

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

April 27, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Anthony Ellis, MEBA President at Wytheville Community College, in Smyth Hall room 122. 31 members were present.

Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes by Patty Younger, and was 2nd by Cathy Hounshell.

Speaker: James Walters

Presentation: Small Scale Queen Production – zoom meeting

James discussed the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP): Healthy bees, low to zero mite counts, multiple drone producing hives, pollen/nectar sources, supplemental feeding (sugar/water, pollen sub.), accurate records-inbreeding. Keep a journal, notepad, computer, or recording, whatever you need for accurate records. Do a mite count. Easy Bee Check is one way to do this.

[https://www.betterbee.com/pest-management-and-](https://www.betterbee.com/pest-management-and-medications/vcheck.asp#:~:text=The%20Easy%20Check%20is%20a,in%20a%20sample%20of%20bees.)

[medications/vcheck.asp#:~:text=The%20Easy%20Check%20is%20a,in%20a%20sample%20of%20bees.](https://www.betterbee.com/pest-management-and-medications/vcheck.asp#:~:text=The%20Easy%20Check%20is%20a,in%20a%20sample%20of%20bees.)

Queen rearing grafting – there are several methods. Find the one that works for you. (Cell punch, Nicot Method, Miller Method, Doolittle Method, Instrumental Insemination, JZBZ Introduction, back in 1911 a book was published that recommended spitting on the queen to hide the QNP)

A good book he recommended is **OTS – “On the Spot” Queen Rearing A Survival Guide for Beekeepers Worldwide** by Mel

Disselkoen <https://www.mdasplitter.com/buy-book.php>

<https://www.mdasplitter.com/docs/2016/Update-January/2016-FINAL-OTS-PAGES-FOR-WEBSITE.pdf>

Also recommended was a Queen app called Bee Queen Calendar on smart phones

Also recommended was the MDA Splitter Nuc Boxes found here: <http://www.mdasplitter.com/>

Old Business:

- The trifold needs to be redone. Wytheville Word Print may have the original. We need members to submit pictures of people extracting, going into their hives or food service with honey. Pictures of flowers, shrubs or trees that bees like are needed too.

New Business:

- Mickey Cunningham shared that Crimson Clover (annual) is great for bees, but not the perennial Crimson Clover. He suggested that those of us who want to purchase some do so in bulk together in order to save money. \$10.25 per lb. For information: <https://territorialseed.com/products/clover-crimson-clover>
- Dr. Tignor with VSBA did research that shows **sunflowers** tend to keep the varroa mite population down. **Get your seeds early!**
- Do not feed pollen or protein supplements in September or October.
- The president of Wytheville Community College approved for MEBA to have open hives on campus Saturday May 13 for the bee class. Volunteers will be needed to help that day. The site on campus is yet to be determined by the executive committee. 3-5 colonies will be needed. A Security Safety Plan

will be submitted to Wytheville Community College 72 hours before bees are brought to campus. Mickey Cunningham, Cathy Hounshell, Fred Williams, Joe Turpin and Jeff Sexton have volunteered to help.

- Fred Jones from Pilot, Virginia bought Tim Service's queen rearing business. He will have queens available. His phone number is (540) 745-2982.
- Tractor Supply has the cheapest prices on sugar right now.
- "Tator" David Miller of Abingdon, Virginia is still buying wood to make woodenware bee supplies. He can be reached at 25155 Walden Road Abingdon, VA 24210. His phone number is (276) 608-6225.
- Mickey Cunningham will be verifying the pricing with Karén Avetisyan, Ph.D. of Bee and Comb, LLC on the new British hood and jacket. The price is around \$79.00. 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/> Let Mickey know if you are interested in purchasing. His number is (276) 579-2123.
- A motion for consideration as "How to Conduct Basic Bee Class" for the next five (5) years

"Whereas part of the mission for Mountain Empire Beekeepers Associations (association) is to help new beekeepers to become established, therefore, I move that the tuition cost be set at \$47.00 per student and family discount be set at \$75.00 and family tuition provides maximum of two textbooks per family. Duration of this motion is not to exceed five (5) years from January 26, 2023. (Second required here)

Discussion: Purpose of this motion is to aid class recruitment on a multiyear basis. Also, this motion is not to limit the powers of the executive committee on a biennial basis to adjust tuition based upon the economy and the development of a new textbook.

Perception from recruiting this year is that more persons will be retiring to the area covered by the association and that when discussion on the class reaches price for tuition it should remain stable for at least two years. Secondly, this motion will allow our membership to talk to other persons with assurance of facts about our educational program." *This motion has been tabled for 2 months.*

Raffle Winners:

Brood box with screen enter cover – Hank Sturkie

Anti-swarming device – Jeff Sexton

Frame holder – Diane Woodford

Smoker – Johnathan Wright

Next meeting: Thursday May 25, 2023 at Wytheville Community College in Smyth Hall room 122.

Adjourned: at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Armentrout, MEBA Secretary