

New River Valley Beekeeper's Association

March 8, 2018 Minutes

President Fred Jones called the meeting to order at 1831 with seventy-four in attendance.

What you should be doing with your bees:

Heavy losses this season led to a brief discussion of the importance of raising our own nucs and reducing the reliance on package bees. There needs to be an emphasis on selecting for mite resistant bees. Performing a mite count now can lead to a decision of replacing the queen at some point. Limit inspections and resist getting in the cluster just yet as the forecast continues to be for cool weather. Now is the time to reverse boxes and prepare supers and other wooden ware for spring. Check for stores as the weather allows. The bees are raising brood now and are depleting remaining stores. Pollen patties are an important source of protein for raising brood. Dry sugar is another feeding option when it is still too cool for syrup.

Business:

Logo Committee- Members are encouraged to continue to submit designs and/or ideas for an Association logo through March 30th. These may be a completed design or only a rough sketch. The Committee will select the top three designs before the April meeting to present to the membership for voting. Voting will continue for one month to be certain everyone has an opportunity to vote.

Mentoring Program- The Committee is focused on two areas. Formulating guidelines for how the program will function and how best to match mentors with members. There currently exists a list of mentors on the website. This list will be updated as needed possibly to include any areas of particular interest or specialty.

Package/queen sales- 219 packages from Georgia have been sold with an anticipated April 16th delivery date. 43 additional are sold with an anticipated date of May 7th or 8th. The Russian queens are sold out. Fred mentioned the importance of re-queening packages stating, according to Dr. Fell, the best time to re-queen is in the fall.

BBC- Jerry reported this was a really great class. The class was full and all now have received their "First Lessons in Beekeeping" book. The second half of the course is scheduled for April 7th.

Apiary Report- Jerry reported inspections show two strong and one weak hive. Inspections are anticipated about every ten days through the spring and summer.

Treasurer's report- Treasurer Jack Price emailed the report to the membership prior to the meeting.

Fred's Follies: Fred presented questions with prizes relating to last month's swarm presentation.

Presentation: Presentations are available in the Member's Only area.

Splits and Nucs: Expand and Sustain Your Beekeeping Richard Reid presented an interesting and informative program on the importance and advantages of performing splits and creating your own nucs. Areas included the best time to make a split, swarm and mite control, necessary equipment, and nuc management.

The monthly raffle was held and the formal meeting adjourned at 2025 for refreshments and socializing.

Respectfully submitted: Emory B. Altizer, Secretary