

Tri-State Beekeepers Association
04.18.2024 Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Tri-State Beekeepers was called to order at 6:30 on April 18, 2024, with 42 members in attendance. New members were welcomed. Annual dues were taken.

Members were informed that 60 packages of honey bees were successfully delivered on March 27 without problems. All packages were promptly picked up and installed within 1-2 days.

Information on the 2024 Novice Beekeeping Program was concluded on April 3 with an open hive demonstration for participants. The new beekeepers were full of questions and described their experiences in installing their packages. We continue to monitor their progress and remain available to them for guidance. A beekeeping 102 class is planned as a follow up in October.

The Mansion hive at the Willson Lodge received a package of bees on March 28 following the revision of the Mansion Hive and fabrication of steps to make entry into the courtyard easier. Member Greg Crabtree continues to spearhead the weeding crew. The hives at the Good Zoo in Oglebay continue to thrive with the application of the spring treatment for varroa mites scheduled for April 20.

Member John Welty was introduced for his monthly update on required hive management for April, emphasizing feeding and mite control. Members have reported multiple swarms.

Members Dave Soloninka and Clark Crumrine were acknowledged for successfully completing the apprentice level in the WVBA Master Beekeeping program while other members were encouraged to pursue the process.

In investigating the process to obtain national recognition as a Bee City, contact with the Wheeling Master Gardening Club and Karen Cox, the Ohio County Extension Agent, has been established to develop a three-pronged approach to the task. Formation meetings will be scheduled in the future.

President Steve Roth gave more details of his planned departure from the office of the president in November. Members were asked to begin considering their future role in the club, asking for someone to step forward to assume the reigns. Steve assured them that he would remain available for guidance and would continue to participate in the novice program. Treasurer John Welty has agreed to remain in his office to assure continuity.

Members were made aware that the 2024 schedule of club events is now available on the website as well as the 2024 Beekeeping Calendar as developed by John Welty. Speakers for the remaining spring meetings was outlined with Steve Rapasky speaking on May 16 on single chamber hive management, Joe Kovalski on September 19 speaking on care of the bees wax, and Anne Frey of Betterbee speaking on October 17 about all of the mistakes that we make as beekeepers. WV Apiary Inspector will present to us in November. In addition, the annual club picnic will be held at the Bethlehem Community Park on Thursday, August 15. Announcements will be sent out in advance.

The evening presentation was given by Dr. Jim Tew appearing by Zoom with a presentation on queen management. Members were mesmerized by his style, his wit, and the scope of his knowledge. Several questions were posed and Dr. Tew demonstrated a degree of candid responses not seen previously.

A social followed and the program concluded at 9:00 pm.