

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

July 22, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mickey Cunningham at the Pioneer Church located at 615 Max Meadows Rd. Max Meadows, Va 24360. 21 members were present.

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

Speaker: Mickey Cunningham

Presentation: Preparing Hives for Winter

- Winter starts in this area (3 county area) for our bees in late August. This is when the queen lays eggs for the winter bees. After Labor Day weekend you will see the hexagon cells get smaller; you will get smaller bees as well.
- Late July and early August golden rod is blooming. The varroa mite population spikes as well. Treat bees for varroa mites during this time. If you have more than 3 mites per 100, treat for mites.
- When bees are not bringing in nectar, they need nutrition. In August feed them lime. They need calcium carbonate. ½ teaspoon of lime per 3 gallons of 2:1 sugar water. (Add the lime to the sugar water.)
- In November feed bees potassium. Amino-B has mostly potassium. (80% potassium) About 1/8 teaspoon (4 drops) per 3 gallons of sugar water.
- Look at the bottom of all frames of the brood chamber. Check both sides of all frames to see that you do not have a high amount of mildew. If you do, wipe it out.
- A good tip that Mickey Cunningham received from Mr. Clippard years ago for trapping wax moths: ½ gallon empty milk jug, banana pills, vinegar, sugar water. Set this aside to ferment about three days. Place it behind your hives about 60 to 80 feet.
- November is another good month for varroa mite treatment.
- Clean your mite boards at least once a month. January, February and March you should not have to clean the mite boards more than once.
- You should have a ratio of 1 to 4 nucs for every 4 colonies.
- A good article in American Bee Journal by Rachael E. Bonoan called Honey Bees Seek Potassium and Calcium As They Prepare To Overwinter can be found at:
https://www.bluetoad.com/publication/?i=496821&article_id=3089036&view=articleBrowser&ver=html5

Old 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.
- Tim Service has laying queens available now. There may be a waiting list. His contact information is: canoemaker@centurylink.net 276-952-5077

- Mickey Cunningham encourages all beekeepers with 3 or more years of experience to help mentor others.
- Patty Younger has offered her church, Pioneer church in Max Meadows, as a meeting place for MEBA until Wytheville Community College is available again. (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.
- The July issue of American Bee Journal has a good article on page 775 written by Alison McAfee called **The Legacy of the V-Mite Biting Bees**. She also wrote **The Reality of Ancestry: Italians vs Carniolans**.
- The Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS) Convention will be at Shepherdsville Kentucky August 11-13, 2021. This is the same week as the Grayson County Agricultural Fair. The convention is \$300.00 per person for the 3-day event. They will be having around 7 speakers.
- Information about the Grayson County Agricultural Fair can be found at <https://www.graysoncountywaagfair.com/> The Grayson County Fair is August 13-14. Rules for the honey show are attached. Friday August 13 from ~~5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.~~ will be a honey tasting. There are plans in the works to have an exhibit at the entrance to include painted hives, tools, people talking, pictures, etc...
- Cathy Hounshell will be purchasing nut milk bags (Nylon bags) for filtering honey for the honey show for MEBA participants. These are to be returned after the show so that they can be used for future honey shows by members.
- The Abingdon Beekeepers Association will be having a honey show after the Grayson County Agricultural Honey Show.
- Herman Hearn is in need of downsizing his hives. He has nucs for sell. He can be reached at hermanandtheresa@gmail.com or gtchearn@aol.com
- Blue Ridge Bee Supply in Mt. Airy will melt and strain your bees wax. You need to wash it first. There is a charge per pound. <https://www.blueridgebeesupply.com/contact-us/> (336) 719-7878 270 Hickory Street, Suite 200 Mount Airy, NC 27030 blueridgebeesupply@yahoo.com

New Business:

- You can pay for your Virginia State Beekeepers Association Dues by going to their website. Sign up online (<https://www.virginiabeekeepers.org/join-us>)

or print this form <https://www.virginiabeekeepers.org/resources/Documents/printable%20membership%20form.pdf>

and send via USPS mail to:

Ian Henry 5771 Hilltop Street Crozet, VA 22932

- Call Mickey Cunningham if you plan to volunteer at the Grayson County Agriculture Fair (276) 579-2123. Volunteers are needed Friday to help squeeze honey on to spoons. Saturday volunteers are needed to help answer questions at 8:15 a.m. Wear your bee hats, shirts, etc. so that the public knows that beekeepers are there.
- The honey tasting will be 4:00-5:00p.m. on Friday August 13. This is a time change from what was originally discussed. We need ½ pound extracted bottle of honey in squeeze bottle. Label honey with your label for the tasting.
- Saturday August 14 is the Honey show. Registration of honey begins at 8:30 a.m.
- Robert Pauley knows a person in Elk Creek who is looking for bees to rent for pollination. Anyone interested can contact Robert Pauley at 276-655-4067 or 276-579-5075 for the phone number of that person.
- A good flower to plant is Pot Marigold also known as Calendula. The scientific name is Calendula officinalis. This plant has many good benefits. One is that you can plant it between your potatoes and you will not have potato beetles!

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

Bees in The News:

No Bees in the news.

Raffle Winners:

- Harry Joe Yates – Wooden frames for foundation
- Anita Parks – Wooden frames for foundation
- Connie Armentrout – 1 pound Muth Jars and corks
- Harry Joe Yates – Bottom board wooden ware
- Tim Lutz – Hive tool
- Johnathan Wright – Hive tool
- Everyone got a set of medium end bars for frames with each raffle win

Next Meeting: August 26, 2021 6:30 p.m._Pioneer Church located at 615 Max Meadows Road
Max Meadows, VA 24360.

Adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Armentrout, MEBA Secretary

Grayson County Fair
August 13 and 14, 2021
Bottomley's Evergreens and Farm
Route 21
Elk Creek, VA 24326

Reference: Honey Show on August 14, 2021

Submit exhibits in person between 8:30-9:45 A.M., or contact Mickey Cunningham, tel. 276-579-2123 to arrange special handling

2021 Grayson County Fair: Honey Show Rules

Purpose:

- To let public know about honey producers in the local area
- To improve quality of honey produced locally
- To introduce competitiveness forum to and for beekeepers

Responsibilities:

The Grayson County Fair Committee (GCFC) will be responsible for drafting policies, rules, and judging criteria and for disseminating information. Judges will adhere to the Committee's policies and rules herein. The Committee will be responsible for:

- Allocating space for the show and arranging entries.
- Compliance with show rules and judging criteria.
- Obtaining qualified judges.
- Obtaining funds for judges and awards.
- Accepting entries and opening show at predetermined, published time.
- Making recommendations for future shows within one month following the Fair.
- Recording all "Blue Ribbon" winners for local newspapers.

Criteria:

The Honey Show judging criteria will reflect the skill of participant. Color and flavor of local honey will be important. Alteration of color or flavor will be reason for disqualification.

The Honey Show judges may be professors of apiculture, or students of apiculture under a professor's supervision, blue-ribbon winners of regional or state honey shows. Judges must completely fill out all score cards. Should an entry be disqualified, the judge(s) must state the reason for disqualification. Judges will break all ties, and decisions of judges is final. Exhibitors will receive score cards after end of competition.

Disclaimer: GCFC and judges will NOT be liable for damage to product; however, due care will be taken during display and judging. Exhibitors enter items at their own risk. Time permitting, judges may hold an open discussion open to the public after the show.

General Rules of Honey Show:

- All entries MUST BE produced and bottled after January 31, 2021.
- One entry for each class of honey may be made by an individual, family, or apiary.
- Rules for each class will apply.
- Identifying labels will be forbidden. Entries will receive a number by exhibit committee.
- Exhibitor must choose which classes to place entries according to **UC Davis Honey Color Codes**. Judges may adjust classes at their discretion.
- Entries can be made only between 8:30 -9:45 A.M., August 14, 2021.
- Entries must be left intact and on display until released by GCFC Chair.
- Displays of commercial products or displays will NOT be permitted in the Honey Show area.
- Judge's decision(s) will be final.
- Show Chair or Master Judge has authority to accept, reject, and classify entries IAW show policies, rules, and judging criteria.
- GCFC assumes no liability for loss or damage to entries.
- Entries not claimed by the end of the Fair will be disposed of by the Show Chair.

Honey Show-Class Description

H1- 2 jars of honey 1 lb. each, extracted, color: white, light, light amber, amber, will be classed "LIGHT"

H5- 2 jars of honey 1 lb. each, extracted, color: darker than amber, will be classed "DARK"

- Entries in class H1 and H5, marked, must be in Gambrel Jars (Queenline Glass Jars), may have metal or plastic lids. Canadian and International exhibitors may enter class H1 and/or H5 with 500 gram universal jars.
- An official honey color grade sheet may be used to determine class.
- All entries must be produced from an entrant's apiary and have been produced after January 31, 2021.

Judging Criteria

Extracted Honey

Class H1 and H5

Maximum Points

- | | |
|--|----|
| • Density: max water content 18.5% | 20 |
| • Water content 15.5%-17.0% | 20 |
| • Water content 17.1% - 18.0% | 18 |
| <i>(Disqualification: above 18.6% water or below 15.5 %)</i> | |
| • Absence of crystals | 10 |
| • Cleanliness <i>(without the following: lint, dirt, wax, foam; award 6 points each)</i> | 24 |
| • Flavor <i>(Points reduced only for flavor lost by processing)</i> | 8 |
| • Color | 8 |
| • Container appearance includes equal level of fill | 10 |
| • Accuracy/Uniformity of filling <i>(Headroom: 1/2 inch maximum, 1/8 inch minimum; no gap between honey level and cap)</i> | 20 |

Total

100

Contact Persons: Mickey Cunningham, tel.- 276-579-2123/email: cunningmr@hughes.net or

Michelle Pridgen, cell-276-768-0597/independencefarmersmarket.org

Fair Grounds: Bottomley's Christmas Tree Business Warehouse, Route 21, Elk Creek, VA 24326

Gambrel jars may be available from Mickey Cunningham.

Judging Criteria

Extracted Honey Entry Number: _____

Class H1 and H5**Maximum Points Score**

• Density: max water content 18.5%	20	_____
• Water content 15.5%-17.0%	20	_____
• Water content 17.1%-18.0%	18	_____
• <i>(Disqualification: above 18.6% water or below 15.5%)</i>		
• Absence of crystals	10	_____
• Cleanliness <i>(without the following: lint, dirt, wax, foam; award 6 points each)</i>	24	_____
• Flavor <i>(Points reduced only for flavor lost by processing)</i>	8	_____
• Color	8	_____
• Container appearance	10	_____
• Accuracy/Uniformity of filling <i>(Headroom: ½ inch maximum, 1/8 inch minimum; no gap between honey level and cap)</i>	20	_____

Total	100	_____
--------------	------------	--------------

