

Minutes of meeting October 8th 2015

32 members present.

The speaker for the evening was Dr Marcel Durieux who gave a presentation on "Honey and Wound Healing: What Do We Really Know". The talk reviewed the current evidence for beneficial effects of honey as a wound healing agent. Laboratory data was shown giving its effects against bacteria, and the mechanisms behind those effects. Clinical studies of honey when used for the treatment of wounds, both acute (such as burns) and chronic (such as diabetic wounds) were discussed.

Marcel Durieux MD, PhD is professor of anesthesiology at the University of Virginia, and a backyard beekeeper with an interest in bee biology. Much of his academic research focuses on improving outcomes after surgery. Another part of his professional work involves teaching in developing countries, which has led to an ongoing collaboration with beekeepers in Rwanda.

Richard Reid called the meeting to order at 8:10, after the raffle.

Treasurer's report: \$6604 in the bank. Tim Service inquired if we needed a minimal amount in the bank before incurring fees, this is not the case.

Jim Hill reported on the progress for making beekeeping legal for residential areas. The proposal came before the Board of Supervisors two weeks ago. Several people spoke in favor, no one from the community opposed it. No vote was taken, that will happen at the next meeting on Tuesday 13th October at 7:15 pm. Jim Hill is still attempting to get the setback reduced to 15 ft (from 25 ft). A permit will be required for a one-time fee of \$10. This is in line with the regulations for chicken keeping.

It was suggested that Jim email Bill Brown, the chairman of the Board of Supervisors, to lay out the arguments for reducing the setback. It would appear that when requesting a permit, the plat for the address given will be pulled and the proposed setting for the hives marked. This will also validate that the property is at least ½ acre as required by the proposed regulations.

Sue Hossack read the proposed new wording for allowing students free membership. The motion was proposed by Thomas Simkins (?), seconded by Carl Lefko, the motion passed unanimously.

Luke McCoy asked if there was still a Master Beekeeping program locally. Richard Reid reported that there is not one ongoing currently but that the State Association (<http://www.virginiabeekeepers.org/>) has a program. Dr Fell had been running one locally until 2 years ago. It consists of 3 levels. We are not currently actively associated with the State Association. The State Association has two conferences a year, the next one is on November 7th, 2015, at Blue Ridge Community College, Weyers Cave, VA. Speakers include Dr. Ernesto Guzman from the University of Guelph, Canada, presenting "Basis of selective breeding for the honey bee" and "Microbes, natural oils and nutraceuticals to sustainably control parasites in honey bee colonies". Dr. David Tarpy of North Carolina State University will present "Better queens, better colonies" and "The Queen & Disease Clinic at NC State University".

Vendors will include Geezer Ridge, Dadant, Valley Bee Supply, and others.

Saturday October 17th is Hokie Bug Fest. Mark Chorba has plenty of volunteers. Deanna Marion will be displaying her macro bee photos upstairs.

Jerry Bolger has locked in dates for the "Do You Want To Be A Beekeeper" talks at area libraries. This info will be put on the website.

What to do with the bees:

Richard Reid reported that his two scale hives put on weight until the end of July/ beginning of August. The larger of the two has lost 35lbs and the other has lost 16lbs since then.

Richard Reid pointed out that package bees are produced from the migratory hives that go out to California for the almond blossoms and come from the South, e.g. Georgia. They have all been treated for mites with synthetics. Some members have good luck with treating; others have good fortune without treating. There are bees bred for mite resistance but the commercial beekeepers are not focused on this, so there are no treatment-free commercial beekeepers.

How to deal with mites? Possible factors may include:

- Not being in a big agricultural area
- Genes
- Microbial activity in the hive

This is the time of year to check the weight of the hives and begin feeding if they are light. Now is the time to put on entrance reducers and mouse guards – check first that no mice are already in the hive!

We will be voting next month for officers.

Sue Hossack

NRVBA Secretary