



WEST VIRGINIA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Mountain State Beekeepers Working Together

FALL 1999 NEWSLETTER

1998-99 West Virginia Beekeepers Association

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WVBA President's Message

Tom Kees

Thanks. The Cabell-Wayne Association put on an extraordinary meeting May 1st with excellent speakers. David Watts from Boyd County High School and Jim Higgins' lengthy, in-depth presentation on apitherapy were of particular interest to me. I was impressed with a creative teacher like David Watts making beekeeping a center point in learning. While apitherapy is not something I plan to get into, it was good to have an authority explain so much about it. *Thanks Cabell-Wayne for all your hard work.*

Lucky WV. That's right, lucky. I'll tell you why. At the EAS meeting in Tennessee, I spoke with a few different state associations' officers. Some state associations have a very poor relationship with their Department of Agriculture, almost to the point of warfare. Many have no inspection program, whatsoever, and not one had any state program even approaching the WV Mite Treatment Program.

FALL MEETING. Last fall, meeting participants turned in evaluations on that program. A common thought was have fewer speakers for each. Our '99 program reflects this.

Our featured presenter this year, Dr. Wyatt A. Mangum of Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, VA is an expert in combining high quality slides with lecture. Dr. Mangum has three specific topics but his expertise extends far beyond. Bring your questions. We hope all local groups will be represented to bring back ideas to the local group and feedback to the state meeting.

A meeting is only as good as the questions we bring and the ideas we share. Why not make a list of questions and bring your gadgets and ideas to share with others?

PS. Another thank you—this time to the WV Apiary Inspectors. Besides checking dozens of hives each day, they have helped countless beekeepers in the 55 counties of our state. They have done this by individual instruction in requeening and mite treatment or through group instruction and helping organize local beekeeping associations.

The Executive Board of West Virginia Beekeepers will be Saturday, October 2, 1999 at 1:15 PM.

A General Meeting is scheduled October 1 at 6:30-7:30 Session.

1999 Fall Meeting Program
Friday and Saturday, October 1 and 2
Cedar Lakes Conference Center, Ripley, WV

Friday

- 9:00-10:00 Registration and Coffee
10:00-10:10 President's Welcome (Evaluation Forms Given out)
10:10-11:10 Dr. Wyatt A. Mangum, Queen Cell Biology
11:10-11:50 Matthew E. Cochran, The State of Beekeeping in WV
11:50-1:10 Lunch (Cafeteria serves 12-1)
1:10-1:30 Smoker Contest begins
1:30-2:30 Dr. Wyatt A Mangum, History of American Beekeeping
2:30-3:00 Bee Bowl Competition, Tim and Kim Tennant
3:00-3:15 Break (Check on Smoker Contest)
3:15-3:45 Panel of experts (Have your questions ready)
Matt Cochran, James & Debbie Copenhaver, Tim Tennant, Herb Shafer,
and Milford Bragg
3:45-4:45 Demos, Gadgets, Ideas, and New Products
Frame assemblage, wiring, foundation, embedding and alternatives,
refractometer, polarioscope, bee vac, plywood supers, watering board,
easy sticky board for varroa monitoring, PVC queen cage, swarm bucket,
Dowell frame spacer, shallow super ross rounds, a cooling jacket for the
bee yard, new products such as plastic pollen trap, liquid smoke, etc.
(Bring your ideas and gadgets)
4:45-6:00 Dinner (Cafeteria serves 5-6)
6:00-6:30 Honey, Wax, and Baking Show (Entries accepted—Gordon & Jean Mead)
6:30-7:30 General Meeting: EAS Report, Honey Festival, WVBA at the Honey Festival
National Honey Board, Elections, Beekeeper of the Year Nominations
7:30 Social/Master Beekeeper Program Testing
8:30 Videos, A visit to Walter T. Kelly Co. (20 min.)
Martha Stewart the Beekeeper (30 min.)
WV Beekeepers and other beekeepers on TV

Saturday

- 7:30-8:15 Breakfast (Cafeteria serves 7:30-8:15)
8:00 Honey Show open for viewing (Entries not for auction)
8:30-9:30 Dr. Wyatt A. Mangum, Wax Moth Biology
9:30-10:30 Dr. James W. Amrine, Honey Bee Mite Research at WVU
10:30-10:45 Break
10:45-11:45 Honey Show, Bee Smoker, Master Beekeeper Recognition and Awards and
Honey Show Auction and Door Prizes
11:45- Lunch (Cafeteria serves 12-1)

*See you in Clarksburg, Saturday, May 6, 2000
Watch for the WVBA Honey Cookbook*

**1998 Cost Meals
Lodging, Etc.**

WV Beekeepers have a package deal with Cedar Lakes of 1 night and 4 meals for \$42.00 per persons.

A deposit is required and is due by September 17, 1999 as we have a certain number of rooms reserved. This is important and as of September 17, 1999 after the mail goes, I will call Cedar Lakes on the number of rooms needed and all unused rooms will be released. A deposit of \$21.00 for rooms and registration \$9.00 for WV Beekeepers Association per person (\$30.00).

Meals

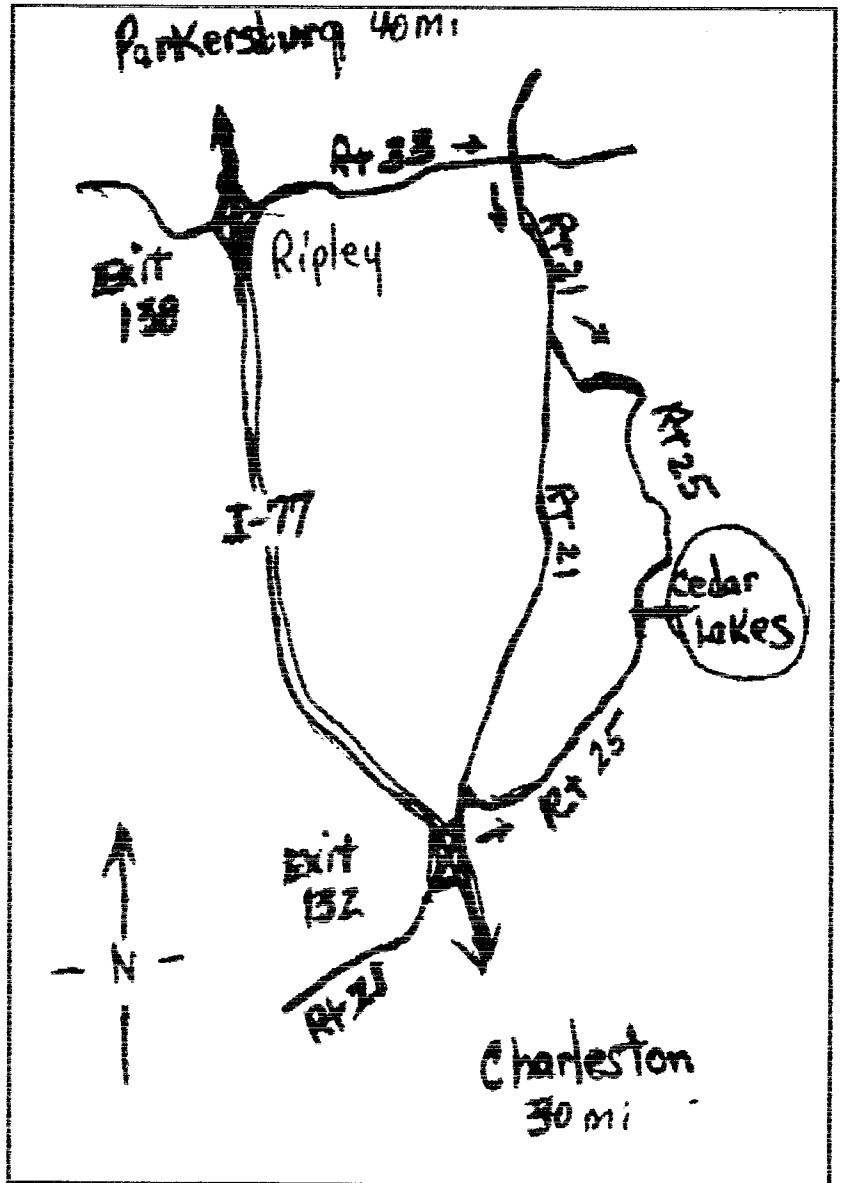
Breakfast 7:30-8:15 AM; Lunch 12:00-1:00; Dinner 5:00-6:00 PM.

Days Only

\$14.00 per person, per day and includes lunch, registration, and the days only should register the same as those staying over night and pay the full \$14.00 as you are required to show a receipt before a meal ticket will be issued.

No charge for youths under 2 years of age. Youths 2 thru 5 years of age ½ price.

Thursday night room \$42.00; dinner \$6.00; breakfast \$4.00.



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BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR

At the WV Honey Festival this year, Dr. James Amrine of WVU will be given the 1999 Beekeeper of the Year Award. Dr. Amrine has always gone out of his way to present interesting and useful programs for state and local meetings. In 1964, he was instrumental in bringing the EAS National Convention to Morgantown and he has served as President and a prime mover in the Morgantown Area Beekeepers.

Besides having a full teaching load, Dr. Amrine has been involved in experiments with wintergreen and other essential oils to control mite populations.

Each year at the Fall meeting, beekeepers are nominated and chosen for this award. To be chosen, the candidate must:

1. Own and/or currently manage or maintain honeybee colonies.
2. Have an adequate working knowledge of honeybee disease and their diagnosis and control.

3. Have an adequate working knowledge of honeybee management with respect to swarm control, honey production, division, queen rearing, etc.
4. Be a member and play an active role in State and local beekeeping association functions.
5. Be active in local beekeeping education and honey promotion.
6. The nominee's spouse is encouraged to be included.

Just learned of a tentative beekeeper seeking information on organizing in and around the Lewisburg area. Copy of by-laws, dues information, etc., has been sent to them. More news as they progress. *Sec'y/Treas*

September 11 & 12 1999	West Virginia Honey Festival	Wood Co. 4-H Campgrounds Mineral Wells, WV.
<i>Honey Exhibits</i>	<i>Entertainment</i>	<i>Live Bee Beard</i>
<i>Arts & Crafts</i>	<i>Princess Pageant</i>	<i>Honey Sales</i>
<i>Candle Making</i>	<i>Baking Contest</i>	<i>Pedal Tractor Pull</i>
<i>Car Show</i>	<i>Motor Cycle Show</i>	<i>Hive Demonstrations</i>
For Information: West Virginia Honey Festival, P.O. Box 2149, Parkersburg, WV 26102		
WVU Wood Co. Extension Service, Phone (304) 424-1960		
Wood Co. Convention Bureau, Phone 1-800-752-4982, (304) 428-1198		
http://wwwweb.com/www/parkersburg.html		
Nights or Weekends Phone (304) 428-5835		

Beekeepers needing supplies, please give the suppliers that advertise with the West Virginia Beekeepers Association consideration.

SMOKER CONTEST SUGGESTED CONTEST RULES

There will be 3 minutes to light smoker. (Matches are suggested to prevent someone using an acetylene torch!!)

1. The smoker contest will end in 2 hours.
2. A person will be selected to puff each smoker 3 times each 30 minutes.
3. Once filled and lit, the smoker will not be refilled or relit. It must smoke for 2 hours.
4. The winner will be judged on a cool smoke, no flames, pleasant smell, and 2 hours duration. (No tires please!)
5. We suggest wood chips or blocks not be used. Fuels such as cardboard, pine needles, rope or twine, paper, etc.

As we stated earlier, the intent is not to penalize anyone, but to educate and entertain. New and better fuels perhaps could be found. We all recognize that wood burns well and long, but it also gets hot and if left unattended, wood has caused fires!

HOW MANY BEES DOES IT TAKE?

To pollinate California's approximately 410,000 bearing acres of almonds, it is estimated that 400,000 colonies of honeybees must be borrowed from other states to add to the 600,000 colonies already in the state.

LEADING PRODUCTION STATES

In 1998, California led other states by producing more than 37 million pounds at a value of \$23 million, North Dakota, Florida, and South Dakota produced more than 29 million, 22 million, and 21 million pounds, respectively. Honey is produced in every state.



4-H ESSAY CONTEST is sponsored by the American Beekeeping Federation. There is \$400 in prizes and is open to active 4-H Club members only. Know anyone interested? Contact John Campbell for topic and rules.

Honey contains several compounds that function as antioxidants, as well as small amount of a wide array of vitamins and minerals. Antioxidants are the "buzz" of the nutrition world. They help eliminate free radicals produced in our bodies that are believed to contribute to many serious diseases. Combining honey with antioxidant-rich foods such as fruits and vegetables can add to total daily nutrition.

Nearly half of all the honey produced in the US last year went into manufactured products, ranging from cereal to cough drops. The National Honey Board believes that its popularity is due, in part, to its natural health benefits. As the news of honey's health benefits spreads, more and more new honey products are appearing on grocery shelves.



FREE AD: FOR SALE: Reid's Apiary. Your source for all your beekeeping needs in the Huntington-Charleston area. Contact us at 15754 SR775, Willow Wood, OH 45696 (740) 643-2925. Email: reidapiary@wwd.net

FREE AD: FOR SALE: Mini Cowen Uncapper \$1175.00. two (2) Chevy Bee trucks, duallies, 4x4's, with hydraulic tailgates. Good for out running state inspectors! Stainless steel bulk tanks, new and used bee equipment & supplies. Please call Steve or Ellie at (304) 455-1726 or email at thistle@ovis.net. See our Web page: <http://www.thistledewfarm.com>

Kanawha Valley Beekeepers are planning for their annual September picnic to be a "Honey of a Picnic." As far as possible, each carry-in dish will have honey as an ingredient and will be accompanied by the recipe. Members are asked to bring other honey recipes and all recipes will be sent in to be included in the West Virginia Honey Cookbook being compiled.

WEST VIRGINIA BEEKEEPERS PUBLISH HONEY BOOKBOOK

HONEY WHIPPED CREAM

1 c. Honey Whipping Cream
3 T. Honey
1 t. Vanilla Extract

In a medium bowl, beat cream with electric mixer until soft peaks form. Fold in honey and vanilla. Makes about 2 cups.

*Submitted by Milford Bragg
North Central Beekeepers
Association
Clarksburg*

West Virginia Beekeepers Association is in the process of gathering recipes from its association members to publish a HONEY cookbook. It started out because of the wonderful dishes served at some of the potluck meetings. We want to maintain those recipes for the future. We have a few regulations to follow for each of YOU!

The recipe at the left is an example of how the recipe should be sent in. Since it is a State Association Honey Cookbook, let us advertise it. The deadline for entering recipes will be November 30, 1999. We are working on a method to judge the winning recipe. We are hoping the book will contain about 100 pages and be for sale at the spring meeting, May 6, 2000, hosted by North Central Beekeepers Association at Clarksburg. Any beekeeper could submit one of "Aunt Jane's recipes" but let's keep it in the "family". Please send recipes to John Campbell, Secretary, West Virginia Beekeepers Association, 102 First Street, Parsons, WV 26287.

Update on the Cookbook. As of this date, I have received recipes from three chapters and there isn't enough to even start planning a cookbook. Two of the chapters account for 95 percent of the total recipes received. Last call for recipes. *Secretary*

WVBA HONEY FESTIVAL

WVBA will have a display at the Honey Festival, September 11-12, as it has since 1992. Last year Gordon Mead constructed a collapsible exhibit made of white vinyl pipe and velvety blue curtains. This forms the backdrop for a display of interesting information on beekeeping and our State association. Gordon and his wife, Jean, have manned the exhibit tirelessly for the past few years.

This year Tom Kershner from the Eastern Panhandle will be manning the booth with set up and take down assistance from Roy Kerns from Clarksburg's North Central Beekeepers. WVBA appreciates Gordon's, Jean's, Tom's and Roy's work.



The West Virginia Department of Agriculture did a good job delivering the Beekeepers Assistance program this year. It was in time for the treatment of bee colonies. Now, it is time for each local association to draft a thank you letter to each State Senator and House of Delegates member. A thanks goes a long way. These letters should be sent before the end of the year and before Y2K and the crash of the computer. *Sec'y/Treas*

I visited Cedar Lakes earlier and learned they have a busy fall schedule. The 22 rooms should be taken before September 17. I am to call Cedar Lakes. I assume they may offer other lodging facilities there or get a motel. So first come, first serve at Holt Lodge. In the year 2000, prices are raised. Holt Lodge, \$54.00 for 1 or 2 to the room and each meal raises \$1.00 each.

*Any door prize donations
will be appreciated!!*

HONEY BOARD ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The National Honey Board elected Steve Conlon, Proctor, WV, as its new chairman during the Board's annual meeting in Orlando, June 19. Chairman Conlon has worked in the honey industry for over 20 years. He manages 750 colonies of honeybees for honey and beeswax production. Conlon's company, ThistleDew Farm, produces specialty honey and beeswax products and gift baskets. Now, Ellie, your Honey deserves more honey on his biscuits. The Conlon's, both Ellie and Steve have served or are serving in positions on the National Honey Board.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

Spring 1999 meeting was hosted by Cabell-Wayne Beekeepers. The program and events associated with the Spring Meeting was one that will be hard to beat. The meeting place was one of the best, if not the best. Their organization has submitted several recipes for the Honey Cookbook.

Being Secretary of WV Beekeepers, I know for a fact they have a very active association and had their Spring '99 Program and related instructions to me in ample time for printing the Spring Newsletter. Thank you for a well-planned day. *Sec'y/Treas, J.C.*

The Beekeeper of the Year doesn't at present seem to have much interest. I would like to see more participation on this. Why don't each local association give this serious thought, as I know that there are several beekeepers in the State to make the challenge. Since I have been secretary/treasurer, the most candidates were three and most of the time one or two. Why not do some canvassing of your association and submit a candidate, by ned, they might win. If not, why not try again, it has happened before and succeeded.

The Free Ad to members of WV Beekeepers—why not take a look at the free ads in this issue. This ad can be for an item you want or need or an item for sale. The date the free ads are due is in the Newsletter. Why not advertise then.

This Bee Calendar that local association are printing is an excellent and worthwhile project.

Any sponsors of a bee School should make a copy of the Bee Calendar a part of their packet and include the cost in the registration fee.

Marion County and North Central local associations that I have seen in 1999 have a calendar that carries information relative to beekeeping. If any chapter wants to expand their calendar, why not throw it in the Free Ad in the Newsletter and make a few pennies for the association's effort. Just a thought. Hope to see more of this in the Spring 2000 Newsletter. In the bid for Chapter of the Year, make known that this is a chapter's project. Last year I held this project in case of a tie in points. Well, in 1999 it wasn't enough but it did help in closing the differences in points.

West Virginia Beekeepers now have 450+ members. The Spring '99 Newsletter mailing exceeded the number printed and makes me estimate how many to print. Thanks for a copier, I managed. The Chapter that sponsors bee schools make it hard to tell how many is needed. I have the know membership + 25 printed and have very few to later go to file 13. To date my biggest expense is postage. In fact, for the last 2 years, the cost in postage for mailing exceeded the cost of printing. For the Spring '99 Newsletter three associations submitted an article for publication on their activities the past year. Now, local association secretaries, this is notice in January 2000, get your thinking cap on and review the minutes for an article in the Spring 2000 Newsletter. This I need by mid-February 2000. These articles can and do present Ideas that are helpful to other organizations.

The Spring Meeting of West Virginia Beekeepers will be hosted by North Central Beekeepers Association May 6, 2000 at Harrison County 4-H Camp. The program, map, and registration material will be in the Spring 2000 Newsletter. Mark your calendar this date and motor to the meeting. I'll bet you they will have a program worth your time and effort.

It's time for a local association to announce their intent for Spring 2001 as of this date it is open. The sooner your intent is known, the better the date gets out. If you haven't hosted a Spring Meeting and need information and help call the *Sec'y/Treas.*

VIDEOS AND TAPES AVAILABLE

WVBA has a list of videos and slides with tapes or scripts. These are available to WVBA affiliated local chapters/associations. The local group is responsible for postage both ways and the tapes or slides are returned in good condition no more than one week after use. For a listing, call Tom Kees, 363-4782.

WVBA OFFICER NOMINATIONS

At the Fall Meeting each year, an election is held for State officers. Presently, Tom Kees is President, Gordon Mead, Vice President, and John Campbell, Secretary/Treasurer. This is a one-year term, renewable. Two members for directors, each serving two-year terms, renewable. The most important requirements are that those elected 1) be most willing to share beekeeping information and news, 2) be willing to attend and participate in executive board meetings held in Nov., Feb., May, and October and general meetings in May and October, 3) actually want to assume that office, if you or an acquaintance-member of WVBA should be interested, please call the nominating committee (Tom Kees, 363-482; Fred McClain 825-6650; or Roy Kerns, 763-4760).

NATIONAL HONEY BOARD

Debbie Copenhaver of Lost River, Hampshire County, has been nominated and confirmed as a member of the National Honey Board as a Regional Representative. The Board meets periodically to formulate policy to promote honey. Debbie and her husband, James, have produced the finest quality honey for years. If you have any suggestions, please let Debbie know. Congratulations Debbie!

BEEKEEPING SCOUT BADGE IS BACK

Discontinued in 1996, because of low use, it was announced last February that the pamphlet and possibly the badge itself may be redesigned. Scouts 11 to 16 years old need a beekeeper for a mentor. It is not an "easy" merit badge to earn. Talk with your local scout leaders. (I wonder if the Girl Scouts have a similar badge..why not?)

WVBA AT EAS '99 MARYVILLE, TN

WV was well-represented at EAS this year. (EAS stands for Eastern Apicultural Society, that is, East of the Mississippi. The meeting comprises a 2 ½ -day short course and 2 ½- day conference. Steve May, Tom Kees, Tom Kershner, Barry Bryan, Gerry Fitzgerald, and Brad Harris and his three sons took the short course.

SCREEN BOTTOM BOARD

A #8 mesh screen (8 wires per inch) bottom board with a 2-inch drop underneath apparently helps prevent varros that fall through this screen from reentering the hive. The #8 mesh is important because while supporting the bees, it is open enough to let the varroa fall through. Varroa naturally fall from the bees as the colony mites population increases; so this is another non-chemical way to help reduce varroa. Some beekeepers use the screens alone as bottom boards in summer, while others use the screens raised at least 2 inches above the bottom boards. It is still critical to treat with Apistan because while the screens may help, they do not remove nearly enough mites.

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PROGRAM NOTES

DR. WYATT A. MANGUM of Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, VA, writes a column for American Bee Journal on honeybee biology. Dr. Mangum has kept bees since he was 10; tending 125 colonies in addition to his teaching. His interest in photography and beekeeping antiques has made him somewhat unique. If you have old beekeeping equipment you would like to know about, bring it with you.

DR. JAMES W. AMRINE, Professor of Entomology, besides his full class schedule, works evaluating essential oils as mite controls. Dr. Amrine's reports on this research have appeared in American Bee Journal. Dr. Amrine has been generous in sharing his knowledge and help with our state and local associations.

MATTHEW E. COCHRAN, WV State Apiarist, has been a steady friend of our Association and beekeepers throughout the State. At every State meeting, he updates conditions around the State giving us a glimpse at the bigger picture.

SMOKER CONTEST. This will last a maximum of 1 ½ hours. The smoker lasting longest with a cool smoke is the winner. In the event of a tie, winners will be awarded duplicate prizes.

Rules: 1) Open to all beekeepers—bring your smoker and overalls. 2) A maximum of 5 minutes is allowed to start smoker. 3) One wooden match (will be supplied) is used to start smoker (may use up to 5 matches if the first 4 go out). 4) No mineral (e.g. coal) or wood fuel (wood, wood chips, pellets or charcoal). 5) Each smoker will be tested and puffed 5 times at ½-hour intervals. 6) The smoker lasting longest with a cool smoke is the winner.

BEE BOWL. Two teams will be pitted against each other to see who knows more about beekeeping. The questions are being gathered from secret sources so you may want to break out those bee books and study.

DEMOS, GADGETS, IDEAS, AND NEW PRODUCTS. A presentation of interesting ideas and gadgets guaranteed to make you think. Bring your ideas and gadgets; there will be time for anyone to present his/her ideas and gadgets.

HONEY, WAX, AND BAKING SHOW. Categories include extracted honey, comb honey, cut comb honey, creamed honey, chunk honey, and wax. All honey must have been made in the past 12 months by the contestant. Three containers of each entry are requested. Judging criteria is the same as is used by EAS. Cooking entry categories include cookies, quick breads, yeast breads, pies, frosted cakes, unfrosted cakes, and muffins. Entries must be accompanied by 2 copies of the recipe, and written on 3x5 cards.

MASTER BEEKEEPER PROGRAM. Anyone interested in taking the test Friday at 7:30 must pre-register with James or Debbie Copenhaver by September 17 (304) 897-6321.

SOCIAL. After the general meeting, we are planning a social—a chance to relax and spend some time together.

VIDEOS. Short videos honeybee related. See where your bee supply order came from; Martha Stewart as beekeeper; and WV and other beekeepers on TV.

Commercial Ads and Free Member Ads are welcome.

John Campbell, 102 First St., Parsons, WV 26287.
Membership. Please send name, address, and dues to: WVBA Secretary,
with WVBA may join WVBA directly by paying \$5 annual dues or \$50 for a Life
therefore, also WVBA members. Those who do not belong to a group associated
an annual membership fee of \$4 per member. The members of these groups are
regional beekeepers' groups which are associate members of WVBA pay WVBA
WVBA membership includes a subscription to the WVBA Newsletter. Local or

content, and space.
received by March 5 and July 5. Submissions may be edited as needed for clarity.
The WVBA Newsletter is published in April and August. Ads and articles must be

Parsons, WV 26287
102 First St.
John Campbell, Secretary/Treasurer (304) 478-3675
West Virginia Beekeepers Association Newsletter

Free Ads are available to WVBA members. Each member is entitled to one ad of 30 or fewer words per issue at no charge. Each additional 30-word ad costs \$1, which must be prepaid with a check payable to WVBA. Send ad copy and payment required to Editor.

Commercial advertisement rates are half page (7 1/2" high x 4 5/8" wide) \$40 per issue; Third page (3 5/8" high x 4 5/8" wide) \$22; Quarter page (2 7/16" high x 4 5/8" wide) \$16; Quarter page tall (3 5/8" high x 2 1/4" wide) \$12; Quarter page wide (1 3/4" high x 4 5/8" wide) \$12; Sixth page (2 7/16" high x 2 1/4" wide) \$10. We do not bill. Businesses receive a complimentary copy of Newsletters in which they advertise. Ad copy and payment should be sent to Editor



**West Virginia
Beekeepers Association**

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