

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

February 24, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Mickey Cunningham, MEBA President at Wytheville Community College room 122 in Smyth Hall. 15 members were present.

**Minutes and Treasurer's Report:** A motion was made to approve the minutes by Drew White, and was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hank Sturkie. A bank statement has not been sent as of this meeting so a treasurer's report was not given at this time.

**Speaker:** Mickey Cunningham

**Presentation:** Nucs: How to Sell Bees

**Old Business:**

- "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. 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.
- David "Tator" Miller is buying popular lumber. He uses this lumber to make hive boxes for beekeepers. His phone number is (276) 608-6225.

**New Business:**

- Herman Hearn made a motion to nominate Anthony Ellis for president of MEBA, and Drew White 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Anthony Ellis was elected as our new president.
- Karén Avetisyan, Ph.D. of Bee and Comb, LLC in Durham, North Carolina is offering free shipping on orders more than \$50.00. \* Also, when sent to Virginia is tax free.  
<https://www.beekeepingservices.com/>
- A resolution went to the Virginia state legislature to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the European honey bee to North America. On the status of commemorating the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of honey bees in Virginia you may go to the link at: <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?221+sum+SJ18> for the full text (see 01/17/22 (SJ18ER) pdf and open that file). In the original proposal it included the following wording:

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the General Assembly designate the third Saturday in August 2022 and in each succeeding year as Honey Bee Day in the Commonwealth; and be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the General Assembly designate the western honey bee, *Apis mellifera*, as the state pollinator

This wording was removed by the legislature because it moved it to a bill rather than just recognizing the 400th year anniversary. Making it an annual recognition of Honey Bee Day will have to be handled separately.

- The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Landowner Woods and Wildlife Conference was held February 19, 2022 at the Wytheville Meeting Center.
- The Virginia State Beekeepers Association Spring/Summer meeting will be June 11, 2022 at Blue Ridge Community College located at 1 College Lane Weyers Cave, VA 24486.  
<https://www.viriniabeekeepers.org/>

**Raffle Winners:**

Nuc lid – Jeff Sexton

Bottom Board – Herman Hearn

Cardboard Nuc Box – Cayden Lawson

Five wooden frames – Jonathan Wright

**Next meeting:** March 24, 2022 6:30 p.m. Wytheville Community College room 122 Smyth Hall. This will be a special zoom meeting with the author of Swarm Essentials, Steve Repasky. A few of his books will be available for purchase at a discounted price.

**Adjourned** at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Armentrout, MEBA Secretary