

Tri-State Beekeepers Association
03.21.2024 Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Tri-State Beekeepers was called to order at 6:30 pm on March 21, 2024, with 47 members in attendance. New members were welcomed. Annual dues were taken.

Members were informed that the honey bee packages would arrive on March 27 at Site 1 in Oglebay Park. The packages will be available from 5:00 - 6:30 and members were asked to come no later than 6:30 to claim their packages.

Information on the 2024 Novice Beekeeping Program was given with 35 participants presently attending. The instructions are again given by John Welty and Steve Roth. The classes began on February 20 and will conclude on March 27 with an open hive demonstration with a beekeeping 102 class is planned as a follow up in October.

The Mansion hive at the Willson Lodge is scheduled to receive 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 early swarms.

Members were reminded that apiaries must be registered in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. West Virginia registration can be completed online. The state will begin sending out notices in May and registration must be completed by July 21.

No report was available concerning the investigation into the designation of Wheeling as a Bee City.

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 Dr. Jim Tew presenting on April 11 on Queen Issues, 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 and concluding the 2024 season with Shanda King, WV Chief Apiary Inspector, visiting with us on November 21. 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 John Rose, accompanied by his wife Corrie, discussing new insight into Varroa Mite Management. Several questions were posed and social followed with the program concluded at 9:00 pm.