

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

March 24, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Mickey Cunningham, MEBA Past 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 Cathy Hounshell, and was 2nd by Jeff Wyatt. A treasurer's Report was given by Hank Sturkie. There is just a little over \$3000,00 in the bank.

Speaker: Steve J. Repasky, author of the book *Swarm Essentials*. <http://meadowsweetbees.com/> Steve Repasky is also an Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS) Master Beekeeper.

Presentation: Swarm Management and Prevention

Steve recommended a book called *Increase Essentials* by Lawrence John Connor. This is a good book about splits and nucs. Steve spoke about what a swarm is, the role of swarming, influences on swarming, swarm timing and frequency, swarm prevention, prevention techniques and artificial swarming. He also spoke about environmental indicators such as:

When dandelions bloom you know the bees have made it through winter and you can do splits.

When forsythia bloom you should have adult drones. When the maples are popping you can add supers.

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

New Business:

- Anthony Ellis was elected as the new MEBA president in February. Anthony was unable to attend the March meeting due to attending a wedding in Florida. He will be back next month.
- 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.virginiabeekeepers.org/>
- Cathy Hounshell asked about the possibility of changing the meeting day of the week and the week of the month of our MEBA meeting. That discussion will be postponed until the next meeting.
- MEBA is still in need of a librarian. Please let us know should you be interested.

- Mike Barbour with Bee Club Sales will sell woodenware to MEBA club members at a discount. Just let them know that you are a member. <https://www.beeclubsales.com/#/> - Email: Mike@Beeclubsales.com
- Appalachian Bee in Princeton, West Virginia can be found here:
<https://blueridgebeecompany.com/about/> Their catalog can be downloaded as well.
- A motion was made by Gary Tolley to purchase 6 more books of *Swarm Essentials* by Steve Repasky for \$20.00 each. It was seconded by Hank Sturkie.
- The Grayson County Fair will be August 12-13, 2022. Wythe County has not had a county fair in 5 years. They have hired a person to start the fair campaign.

Raffle Winners:

Hive toll – Mrs. Wright

Hive tool – Jonathan Wright

Wax scratcher – Joe Turpin

Wooden deep box – Joe Turpin

Next meeting: April 28, 2022 6:30 p.m. Wytheville Community College room 122 Smyth Hall.

Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Armentrout, MEBA Secretary