

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.