

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

May 26, 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. 19 members were present.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report: A motion was made to approve the minutes by Hank Sturkie, and was 2nd by Alana Yates. 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: Fred Jones, Wholly Honey Bees <https://www.whollyhoneybees.org/>
Fred and Molly Jones 191 Laurel Creek Road NE Pilot, Virginia 24138
Email - whollyhoneybees@gmail.com
540-745-2982

Presentation: The Importance of VSH Varroa Specific Hygiene Queens

Varroa Specific Hygiene queens have good genetics. The workers will recognize pupa with varroa mites. They uncap them and kill them. These queens should be purchased for the sustainability aspect. To learn more about the Pol-line research check out this link:

<https://vpqueenbees.com/vp-breeding-program/pol-line>

Speaker: James Wilson, Extension Apiculturist keepbees@vt.edu (540)-231-2168
312 A Price Hall, Virginia Tech

Presentation: Listening in on the Silent Communication: Pheromones in Bees

Pheromones help males to detect where the female is located. These compounds dictate everything in the hive. To learn more about the Alarm Pheromone, information can be found in this book:

<https://www.amazon.com/Form-Function-Honey-Lesley-Goodman/dp/0860982432>

Pheromone comes from the Greek word-meaning signal. Karlson, P. and Lucher, M. (1959) researched and discovered substances they called pheromones. There are two classes of pheromones, Releaser Pheromones – rapid behavioral change and Primer Pheromones – longer respond time, changes inside body of recipient (physiology). More information about the function of groups of pheromones affecting behavior and affecting physiology can be found in the book <https://www.amazon.com/Form-Function-Honey-Lesley-Goodman/dp/0860982432> More information on Releaser/Primer effects of queen signal which regulates colony functions and development can be found in the book: The biology of the Honey Bee by Mark L. Winston. <https://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674074095> and the book: Bees and Beekeeping: Science, Practice and World Resources by Eva Crane <https://www.amazon.com/Bees-Beekeeping-Science-Practice-Resources/dp/0801424291>

Old Business:

- David "Tator" Miller is buying poplar 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:

- Anthony shared a good and inexpensive way to space frames instead of using a frame spacing tool. These tools can cost \$16.00-\$20.00. Instead, use thumbtacks on each side of the frame. This works for a 9 and 10 frame box.
- Cathy Hounshell gave a summary of the event at the Farmer's Market. There was an information table and an observation hive on display. There was also a honey tasting as well.

Raffle Winners:

Alana Yates- A set of honeybee drinking glasses
 Hank Sturkie – Live queen from Fred Jones, Wholly Honey Bees
 Harry Joe Yates – Live queen from Mickey Cunningham

Next meeting: June 24, 2022 6:30 p.m. Wytheville Community College room 122 Smyth Hall.

Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Connie Armentrout, MEBA Secretary