

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

June 23, 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. 14 members were present.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report: A motion was made to approve the minutes (with two corrections) by Jonathan Wright, and was 2nd by Mickey Cunningham. The treasurer's Quarterly Report will be presented during the July meeting. A discussion of when the member dues are due will be held at the July meeting.

Speaker: Alex Zomchek, Master Beekeeping Instructor and Apiculturist at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio
(513) 280-3476 zomchea@miamioh.edu

Presentation: Live video – Summer Dea(R)th: Tools to Reduce Mortality and Up Productivity

<https://u.osu.edu/beelab/monitoring-with-alex-zomchek/>

Walt Whitman – “That the powerful play goes on and you may contribute a verse.”

Philip Gillet – “For there is a fresh wind blowing and we may yet again do things like mountains and music and beekeeping simply because they are hard and clean and clear in the morning!”

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.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. 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.
- 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

New Business:

- A place in Rural Retreat will be researched to have the August meeting in order to cut down on the travel time for Jude Colt (our August presenter). Jude will be cooking with honey for our next meeting. This has always been a favorite meeting in the past that you will not want to miss. A possible location was the Rural Retreat Community Center. Cathy Hounshell will check on this.
- The Grayson County Agricultural Fair Honey Show will be Sunday August 14, 2022 from 8:30 am-4:30 to be held at the Bottomley's Evergreens and Farm located at 10278 Elk Creek, Virginia. We will need help setting up and staffing tables. Contact Mickey Cunningham if you are interested in entering the honey show at (276) 579-2123.
- There is a June 2022 article in American Bee Journal on Feeding Bees and Honey Supers that everyone should read.

Raffle Winners:

Next meeting: Thursday July 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