

MT. EMPIRE BEEKEEPER'S ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 23, 2010

Bernie Bradley called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in room 122, Smyth Hall at Wytheville Community College.

Treasurer Report: Janice reports that we currently have \$3,475.44 in our account and have 136 paid members. Janice presented several possible logos for new hats. Members were ask to look at those and indicate their choice.

Secretary Report: Sharon presented the minutes from the last meeting and the agenda for tonight's meeting. She has subscription forms for Bee Culture and American Bee Journal for anyone interested.

TIC Status: Some people have now received their reimbursement from the grant money. Bernie states that Southwest Ag now has \$90,000.00 in hand, and that all reimbursements should go out in the next week or two. There is still about \$24,000.00 that is unallocated and unspent. Bernie has asked that they extend this money until next year. That proposal will be voted on by the Tobacco Commission.

Election Committeer: The executive committee served as the election committee and is proposing the following slate of officers for next year:

President: Tim Spraker
Vice President: Eric Benjamin
Treasurer: Janice McGrath
Secretary: Cathy Wheeler

These people have accepted their nomination. Nominations are still open from any member. Elections will be held at the November 18th meeting. A written notice will go out to the membership 30 days prior to that meeting with any proposed changes to our constitution and by-laws and any other nominations for officers.

Preparing Bees for Winter:

Members discussed how to prepare bees for winter. Necessities include: making sure there is enough honey stored (60 – 80 lbs. per average hive); treating for varroa mites; treating for foul brood; checking queen activity, placing an entrance reducer on each hive by first frost to prevent mice for making nests in the hive.

Hives can be fed up to 5 gal. of 2:1 sugar syrup to increase honey stores. A concern for fall and winter feeding is mold growing in the syrup. Syrup should be removed if bees are not eating. One pollen patty per hive is helpful for nutrition and to stimulate brood production to strengthen the hive before winter.

Mr. Sexton demonstrated a feeding system that works good in winter – two quart jars with holes in the lids are placed on an inner cover that has holes drilled the size of the jar lids. A medium super is place on top to protect the jars.

Members discussed late swarms, which are very unusual but have happened. These hives need to be fed regularly and often don't make it through the winter.

Mr. Clippard discussed hive placement – hives should be away from areas where moisture and cold collect/settle. Moisture is conducive to chalk brood (a bacteria that attacks and kills larvae).

Other topics briefly discussed included wax moth prevention, irritable bees in the fall, using wind breaks and insulation (not recommended as it reduces air flow); treating for nosema and foulbrood. It is recommended that we don't treat for foulbrood and nosema unless it is actually there – preventive treatment is creating a resistance to the medication.

Members shared cheapest places to purchase sugar. Family Dollar will give significant breaks for purchases of 80 lbs or more. Walmart will give breaks if they order for you.

Our next meeting will be held on October 28, 2010.

Glen Repass was thanked for providing refreshments for tonight's meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.