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IN THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As we approach a new beekeeping year, I am increasingly worried at the number of reports from beekeepers who have lost most or all of their colonies. While some of this can be attributed to the increasing number of new hobbyists who are still learning the ropes, many experienced members of our association struggled through a bad summer and fall and are now realizing this winter was perhaps even worse.

Part of our problem the past year was terrible weather leading to summer starvations, followed by almost no fall nectar flow for most areas. A second ongoing issue is colony health, with varroa mites being our primary troublemaker. To help combat these two big challenges, the WVBA has for several years coordinated fondant purchases (an excellent emergency food during the winter) and provided each associated club with an oxalic acid vaporizer. We’re also increasing our focus on education and outreach to help our beekeepers be more successful in their apiaries.

Speaking of education and outreach, I want to personally thank the Raleigh County Beekeepers Cooperative Association for stepping up and hosting our 2018 Spring Conference on extremely short notice. I look forward to seeing each of you at the Tamarack Conference Center in Beckley on March 23rd and 24th.

Submitted by James Meadows

Photographs were submitted by Aretha Kees, WVBA Photographer, unless otherwise noted.

At the 2017 Fall Conference, pictured are:
WVBA VP Chuck Cienawski
WVDA Commissioner Kent Leonhardt
WVDA State Apiarist Wade Stiltner
State Veterinarian James Maxwell
TRI-STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Members of the Tri-State Beekeepers Association (www.tristatebeekeepers.com) have survived the winter with modest losses and look forward to rebuilding for what we hope to be an early spring. Following the initiative of member Wayne Shook, the club has now partnered with the Belmont Correctional Institution in neighboring St. Clairsville to extend membership to inmates in the facility. The newly formed group has 50 members and is completing the novice instruction with plans to site 10 hives at the facility this spring. Members have been very enthusiastic about our participation. In addition, nearby Bethany College has expanded their biology department with the hiring of entomologist Dr. Greg Polsinelli who has a specific interest in honey bees. With the help of our club he is establishing a campus apiary and incorporating apiculture into his program. In return, the college has extended resources to our club with which we can further our understanding of the bee. We look forward to our novice program this spring sited at WV Northern Community College and member John Welty has been engaged to assist at Wheeling Jesuit University’s Challenger Learning Center to develop the “Bee Amazed” educational program.

On all fronts we continue to promote bee keeping and an appreciation of the honey bee in the community.

Submitted by Steve Roth

PRESTON COUNTY BEE KEEPERS ASSOCIATION

The Preston County Bee Keepers Association is currently selling tickets on a bee hive with bees for $10 per ticket. Members are selling the tickets to support the "YOUTH HIVE CONTEST" which gives the contest winner a bee hive and bees to get started in the bee keeping hobby. A club mentor works with the youth hive winner for a year to help the youth learn about bee keeping and keeping bees healthy. Last year's winner was Tori DeWitt of Kingwood. We are eager to see who wins the March 15th youth competition as well as our hive drawing winner! The youth hive project is named in honor of Judy Wilhelm a long time member of the Preston County Bee Keepers. The bee keepers want to pass the heritage of bee keeping on to our next generation.

Steven Hamrick, former North Central Beekeepers Association president, will be the speaker at the February 15th meeting. The March meeting will be a buzz with the drawing and selecting a contest winner. April will feature Charlene Strahin with a Boots to Bees presentation. June will feature a busy bee make and take with Susie Huggins demonstrating how to make a wasp trap. Each member will go home with a trap. In July we will have our legendary annual summer picnic at Jim White’s house. We will of course be busy with the Buckwheat Festival in September.

Submitted by Susie Huggins
MONONGALIA COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

> The Monongalia County Beekeepers Association would like to announce our officers for the 2018 year. Ron Rowan is our new President with Nelson Rekos as our Vice President, Debbie Martin as Secretary and Debra Mayne as our treasurer.

> Ron has not been a Beekeeper for long, but he is very intelligent and has a lot of new ideas for the club. He and his wife Shelley have 2 children and even his daughter loves working in the bee yard.

> Also, the WVBA is having a Beginner Beekeeping Class in Westover on April 7, 14 and 21. The classes are from 10-2 and you must attend all three classes to complete the course. The cost is $50 per person and $70 per couple. You get the Penn State Beekeeping Basics book, and free state and local dues for 2018 at the Monongalia county club. Members will be teaching the class as well as Paul Cappas. Contact Debbie Martin at 304-367-9488 or debbeez7@yahoo.com for more information and to pre-register for the class.

> Also, we meet the 3rd Monday of every month for instruction and guidance for the Master Beekeepers Program. All levels may attend and you will be able to work towards the testing at the Fall Conference. Out of 18 people in the state to take the novice test, Mon County had 7 people pass the Novice test at the Fall Conference In 2017. Those people are working toward their Certified level for the upcoming Fall Conference In 2018, and if anyone is ready for their Master Test, they are invited too. We are always happy to help make Beekeepers better Beekeepers.

> Let’s hope for a great season for 2018 for our bees and our Beekeepers!

Submitted by Debbie Martin

SOUTH EASTERN BEE CLUB

Greeting from SEBA (South Eastern Bee Club Association). We have new officials this year to announce our new President is Rick Forren, Our Vice President is Zach Comoux, our new Treasure is Garrett McCormick, and Secretary Melody Bryant. Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm located at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine Alumni Center in Lewisburg W.V.

Our group had a considerable increase in membership last spring and we hope this continues to grow in the New Year. New members are always welcome and we will be holding a Beginners Bee Class in February this year. Would like to thank Rick Forren and Garrett McCormick for taking on these new positions and I am sure they will do a great job.

We are hoping to update or create a new website this year for our members to utilize. The site has been down for a couple of years and has not been updated. A representative from Appalachian Headwaters provided a presentation on their plans for beekeeping last spring. Rebeca Morretto, our state beekeeping inspector, also provided a presentation for us in the fall of last year on mites and importance of treating your bees. She also addressed that bees are dying all across the state, not just in Southern WV.

Honey production was fair for most of us last year. The challenges were catching swarms in the spring through late June and dealing with losses due to mite infestation toward the end of the season. So we are hoping for a better year for our bees and beekeepers. As always our main focus is education so please come join the fun!

Submitted by Melody Bryant
MARION COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

- Hive Beetles are making an appearance locally; until recently we have been very fortunate.
- MCBA Executive Board has been very productive in guidance and planning of our association.
  Meeting at least 4 times a year, it is composed of our President, Chuck Cienawski; Vice President, Rossie Wilson;
  Secretary, Lisa Kniceley; Treasurer, Amy Kaiser; Newsletter Editor, Nancy Postlethwait; and members at large: Tom
  Kees, Dennis Pride, Ron Southern, and Elaine Wilson.
- 2018 Beginners’ Bee classes of 6 two-hour Classes Jan. 30th - Feb. 15th were held with 32 new members registered.
- The Fall State Meeting will be held this year again at the same Fairmont facility on August 24 and 25. Several MCBA
  members are involved in the planning.
- A small Grant to give some partial help to up to 8 beginning beekeepers, in particular to those who are in 4-H, FFA, or
  are veterans, was accomplished through the efforts of Nancy Postlethwait, Joni Liston, and the grant committee.
- The Judy Wilhelm Youth Scholarship Program, started in 2015, will again be taking applications this year.
- An upgrade to extracting equipment for members (a new 6 frame electric extractor) will help honey production be a
  more pleasant activity this summer.
- Our summer picnic, July 27, will include a judging demo of members’ honey and wax.
- Happy Birthday to Joe Coe who will be 100 on May 13! Joe, a WWII veteran, clock and watch repairman and fiddle
  player, had two swarms settle in his hives last year, only to lose them later to robbing.

Submitted by Tom Kees

HIGHLANDS APICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Activities for Fall and early Winter 2017

We conducted for our Students a winterizing class on the Kump House apiary in Elkins.

Prior to Christmas, we hosted a community Mead and Honey tasting. This included member honey and homemade mead as well as honey from sections the United States and some foreign countries. One of our members gave us a good hands-on demonstration in teaching us a self-reliant skill in making our own fondant. We had classes for members and guests on winter preparation and extraction techniques.

Our Association is in the process of forming an alliance with the Elkins Tree Board to plant pollinator native trees in the Glendale City Park here in Elkins. This is a great opportunity in educating the public. We hope the WVBA will help us financially, in supporting this endeavor.

Submitted by Sam Golston, with honey

Some assorted photos taken by Aretha Kees at the 2017 WVBA Fall Conference
(Everyone looks like they are having a great time!)
RALEIGH COUNTY BEEKEEPERS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

The Raleigh County Beekeepers Cooperative Association has had a very busy fall and winter. The first Annual Beckley Honey Festival was held at the Beckley Exhibition Mine and Youth Museum on August 19th. It was a very successful event with over 1,000 visitors. Our member beekeepers sold a lot of honey and there was live music and live hive demonstrations throughout the day. In addition, there were equipment displays, observation hives, youth activities, Exhibition Mine and Coal Camp tours and of course our honeybee mascot. The event was very well received and will now be an annual event for our association.

In November we were made aware that there was no sponsor association for the Spring Conference. Despite the very short amount of time to plan and host the event, our association decided to accept this challenge. We are honored to partner with the Appalachian Beekeeping Collective for what we hope will be a well received and supported conference by WVBA members. Registration is simple and can be completed by visiting our web site at www.raleighcountybeekeepers.com. Please click on the scrolling conference registration link at the top of our homepage.

We have started our beginner beekeeping course for high school students through our partnership with Raleigh County Schools. We anticipate that we will have over 40 students from four high schools take the course. It is exciting to educate young beekeepers and provide them with hands-on opportunities at the RCBCA/Raleigh County Schools Apiary Yard. We are hopeful that some of these students will be provided intern opportunities with the Appalachian Beekeeping Collective as a result of this partnership. In February, we will also be holding our first Intermediate/Advanced Beekeeping course which will be limited to the first 30 participants. Detail on this course can also be found on our web site.

We are excited to host the WVBA 2018 Spring Conference and a full schedule of activities to educate students, members and the general public about the importance of the honey bee.

Submitted by Mark Lilly

Charlie Maxwell served as Program Chair for the 2017 Fall Conference

Louisa Householder, Chairperson of the 2017 Fall Conference

The West Virginia Beekeepers Association celebrated their 100th year in 2017

Having fun with the Raleigh County Beekeepers’ Honeybee Mascot at the first annual Beckley Honey Festival

Photo submitted by the Raleigh County Beekeepers Cooperative Association
MASTER BEEKEEPING PROGRAM

Testing for all levels (Apprentice, Certified, and Master) will be available on Friday, March 23 from 1 – 4 p.m. at the WVBA spring conference held at Tamarack in Beckley, WV. Requirements and reading lists are available at the WVBA website, wvbeekeeper.com. Advanced registration is required with the application form also found on the website. Applications must be received by March 15. We strongly encourage beekeepers to engage in the process as a means of improving your knowledge of the honey bee and sharpen your management skills.

Submitted by Steve Roth

At the Fall Conference, outgoing WVBA President Paul Cappas presented Janet Clayton with a plaque of appreciation for her years of service as director of the WVBA Master Beekeeping Program

LARGE AND SMALL ASSOCIATION OF THE YEAR AWARD PROGRAM

Any club wishing to submit their club for association of the year should forward all documents to Mark Lilly no later than March 4th 2018. All requirements for Association of the Year can be found on the WVBA website under forms.

Please forward to marklilly58@gmail.com or wvbeeguy@yahoo.com or by mail to Mark Lilly, 252 Daisy Trail, Cool Ridge, WV 25825. I will confirm receipt so if your club doesn’t get confirmation within a week of submitting please call me at 304-860-9638

Submitted by Mark Lilly

WVBA Officers:
James Meadows, President
Chuck Cienawski, Vice President
Mark Lilly, Secretary
Steve Roth, Treasurer
**2016 - 2017 WVBA Annual Report**

10/1/2016 through 9/30/2017

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**EXPENSES**

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**OVERALL TOTAL**

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Some past WVBA Presidents pose at the 2017 Fall Conference. From left, Tom Kees, James Copenhaver, Bea Aikens, Bob Aikens, & Paul Cappas.
West Virginia Beekeepers Association
Spring Conference 2018

The 2018 West Virginia Beekeepers Association’s Spring Conference will be hosted by the Raleigh County Beekeepers Cooperative Association and the Appalachian Beekeeping Collective. This event will be held at Tamarack Conference Center in Beckley, WV on **March 23 & 24, 2018**. Featured speakers will include Dr. Debbie Delaney, Associate Professor of Entomology for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Delaware, Dr. Parry Kietzman, Head Beekeeper/Researcher for the Appalachian Beekeeping Collective and Dr. James Wilson an Extension Apiculturist at Virginia Tech.

Highlights will also include sessions on honeybee removal from structures, West Virginia native plants, products of the hive (i.e. lotions, soaps, lip balms), wax renderings comb to candle as well as a hands-on wax demonstration. Conference registrations will include breakfast as well as a voucher for lunch at Tamarack Conference Center. In addition, a tour of the Beckley Exhibition Mine and Coal Camp as well as a Q & A session with the presenters will occur on Friday evening, March 23rd. Master Beekeeping Requirements Testing will also be available on March 23rd. Please reference the conference schedule for more information.

**Tamarack, the Best of West Virginia**

Tamarack’s striking, peaked red roof and attractively landscaped grounds draw half a million visitors annually into a welcome respite of visual beauty, Appalachian sounds, and distinctive aromas. Tamarack with its unique retail artisan products and extraordinary food fare started out as a simple vision to promote the Mountain State’s wonderful image. Tamarack’s highly acclaimed display team creates multiple visual effects using products created by a variety of artisans. Trends and traditions, as well as unusual specialty products are among the long list of artisan made Tamarack items. Metal, apparel, jewelry, souvenirs, wood, glass, furniture, pottery, outdoor decor, fine art, fine craft, musical instrument, music, books, and homemade specialty food items and candies are all on the Tamarack shopping list. Tamarack’s restaurant offers unique offerings and many options: a deli for sandwiches, soups and salads; a grill for full meals and entrees; a bakery for sweet treats. Every item is made fresh while you wait. Among the many favorites are the fried green tomato sandwich and the rainbow trout.

**Directions to Tamarack**
[https://www.tamarackwv.com/about-us/](https://www.tamarackwv.com/about-us/)

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**Items for prizes are always appreciated. If you have something you would like to donate please bring it with you to the conference**
## WVBA SPRING CONFERENCE
### MARCH 23 & 24, 2018
Tamarack

### Friday, March 23
- **Tour of Beckley Exhibition Mine and Coal Camp**
  - 1:00PM – 3:00PM
  - [https://beckley.org/general-information-coal-mine/](https://beckley.org/general-information-coal-mine/)
- **Master Beekeeper Testing, Tamarack Conference Center**
  - 1:00PM – 4:00PM
- **Q&A Session - Evening at Tamarack**
  - 4:00PM – 5:30PM

### Saturday, March 24
- **Registration & Breakfast**
  - 8:00AM – 9:00AM
- **Welcome & Announcements**
  - 9:00AM – 9:10AM
- **Welcome to Raleigh County – Mayor Rappold**
  - 9:10AM – 9:20AM
- **Mike Becher, Appalachian Beekeeping Collective**
  - 9:20AM – 9:30AM
- **Dr. Debbie Delaney, The Benefits of Polyandry**
  - 9:30AM – 10:30AM
  - Using All Natural Ingredients and Proper Labelling (Auditorium)
- **Kathy Watson, How to Make Lip Balm and Lotions**
  - 9:30AM – 10:30AM
  - Cindy Bee, Wax Renderings – Comb to Candle (Auditorium)
  - 10:30AM – 11:30AM
- **Break – Vendors Open**
  - 10:30AM – 11:00AM
- **Dr. Parry Kietzman, Recognition of Honey Bee Viruses and Disease**
  - 11:00AM – 11:45AM
- **Dr. James Wilson, Integrating Pollinator Protection into Pest Management:**
  - An Example from Virginia Cucurbit Production
  - 11:00AM – 11:50AM
- **Lunch, Tamarack Atrium**
  - 12:00PM – 1:00PM
- **Jenny Newland, Added Value of Native Plants for Beekeepers**
  - 1:00PM – 2:00PM
- **Dr. Parry Kietzman, Preventing Viruses and Diseases and What To Do If You Have Them**
  - 1:00PM – 2:00PM
- **Cindy Bee, Honeybee Removal from Structures**
  - 1:00PM – 2:00PM
- **Break – Vendors Open**
  - 2:00PM – 2:30PM
- **Cindy Bee, Wax Flower Hands-On Demonstration**
  - 2:15PM – 4:00PM
- **Dr. Debbie Delaney, Diversity is the Raw Material for Creating Better Bees**
  - 2:30PM – 4:00PM
- **Closing Remarks/WVBA Chapter of the Year Winner/Giveaways**
  - 4:15PM
REGISTRATION FORM
2018 SPRING CONFERENCE

Registration form must be received by March 15, 2018 to qualify for early registration rates. You can also register and pay online at www.raleighcountybeekeepers.com.

ATTENDEE (1): ______________________________________________________________

ATTENDEE (2): ________________________ ATTENDEE (3): ________________________

ADDRESS: ________________________________________________________________

CITY: __________________ STATE: _______ ZIP CODE: ______________

PHONE: ________________________ E-MAIL: ________________________

WV Beekeepers Association Member early registration $40 x (     )
Non-Member early registration $45 x (     )
Child under 12 early registration $15 x (     )
WV Beekeepers Association member after 3/15 $50 x (     )
Non-Member Registration after 3/15 $55 x (     )
Child under 12 registration after 3/15 $15 x (     )
Number attending Friday Exhibition Coal Mine Tour
Number attending Q/A session with speakers

TOTAL (for all attendees)

Select the sessions you plan to attend. Please note selection of a session does not guarantee a seat but allows us to plan to accommodate as many registrants as possible.

Session One:
_____ Dr. Debbie Delaney, The Benefits of Polyandry 9:30AM – 10:30AM
_____ Kathy Watson, How to Make Lip Balm and Lotions 9:30AM – 10:30AM
_____ Using All Natural Ingredients and Proper Labelling (Auditorium)
_____ Cindy Bee, Wax Renderings – Comb to Candle (Auditorium) 10:30AM – 11:30AM

Session Two:
_____ Dr. Parry Kietzman, Recognition of Honey Bee Viruses and Disease 11:00AM – 11:45AM
_____ Dr. James Wilson, Integrating Pollinator Protection into Pest Management: An Example from Virginia Cucurbit Production 11:00AM – 11:50AM

Session Three:
_____ Jenny Newland, Added Value of Native Plants for Beekeepers 1:00PM – 2:00PM
_____ Dr. Parry Kietzman, Preventing Viruses and Diseases and What To Do If You Have Them 1:00PM – 2:00PM
_____ Cindy Bee, Honeybee Removal from Structures 1:00PM – 2:00PM

Session Four:
_____ Cindy Bee, Wax Flower Hands-On Demonstration 2:15PM – 4:00PM
_____ Dr. Debbie Delaney, Diversity is the Raw Material for Creating Better Bees 2:30PM – 4:00PM

Please note registration fees will include breakfast and a lunch voucher at Tamarack Conference Center.

The lunch voucher will include your choice of one featured main dish, two sides, dessert and a drink.

Make checks payable to Raleigh County Beekeepers Cooperative Association.
Please complete the attached registration form which is also a fillable PDF and return to:
Raleigh County Beekeepers Cooperative Association
Attn: R. Darrin Butcher, Treasurer
251 Vista Drive, Mount Hope, WV 25880
(304)890-0731

Weather statement – Due to the facility reservation, this conference will not be cancelled due to inclement weather.
Discounted Area Lodging

To access discounted rate, please use “West Virginia Beekeepers Association.”

Country Inn & Suites
https://www.countryinns.com/
2120 Harper Road, Beckley, WV
304-252-5100

Microtel Inn & Suites
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The 2018 West Virginia Beekeepers Association’s Spring Conference  
March 23 & 24, 2018  
will be hosted by the Raleigh County Beekeepers Cooperative Association  
and the Appalachian Beekeeping Collective.

Appalachian Beekeeping Collective  
will provide equipment for a complete bee hive as the  
Grand Prize Giveaway for the Spring Meeting

WVBA Newsletter  
c/o Amy Kaiser  
734 Monumental Road  
Fairmont, WV 26554

We’re on the Web! Visit us at:  
www.wvbeekeepers.org