

Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association (PHBA)

www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com

PHBA Meeting Summaries 2015

Kelly Kipp President happehoneybeefarm@aol.com 94 Back Road Lost City, WV 26810 304 616 7879	Charles Boland Vice President wvchairwright@gmail.com P.O. Box 435 Springfield, WV 26763 304 822 7505	Sherryrobin Boland Treasurer sbstrega694@yahoo.com P.O. Box 435 Springfield, WV 26763 3048227505	Kirby Vining Secretary nulliparaacnestis@gmail.com 16 Franklin St NE Washington, DC 20002 202-234-0427 202-213-2690
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Meeting Summary

Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association Meeting

December 17, 2015, 7-9pm, Bank of Romney Community Center, Romney

1. Opening and Welcome: President Kelly Kipp brought the meeting to order shortly after 7pm. Total of nine persons in attendance, no new visitors or guests.
2. No guest speaker, but Charles and Michelle described their experience participating in Billy Davis' workshop on "Keeping Healthy Bees Without Chemicals" in Purcellville, VA on December 12th (see below under "new business")
3. Secretary Report: Secretary Kirby Vining noted that the November minutes have been circulated and posted on Facebook and requested acceptance of those minutes if no changes were proposed. Accepted by acclaim.
4. Treasurer Report: Charles Boland for Treasurer Sherryrobin Boland reported \$1,093.92 in the PHBA account, three new memberships paid and no disbursements for the past month. Several persons provided copies or originals of WV Apiary Registration forms as discussed in November to enable the club to keep a record of the number of apiaries we have registered as a backup in case WV Dept. of Agriculture can't find them (and this has happened).
5. Old Business: Brief discussion of interest in a map we could use to locate our hives and to find other apiaries near us, especially so that we can track the prevalence of disease, parasites, and other matters affecting our hives. Mention was made of the "hive tracker" web page ("hivetracks.com"?), but mention was also made that several commercial beekeepers recorded historically high rates of beehive theft this year, some attributing that to the hive tracker information (which is public), and thus discontinued using it. It was suggested that our own records and maps of hive locations be available ONLY to PHBA/WVBA members for security reasons.
6. New Business: Charles and Michelle reported on their participation in on of Billy Davis' Sustainable Beekeeping workshops, "Keeping Healthy Bees Without Chemicals" in Purcelville, VA, on December 12th, <http://www.sustainablebees.org/events.htm>.

//Below follows a rough attempt to capture a huge amount of new material, considering the many ways in which Billy Davis has reinvented many aspects of beekeeping based on many years of personal experience since 1949. We hope to obtain from Mr. Davis a copy of a powerpoint briefing he is preparing with many more details of his work. There was broad consensus that we would like to see that powerpoint and consider what specific

techniques Mr. Davis uses that would be appropriate for us, mindful of the fact that Mr. Davis is primarily raising queens and bees, not honey. Here's Billy Davis' web page: <http://www.sustainablebees.org/index.html> He has not used any chemicals on his hives since 1998, and has almost entirely eliminated varroa mites from his hives. //

HIVE BODY DESIGN: Davis uses a different hive body design. His hives have eight frames and bees enter through what we regard as the side of the hive, and through a very narrow slot, about 2" x $\frac{3}{8}$ ". This narrow opening is very effective in preventing intruders as it helps guard bees more easily protect the hive opening. His hives also have a unique ventilation system that is easier to understand through pictures on his web page than I could describe. He also uses robber screens (window screen barriers) in front of the hive openings.

HIVE BEETLE CONTROL: His hives are mounted on bases very close to the ground with a system of screening on the bottom that allows hive beetles to drop through the screen into the ground below where beneficial nematodes eat them, breaking the hive beetle cycle. He also uses [cheap new unscented dryer sheets](#), including Scotch Brite pads, which hive beetles get onto and can't get out of.

DRAPES: Davis uses drapes on top of his hives whenever he opens them to minimize the exposure of the bees inside the hive to the outside, noting that such exposure stresses the hive, and other nearby hives respond to the pheromones emitted by a stressed hive. Reducing stress in a colony is important for the beekeeper and the bees. The pheromones released by one crushed bee alerts nearby hives that become stressed for obvious reasons.

MITE CONTROL: [Davis starts his mite control after the Honey Flow. He uses powdered sugar to dust the hives every 7 days over a 21 day period. It should be noted before treatment he removes the queen and some open brood from the hive and moves them to a nuc. The main hives has to remain queenless and not allowed to make a queen. The process completely breaks the 21 day mite cycle and the bees clean and groom to remove the powdered sugar from each other removing mites. However, during these times the bees don't produce much honey because they're —busy doing something else. After 28 days the queen can be reintroduced, a queen cell grafted into the hive or place a frame of eggs into hive for them to make a new queen.](#)

DRONE YARD: Drones apparently have a range of three miles and visit any hive they wish, not regarded as "intruders" for reasons to do with pheromones. Davis keeps one or more "drone yards" apparently about three miles upwind of his hives and stressed the importance of having drones available for the queens he rears (again, consider that he is more interested in queen rearing than honey production). He notes that for a swarm the drones are seen going out first, at about 9-10am, and they don't necessarily come back to the hive as they can go anywhere. Drones don't sting (I didn't know that).

NUCS: Nucs winter better than hives for reasons Davis has found. He also suggests that ankle-biter queens be introduced into a nuc, not into an existing hive.

HIVE PAINTING: Davis dips his hive boxes in wax/parafin and doesn't paint them.

FEEDING: Davis uses Mann Lake Ultra pollen all year long and cautions that food is essential to keep hives alive both in times of low or nil nectar flow and at any time when the hive does not send out sufficient foraging bees to feed themselves.

Other new business: VP Charles Boland, following discussions with WVBA President Paul Cappas, has volunteered to be the PHBA representative

to the WV Veterans to Agriculture beekeeping project. Charles will start working with this group at a meeting in Morgantown very soon.

7. Pot-luck refreshments served
8. Next meeting: Thursday, January 21, 2016, Bank of Romney Community Center
9. Refreshments for the next meeting: Kelly offered to bring drinks, Ruth/Steve offered to bring some snacks, others welcome to contribute!
10. Presentation: Great interest was expressed in the powerpoint briefing that Billy Davis is revising and that (if it's ready in time) was proposed as a January presentation, otherwise presentation to be designated
9. Meeting adjourned at about 9:15pm.

Prepared by: Kirby Vining, PHBA Secretary

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Meeting Summary

Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association Meeting

November 19, 2015, 7-9pm, Bank of Romney Community Center, Romney

1. Opening and Welcome: Vice President and acting President Charles Boland opened the meeting at 7pm for our President who could not be present. Newcomers were invited to introduce themselves and three did so. 18 persons signed in (there may have been a couple more who came in later). Among our guests was Mr. Steve Starcher of the WV Agricultural Extension Service office in Romney. He pointed out that the 4H Camp demonstrations organized by the Ag. Ext. office may have interest in programs the PHBA might offer.
2. Guest Speaker: Mr. Paul Cappas, newly elected (September 2015) President of the WV Beekeepers' Association (WVBA) (<http://www.wvbeekeepers.org>) who traveled from his home in Morgantown. Mr. Cappas, who is also the Vice President of the

Monongalia Beekeepers, and the other three WVBA officers have set out some reorganization and planning for what they hope we can accomplish and provided us with details. WVBA member clubs are divided into several regions, and the PHBA is in the Eastern Panhandle region that includes Hampshire, Morgan, Mineral, Hardy, Berkeley, Jefferson, and Grant Counties. Mr. Cappas was touring as many of the 23 WV beekeeping clubs as possible to inform his work in the WVBA.

Mr. Cappas stressed throughout his remarks how important he believes it is for us as WV beekeepers to be using a local strain of queens, raised and shared in our state and region. We are now using queens purchased from Georgia or California, and wondering why they're not lasting. If a group of WV beekeepers were raising and breeding queens locally, and sharing them throughout our region, we could be more self-sustaining. Both local breeding and splitting/dividing of hives of our own breed of sustainable queens could help all of us. Mr. Cappas also stressed the importance of going into our hives once every 7-10 days as only this experience really teaches us how to care for our bees. Beekeeping is animal husbandry and we must get to know our bees well, not just keep them to produce honey.

Mr. Cappas outlined three main areas that he wants to be priorities for the WVBA, under respective committees, both at the state and local level:

- Advertising: the Fall Conference and the WVBA Newsletter, in addition to the WVBA web page might be good places to place advertisements concerning products and information of interest to beekeepers.
- Education: Each WVBA member club would have a point of contact for queen rearing and clubs would share instructors at the state level to teach club members queen rearing. A stipend incentive could be given to the instructors to travel to the local clubs, perhaps splitting the cost of this between WVBA (from member dues) and the local club. Weekends likely would be an appropriate time for this travel and instruction. Mr. Cappas also suggested that each new member of the WVBA be given a copy of Beekeeping Basics, produced by the Penn State University consortium (and which Mr. Cappas believes is the best single-volume introductory book on the subject), paid for by the new member's dues. The same sort of arrangement could hold for Master Beekeeper's educational materials. A speakers forum could be maintained, a list of persons expert in such necessary subjects as hive splitting and dividing, pest treatment methods, and creation of nucs, pooling the talents of WVBA members.
- A Vets committee to work with veterans throughout the state with the Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture project. Each club would have one coordinator, an older individual, preferably with military experience, to work with the VA outreach offices in Wheeling, Morgantown, and Charlestown.
(<https://www.facebook.com/Veterans-and-Warriors-to-Agriculture-175925942616220/>)

Mr. Cappas noted that on January 30, 2016, beekeeping expert Steve Repasky will be at the Honey Expo in Parkersburg

(<http://eventful.com/parkersburg/events/2015-honey-bee-expo-/E0-001-079373633-6>)

Concerning the dire shortage of apiary inspectors in WV, Mr. Cappas acknowledged our letter to WV Commissioner of Agriculture Walt Helmick, who has promised the WVBA

more inspectors, but said that budget shortage is hampering this. In the meantime, we in the WVBA member clubs need to be able to inspect our own hives for the main pests and diseases affecting our bees, though this does not satisfy the law that sales of queens, nucs or entire colonies requires state inspection. There are two apiary inspectors in WV and they have more than they can do inspecting the commercial bee operations mostly in the Charlestown area.

Mr. Cappas spoke with high praise of the Bee Informed Partnership (<https://beeinformed.org>) that is accumulating information on bee hive health and viability nationwide. Jeff McIntyre, club member and President of the Allegheny Beekeepers in Cumberland, showed us a chart of information he keeps and shares with Bee Informed, documenting his periodic checks of his hives. This information helps track where diseases and pests are occurring and can inform best beekeeping practices. Mr. Cappas suggested that four hives is a nice minimum number, enough to split/divide if up to three fail.

Mites, Mr. Cappas said, appears to be the bane of our existence, and quoted Paul Poling as saying that regardless of talk of colony collapse and other larger problems affecting the longevity of our hives, problem hives all have mite problems.

Annual registration of our hives should be monitored by each club, and Mr. Cappas suggested that each club send in the apiary registration forms for club members. This would allow each club, and by extension the WVBA, to have a record of how many hives we're maintaining, and this number can help give us clout to request such things as more apiary inspectors. Mr. Cappas also noted that NOT registering a hive can be a liability if anyone is stung or injured by our hives, or if a beekeeper seeks reimbursement for hive damage caused by bears. Treasurer SherryRobin Boland noted that the form will be available in December and suggested that we all fill out the forms at our December meeting. Ms. Boland also has added a column on the PHBA roster to indicate the number of hives each member has registered.

3. Secretary Report: Secretary Kirby Vining noted that the October minutes have been circulated and posted on Facebook and requested acceptance of those minutes if no changes were proposed. Accepted by acclaim.
4. Treasurer Report: Sherryrobin Boland reported \$1,063.92 in the PHBA account. She informed that our club dues are \$4 annually, WVBA dues are \$6 annually, WVBA dues must be received by the March meeting in order to meet the WVBA deadline of April 1st and prior to the WVBA spring meeting..
4. Old Business:
5. New Business: VP Charles Boland noted that Billy Davis' Sustainable Beekeeping workshops will feature a workshop on "Keeping Healthy Bees Without Chemicals" in Purcellville, VA, on December 12th, <http://www.sustainablebees.org/events.htm>.
6. Next meeting: Thursday, December 17, Bank of Romney Community Center
7. Refreshments for the next meeting: POTLUCK! Please bring snacks/drinks to share.
8. Presentation: VP Charles Boland and member Michelle Mack will participate

in the Billy Davis workshop (see point #5 above) and report back to the club at the December meeting. A motion was made and vote was taken to propose that the PHBA pay for Ms. Mack's \$20 admission fee to this workshop and it was unanimously voted to do so.

9. Meeting adjourned at about 9pm.

Prepared by: Kirby Vining, PHBA Secretary

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Meeting Summary

Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association Meeting

October 15, 2015, 7-9pm, Bank of Romney Community Center, Romney

1. Opening and Welcome: President Kelly Kipp brought the meeting to order at 7:05 and asked that each of the newly-elected officers introduce themselves. Acknowledgement was made that former Treasurer Steve Martin (not present) would remain on as official PHBA webmaster. 21 persons were present including 12 members and 9 guests or visitors.
2. Secretary Report: Kirby Vining neglected to bring paper copies of the September minutes, taken by outgoing Secretary Ruth Martin, but noted that they had been circulated on Facebook, emailed, and on the PHBA web page and asked for their approval. Motioned, seconded, passed.
3. Treasurer Report: Sherryrobin Boland reported \$1,099.26 in the PHBA account, which would be increased by the several persons who paid dues on the night of the meeting, and decreased by about \$80 for the pizza/food for this meeting.

(Pizza was consumed during a break rather than have it go cold! Charles Boland ordered

and picked up pizza for all in attendance from Italian Touch in Romney, Treasurer will reimburse him for the cost, about \$80, with a PHBA check as agreed upon).

4. Old Business: Winterizing hives. Several discussed wrapping hives for the winter, all concluding that wrapping the hives with cardboard or other materials tends to cause bad moisture problems and does not seem to actually keep the hive warmer in cold weather. Thus wrapping discouraged. Further, bees respond to rising outdoor temperatures and cannot do this if the hive is thus insulated. Kelly tilts his hives forward with a ½" shim under the back base to make sure that any moisture accumulating during the winter can roll out the front rather than stand in the base. Kelly recommended that if bees are seen flying during warm days in the winter, take a look inside the hive to see that they have stores of food to eat, otherwise let the hive alone during the cold days of winter -- the front entrance greatly reduced to keep out mice. Recommend candy boards/sugar boards for food, not liquid. One member noted that the varroa mite population in his hives had exploded recently, even after Apivar application. He fumigated with oxalic acid effectively. Brushy Mountain is the only source of this oxalic acid, which is now legal in WV for these purposes. Do not use oxalic acid available from Home Depot, sold as a wood bleach, as this contains excessive amounts of fillers injurious to bees. Kelly and Charles Boland have both done this to their hives and have more information on how they did it. Question asked about the use of the Mite-away product, no experience in the group with this product. Brief discussion of the use of formic acid that does indeed kill mites, but it also kills queens. STRONGLY discourage use.

Janet attended the WVBA Fall Conference and reported: Dan O'Hanalan (sp?) has several programs in western WV counties to plant pollinator plots instead of mowing/killing roadside vegetation. These programs not only help beekeepers, but they've saved the state over \$1 million in mowing costs thus far. Plans are afoot to do this in the area around the Moorefield exit to Corridor H, and to plant little linden trees on the interstate highways' welcome centers. Good progress made in the veterans beekeeping training programs, expanding. Commissioner of Agriculture Walt Helmick says there is money for bear fencing, \$300 per fence, contact Dan O'Hanlan and there is a link on the WVBA web page. Helmick also agreed that the number of apiary inspectors must be increased, but did not discuss how or when this might happen. There is a program to have persons using spray insecticides tell local beekeepers what they plan to spray and when. The Farm Service Bureau has farming disaster relief programs that also include bees, see your local Farm Bureau. Janet brought Beebee (sp?) tree seeds for distribution free to the group. Advised they should be frozen for three months before planting in the spring. She also brought back a Master Beekeeper plaque for Don Heishman that will be presented to his widow, Angie.

5. New Business: Kirby presented the draft of a letter to be sent to the Commissioner of Agriculture, info to the Governor, the State Apiarist, and the President of the WVBA, concerning the dire need for additional apiary inspectors. Motion was made to accept and send the letter, seconded, approved. Kelly suggested that a copy of the letter be sent to all beekeepers' clubs in WV urging that they send a copy directly to Helmick, or their own version of such a letter. Kirby will provide Kelly a finished copy of the letter to send in on behalf of the PHBA. A copy of the semi-final text is on Facebook.

Kelly noted that apparently the WV Department of Agriculture not infrequently loses Applications for Apiary Registration that we all send in because of severe understaffing. Kelly suggested that we give our registration documents to him to send in as a batch so that he can track them and make sure they are received. Beekeepers are not in compliance with WV law unless our hives are registered, and we cannot claim reimbursement for bear damage unless our hives are registered.

Kelly suggested that we consider meeting all year round as by the time of our February meeting many seasonal responsibilities are over, such as ordering of bees and queens and bringing colonies out of winterization. Motioned, seconded, approved. The November meeting then is November 19, December 17, January 21. Note was made that if the Hampshire County Schools are closed, we will have no meeting. Kirby will check with the Bank of Romney to reserve the community center for these and next year's meeting nights.

6. Next meeting: Thursday, November 19
7. Refreshments for the next meeting: Kelly will bring snacks, Larry & Christa Lemmons drinks.
8. Presentation: Kelly will try to get Paul Cappas, new president of the WVBA, to address our group in November.
9. Meeting adjourned at about 9pm.

Prepared by: Kirby Vining, PHBA Secretary

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Meeting Summary

Potomac Highlands Beekeeper Association Meeting

September 17, 2015, 7pm-9pm, Bank of Romney Community Center, Romney

1. Opening and Welcome - Vice President, Kirby Vining called the meeting to order at 7:10pm. 12 members and one guest were present. President Elvin Rose was out of town.

2. Secretary Report - Ruth Martin. No comments or corrections were received from the August 20, 2015 minutes (previously emailed, posted on Website - www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com and Facebook - Potomac Highlands Beekeepers). A motion was made to accept the minutes as written, seconded and voted for approval.

3. Treasurer Report - Steven Martin. Financial Report in on file. 2016 dues will be collected at the October meeting. Reminder: Local Vendors for Equipment, Supplies, and Bees are listed on the club website www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com

4. Old Business: None

5. New Business: 2016 Elections

Kirby began the process by discussing each Officer position and current responsibilities. He had the positions displayed on a poster board. Then each officer described in a little more detail how they do the job and who they coordinate or collaborate with. We also talked about any new positions that may be useful. The group decided that Facebook is the main social media being used to share information, articles and notices with the group. But the website was more static and could be updated as needed by a Webmaster. So we added a position for a Webmaster.

Members were asked for nominations - either self or others. The slate quickly filled up. The nominees were:

President: Elvin Rose (incumbent); Kelly Kipp
Vice President: Charles Boland
Secretary: Kirby Vining
Treasurer: Sherryrobin Boland; Larry Lemons
Webmaster: Steven Martin

Since two positions had multiple nominees, the club members present were asked to cast a vote for President and Treasurer. Ruth Martin conducted the voting by raise of hand for the candidate of their choice.

There were no ties and the results for the 2016 PHBA Officers are:

President: Kelly Kipp
Vice President: Charles Boland
Secretary: Kirby Vining
Treasurer: Sherryrobin Boland
Webmaster: Steven Martin

6. Bank of Romney Instructions: As a result of the elections of new 2016 PHBA Club Officers, the following instructions are provided to make necessary changes to the Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association Bank of Romney Checking Account. The President, Kelly Kipp; Vice

President, Charles Boland; Secretary, Kirby Vining; and Treasurer, Sherryrobin Boland will be added to the account to have Signature Authority and ability to write checks on behalf of the Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association votes and decisions. Outgoing Treasurer, Steven Martin will be removed from the account. A single signature is required on PHBA checks. The check book shall be held by the PHBA Treasurer, Sherryrobin Boland.

7. Presentation: No presentation.

8. Refreshments: Refreshments were provided by Michelle Mack, Jean Fisher, and the Bolands. Thank you!

9. General Discussion: Discussion was concerning the lack of Apiary Inspections. The problem is lack of funding for this positions. There are currently only 2 inspectors in the state. One full-time and one part-time. However, talks of additional hires within the next year may be possible. A fee will most likely be charged. In the meantime, write to your Congressman or other politicians to let them know how important this activity is. And also, REGISTER your hives with the State. We can not expect to receive support if our Hives are not recognized and accounted for. The Registration Form is on the WVBA website <http://www.wvbeekeepers.org> under the Documents Tab.

10. October Meeting: October 15 is the final meeting of 2015 and will be the PIZZA PARTY. The club will furnish the refreshments. Would appreciate an RSVP to ensure we have plenty of pizza.

11. Next Meeting: February 18, 2016. Bank of Romney Community Center, 7pm.

12. Thank you and Adjourn for refreshments, 8:30

Prepared by:
Ruth Martin
PHBA Secretary

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Meeting Summary

Potomac Highlands Beekeeper Association Meeting

August 20, 2015, 7pm-9pm, Bank of Romney Community Center, Romney

1. Opening and Welcome - President, Elvin Rose called the meeting to order at 7pm. Twenty six members were present. Elvin announced that he and Janet will not be at the September meeting. Kirby will be chairing the meeting.
2. Secretary Report - Ruth Martin. No comments or corrections were received from the June 18, 2015 minutes (previously emailed, posted on Website - www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com and Facebook - Potomac Highlands Beekeepers). A motion was made to accept the minutes as written, seconded and voted for approval.
3. Treasurer Report - Steven Martin. Review of transactions. Financial Report in on file. Dues for 2016 will be collected at the September and October meetings.
4. Old Business. Reminder: Local Vendors for Equipment, Supplies, and Bees are listed on the club website www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com
5. New Business:
 - WVBA Fall Meeting will be September 25-26, 2015 at Jackson's Mill, 4H Camp. Information and Registration will be in the Fall Newsletter. They were looking for members to put on a 45 minute presentation and/or breakout session. The subject is up to you as long as it's honeybee related. Point of Contact is Bob Speelman, email: wvbeeman2@gmail.com. The suspense was August 1, but if you are interested, please contact Bob to see if there is room in the agenda for you.
 - Donations from clubs are always appreciated for Door Prizes at the Fall Meeting. Steve and Ruth Martin made a Mini Barn Quilt to donate to WVBA. Steve and Ruth also made a Mini Barn Quilt and presented one each to Elvin and Kirby for their dedication and service to the club.
 - 2016 Officer Nominations. The elections will take place at the October meeting. Kirby will be chairing the Nomination committee. If you are interested in running for an Office, please let Kirby know. The positions are: President; Vice President; Treasurer; Secretary. Kirby is actively seeking nominations for presentation of the slate during the September meeting.
6. Discussion/Presentation:
 - Kelly Kipp led a discussion on mite treatment, methods, techniques, and chemicals. His talk was very informative. The key to mite treatment is to break the brood cycle to stop the mites. Any method you use will do this. There is a lot of information online regarding sugar rolls, alcohol roll, apivar, oxalic acid, removal of brood frames, and more. Beekeeping reference books and periodicals also cover this topic.
 - The second topic of the evening was on open feeding. There is controversy over this subject. The state is against open feeding due to

attraction of yellow jackets and other insects and it could spread disease. An article is supposed to be in the next issue of the Market Bulletin. I did not find it the August or September issue. However, most beekeepers believe that open feeding is beneficial for short periods of time as it may be the most efficient way to feed your bees. Transition to individual feeders as soon as feasible.

- Another issue that is beginning to become a problem is the lack of a State Apiary Inspector. Currently, only a small percentage of migratory hives are inspected prior to leaving the state.

7. Refreshments: August refreshments were provided by the Roses, Bolands, and Martins. Thank you!

8. October 15, 2015 Meeting: Final meeting of the year. PIZZA PARTY. Refreshments will be provided by the club.

9. Thank you and Adjourn for refreshments, 8:25

Prepared by:
Ruth Martin
PHBA Secretary

NO JULY MINUTES DUE TO CLUB PICNIC

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1. Opening and Welcome - President, Elvin Rose called the meeting to order at 7pm. Twenty three members and one guest were present.

2. Secretary Report - Ruth Martin. No comments or corrections were received from the May 21, 2015 minutes (previously emailed, posted on Website -

www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com and Facebook - Potomac Highlands Beekeepers). A motion was made to accept the minutes as written, seconded and voted for approval.

3. Treasurer Report - Steven Martin. Financial Report in on file.

4. Old Business. Reminder: Local Vendors for Equipment, Supplies, and Bees are listed on the club website www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com

- Several folks attended the Camp Hickory event. Feedback was positive and it was a day well spent.
- There was a lively discussion regarding the Flow Hive - is it a feasible product or will it hurt the bees in the long run.

5. New Business: Club Picnic. SATURDAY JULY 25TH 2015, 1 PM

Members and Family of the PHBA are invited to "PICNIC WITH THE BEES"

at "The Blue Hotel" in Springfield, W.Va. Hosted by Charles and Sherryrobin Boland.

They will be providing pulled pork and pulled chicken as well as drinks. Please RSVP to the Bolands and also let them know what you will be bringing. Folks have started listing dishes on the Facebook page. Please leave a comment of your contribution or give Charles or Sherryrobin a call.

Kelly Kipp will be providing a Hive with 2 deeps, 2 mediums with frames and foundations and a package of bees next Spring for Raffle at the Picnic.

Tickets will be \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00.....Great chance to win this!!!

Charles Boland Directions for picnic. There is limited parking here at house but we can use the parking lot at the Post Office and The Bank both are one house north of our location. We will

have 2 American Flags and a "Welcome" Flags out. Here is a google map to house.<https://www.google.com/.../data=!3m1!4b1!4m2!3m1...>

8402 Cumberland Rd, Springfield, WV 26763

The picnic will be Pot Luck. The Host will be given a club donation for Main Dish and supplies. A motion was made and approved for the club to contribute \$100 to the Bolands for hosting the picnic. Members are to bring a covered dish to share.

- WVBA Spring Board Meeting, held June 7th. Feedback? No one from the club attended. In the future, we will ensure that we send a representative.

6. Presentation: Steve and Ruth Martin talked about different ways to uncapp honey frames. They brought in a Heat Gun to see if this method could be a better, faster, less messy way to do a small amount of frames. Also demonstrated was a cold knife, hot knife, and an uncapping fork. It was fun and informative. The Heat gun worked great on fully capped frames and on the cells that had a slightly raised capping. If the wax laid directly on the honey, it was difficult to melt the capping, and sometimes melted too much other wax. Conclusion. The heat gun may be faster and less messy than other methods, but with proper use and practice, one can perform the task using a heated knife with little mess.

7. Refreshments: June refreshments were provided by the Kipps (Drinks) and the Fries (Snacks) . Thank you!

8. General Discussion: Talk on the use of Oxalic Acid to treat for mites. Is this legal in the U.S.? Testing had been done and it did kill mites but it was done in October when there was not a lot of brood. So the effectiveness is unknown for treatment during other times of the year.

9. July Presentation: N/A. Picnic and Fellowship at Charles and Sherryrobin Bolans

10. August 20th Presentation: TBD. Ideas? Mite Treatments/Speaker? Sting Treatments?

11. Next Meeting: Club Picnic: July 25, 1pm, Charles and Sherryrobin Bolans Home, Springfield, WV.

12. Thank you and Adjourn for refreshments, 8:15

Prepared by:

Ruth Martin

PHBA Secretary

Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association (PHBA)

www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com

PHBA Meeting Summary, 2015

Elvin Rose President emrose0206@yahoo.com 2878 Fort Run Road Moorefield, WV 26836 304-434-2520	Kirby Vining Vice President nulliparaacnestis@gmail.com 16 Franklin St NE Washington, DC 20002 202-234-0427 202-213-2690	Ruth Martin Secretary rmartin4154@gmail.com 619 Peach Tree Farms Ln Romney, WV 26757 304.822.3878	Steven Martin Treasurer / Web smartin3675@gmail.com 619 Peach Tree Farms Ln Romney, WV 26757 304.822.3878
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May 20, 2015 Meeting Summary

1. Opening and Welcome - President, Elvin Rose. 25 members and 3 guests were present.
2. Secretary Report - Ruth Martin. No corrections or comments were made on minutes from April 16, 2015 meeting (previously emailed, posted on Website - www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com and Facebook - Potomac Highlands Beekeepers). Kirby made a motion to approved them as written, Kelly seconded the motion. All in favor.
3. Treasurer Report - Steven Martin. Financial Report was given and is on file. Steve asked members to provide any contact updates so the Membership Roster is current.
4. Old Business. Reminder: Local Vendors for Equipment, Supplies, and Bees are listed on the club website www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com
 - No club members attended the Eversweet Apiaries Field Day Saturday April 25, 10-12. Herb Everhart has passed away, but his daughter Jennifer King conducted the event as planned.
 - The Club picnic will be in July, the 3rd Sunday. Time and Location TBD. The Fries have offered to host the picnic but need to check on a few things before committing.
5. New Business:
 - Elvin reminded the group about the Camp Hickory Event being held. A few members are interested in attending. The Allegheny Mountain Beekeepers have invited our club again this year to join them at the Annual Beekeepers Day at Camp Hickory, on May 30th, 9am-5pm. The cost is \$20/person and that includes snacks and lunch. There are educational sessions and guest speakers throughout the day. To mention a few speakers, former WV State Apiarist Paul Poling, Washington DC Beekeeper Toni Burnham, and the Gadget Man will be giving talks. The location is in Accident, MD. The Hickory Environmental Education Center is tucked away in the woods behind the North Garrett High School and the North Garrett Middle School. The address is: 604 Pride Parkway, Accident, MD 21520, Phone 301.746.8461.

6. Presentation: Kelly Kipp gave a talk on Bee Cut-outs, swarm catching, and bear attacks! His talk was very informative and interesting. He and Leslie brought a 4ft "slice" of the comb that was retrieved from a cut out. It was a beautiful specimen and everyone appreciated seeing it close up. He brought a bee vac that he designed and created for sucking out bees inside walls or hard to reach places or swarms. The bear attacks have been devastating to his business. He's had numerous attacks - even in broad daylight. He's working with DNR to legally remove the bears. Thank you so much for sharing your stories and pictures and demonstrating your equipment with us. He also brought in some items to hold a few drawings - thank you for your generosity!

7. Refreshments: May refreshments are provided by the Martin's and the Lemon's . Thank you!

8. General Discussion: Getting ready for honey flow - putting on queen excluders; using cinnamon sprinkled around the hives to keep ants away; is it beneficial to use Honey-B-Healthy Super Plus vitamin and mineral supplements along with Honey-B-Healthy; is using a Heat Gun a good way to uncap honey frames; there is a Community Extractor for local use that is kept in Martinsburg.

9. June Presentation: Steve and Ruth will bring in a Heat Gun - how does this method work? Let's see. If you want to try it out, bring in a few honey frames. Let's see if this is a better way to uncap frames when you don't have a lot to do. Some folks claim it's a lot faster and not as messy!

10. June Refreshments: Drinks will be provided by the Kipps; and Snacks will be provided by the Fries. Of course, anyone is welcome to bring in snacks at any time.

11. Next Meeting: Club Picnic, Date/Time/Location TBD, 2015

12. Thank you and Adjourn for refreshments at 8:40pm.

Prepared by:
Ruth Martin, PHBA Secretary

Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association (PHBA)

www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com

PHBA Meeting Summary April 16, 2015

Elvin Rose President emrose0206@yahoo.com 2878 Fort Run Road Moorefield, WV 26836 304-434-2520	Kirby Vining Vice President nulliparaacnestis@gmail.com 16 Franklin St NE Washington, DC 20002 202-234-0427 202-213-2690	Ruth Martin Secretary rmartin4154@gmail.com 619 Peach Tree Farms Ln Romney, WV 26757 304.822.3878	Steven Martin Treasurer / Web smartin3675@gmail.com 619 Peach Tree Farms Ln Romney, WV 26757 304.822.3878
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1. 7pm, Opening and Welcome - President, Elvin Rose. As usual the meeting was held at the Bank of Romney Community Center Building, Main Street, Romney. 34 members and guests were in attendance.
 2. Guests introduced themselves to the group - thank you all so much for your interest in beekeeping! One guest joined the association after the meeting.
 3. Secretary Report - Ruth Martin. The minutes from the March 19, 2015 were posted on the website and facebook for review and comment. No changes were noted. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written. All minutes are posted on the Association Website - www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com under the More tab, filed by the Year, and Facebook - Potomac Highlands Beekeepers)
 4. Treasurer Report - Steve Martin. Financial Report is on file. Steve also reminded the group that the website www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.com has a list of suppliers. If you know of others, or want to be added to the list please let Steve know.
 5. Presentation. Dwight and Janet Kessel gave a very informative and entertaining talk about a Solar Wax Melter. They brought one in for everyone to see. Janet described the process from beginning to end! Dwight brings in the wax cappings from their 25 hives or so, then Janet gets busy cleaning the cappings by letting the excess honey drain into a bucket before putting the cappings into a bucket for melting. THANK YOU!! Their exhibits included:
 - several different molds
 - many examples of wax - light, dark, some with bugs, some with propolis
 - wicks, melting pots, trays
 6. Old Business: None.
 7. New Business: See next section.
 8. Announcements and General Discussion:
 - Eversweet Apiaries will be holding a Free Beekeeping Field Day on Saturday, April 25, 10am-12pm. Rain date Saturday May 2nd. All beekeepers welcome. Hands on learning. Please bring protective gear. They will supply hive tools. 85 Everhart Drive, Kearneysville, WV 25430, 304-876-3832.
- Facebook.com/eversweetapiaries

-The Allegheny Mountain Beekeepers have invited our club again this year to join them at the Annual Beekeepers Day at Camp Hickory, on May 30th, 9am-5pm. The cost is \$20/person and that includes snacks and lunch. There are educational sessions and guest speakers throughout the day. To mention a few speakers, former WV State Apiarist Paul Poling, Washington DC Beekeeper Toni Burnham, and the Gadget Man will be giving talks. The location is in Accident, MD. The Hickory Environmental Education Center is tucked away in the woods behind the North Garrett High School and the North Garrett Middle School. The address is: 604 Pride Parkway, Accident, MD 21520, Phone 301.746.8461.

- A request for beekeepers to participate in the National Colony Loss Management Survey organized by the Bee Informed Partnership and sponsored by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. If you choose to participate, please go to the online survey at <http://10.selectsurvey.net/beinformed/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=BIP2015> and complete the survey. It will be live on April 1st and close on April 30th.

- General discussion concerned where to locate your hives - always put your hives in a sunny location. It's ok to have afternoon shade, but should always have morning/mid day sun in order to deter small hive beetles and foul brood.

- Kelly Kipp reminded the group to never spray their bee packages with sugar water. You may accidentally spray the queen and she will not be able to clean herself off if there are no attendants in the cage with her. When you install your bee package, place the queen cage between two frames with the candy side up. Then put an empty super on and lay the box of bees in sideways. Let them escape from the box on their own. Go back after a few hours to gently remove any remaining bees and put frames in as usual and close up the hive.

9. May 21 Presentation: Kelly Kipp will give a presentation on Honey Bee "Cut Outs". This is when bees are located inside a structure. Should be very enlightening.

10. April Meeting Refreshments were provided by the Kipps and Roses. Everything was delicious. Thank you!

11. May Meeting Refreshments: Drinks will be provided by the Lemons and snacks provided by the Martins.

12. The next meeting is May 21, 2015 at 7pm, Bank of Romney Community Center, Main Street Romney.

13. Adjourn and Refreshments at 8:20.

Prepared by:
Ruth Martin
PHBA Secy

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PHBA Meeting Summary March 19, 2015

A majority of people were present by 6:45pm so Elvin invited the group to have a few snacks before we got started.

1. 7pm, Opening and Welcome - President, Elvin Rose. As usual the meeting was held at the Bank of Romney Community Center Building, Main Street, Romney. 27 people were in attendance.
2. Many new faces were in attendance so Elvin asked that they introduce themselves. It's wonderful to see so many people interested in beekeeping.
3. Secretary Report - Ruth Martin. The minutes from the February 19, 2015 were posted on the website and facebook for review and comment. No changes were noted. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written. All minutes are posted on the Association Website - www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com under the More tab, filed by the Year, and Facebook - Potomac Highlands Beekeepers)
 - Items of interest, articles, advertisements, notices... are being collected from club members to be sent to WVBA for the Spring Newsletter. If you have anything you'd like to submit, please send it to Ruth and she will consolidate our club input and email to WVBA.
4. Treasurer Report - Steve Martin. Financial Report is on file. Several folks paid dues and membership cards were distributed to those present. State cards were distributed to those present and will be mailed to those not present. Steve also reminded the group that the website www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.com has a list of suppliers. If you know of others, or want to be added to the list please let Steve know.
5. Presentation. Kelly Kipp, Happ-E-Honey Bee Farm, (see facebook page) discussed different pollen sources that are present throughout the year.
 - Kelly provided members with a [handout that listed garden plants by the month](#) (excerpt from the book Garden Plants for Bees by Peter Lindtner) and another very [useful and informative info pamphlet](#). They are on the PHBA Website, and also on Facebook.
 - Use of a Screen Bottom Board cause an excessive draft in the hives. The bees will not draw out the bottom inch or so of the comb and often it is tapered as it gets towards the middle. Kelly passed around a frame to show the effects of using a screened bottom board.
 - When buying seeds, whether flower or vegetable, buy organic/no treatment on the seeds. Read the label on Plants to see the origin of the plants seeds. Look for Certified Pesticide Free Seeds.
 - Kelly will be conducting a study with Beltsville, MD laboratory on the use of Essential

Oils to see what affect they have on the honeybees. There will be no other intervention such as drone control or mite treatments.

6. Old Business. None.

7. New Business. There was not a WVBA Spring meeting due to no one being able to host the event. But a Fall meeting is being planned. More information will be provided.

8. General Discussion - Spring Management Tasks. Check honey stores, check for disease and mites, clean out hive boxes, reverse hive bodies, feed if necessary, set up additional hives to be prepared for fast growing colonies to prevent swarming, split hives, etc

9. April 16, 2015 Presentation: Dwight and Janet Kessel will demonstrate and explain how a Solar Wax Melter works.

10. April Meeting Refreshments: The Kipps (Snacks) and Roses (Drinks). Thank you! Of course, anyone is welcome to bring in snacks at any time.

11. The next meeting is April 16, 2015 at 7pm, Bank of Romney Community Center, Main Street Romney.

12. Adjourn and Refreshments at 8:45

Prepared by:
Ruth Martin
PHBA Secretary

Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association (PHBA)

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PHBA Meeting Summary February 19, 2015

Prior to the start of the meeting, Kirby Vining, Vice President, presented our President, Elvin Rose, with a beautiful Stainless Steel Hive Tool, engraved with Potomac Highlands Beekeeping Association, Elvin Rose

Thank you so much Kirby for your thoughtfulness and efforts to have this “gavel” made for Elvin.

1. 7pm, Opening and Welcome - President, Elvin Rose. As usual the meeting was held at the Bank of Romney Community Center Building, Main Street, Romney. 23 people were in attendance.

2. Many new faces were in attendance so Elvin asked that everyone introduce themselves. It was exciting to have such a nice size group. Weather was a factor why some regular members weren't able to make it. The lows were single digit, windy, and snow flurries, making wind chill factor -15.

The group took a 20 minute social break to get acquainted and to enjoy refreshments. Refreshments were provided by the Roses, Martins, and Bolands.

3. Mr. Ed Forney, WV State Apiary Inspector, owner of [Geezer Ridge Farm](#) (see Facebook), and US Department of Agriculture Beekeeping Trainer for the Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture program gave an informative presentation. Highlights of his talk are shown here:

- The best Manual to use for your beekeeping operation is the Beekeeping Basics Manual that Penn State developed in cooperation with MAAREC and the USDA. The document is linked on the club website for your convenience. It is also at this link. [Beekeeping Basics Penn State](#)

-Classes/Workshops are held every Sunday at 11am, at Geezer Ridge Farm. Free. Anyone is welcome.

- Geezer Ridge Farm's Bee Engine Concept will be a feature article in the March issue of Bee Culture Magazine. It's a method for growing your colonies fast.

- Always use Queen Excluders. The wax moths will stay out of your honey supers. The moths are after protein - eggs, brood, pollen. So if the queen stays out of the honey supers the moths won't be interested in going up there.

- Geezer Ridge Queens are supplied from [Olivarez Honey Bees](#) in California or see their facebook page [Olivarez Honey Bees](#). They are Carniolan bees. Very calm bees. Nucs are also available to purchase. See Geezer Ridge Farm Facebook page for more details.

- There is no scientific proof that Essential Oils help a colony. In fact there is proof that it harms the colony.

-Ultra Bee Feed (made by Mann Lake) is an excellent feed.

-Apivar is the best Mite treatment available at this time. Treat in the fall after honey supers are removed.

-Due to Budget Cuts, Mr. Forney will only be inspecting commercial apiaries. Backyard beekeepers will not be inspected.

4. Secretary Report - Ruth Martin. There were no minutes from the October 2014 meeting since it was a social event. All minutes are posted on the Association Website - www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com under the More tab, filed by the Year, and Facebook - Potomac Highlands Beekeepers)

5. Treasurer Report - Steve Martin. Financial Report is on file. Several folks paid dues and membership cards were distributed to those present. State cards have not been received yet. Steve also reminded the group that the website www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.com has a list of suppliers. If you know of others, or want to be added to the list please let Steve know.

6. Old Business. During the October meeting the group discussed changing the start time of our meeting to 6pm rather than the current time of 7pm. We tabled that decision until this meeting. After a bit of discussion, a motion was made and seconded that the start time will remain at 7pm. If we need to make a change later on we can discuss it then.

7. New Business. None

8. General Discussion - None

9. March 19, 2015 Presentation: Kelly Kipp, Happ-E-Honey Bee Farm, (see facebook page) will be discussing different pollen sources. He asks that each member bring in the name of a plant that you would like the pollen source on, he will need the scientific name of the plant in question. He will also be talking about a study Happ-E Honey Bee Farm will be doing this year.

10. Next Meeting Refreshments: The Bolands and Schmidts. Thank you! Of course, anyone is welcome to bring in snacks at any time.

11. Adjourn 9:45