

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

August 24, 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. 22 members were present.

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

Presenter: Mickey Cunningham

Presentation: Land of the Midnight Sun –Norway, Scotland and England Tour July 17-August 1, 2023

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 as well.
- Fred Jones from Pilot, Virginia bought Tim Service's queen rearing business. He will have queens available. His phone number is (540) 745-2982.
- "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.
- Instructions for the Dyce Method for making creamed honey:
1. Blend the honey to the desired color, flavor and moisture content. 2. Pasteurize the honey you wish to crystallize by first heating the honey to 120 °F. Then strain it to remove large impurities, especially wax particles. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWUgwfMct9o>
- Bee Cozy - <https://nodglobal.com/bee-cozy/> They slide on and off to help with windbreak.
- Winterization presentation from September 2022 by Hank Sturkie will be put on the MEBA website. Helpful information about candy board can be found in this presentation. It will be attached to the MEBA meeting reminder email as well.

New Business:

- Cathy Hounshell has asked committees to be formed to help the president. She proposes a revamp of the constitution and bylaws. Hank Sturkie has suggested that some ideas for committees be mailed out to members. Some ideas that floated around about the committees were educational committee, publishing or public relations committee, nominating committee etc...
- Constitutional changes have been tabled until next month when Hank can be at the meeting.
- Olivarez Queen Producers in California <https://www.ohbees.com/products/ohb-saskatraz-queens> Saskatraz Queens \$44.75 1 to 5 queens (877) 865-0298 . Anyone interested should notify Mickey Cunningham at (276) 579-2123 by the end of August.
- Per Cathy Hounshell – Honey Bee Health Coalition is the best site for Varroa mite control. <https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/resources/varroa-management/>

- The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) will accept applications for the 2023 Beehive Distribution Program from August 28 through September 12, 2023. The program provides free equipment for assembling new beehives to Virginia residents. Qualified applicants are selected at random from qualifying applications received during the application period. <https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-beehive-distribution-program.shtml>

Raffle Winners:

No Raffle

Next meeting: Thursday September 28, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Wytheville Community College in Smyth Hall room 122.

Adjourned: at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Armentrout, MEBA Secretary