

Meeting Minutes

TRI-STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION MINUTES

February 21, 2019

The meeting was called to order at the new starting time of 6:30 pm with 60 members attending. New attendees were recognized and welcomed.

The program was started with the presentation of the recently purchased sound system to Vickie Markey who represented the Good Zoo. The club expressed appreciation for the generosity of the Zoo in allowing us to make use of the facility over the years at no cost. Vickie in turn related to our members how much their role in beekeeping parallels the mission of the Zoo and she expressed a desire to continue the relationship for many years to come.

Orders were taken for nucs at \$165 each and packages of bees without the queen marked at \$135 or with the queen marked at \$139. Bees are being purchased from Bedillion Farms this year.

Members were informed of the WV Beekeepers Association's grant program launched in November, 2018. On behalf of the Challenger Learning Center's Bee Amazed e-lab an application was submitted to the WVBA and a grant of \$1,000 was received for the Center. The thank you letter from the Center was read and members expressed their admiration of the grant process and the program at the Challenger Center.

Member Wayne Shook briefly outlined the progress being made at the Belmont Correctional Institute and produced a list of equipment needed by the facility which was passed out to members. Donations were accepted and \$616 was collected. A motion was made and seconded that Tri-State Beekeepers match the amount, bringing the total contribution to \$1,232. The motion was passed unanimously. In addition, 3 nucs were pledged by club members. A similar drive is now underway with the Harrison County Beekeeping Association and once their donations have been received the equipment will be purchased and presented to the inmates' bee club.

Member Vickie Shaw then unveiled a program that she is producing with internationally recognized beekeeper, editor, and forester Dr. Leo Sharashkin to be presented on April 13 at Wilson Lodge in Oglebay Park. He will speak on natural beekeeping, backyard gardening, and protecting the environment. Vickie has obtained a grant from WhiteTail Unlimited to partially fund the program, allowing it to be provided free of tuition. A motion was made and seconded to authorize the club to donate \$300 to aid in the production of the presentation. The motion was passed without dissent.

A program that is being produced with Carman Conrad by Tri-State Beekeepers was outlined. She is nationally known expert in honey preparation, presentation, and judging and will present a one day program on May 18 to members, again without tuition. The event will be held at the West Liberty University campus at the Highlands Mall. Additional information will follow as the program is more formally developed.

Club members were informed that we now have 31 registered for the novice program to begin Tuesday, February 26. John Grafton will again be assisting us in the presentation.

The 2019 spring schedule was unveiled and numerous events were pointed out. Members were informed that we will be hosting an open hive demonstration with John Brannon, the newly appointed WVDA bee inspector assigned to our region. It will be held at the Good Zoo on June 1, 2019.

The evening was concluded with a presentation from Dr. Greg Polsinelli on the mechanism for differentiating between the queen and worker bees. He described research that he has done in identifying the importance of the basic elements potassium, sodium, and zinc, needed in very specific amounts in the royal jelly to produce healthy and fertile queens.

The program was concluded with a social hour and the meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

TRI-STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION MINUTES March 22, 2019

The meeting was called to order in the theater of the Good Zoo for the first time. With 57 members attending we have outgrown the original meeting room and the Zoo management has graciously allowed us to use the theater. New attendees were recognized and welcomed.

Members were informed that the ordered packages of bees would arrive on March 27 and could be picked up at Steve's house after 5:00 pm on that date.

Next we received an update on the Belmont Correctional Facility Bee Club. \$616 was donated at the February meeting with matching pledges of \$616. In addition, 3 nucs valued at \$165 each were donated bringing the combined value to \$1,727. Similar amounts were pledged by the Harrison County Bee Club. Arrangements are now being made to purchase the requested equipment and books.

The program to be presented by Vickie Shaw and the sponsorship of White Tails Unlimited was again described and a check for \$300 that was pledged by Tri-State Beekeepers will be delivered to her at the program on April 13. Members were strongly encouraged to attend the day with Dr. Leonid Sharashkin at Wilson Lodge in Oglebay Park. Reservations can be made by contacting Vickie at vckshaw134@gmail.com.

The program presented by Tri-State Beekeepers on May 18 with Carman Conrad speaking on honey preparation for competition and the judging of honey in competition was again outlined. Reservation can be made by contacting Steve at sroth29201@comcast.net. The program is being presented at no cost to members in an attempt to revive enthusiasm in honey competition in advance of the Ohio County Fair and the honey contest.

Updates regarding the novice program were given with 29 participants. Club members were encouraged to share experiences and management philosophies with the new beekeepers. Many of them will be receiving their first colonies on March 27 and much excitement filled the air.

A request for the 2019 swarm list was made. Members were reminded to register their apiaries. Those registered in 2018 will receive a reminder from the WV Dept. of Agriculture in May or June. Presently the Department is in transition and a qualified inspector is not presently available for an open hive day. As a result, none will be scheduled for this year, hoping to resume in 2020.

The club's remaining 2019 schedule was reviewed and members were referred to the website for a complete listing.

The speaker for the evening was Mark Bedillion of Bedillion Farms. Mark simply fielded questions for over 1½ hours on his management techniques. Following his visit several members asked that we have him back as a guest for his information was found to be invaluable.

The program was followed by a social and the meeting was concluded at 9:00 pm.

TRI-STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION MINUTES April 18, 2019

The meeting was called to order in the theater of the Good with 36 members attending. New attendees were recognized and welcomed.

Members were reminded to pay dues and membership cards for those already paying were made available.

Updating the Belmont Correctional Facility program, members were informed that by partnering with the Harrison County Bee Club we were able to deliver over \$3400 in beekeeping equipment and colonies. A program is being planned in which we can enter the facility as a club and meet the inmates and view their apiary.

Recognition was given to members Vickie and Jeff Shaw for their contribution to beekeeping in bringing Dr. Leonid Sharashkin to Wheeling for a presentation attended by 65 individuals. A special expression of gratitude was extended to Whitetails Unlimited for their generosity in sponsoring the program.

Members were urged to sign up for the Carmen Conrad program on May 18 presenting a course on honey preparation and judging for honey competition.

The remaining schedule for the spring session was outlined and members were referred to the website schedule for a complete listing of coming events. Members were surveyed for speakers

in the fall series and an overwhelming request was made to ask Mark Bedillion to return for another question and answer session.

The guest speaker was Denise Ellsworth who gave a presentation of flowering plants pollinated by honey bees and suggestions for plantings that would attract and sustain the bee. Members responded with numerous questions and following our traditional social hour the meeting was concluded at 8:45 pm.

TRI-STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION MINUTES

May 16, 2019

The meeting was called to order in the theater of the Good Zoo with 40 members attending. New attendees were recognized and welcomed.

Members were informed that nucs will be arriving on Tuesday or Wednesday of next week. Notice will be sent to those with orders once a firm date has been established.

Member Wayne Shook gave an update on the progress of the Belmont Correctional Institute's bee club. All equipment that was donated has been delivered and the members are now constructing the wooden ware. Currently they have three active hives and are awaiting delivery of the three nucs that have been pledged. A formal program of appreciation is being planned by Institute members.

Plans for the program presented by Carmen Conrad on honey preparation and production, scheduled for Saturday, May 18 were reviewed. Currently 17 individuals have signed up and one last request for additional registrants was made.

Members were reminded to register their apiaries and were told that forms were mailed out by the WV Department of Agriculture earlier this week. We were also informed that the recent session of the WV legislature passed a law to authorize the creation of license plates recognizing beekeepers. We were told that the plates would not be available for 1-2 years. We will continue to track the progress.

Member Ralph Seward was recognized as the WV Beekeepers Association's new Webmaster and Kathi Hinkley-Vaughn as the new Membership Secretary. Both were thanked for their commitment and willingness to become involved.

A request was made for topics to be explored in coming meetings and several suggestions were made. The president expressed his gratitude for the input in defining the focus of the club in coming months. Members were reminded of the club picnic scheduled for Wednesday, August 14 at the Bethlehem Community Park and announcements will be mailed as the date approaches.

With no new business identified we turned to Bob Hooker for the presentation of the evening on Hobbyist Queen Rearing as produced by the Ohio State Beekeepers Association. Members

greatly enjoyed his basic approach to queen rearing and the evening was concluded at 8:45 following the social.

TRI-STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION MINUTES
October 17, 2019

The meeting was called to order in the classroom of the Good Zoo with 35 members attending. New attendees were recognized and welcomed.

Members were informed that President Steve Roth would like to delegate some of the roles that he had assumed over the years. A request was made for someone to be responsible for setting up the room for the meetings and Chris Druschel volunteered to take on the role. In a similar way, Mary and Ed Mowrer agreed to be responsible for refreshments at the meetings. A request was made for someone to arrange the open hive demonstration in May, to manage the extractor loan system, or to assist in developing topics for meetings. No one stepped up to volunteer.

However, several more topics were suggested for future meetings including short videos submitted by members on how to light a smoker, how to examine a hive, feeding techniques, and a description of any homemade devices. Members requested programs to cover basic management topics such as disease and parasite identification and treatment. Also it was requested that a suggestion box be placed in the meeting room for additional topics to be identified.

A letter was read from the WV Extension Service detailing the 4-H Youth Development program and a request for assistance. Members voted to send a `id="mce_marker"00` contribution to the program and Treasurer John Welty was directed to issue the check.

Members were informed of the generosity being extended to us by Oglebay Park through the Good Zoo. We are given monthly access to the meeting room at no charge. To rent the room it would cost \$200 per night. We have used the site for the past 10 years on an average of 8-10 times per year and have never been charged. In recognition of the friendship extended to us, it was suggested that the Tri-State Beekeepers fund and maintain two hives in the newly developed natural plantings area of the Good Zoo and also to place a garden hive in the courtyard of the Wilson Lodge. Members agreed to fund the project and the President was directed to approach the inmates of the Belmont Correctional Facility to assist in fabricating formal hives. The project is now slated to begin early in 2020.

An invitation has been extended to club members to attend a recognition event at the Belmont Correctional Facility on December 10 at 9:15. We have been approved for 10-12 guests and more details will be available at the November meeting.

The program for the evening was presented by Attorney Paul McKay on the liability of beekeepers in a variety of situations. Members were surprised by the details in liability and

appropriate beekeeping techniques to minimize exposure to litigation. A social followed his presentation and the program was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

TRI-STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION MINUTES
November 21, 2019

The meeting was called to order in the classroom of the Good Zoo with 32 members attending. There were no new attendees to welcome.

Members were reminded that dues for 2020 will be collected at the February 20 meeting, remaining the same at \$15/year for a regular membership, but increasing to \$90 for a lifetime membership.

Details regarding the December 10 visit to the Belmont Correctional Facility were outlined. We will be meeting in the main lobby of the facility at 9:00 am with the program starting at 9:15 and lasting until 10:30. Anyone interested in attending must contact Steve by Friday, November 29 to be included.

Information for the novice program was given and registration will open on the website on January 1. Dates will be finalized once arrangements for the delivery of bees have been confirmed.

We will again be obtaining bees from Bedillion Farms. Packages will be \$135 plus \$4 if you want the queen marked. They will be available on March 31. Nucs will be \$165 and available between mid-May and early June, depending on the weather. Orders must be placed with Steve by January 31.

Member Wayne Shook showcased sample hive bodies that were painted by inmates at the prison. As voted on at the October meeting, as a club we will purchase equipment to construct and decorate one hive for the Wilson Lodge courtyard and two for the Good Zoo display in appreciation for the use of the meeting room at the Zoo.

Upcoming seminars were described with members informed of the Honey Bee Expo in Parkersburg on January 25, 2020 and the WVBA Spring Conference in Elkins on March 20-21. Details were be forwarded when available.

Member Mary Mowrer has assumed responsibility for refreshments at the monthly meetings and circulated a sign-up sheet for members to volunteer to bring items to specific meetings. Many thanks to Mary and Ed for taking on this role.

Upcoming speakers for the 2020 meetings were revealed. Our own Bob Hooker will be speaking on Nutrition of the Colony at the February 20 meeting and Wade Stiltner will present at the March 19 meeting, speaking on the Identification and Management of Diseases and Parasites. Members were reminded of our policy in case of inclement weather. If Wheeling

Park High School is cancelled or has early dismissal, we will cancel the meeting. Members were advised to watch the website and their email if in doubt.

The speaker for the evening was Mark Bedillion outlining his management practices, suggestions for successful survival of the colony and giving us some insight to the pollination business. Members were able to walk away with much valuable information.

Following a short social the program was concluded at 9:00 pm.

TRI-STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION MINUTES February 20, 2020

The meeting was called to order in the classroom of the Good Zoo with 22 members and guests attending. New attendees were welcomed.

Members were reminded that dues for 2020 will be collected at this meeting, remaining the same at \$15/year for a regular membership, but increasing to \$90 for a lifetime membership.

Details of the recent celebration with the members of the Belmont Correctional Bee Club were outlined. At the event, Tri-State Beekeepers and Harrison County Beekeepers were both presented with checks of \$1000 as an expression of their gratitude for our support of their program. Our use of the money in providing hives for the Good Zoo display and the welcome hive in Wilson Lodge was discussed. Inmates are fabricating the hives and we hope to have them completed in time for a formal presentation to Oglebay at our March meeting. In addition, the expenditure of \$280.23 for the purchase of additional textbooks for the inmates was described.

Orders for nucs and packages were finalized and we expect delivery of the packages on March 31 and the nucs in late May or early June.

John Welty gave a treasurer's report defining both income and expenses for the 2019 year.

The 2020 novice class began on Tuesday, February 18 with 29 participants enrolled.

The reconstruction of the website was outlined and an expression of gratitude was extended to members Ralph Seward and John Welty was voiced. While the appearance of the site is still not complete, the content is up to date. A request for assistance from any members experienced in website design was made.

We had hoped to present the award won by member Lyndsey Phillips from the Ohio State Beekeepers Association in competing in the 4-H Scholarship Program at the February meeting, but due to illness, the event was postponed until the March 19 meeting.

Members were told of the hiring of Shanda King as the full time WV Dept. of Agriculture Chief Apiary Inspector. We hope to have Shanda as a speaker at one of our fall meetings.

The 2020 Beekeeping Calendar designed by John Welty was unveiled as well as the 2020 Calendar of Tri-State Beekeepers events were unveiled. Both documents are available on the website www.tristatebeekeepers.com.

Our speaker for the evening was long time friend Bob Hooker. It was with mixed emotion that Bob was introduced for he is moving to the Columbus area and may longer be a regular as our guest. Bob spoke on Honey Bee Nutrition and the presentation as very well received by members.

A social followed with the meeting adjourning at 9:00 pm.

TRI-STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION MINUTES April 15, 2021

The meeting was called to order in the theater of the Good Zoo building with in attendance. Several new members were recognized and all were welcomed back, not having met as a group since November of 2019.

A treasurer's report was given by John Welty and all were encouraged to pay the 2021 dues. We will use the roster of active members to refine our mailing list which now numbers over 100 recipients. The May 20 meeting will be the cut-off date

Potential formats for coming meetings were explored. Members were offered presentations from nationally known speakers via Zoom presentations. The use of local talent to focus on basic beekeeping techniques to improve colony survival rates was also discussed. A vote was taken and members chose to focus on management techniques with local talent for now, using national speakers on occasion.

The progress at the Belmont Correctional Facility was reviewed by a brief presentation from member Wayne Shook including a review of our past gifts to the inmates and in return the projects completed for us by the inmates including the Oglebay hives. We were given a list of further prison needs, submitted by their coordinator, Will May. A discussion followed with members expressing the pros and cons of continued giving. A motion was made to have the Tri-State Beekeepers match individual donations up to \$250 to provide the requested items (see attached list). The motion was overwhelmingly passed.

Volunteers for the 2021 swarm list were requested. We were informed that Bedillion Farms continue to have nucs available. A list of beekeeping items offered for sale by a local beekeeper leaving the hobby was offered with contact information.

Coming events were outlined including the May 20 presentation by the new Chief Apiary Inspector, Shanda King, on Nucs and Splits. The annual club picnic will be held at the Bethlehem Community Park on Thursday, August 19.

The presentation for the evening was given by Steve Roth on Swarms and Swarm Prevention. Following a well attended social after the presentation, the meeting was adjourned.

TRI-STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION MINUTES May 15, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Steve Roth. New members were recognized and welcomed.

Attendees were offered a final opportunity to join the Tri-State Beekeepers. Following this meeting, as planned, our mailing list will be reduced to members only as we have acquired several individuals who are no longer interested in beekeeping and are still receiving our notices.

An update on the Belmont Correctional Institute was given and members were informed that the equipment for the prison had been ordered and was scheduled for pick-up on Thursday, May 27. Items included 30 deep frames, pins to secure wax foundation, a size small, veiled jacket, Apivar, a smoker, lids for honey bottles, and 20 Penn State *Beekeeping Basics* text books. 2 nucs were already delivered. As planned at the April meeting, donations were offered by members to pay for the equipment and \$185 was collected.

Also discussed at the April meeting was an outline for the lectures to be presented at the fall meetings. Members were given the option of searching for nationally known speakers to appear on Zoom lectures or to pursue topics on basic beekeeping presented by club members. Members opted to use topics of basic beekeeping to reinforce necessary skills. As a result, such an agenda will be developed for the lectures September through November. Volunteers were asked to help in the presentations.

To give those members with very little or no beekeeping experience the opportunity to tour the inside of a hive, an open hive demonstration will be given on Saturday afternoon, June 12 at the Zoo. Those interested were asked to sign up in advance. A more detailed session will be presented later in the summer.

The date for the summer picnic was set for Thursday evening, August 19. A notice will be sent out in advance.

Following the business meeting a presentation on Nucs and Splits by Shanda King, the Chief WV Apiary Inspector. A social followed her program and the meeting was concluded.

TRI-STAQTE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION MINUTES
October 21, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Steve Roth with 25 members in attendance. There were no new members at the meeting.

A discussion about obtaining fondant as a club followed and members were informed of the Thompson & Son Bakery Supplies in Dillonvale. If 10 members were interested, the 50-pound packages would be obtained. Candy boards as a alternative was discussed and more was to follow in the presenters portion.

The proposed novice beekeeping program for 2022 was discussed. The tentative dates ate February 22 – March 29, with no classes on 3/15 as WVNCC is on spring break that week. By starting early in the year, we will be able to conclude with the open hive demonstration as packages are obtained from Bedillion Farms at that time. Northern was approached to house the classes, but we were told that no reservations were being taken at this point in view of the Covid situation. We were instructed to call in December to schedule. Because we were unable to hold the program last year, we anticipate a larger number of registrants and may consider conducting two sections. Club members were asked to assist as speakers. Registrations will open on January 1, 2022.

Members were informed that we will not be obtaining nucs as a group due to the small number of orders last year.

Member Chris Dreschel offered to conduct a four-hour class on first aid pertinent to beekeeping and include CPR certification. The program will be held on Saturday, February 19 at the Good Zoo from 9:00 am – 1 pm. A box lunch will be provided. There will be a \$25 fee for the CPR certification, but Chris would not ask for a stipend and lunch would be at no charge. Reservations will be taken in January with a limit of 25.

The November program will include a presentation by John Welty on the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly websites on beekeeping that exist.

The speaker for tonight is member Rick Johnston speaking on Late Winter and Early Spring Management. Following his talk, the customary social followed and finally at 10:00 pm members were ushered out.

TRI-STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION MINUTES
Minutes November 18, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Steve Roth with twenty-seven members in attendance. There were no new members at the meeting.

Activity of the West Virginia Beekeepers Association were discussed, pointing out to members the benefits of their state membership. The 2021 Fall Conference was held on November 13,

hosting Zac Lamas who spoke on honey bee queens, requeening, and the role that drones play in hosting the varroa mite. The 2022 Spring Conference to be held in Morgantown on March 18-19 was previewed. The speaker will be Sam Comfort of Anarchy Apiaries. The 2022 Fall Conference will be held in Fairmont on September 9-10 with Kamon Reynolds and Bob Binnie as speakers. Members were encouraged to attend.

The 2022 WVBA Grant Program was introduced to members. The association annually gives grants to local clubs totaling \$3,000 with each grant not to exceed \$1,000. Awarded grants focus on community projects that foster honey bees, pollinators in general, and beekeeping. Tri-State Beekeepers were awarded such a grant in 2018 to fund a computer for the NASA learning center to introduce children to beekeeping. Members were asked for suggestions that could be used in requesting a grant. Member John Welty suggested that we approach the Good Zoo to fund an acceptable project. Steve Roth was commissioned to contact Zoo curator Joe Greathouse for the information.

A program offered by the Monongalia Conservation District to assist beekeepers in purchasing nucleus (nucs) colonies was discussed. The district provides 75% of the cost of two nucs to qualified beekeepers. Steve will approach the Ohio District to investigate the development of such a program in the northern panhandle.

The club's spring schedule was the next topic discussed. Member Chris Dreschel will offer a four-hour class on wilderness first aid with an emphasis on stings and allergies pertinent to beekeeping and include CPR certification. The program will be held on Saturday, February 19 at the Good Zoo from 9:00 am – 1 pm. A box lunch will be provided. There will be a \$25 fee for the CPR certification, but Chris would not ask for a stipend and lunch would be at no charge. Reservations will be taken in January with a limit of twenty-five. Topics for the regular spring monthly meetings have not yet been assigned.

The proposed novice beekeeping program for 2022 was discussed. The tentative dates are February 22 – March 29, with no classes on 3/15 as WVNCC is on spring break that week. By starting early in the year, we will be able to conclude with the open hive demonstration as packages are obtained from Bedillion Farms at that time. Northern was approached to house the classes, but we were told that no reservations were being taken at this point in view of the Covid situation. We were instructed to call in December to schedule. Because we were unable to hold the program last year, we anticipate a larger number of registrants and may consider conducting two sections. Club members were asked to assist as speakers. Registrations will open on January 1, 2022.

The speaker for this evening's meeting was John Welty speaking on *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of Learning Beekeeping on the Internet*. The presentation was very well received and with the social following the meeting we adjourned at 9:30 pm.