

Tri-State Beekeepers Association
02.15.2024 Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Tri-State Beekeepers was called to order at 6:30 on February 15, 2024, with 40 members in attendance. New members were welcomed. Annual dues and orders for honey bee packages were taken.

Information on the 2024 Novice Beekeeping Program was given with 34 new participants registered and five members returning from last year for a refresher course. The program will begin on February 20, again conducted by John Welty and Steve Roth.

Prices for packages and nucs were discussed with a package of 3 pounds of bees and a queen costing \$152 with queen. We will again obtain the packages from Bedillion Farms and anticipate delivery at the end of March. While we will not be providing nucs, members were informed of the Bedillion prices at \$185/1, \$175/2-5, \$170/ 6-10.

A request for teams to weed the Wilson Lodge apiary was made, looking for monthly visits, April through October. Member Greg Crabtree offered to organize the work details. The Mansion hive has been refurbished by Belmont Correctional Institute residents and heavier grades of materials were used in construction. A new colony will be installed in March.

Member John Welty was introduced for his monthly update on required hive management for February. In the introduction, it was noted that John was named the 2024 WV Beekeepers Association Beekeeper of the Year. Congratulations John!

The proceedings of the West Virginia Beekeepers Association were outlined, and a request was made for volunteers to help in WVBA functions, including committee members, office holders, and staff assistance at the state conferences. Information on the Spring Conference to be held at Harper's Ferry, WV on April 5-6 was given. Dr. Steve Cook of the Beltsville bee lab was identified as the keynote speaker for Friday with Dr. Larry Connor speaking on Saturday in addition to more than 12 different speakers for breakout workshops. Also occurring concurrently will be a program for children produced by the Mountaineer Beekeepers Association and a course in honey judging presented by the American Honey Judging Training Council. A honey competition will be a part of the program. Registration is now available on the www.wvbeekeepers.org website.

An update from the Bee City task force was requested, but it was reported that no action has been taken since the November meeting.

A summary of information given by Shanda King, the state apiary inspector at the recent WVBA board meeting was given.

- WV hive registration begins on July 1. Reminders will be sent out beginning May 1. Report your losses on the registration form. Apiaries must be registered with an accurate count of hives to make any claim, especially for bear damage.
- Inspection required for any sale of nuc, package, queens

- Participation in the Soil Conservation Program requires purchase of nucs from inspected site
- The Asian Honey bee found in Georgia and is not contained
- The ban on use of oxalic acid on extend pads will not be enforced if you do not sell hive products.
- EPA's biochemical pesticide use will not enforce ban. However, FDA may assume management of products for management of mites. FDA will probably restrict use.

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 John Rose speaking at the March 21 meeting on Mite Management, Dr. Jim Tew appearing by Zoom on April 18 with a yet undefined topic, and Steve Rapasky speaking on May 16 on single chamber hive management.

The program was concluded with a presentation by Amy Vu of the University of Florida on Hot Topic in Beekeeping. A social followed and the program concluded at 8:45 pm.