

Tri-State Beekeepers Association  
02.16.2023 Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Tri-State Beekeepers was called to order at 6:30 on February 16, 2023, with 44 members in attendance. Two new members were recognized. Prior to the meeting dues for 2023 were collected as well as orders taken for packages of bees to be delivered in late March.

Information given on the 2023 novice class included the start date of February 21 with 29 novices enrolled and 4 current members taking it as a refresher course.

The speakers program for 2023 was discussed next. To carry out Zoom presentations in excess of 40 minutes, we purchased a Zoom license for \$158.89. Speakers were then recruited from three sources with the following results:

February 16 – Tim Blodgett, a master beekeeper from the University of Florida program presenting A comparison of Apivar, Oxalic Acid, and Breaks in Brood Production in the Control of Varroa Mites, offered at no charge.

March 16 – Matthew Hoepfinger from Bee Informed Partnership speaking on Effective use of Oxalic Acid

April 20 – Judy Chen, Ph. D from the Beltsville Bee Lab speaking on An Overview of the USDA Beltsville Bee Research Laboratory' Ongoing Research at no charge.

May 18 - Judy Chen, Ph. D from the Beltsville Bee Lab speaking on Non-antibiotic Treatments for Honeybee Nosema Disease, again at no charge.

Club members expressed a desire to continue with this format in the fall meetings.

Members were reminded of the WVBA Spring Conference to be held in Clarksburg on March 17-18. We have been informed that a cut-off of 350 participants necessitates that those interested in attending to preregister. Testing for the Master Beekeeping program will also be offered on March 17 in Clarksburg. Applications for both can be made online.

Information given by Shanda King, the WV Chief Apiary Inspector at the recent WVBA Board of Directors meeting was given to include that there are presently 1263 Registered Beekeepers – Same number as 2022 and 3,231 Colonies – down 16% from 2022

Apiary registrations will begin May 1. You can request an inspection when you register. Those selling queens or bees must be inspected before sales. Purchasing nucs through the soil conservation program must be a 5 frame nuc produced and inspected in WV.

Due to scheduling conflicts, the March meeting will be held on WEDNESDAY, March 15 instead of Thursday.

A request of assistance in maintaining the Oglebay hive sites was met but offers from three club members to help.

Any new business was asked for, but none was offered.

With that, the meeting was turned over to Tim Blodgett, a master beekeeper from the University of Florida program presenting A comparison of Apivar, Oxalic Acid, and Breaks in Brood Production in the Control of Varroa Mites. The Zoom presentation was managed by our member Chris Dreschel and the technology successfully provided a very interesting program with club members asked many questions.

The traditional social followed his presentation with many members lingering until the event ended at 9:00 pm.