

The Tri-State Beekeepers Association club met on Thursday, April 17th, 2025

The meeting was attended by 42 members. President Clarke Crumrine began the meeting at 6:10pm with the members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The club minutes for the March meeting had already been submitted to the members for review, and the minutes were approved with no changes.

Clark mentioned that our affiliation with the Northern Panhandle Conservation District is going well. We wanted to thank club member Sally Mull for donating her bees and equipment for use at the NPCD site. Because of personal responsibilities, Sally is not able to care for her bees and graciously offered them to the Club to use at the NPCD site. Sally hopes to continue her beekeeping journey later.

Clark mentioned that a presentation on Swarm Catching will be held at the Northern Panhandle Conservation District site, and will be held on Friday, May 2nd at 6:00. There will be no cost for the class, but a \$15 donation would be appreciated. In addition to swarm talk, Clark will show his home-made swarm traps and handout plans if any attendee would like to make their own.

Clark mentioned that our next meeting in May we'll feature Justin King who will be talking about honeybee cutouts. Justin is the husband of Shanda King, the WV State Apiarist.

Clark noted that our August meeting will be our annual picnic and will be held at Bethlehem City Park on August 21st, at 6:00. In addition to fellowship, we will be holding a "black jar honey tasting" contest. All members are invited and encouraged to bring a small sample of their own honey, which will be transferred into non-identifiable jars and the club will vote on their favorite tasting honey. We will also be holding a smoker challenge with an award going to the individual who can keep a bee smoker lit for the longest period of time. In addition, Shanda King will be attending and will make a presentation (subject is yet to be determined).

John Welty next spoke on what's currently going on with our hives. Suggestions included, watching for signs of swarming, inspecting all frames and making sure there is room in the hive for the queen to lay, and getting ready for the honey flow.

At this point there was a short 20-minute break to snarf down some pizza, and non-alcoholic bevs!

After the break, Clark introduced Marianne and Larry Siers. Marianne is an award-winning creamed honey producer and gave a **wonderful** presentation on making small batch creamed honey. Her discussion included what equipment is needed, how to add "seed" to the batch to begin the granulation process. She noted that she likes to use the brand Cox

Honey as the seed for her creamed honey. Her mixture by weight is 10 parts honey versus one part starter. Clark Crumrine “volunteered” to be Marianna’s official batch mixer for the night. Marianne and Larry distributed samples of their creamed honey for the club to taste. Marianne stressed that the water content of the honey used must be 17% or less to ensure no fermentation. After mixing and transplanting into separate smaller jars, the batch is put in a dark area with the temperature range of 55 to 57° for approximately 3 weeks. Marianne entertained multiple questions from the club members. Thanks to the Siers for a great presentation!

Clark next presented this month's Buzz Bowl with a few questions revolving around EFB and AFB. The 50/50 drawing was \$116 dollars with \$232 total dollars collected. The lucky winner was club member Thomas Briggs who donated the entire winnings back to the club! Thank you, Tom!!! Following the Buzz Bowl, we distribute door prizes to the attendees with lucky ticket numbers. Some of the door prizes were club presented but several terrific door prizes were **donated** by Marianne and her husband! Thank you Marianne and Larry!!!!.

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned at 8:15

Respectfully submitted,

John Welty

Secretary/Treas