

New River Valley Beekeepers Association August 13th, 2020, Meeting Minutes

President Emory Altizer opened the meeting at 6:45 pm with a total of 26 members present. Carl Lefko hosted the meeting digitally via Zoom due to the State of Virginia COVID-19 restrictions

Due to the virtual limitations, there was no raffle this week.

Apiary Report: Bob, Jerry and Richard have been busy! We had two queenless hives and we ended up adding a nuc to each hive (about 10 frames of brood and bees). We hope at this point they are rocking. Mite counts on #4 and #8 were 1% - 2%! On hive #1, there was a lot of hygienic behavior. After doing a mite count, they were at about a 15% infestation.

Annual Business Meeting:

- Emory announced the business meeting will be held in November as part of our regular monthly meeting. Carl has agreed to Chair the Treasurer's Audit Committee; Glenn and Lynn will round out the committee. Bill Hendon has agreed to the appointment of Chair for the Nominating Committee. This committee is responsible for providing candidates for officer elections in November. Bill will send an email to the Membership seeking volunteers to complete the committee. Elections will be held virtually through Survey Monkey or a similar platform. We expect voting will be available one week prior to the Business Meeting. More to come about the candidates for 2021.
- Anyone who is requesting to borrow equipment, we ask that you arrive wearing a mask, if you need help lifting it into your vehicle, please bring a helper, and please wipe down any knobs with Clorox wipes or similar.
- The Beginner's Beekeeping Course: Most know that Jerry Borger has been the manager of this course for several years. He will be stepping down and Jeff Wroblewski will be taking stewardship of this program.

The Treasury Report was emailed to the membership yesterday by James Hill. At the time of that writing, we had an available balance of \$7,003.32 in the checking account and \$0 in the PayPal account. The remaining checking account transactions consisted of payments received for membership dues, the June meeting presenter honorarium, the July and August storage locker payments and the annual \$25 registration fee paid to the

Virginia State Corporation Commission. PayPal income consisted of payments received for memberships and for queen bees. Expenditures were the July and August payments to Zoom for our online meeting service, \$15.74 per month. Since the queen bee orders and deliveries have been completed and no refunds will be paid, all funds have been transferred from the PayPal account to the checking account.

What you should be doing with your bees: While Dr. Wilson's presentation covered quite a lot, it was asked if anyone has any comments or things to add. Jerry Borger reminded us that this was an odd year, with a cold May and starving bees in June, but a strong nectar flow in July. The nectar flow is now tailing off and while bees were tolerant of inspections in the past, they are becoming less so. Be wary of robbing caused by the beekeeper. If you take honey supers off and take your time, you will have had supers exposed for a significant amount of time and the bees will get feisty. It was asked if feeding should be necessary, it was answered with if you have bare foundation or the hive isn't doing so well, maybe.

Our special guest, Dr. James Wilson, Extension Apiculturist in the Department of Entomology at Virginia Tech, presented: "Managing Mites". He really stressed the importance of sampling, different methods of treatment as well as the advantages and disadvantages of each, and additional resources to reference. We are very appreciative of the knowledge he has shared and the work he is doing to help our bee population.

Respectfully submitted,
Morgan Otten, Secretary