

New River Valley Beekeeper's Association

November 8, 2018 Minutes

The October, 2018 meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

President Fred Jones called the meeting to order at 1830 with 53 in attendance.

Announcements:

Treasurer Audit- Lynn and Molly completed the audit with no irregularities noted. Fred mentioned the need to set up regular guidelines for future audits.

Member Larry Larson recently passed away. A sale of his beekeeping equipment, with proceeds going to his family, was held in the parking area prior to the meeting. Fred thanked all those who participated.

Jerry announced Bug Fest at Va Tech went well. Due to remodeling it was moved to the third floor of Squires and the space was a little tight. This is our largest public event.

The, "So, You Want To Be A Beekeeper" presentations will begin in January at the regional libraries. The library in Dublin will be added this year. Jerry will give the dates to Sue for the website.

Students from Blacksburg High School announced they have administration approval and are starting a new Beekeeping Club. They are collecting equipment now and anticipate starting two new hives in the spring.

What you should be doing with your bees:

It's been fairly warm so far so the bees may be using up their stores. It is getting too late for syrup, below 50 degrees is considered the cutoff point by most. Camp feeding, sugar boards, fondant, etc. should be considered. Likely will not find it warm enough to go into the hives to move stores around, need to be very careful not to disturb the cluster. Moisture control is important. An insulation board on the inner cover is a good method. Time to place mouse guards. This is a good time to starting planning for spring. Acquire and repair equipment and read new materials.

Business:

Logo Committee- Sue will be sending an email to members with online ordering information. A limited number of t-shirts and caps will be available for purchase by check and/or cash at meetings. Prices will be set so that the cost for the item, plus sales tax, will be a whole dollar amount.

Treasurer's Report- Treasurer James Hill emailed the monthly report to members prior to the meeting.

Apiary Report- Mouse guards were placed yesterday. Everything appears fine for now.

Fred's Follies- Fred presented questions with prizes relating to his September presentation on Hunting the Feral Bee!

Officers for 2019:

President: Emory Altizer

Vice President: Cindy Turner

Treasurer: James Hill

Secretary: Glenn Buss

Communications Officer: Sue Hossack

Fred listed some of the major accomplishments of 2018 including:

Revision of the Association Bylaws

Streamlining meetings

First year for selling queens

Record number of package bees sold. Which reinforces the need to raise our own nucs and queens for sale.

Incorporation of the Association. Carl Lefko is working with an attorney who is giving us a discount on legal fees.

The logo contest which has resulted in a logo for banners, shirts, caps, etc.

The sale of donated equipment from the estate of long time member, and Treasurer, Jack Price. This was a huge project due to the volume of equipment, moving the items from Jack's Floyd County home, and pricing and selling the items. Proceeds went entirely to the Association.

Fred mentioned the need for input from new and experienced members for meeting presentations for 2019. The hope is to set up meetings now for the coming year. Volunteers are needed for committees and activities for next year.

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

Dr. Margaret Couvillon, Associate Professor at Virginia Tech, gave a great presentation on her work on honeybee foraging. The Couvillon Lab investigates in part whether the increasing lack of forage is contributing to bee population decline and if the inability to meet nutritional needs affects the bee's ability to cope with the stressors of disease, pesticides, etc.

More information can be found at: <https://www.freelyflyingbees.com/>

The Buffalo Jack Raffle was held and the formal meeting adjourned at 2010 for refreshments and socializing.

Respectfully submitted: Emory B. Altizer, Secretary