

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

April 28, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Anthony Ellis, MEBA President at Wytheville Community College room 122 in Smyth Hall. 26 members were present.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report: A motion was made to approve the minutes by Mickey Cunningham, and was 2nd by Joe Turpin. A treasurer's Report was given by Hank Sturkie.

Speaker: Mike Connor, <https://honeytreenursery.com/> (616) 293-5318 Honey Tree Nursery 934 129th Avenue Shelbyville, MI 49344

Presentation: Meadows in The Sky: Trees as Crucial Pollinator Resources

Mike stressed the importance of crops and tree lines because they provide the most nutrition to bees and a place for wild bees to live. Crab trees are a great resource to the bees. Research done by Dr. Thomas Wood of Michigan State University uncovered the following: Maples (Acer) are responsible for 26% of all pollen collected in April. Willows (Salix) are responsible for 33% of pollen collected in April. Cherries/Apples (Prunus/ Malus) are responsible for 24% of all the pollen collected in May. Brambles (Rubus) (roses, blackberries, raspberries, etc...) are responsible for 8% of all pollen collected in June and Sumac (Rhus) are responsible for 18% of all pollen collected in June. Silver Maple does not rely on insects for pollination. It blooms early and is one of the first to bloom in the spring. Two important plants for spring build-up of bees in the spring are Maples (Acer rubrum) and Willows (Salix discolor). Pussy Willows are especially good. A good book to read is: Garden Plants for Honey Bees by Peter Lindtner <https://www.amazon.com/Garden-Plants-Honey-Peter-Lindtner/dp/1878075373> . The biggest honey producer in Michigan is the American Basswood (Tilia Americana). Other trees of interest to the bees include: Little Leaf Linden, Silver Linden, Black Locust, Tulip Popular, Black Gum, American Holly, Japanese Pagoda and Seven Son's Tree.

Old Business:

- 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/>
- 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/>
- Cathy Hounshell asked about the possibility of changing the meeting day of the week and the week of the month of our MEBA meeting. Cathy Hounshell will survey members and other clubs to see what may work best.
- 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.
- 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.

New Business:

- Hank Sturkie informed us that Grayson, Wythe and Carroll Counties will be offering water testing for \$60.00, which is a good price and tests many things as well. Contact your extension agent if interested.
- Starting July 1, 2023 Farm Use tags must come from the DMV.
- Bee Education Program Saturday May 21, 2022 from 8:00-1:00 at the Wytheville Farmer’s Market located on Spring Street.
- Wilbanks Apiaries does not ship packages anymore, but will ship queens. [\(912\) 739-4820](tel:9127394820) 3060 US-280, Claxton, GA 30417
- A good way to remember what color the queens are for each year: 1Will 2You 3Raise 4Good 5Bees 1=White, 2= Yellow, 3=Red, 4=Green, 5=Blue "Will you raise goods bees"

International Queen Marking Color

COLOR	FOR YEAR ENDING IN:
White (or Gray) ●	1 or 6
● Yellow	2 or 7
● Red	3 or 8
● Green	4 or 9
● Blue	5 or 0

Raffle Winners:

- Agnes Wright- Cardboard swarm box
- Jonathan Wright – Box of deep frames with plastic foundation
- Jeff Wyatt- Smoker
- Patty Younger- bottom board and screen board attached
- Cayden Lawson- Cloth hive examination cover
- Jeff Sexton-Hive cover
- Jeff Wyatt- 1-year subscription to American Bee Journal
- Josmany Espino-Metal frame holder
- Keith Vaught- Cloth hive examination cover
- Cathy Hounshell- Cloth hive examination cover
- Connie Armentrout- Cloth hive examination cover
- Joe Turpin-1 medium plastic wax frame
- Joe Turpin-1 year of Bee Culture Magazines (2019)

Next meeting: May 26, 2022 6:30 p.m. Wytheville Community College room 122 Smyth Hall.

Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Connie Armentrout, MEBA Secretary