

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

DRAFT November 18, 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. 8 members were present.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report: No Treasurer report was given.

Speaker: Mickey Cunningham

Presentation: Prepare for Bee Business Spring Explosion

Mickey presented information on preparing for spring which included the following topics: maintenance of equipment and storage, purchasing or bartering for new equipment, purchasing/ordering queens in December from known producers, purchasing foundation supplies now while supplies exist, applying or reapplying Para Moth to stored brood frames to prevent wax moth or refreeze as appropriate, and checking colony feed stores and feeding fondant as necessary. He also stressed the importance of checking the status of your magazine subscriptions to bee journals or ordering new books. You can look at the mailing label to know how many issues you have left. Don't let your subscriptions run out.

Old Business:

- Wytheville Community College will be open for off-campus organizations to meet on campus in the winter semester. A motion was made by Connie Armentrout to move the MEBA meetings to Wytheville Community College. Darcy Martin 2nd the motion. The motion was approved. Beginning in January the meetings will be held at WCC. The room location will be announced at a later date.
- Mickey Cunningham stated that he has \$46.00 from the raffle from last month. These funds will be going to the treasurer. Hank Sturkie will be taking over as treasurer.
- "Bee Culture" magazine has an annual photograph contest where winners' photos will be published in their calendar and distributed to subscribers. See 2021 calendar. We have had MEBA members whose photographs were published in this calendar. Linda Bracken was published in November 2021 and Cathy Hounshell was published in December 2021!
- 2021 Basic Bee Class – Cathy Hounshell will be the instructor. We will need an additional member at each class to answer questions of class members and to assist with administrative things such as: collecting tuition checks, giving out handouts, giving out books etc... Wytheville Community College will be the class site with the room location in Bland Hall room 104. The classes will begin March 1 and continue for 5 consecutive Tuesdays in 2022. An application and flyer will be attached to the minutes. The text book, Beekeeping Basics, has a new edition with color photos that will be available in December 2021 for \$10.00. No increase in price. If we order 40 books the price will be \$9.00. If we order 50 books the price will be \$8.50. If anyone would like to have the new book with color photos, please let Mickey Cunningham or Cathy Hounshell know **as soon as possible**. Volunteers to be mentors for the upcoming class are needed. If you have had bees for a year, you will know more than the student. This is key to success of a new beekeeper.

New Business:

- There will be a honey show at the Grayson County Fair and the Wythe County Fair in 2022. We will need to show support for these ventures.

- Election of Officers for 2022-2023 were held at the November 2021 meeting. The following are the election results: President –open, Vice President- Herman Hearn, Secretary – Connie Armentrout, Librarian- open
- If interested in ordering queens in December, Hardeman Apiary located at 906 S Railroad Ave, Mt Vernon, GA 30445 is a good source to order Italian queens. Their phone number is (912) 583-2710. Send them a letter with a check and state the shipping date you wish and where you want the queens shipped to with your phone number. The Marion post office (zip code 24354) will allow queens to be overnighted and they have all day long service. You can send the price of postage when the bees are received. To do this coordinate with the Marion postmaster, Mrs. Smith. The post office in Marion is located at 200 Pearl Ave, Marion, VA 24354. Her phone number is (800) 275-8777. A good date to ask for your bees to be shipped is April 10-15, 2022. Last year due to hurricanes and flooding, the queens came late in May.

Raffle Winners:

Feed Box – Darcy Martin

Gloves (washable) – Fred Williams

Front feeder (cypress wood) – Patty Younger

Anti-robbing device – Vicky Linkous

Next Meeting: January 27, 2021 6:30 p.m. Wytheville Community College. The room location will be announced at a later date.

Adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Armentrout, MEBA Secretary

Table 3.5 - Spray Schedule for Apples

Time of Application	Materials to Use Fungicide or Insecticide per Gallon of Water¹	To Control	Remarks
Green tip At bud swell	Copper + superior oil	Mites, scales, and scab	Follow manufacturer's recommendations as to amounts. Apply when a half-inch of green shows at buds.
Delayed Dormant When leaves are 1/2-3/4 inch long	1.3 tbsp Immunox 1.55% EC or 1.5 tsp Mancozeb 4F + 2.0 oz permethrin 2.5% or esfenvalerate (use label rates)	Scab, powdery mildew, rust, mites, aphids, leafrollers	Scab infection may occur at this time. Important spray for mites and aphids.
Pre-pink First pink in floral buds	Same as delayed dormant buds, plus 2.5 fl oz M-Pede	Scab, powdery mildew, rust, aphids, mites, leafrollers	Important for rust and powdery mildew control.
Pink When flowers have separated just before bloom	Same as delayed dormant + streptomycin 15W ² 1.0 tsp	Scab, powdery mildew, rust, apple rot, fire blight, aphids, mites, green fruitworms, leafrollers	Add streptomycin for fire blight control according to manufacturer's recommendations.
Bloom	1.3 tbsp Immunox 1.55% EC or 1.5 tsp Mancozeb 4F + 1.0 tsp streptomycin 15W ² Protect Bees - Do Not Use Insecticide	Scab, rust, powdery mildew, apple rots, fire blight	Follow label recommendations for rate of streptomycin. ²
Petal Fall When most of the petals have fallen First Cover 10 days after petal fall and Second Cover 14 days after first cover	1.3 tbsp Immunox 1.55% EC + 1.5 tbsp Captan 50W or + 1.5 tsp Mancozeb 4F + 2.5 oz M-Pede or 2.0 fl oz permethrin 2.5% or esfenvalerate (use label rates) or 0.25-0.5 lb Surround at Home	Scab, rust, powdery mildew, rots, fire blight, curculio, codling moth, aphids, mites, boron deficiency ³	If fire blight is present, add strepto- mycin to this spray. Important sprays for codling moth control. Surround at Home effective for plum curculio, not codling moth. Apply 3 sprays at 7 day intervals beginning at petal fall. Permethrin and esfenvalerate are toxic to orchard predators. Do not apply Mancozeb closer than 77 days to harvest, and do not make more than seven applications per year.
Third Through Fifth Cover Sprays At 14 day intervals	1.5 tbsp Captan 50W plus same insecticides as petal fall or 2 fl oz Fruit Tree & Plant Guard	Sooty blotch, flyspeck, Brooks spot, rots	If mites become a problem, add 5.0 tbsp of M-Pede (2% solution) to the spray. If Japanese beetles become a problem, add 2.0 tbsp Sevin 50W. (Do not use Sevin until 30 days after bloom unless fruit thinning is desired.) Do not make more than four applications of Fruit Tree & Plant Guard per year, and do not apply it closer than 21 days to harvest.
Sixth And Seventh Cover Sprays 2 week intervals, may not be required for early maturing varieties	1.5 tbsp Captan 50W plus same insecticides as petal fall or 2 fl oz Fruit Tree & Plant Guard	Apple rots, sooty blotch, flyspeck, apple maggots (AM), codling moth, bitter pit ⁴	Same as 3rd-5th covers. Generally speaking, apply protectant sprays up to 25-30 days before harvest. Sticky sphere traps are available that can control AM on a few backyard trees. Pick up all drop fruit to help control AM. Do not make more than four applications of Fruit Tree & Plant Guard per year, and do not apply it closer than 21 days to harvest.

¹ Materials to use are given for one gallon, but the user can easily calculate the required amount of material to make five, ten, fifteen, twenty, or twenty-five gallons of spray (See Table 3.1).

² Streptomycin sulfate (15-21%) should be used at 60 PPM (approximately 1.0 tsp/gal).

³ See Apple Disease section for discussion of boron deficiency and its control.

⁴ See Apple Disease section for discussion of bitter pit and its control.

Learn the Gentle Art of Beekeeping !



"Beginning Beekeeping"

begins March 1, 2022

Five Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Wytheville Community College

Wytheville, VA



Cost: \$45 (included textbook and
handouts)

For a registration form or more information contact: Cathy Hounshell

mebabeeeclass@gmail.com,

or download from mountainempirebeekeepers.org

***Mountain Empire Beekeepers
Association***

C/O Mickey Cunningham, Instructor
155 Bear Tree Lane
Troutdale, VA 24378

2022 Five Week Beginner Beekeeping Class
Registration Form

Held on Consecutive Tuesdays. 6:30-8:30 pm
March 1, March 8, March 15, March 22, March 29
at
Wytheville Community College (Wytheville, VA)

Room to be announced

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: Cell _____ Home _____

Email: _____

FEE: \$45.00 Includes text book and materials for the 5 week course starting on March 1, 2022 and meeting on consecutive Tuesdays at 6:30 PM. Fees will be collected before the first class. To be placed on the roster, fill out the above registration and email it to mebabeeclass@gmail.com or send it by post to:

MEBA USE ONLY

Payment rec'd _____

Amt _____

Check # _____

Cash _____

Mickey Cunningham, Instructor
155 Bear Tree Lane, Troutdale, VA 24378

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