

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

May 27, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mickey Cunningham at the Elizabeth Brown Park, 250 South Fourth ST, Wytheville, Virginia. 24 members were present.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve minutes—Hank Sturkie, seconded by Gary Tolley. Minutes approved. The treasurers report was given by Gary Tolley. The report was filed for audit.

Speaker: Kirk Burkett

Presentation: Bee Management Through Winter

This is Kirk's third year in a row that he has had no bee losses over the winter. When his hives were inspected over the past few years, he had very low mite counts. This year after his inspection, he had a zero mite count. Kirk had his oxy vap gun available to show members.

Speaker: Hank Sturkie

Presentation: His Beekeeping Journey since 2019

Hank uses Parmak Magnum Solar Pak-12 by Parker McCroy Manufacturing. This can be found on Amazon or Overstock.com. This electric fence has been successful due to Hank catching a bear on camera getting zapped and running away from his apiary. Some of the lessons he has learned since 2019: You can never have too much woodenware. You don't have to find the queen every time you go in the hive. Have fun! Some things to be successful are: get a mentor, get a mentor, and get a mentor.

Old Business:

New Business:

- The Annual Grayson County Expo and Fair will be held August 13th and 14th at the Bottomley Christmas Tree Farm. There will be a honey exhibit and tasting. We encourage everyone to participate in the honey show. Mickey has offered to help get your honey properly bottled and labeled with your name on it for the show.
- Cathy Hounshell shared that she has been having trouble with swarms that she has captured. There are no eggs. The queens are not getting mated. This may possibly be due to the very wet weather we have had. The queens could not get out to mate.
- Tim Service has laying queens available now. There may be a waiting list. His contact information is: canoemaker@centurylink.net 276-952-5077
- The Highlands Beekeepers Association will have George Wilson June 7, 2021 discussing how to present honey at a honey show.
- Lynda Bracken has a photo that was chosen for the Bee Culture magazine front cover in the June 2021 issue.

- Cathy Hounshell is a published author in the April 2021 issue of American Bee Journal. Her article is in vol. 161 page 443 entitled, Marking Queens: Building Beekeeping Skills
- Patti Walters has sold all of her beekeeping equipment.
- Mickey Cunningham encourages all beekeepers with 3 or more years of experience to help mentor others.
- The price of honey is up 39% this year according to Bee Culture May 2021 issue.
- Patty Younger has offered her church, Pioneer church in Max Meadows, as a possible meeting place for MEBA. Members will be notified with the address before the next meeting should this occur. (Thank you Patty!)
- All MEBA members that paid due for the year 2020 will not have to pay dues for 2021 since we only met two times during 2020.

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

Check for Mites & treat when necessary

Replace bad queens

Check your batteries for your electric fence

Look out for Small Hive Beetles –SHB

Add supers

Keep catching swarms

Make splits

Bees in The News:

No Bees in the news.

Raffle Winners:

No raffle was held at this meeting.

Next Meeting: June 24, 2021 location to be announced.

Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Armentrout, MEBA Secretary