

## New River Valley Beekeeper's Association

May 10, 2018 Minutes

President Fred Jones called the meeting to order at 1830 with 55 in attendance.

### ***Announcements:***

A beekeeping equipment yard sale was held in the parking area of the meeting location prior to the meeting. Items sold were donated by former members Deanna Cox and Marsha Hertel in addition to a large number items donated by the estate of Jack Price. Jim Hill said the sale netted around \$1,800. The total count is as yet incomplete.

Fred thanked all the members for their work in collecting all the donated items, arranging for inspections, and organizing the items for the sale. Special thanks to Carl, Clem, Mark, and Glenn for retrieving, storing, and organizing the large donation from Jack.

Upcoming meetings- The June meeting will consist of a round table of experienced beekeepers discussing miscellaneous topics such as robbing, small hive beetles, and other management topics and techniques.

The July meeting typically is replaced by the annual picnic. We need to decide a place and time.

Volunteers are needed for planning.

The August meeting will feature an Ohio beekeeper discussing integrated pest management especially for varroa mites.

The Virginia State Beekeepers meeting will be held June 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at Roanoke College.

### ***What you should be doing with your bees:***

The spring nectar flow is full on in many places. Need to check hives every 7-10 days to monitor for swarms and look for opportunities to make splits. Varroa mites carry harmful bacteria in addition to the damage inflicted by the mite. Mite counts are critical in helping to decide which queens to develop. It's time to place swarm traps.

### ***Business:***

Logo Committee- Three designs of those submitted by members have been selected. There was a link in the Members Section for voting until April 30th; one vote per member/family. The winning design will be announced at the June meeting.

Update on package deliveries- Second shipment will arrive Sunday. Orders can be made until this Friday; expecting 196 packages.

Treasurer's Report- Treasurer Jim Hill emailed the monthly report to members prior to the meeting. There was a brief discussion on the notion of changing credit card reimbursement providers for one with a lower percentage of use payment. A \$250 donation will be made to the VT Research Fund in appreciation for the use of space for the BBC.

Apiary Report- A grafting session was held this past Saturday. A new virgin queen was found in a split performed at a prior visit. May possibly still have one more split to make to hatch a new queen cell. Plans are to follow up this coming Wednesday, weather permitting, to check on the success of the grafting session.

Fred's Follies- Fred presented questions with prizes relating to Sue's presentation on feeding bees throughout the seasons last month.

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

Jerry gave an informative talk on removing bees that have intruded into a structure. His presentation included the necessary tools and equipment in addition to a careful explanation to the property owner of possible, or expected, damage to the structure. He stressed the need to limit liability to the beekeeper and strongly urged anyone new to this process to partner with someone experienced in performing cutouts.

The monthly raffle is now named the Buffalo Jack Raffle in honor of long time member and Treasurer Jack Price. The raffle was held and the formal meeting adjourned at 2010 for refreshments and socializing.

Respectfully submitted: Emory B. Altizer, Secretary