

AABA MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2018 | ARLINGTON ECHO

Announcements

Carl Guerci called the meeting to order at 7pm. We had four attending for the first time. Attendance was 31.

Michael Doyle spoke about proposals that may affect the Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds and old Crownsville hospital grounds.

The Chesapeake Bayhawks company wants to [develop the land](#) into a stadium and hotel complex, but there is community interest in keeping the area for the county fair and possibly creating trails and community ball fields. Any changes will not affect the 2018 Anne Arundel County Fair. Michael will be attending further meetings and will keep the club informed.



Program

Kelly Kulhanek and Dan Reynolds from the University of Maryland spoke about the Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) and how they are trying to create best management recommendations from the data they collect. The BIP runs the Sentinel Apiary Program, Tech transfer teams, Emergency Response kits, National Management Survey, and the Almond Pollinator Survey.

BIP has an interactive website, <https://beeinformed.org>, where you can compare management techniques to colony loss with the National Management Survey, see a varroa map and hive scale data from the Sentinel Apiary Program, and data from the other research programs.

Kelly and Dan discussed the results from the Sentinel Apiary Program and how AABA's results compared to the country (AABA participated 2015 and 2016 using the Arlington Echo apiary. See results at aabees.org under news). The hives at Arlington Echo follow a common pattern of varroa mite growth through the summer, successful treatment bringing varroa numbers below threshold, but then a spike in varroa in the fall.

Take home message: Varroa (and the viruses they transmit) continue to be the primary cause of colony loss. You must control varroa and test before and after treatment to be sure the treatment worked. Late October spikes in varroa numbers could be from crashing hives from neighbors, failed treatments, or varroa under capped brood. Don't let your hives crash and infect your neighbors or wild colonies.

BIP recommends monitoring monthly during the season and treating when varroa counts are greater than 3/100. See the Honey Bee Health Coalition "Tools for Varroa Management" <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org>.

In Maryland the Sentinel Apiary Program has the bonus of monthly pollen sample analysis for pesticides. For the 3 years of the program, BIP has found that Maryland has a low pesticide risk as a state. Of 183 pollen samples, BIP found that 40% had no pesticides, and for samples that did test positive, 90% were significantly below the level of potential harm. Only 10 of the 183 samples detected neonicotinoids. For the two

years that AABA participated, the colonies had only 4 detections of 3 pesticides (2 fungicides and 1 insecticide).

The BIP Sentinel Apiary Program is collecting valuable data that will benefit all beekeepers and help them to make informed management decisions.

[Short break for refreshments]

Business Meeting

Mentoring Program: Jim Larson will have help from Nate Fincher in managing the mentoring program. They requested volunteers to mentor the current Short Course class. Those who would like to mentor or those who would like to request a mentor can sign up on the website at aabees.org.

Website: Dave Mumford gave a brief introduction to our updated site at aabees.org. Please take advantage of all that it offers.

Election of Officers: The following people agreed to serve for 2018:

Club Officers

President – Carl Guerci, Jr.

Vice President – Michael Doyle

Treasurer – Dennis Roundy

Secretary – Debbie Hewitt

Club Chairpersons:

Program Committee – Jim Larson, Carl Guerci, Jr., Debbie Hewitt

Mentor Coordinators – Jim Larson, Nate Fincher

Club Rentals – Chrissy Perry

Refreshments – Deni Estrada-Palma

County Fair Coordinator – Michael Doyle

Door Prize Coordinator – Dwight Fielder

Librarian – Carl Guerci, Jr.

Photography – OPEN

Short Course – Debbie Hewitt

Social Media – Charles DeBarber

Swarms Coordinator – Carl Guerci, Jr.

Webmaster – David Mumford (Dennis Roundy, Rachael Logan)

Treasurer's Report

As of January 31, 2018, AABA has **\$4,180.35** in the bank and \$50 in petty cash.

Benefits of club membership include having the option to request a mentor, borrow a book from the club library, extractor rental for a nominal fee, and be eligible for the door prize drawing.

Future Meetings

April 17, 2018 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm (new beekeeper hour 5:30 – 6:30*)

June 12, 2018 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm (new beekeeper hour 5:30 – 6:30*)

MSBA Summer meeting on June 23, 2018 from 8:30 am – 4 pm (UMD)
August 21, 2018 from 7 – 9 pm (new beekeeper hour 6 – 7)
October 16, 2018 from 7 – 9 pm (new beekeeper hour 6 – 7)
MSBA Honey show on November 17, 2018 from 8:30 am – 4 pm (Dept. of Agriculture)

* Please bring your bee suit and veil. We will open the Arlington Echo hives to see what is happening with each colony and will have a Q&A session.

Door Prize Drawing

Patricia Potze won a screened bottom board. Thanks to Dwight Fielder for bringing the prize.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Apiary Registration!

Please register your bees with the Maryland Department of Agriculture! Cybil Preston is the Maryland State Apiarist if you have any questions. Maryland law dictates that bee hives must be registered within 30 days of obtaining new bees. Please do it now!

The registration form is available online at

http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/pages/apiary_inspection.aspx