

New Business:

- Books for the beekeeping class need to be purchased in December before Christmas. Gary Tolley will email Cathy Hounshell regarding who will be placing the order.
- Herman Hearn brought up a discussion as to whether or not we still need the library. It was decided that anything over 5 years old will be raffled or auctioned at our next MEBA workshop picnic. An inventory of the library items will be emailed to Connie Armentrout to be placed on the website for members to see what is available. New things may be purchased in the future if the interest is still there.
- Anthony Ellis knows of a man that will deliver package bees to our group if 100 packages are ordered. Discussion of inviting neighboring beekeeping associations such as Carroll County and the Sparta North Carolina clubs to buy from this deal may be possible. These bees come in **early March**. One of our members did this last year and was able to get honey from his early arriving package from this man. The price is thought to range from \$95.00 to \$125.00. We will need to lock in on this at our next meeting in order to get the bees in March.
- A motion was made by Mickey Cunningham to authorize the guests who join MEBA tonight to be able to vote in the election for officers tonight. Kirk Burkett 2nd the motion. The motion was approved.
- Mickey Cunningham shared information from the annual VSBA annual report that indicates that all bees will have a mite problem in the U.S. within 5 years. This report was compiled by several universities.
- A You Tube video by Jason Chrisman called Staghorn Sumac Vs Varroa Mites, Does It Really Work?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGHRcd5hznk>
- The 2020 MEBA Election: A motion was made by Herman Hearn to elect the officers present and table the election of the President until January 2020. The motion was 2nd by Connie Armentrout. Herman Hearn will chair the January meeting. Election results of officers present include: Vice President – Herman Hearn, Treasurer – Gary Tolley, Secretary– Connie Armentrout, and Librarian- Theresa Hearn.

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

Check feed

Check bees

Pull out any dead-outs

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

Raffle Winners: There was no raffle tonight.

Next Meeting: January 23 in Carroll Hall room 118 at 6:30 p.m. Wytheville Community College (4th Thursday)

Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Armentrout, MEBA Secretary

Winter Dry Feed Mix

New River Honey Bees

12 lbs. of pure cane sugar

1 Cup of Ultra Bee Substitute from Mann Lake

<https://www.mannlakeltd.com/shop-all-categories/ultra-bee/ultra-bee-pollen-substitute-dry>

~1/2 cup or a little less -Essential Oil Mix (Recipe attached.)

1 –Five gallon bucket

~1/2 cup or a little less of apple cider vinegar

1 Cup of warm water

*A pinch of Himalayan (pink) sea salt can be added. Optional

A drill - to blend the mixture with a stirring attachment

Add sugar and Ultra Bee Substitute to the bucket. Mix. Add Essential Oil Mix, apple cider vinegar and warm water. Blend with a drill for about 5 minutes or more.

*Do not get it too wet. You still want it to be fairly dry, granulated and able to absorb moisture.

Put a couple of pieces of newspaper directly on top of the frames where the clusters is located. Put a shim on top of the box. Add two or three inches of mixture. Check in January or February to see if they have eaten it all or not. They will go through it pretty quickly if they need it.

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=tightropetb&p=youtube+west+virginia+new+river+honey+bees#id=4&vid=4b38902dd69368e309363dbc5529a86f&action=click>

*Do not go over 20% pollen.

Essential Oil Mix

1 teaspoon Tea Tree oil
1 teaspoon Spearmint oil
1 teaspoon Lavendar oil
1 teaspoon Wintergreen
3 cups of warm water

Add all ingredients together and blend for 5 – 10 minutes.

- This feed can be used in the winter and in early spring to help is dysentery.

Easy To Make Candy Boards For Honey Bees

Simple Made Candy Boards

1 Large Stock Pot
10 lbs. of Pure Cane Sugar
Paper plates (never use Styrofoam plates)
16 oz. water

On medium heat add 16 ounces of water to stock pot. Bring to a boil. Add sugar 1 pound at a time. Your final ratio will be 10 parts of sugar to one part of water. If you use a 16 oz. Styrofoam Solo cup, that is about a pound of sugar, will make a convenient scoop. Stir and dissolve before adding the next pounds of sugar. Keep adding sugar by the cup/pound stirring until dissolved before adding more. It will eventually turn a light beige color. This full process takes about 25 minutes. Start to finish. Now lay out your paper plates on a heat-resistant surface and divide the mixture up between 5 – 6 paper plates. (Never Styrofoam plates) Once they have cooled down (about an hour), they can be placed in a 5 gallon bucket, stacked on top of each other and carried to the beeyard. Make sure you leave the candy on the plate when transporting then in the bucket or they will stick together. Pick a day to do this when it is warm and the bees are flying, around the mid-40's or warmer. Remove the hive's outer cover and inner cover. Place an empty super on top of your hive. You can also use a simple 2" spacer with the same dimensions as your hive. Flip the plate over on the frames leaving the sugar candy board on top of the frames in the top hive body. Remove the paper plate. The paper plate is used only to help it set up. Replace you inner cover, outer cover and a rock on top.

The original Winter Feeding With Candy Boards recipe can be found here:

<https://thebeeyard.org/winter-feeding-with-candy-boards/> from the The Beeyard: The Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley - Eric

