeks. The room has been reserved for 6 weeks if needed due to inclement weather. Permission was asked from the club to increase the cost of the class from \$43.00 to \$45.00. This would include the cost to cover raffle items for one raffle per week. The motion was made by Eural Clippard, seconded by Gary Tolley and the motion was approved.
- A motion was made to have a notice placed in the American Bee Journal in the news & events section to advertise the beekeeping class. Gary Tolley made the motion and Johnathan Wright seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

#### **New Business:**

- ***On November 21, 2019 MEBA cannot meet in Galax Hall. For this meeting only, we will be moving back to Smyth Hall room 122.***
- The nomination committee will be seeking members to run for MEBA offices for next year.
- The Virginia State Beekeepers Association (VASBA) will meet November 2, 2019 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Blue Ridge Community College in Weyers Cave, Virginia. The member registration after October 19, 2019 to November 1, 2019 is \$35.00 and Non-members registration is \$45.00.  
<https://www.virginiabeekeepers.org/event-3540936>
- There was an article in the VSBA Newsletter about the honey show held Grayson County.
- The Galax Farm Supply will now be selling Mann Lake products.
- Mrs. Jennifer Berry who used to work at Brushy Mountain is now located at 318 9<sup>th</sup> street Wilkesboro, North Carolina. She is now selling Rossman Apiary products. They have cypress wood woodenware, which is denser than pine and lasts longer.
- George Wilson who showed at the London Honey Show will not be able to come to our April meeting, but could come in March, June, or July. Mickey Cunningham will see him at the VSBA November 2, 2019 meeting and will let him know that MEBA picked the March 2019 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday meeting for him to come and present his honey show presentation.

#### **Hive Report: What Should You Be Doing with Your Hives?**

Check for Mites & treat when necessary

Check bees

Watch out for Wax

Check your batteries for your electric fence

Buy pollen patties or make your own if you do not see much pollen in the hive

#### **Raffle Winners:**

Bob Sullivan – Bee brush

Bob Sullivan – 12 One Pound Muth Honey Jars

Anthony Ellis – Cedar entrance reducers

Willie Richardson – Hive Tool

Harry Joe Yates – 10 Unassembled frames

Ronnie Osbourne – Queen Bee markers

**Next Meeting:** **November 21, 2019 in Smyth Hall room 122 Wytheville Community College (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday)**

**Adjourned** at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Armentrout, MEBA Secretary