

Tri-State Beekeepers Association
03.15.2023 Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Tri-State Beekeepers was called to order at 6:30 on March 15, 2023, with 41 members in attendance. New members were recognized.

The 2023 Novice Class is proceeding well with two more classes scheduled and an open hive demonstration to be held on Tuesday, April 18 at the Vineyard Church. Novices and regular members were informed that the packages of honey bees would arrive on Wednesday, March 22 and would be distributed at Site 1 in Oglebay Park from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Vice President Wayne Shook has offered to assist in the distribution. As previously voted by members, all members who have purchased packages will be given a \$50.00 rebate to be distributed when they pick up their bees.

In keeping with the Zoom format that we chose to adopt for the spring meetings, we hosted 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 on February 16. The program went well thanks to member Chris Druschel managing the audio/visual technology. Upcoming presentations include:

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.

Members were reminded of the WVBA Spring Conference to be held in Clarksburg on March 17-18 although registration has been closed and no walk-up registrations will be accepted. Member Jim Edge has registered to take the Apprentice Level test in the Master Beekeeping program. We wish you luck Jim!

Club members were informed that the 2023 swarm list will be compiled via email and Secretary John Welty will be sending out the request for participants. Members and novice attendees were reminded that they are required to register their apiaries. If they have registered in the past, renewal notices will be sent out by the WV Department of Agriculture in May. If they have not registered in the past links to state registration portals can be found on the www.tristatebeekeepers.com website.

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

The Zoom presentation was given by Matthew Hoepfinger from Bee Informed Partnership speaking on Effective use of Oxalic Acid. He held the attention of members with an extremely informative talk which detailed the administration of oxalic acid using Swedish Sponges as the transfer medium. The traditional social followed his presentation with many members lingering until the event ended at 9:00 pm.