

AABA MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 17, 2016 AT ARLINGTON ECHO

Our president, Lindsay Barranco, welcomed everyone to our first meeting of 2016 at 7 pm. Attendance was 44 and we had 6 attending for the first time. Everyone was encouraged to sign in on the attendance forms near the door. We now have one sign-in form for members and one for guests.

Announcements:

Lindsay announced that tonight after our program we would honor long time AABA member, Bart Smith, and requested members to stay.

Program:

JOE LEWIS

Lindsay introduced and welcomed Joe Lewis as our speaker. Joe Lewis is a member of the Susquehanna Beekeepers Association. Lindsay first met Joe when he came as a speaker to the University of Maryland to talk about his honey business, Hartford Honey. Joe is a contributor to *Bee Culture*, *American Bee Journal*, and has several Beekeeping educational topics posted on You tube.

Joe's presentation "Sustainable Beekeeping through Nucleus Colonies" was engaging and timely as we begin a new beekeeping season with (we hope) overwintered colonies.

Joe started beekeeping 10 years ago with 2 hives, and through making splits and capturing swarms, built up to 12 double-deeps by fall. The following spring, he invested in 100 nucs and has been learning from his bees ever since. He figures that he is halfway to the "about 20 years to get the basics" (a favorite quote of his by Carl Jurica).

Joe calls the nuc box the multipurpose tool and encourages all beekeepers to have nucs. A nuc with a queen is queen insurance that you can use to save a hive that has had a queen loss. If you find queen cells, he says make nucs. He advised us to carry an extra nuc box in the car after the third week in March to catch swarms and make unexpected splits. This nuc box should always have 5 extra frames (preferably drawn) in it to replace those taken to make a nuc.

Joe also advised against beekeepers trying to only have one hive because there are no resources if that hive has a problem. He recommends:

1. Keep 3 hives or more
2. Make nucs
3. Raise your own queens
4. Catch swarms
5. Plant bee friendly trees
6. Do the 3 essentials:
 - Control Varroa Mites
 - Re-queen
 - Feed if required
 - Control Varroa--this is so important that Joe lists it twice!

Joe has a successful "Recipe" for making 5 frame nucs in spring and one for later after the main nectar flow. He has made his notes on "Sustainable Beekeeping Through Nucleus Colonies" with the Nuc Recipes available on the aabees.org website under "Library" and then "E-library". In addition to his notes, Joe has also included other resources for beekeeper information which included:

- Susquehanna Beekeepers website for articles by Joe and You tube
- NWNJ Beekeepers You tube by Landi Simone on Nucleus Hives
- The E.F. Phillips Beekeeping Library at Cornell University which gives free access to 38,000 beekeeping books .
- Randy Oliver's website--Scientific Beekeeping.com
- Beekeeping podcasts BKCorner.org and kiwimana.co.nz

A warm thank you was given to Joe for sharing his time and knowledge with us.

A Reluctant Farewell

Bart Smith has been a dedicated member of AABA. He recently retired from the USDA Beltsville Bee Lab as of the end of December after 13 years with the lab where he served as director of the diagnostic lab (so all our samples went to Bart's lab). Before his work with the Bee Lab, Bart served as the Maryland State Apiarist for 27 years. Bart has tirelessly taught sessions of the AABA Short Course each year, including the sessions on "Pests and Diseases", "Nectar Sources" "Products of the Hive" and of course, the "Installation of the Packages" at the end of each short course. In

addition to that he has served as the AABA's Program Chair, arranging for our speakers each year and helping to bring such helpful and varied information to our club members over the years. Bart has also led the hive inspection portion of our meetings each year, and so many of us have benefited from his knowledge year in and year out. Bart and his wife, Rosemary, intend to move to Howard County this year, so the AABA reluctantly will need to say farewell to Bart, as he will be joining the Howard County Beekeepers.

Lindsay read a letter from our former AABA President, Loyd Luna, who thanked Bart for his constant and reliable support and sending over 700 beekeepers through the Short Course.

The members gave a warm round of applause to thank Bart for all of his time and contributions to the AABA and its members over the years. Lindsay presented Bart with a gift basket full of an assortment of wax blocks (knowing that Bart always bid on wax at the AABA auctions) and then the members took a short break to enjoy a fantastic cake that had a photograph-- in frosting-- of Bart leading an inspection in the AABA apiary.

Thanks were given to Dwight Fielder for donating the wax blocks.

Business Meeting:

The minutes from our last meeting in August, 2015 are posted on our web site. Members were encouraged to take a look at them as well as past meeting minutes and to see all the information our website offers.

Election of officers for 2016:

The following people agreed to serve as officers for 2016:

President – Lindsay Barranco

Vice President – Michael Doyle

Treasurer – Pat Beers-Block

Secretary – Debbie Hewitt

Chairman, Programs – Jim Larsen/Lindsay Barranco

Chairperson, Competition – Michael Doyle

Chairman, Awards – Dwight Fielder

Chairman, Refreshments – Open

Chrissy Perry – Extractor Operations

Librarian – Carl Guerci, Jr.

Web Master – Ollie Snyder

Jim Larsen volunteered to take the position of Chairman of Programs that would be vacant with Bart Smith leaving AABA. Lindsay will assist in the position. There were no other nominations. The Motion to approve the officers was approved by members.

Treasurer's Report: Pat Beers-Block gave a report on our finances. AABA currently has a balance of **\$ 5320.55.**

Pat was available at the meeting for members to renew or join. Members may also renew online.

2016 AABA dues are \$5.

CDR Mumford award – At the 2015 Anne Arundel County Fair, Dave Crump won the CDR Mumford award for his Chunk Honey entry . Congratulations were given to Dave. He was shown his plaque for the award and presented with an engraved hive tool. Dave encouraged all to enter next year's fair, saying that he only harvested honey from one hive to have a winning entry.

Beekeeping Short Course began with an early introductory class on equipment and obtaining bees in mid-December with 60 students. Five additional sessions are scheduled.

Tuesday, February 23, 7-9 P.M

Tuesday, March 1, 7-9 P.M

Tuesday, March 8, 7-9 P.M

Tuesday, March 29, 7-9 P.M

Saturday, April 2, 9 A.M. – 1 P.M.

Homestead Gardens Spring Festival-We have a request from Homestead Gardens to take part in their annual Spring Festival the weekend of March 12th and 13th from 10 A.M. to 12 P.M. to talk about honeybees and the importance of honeybees and pollinators. Please contact Lindsay if you would like to be part of this program.

Lee Travis –Free Workshop on Making Walk-Away Splits: AABA member Lee Travis spoke, inviting members to the workshop he and Gina Jones will be holding on Saturday, March 19th, at 10:00 a.m. (rain date will be March 26th). Lee uses walk-away splits as a tool to aid in swarm prevention and control and lets the bees make their own queen.

Bowie Bee Farm, 13201 Forest Drive, Bowie, MD 20715

Please call Lee so he knows how many to expect (301-343-2265).

Lee also has 50 lb bags of sugar(feed only) for \$15.

Sentinel Hive Project – UMD Honey Bee Diagnostic Lab - Lindsay has sent out an email about this project in the newsletter. The Board met and talked about continuing this project for a second year. It would involve members taking adult bee samples monthly for 6 months. It will require a core group of members to participate monthly, but it will also be an opportunity for other members to attend who would like to take part and learn. This will serve as our field visits in the Arlington Echo hives. We will inspect once a month April through September. The UMD Bee lab would continue to loan us the hive scale and pollen trap and ask for a donation.

The AE Disease Load Monitoring reports are posted at aabees.org under the AABA Library tab.

AABA Funds for Donation – we have \$5300 in account. The Board met and discussed ideas for donations of some of our funds this year and would recommend to the general membership that we donate:

\$500 to the UMD Bee Lab for Sentinel Hive Project

\$500 to Scientific Beekeeping – Randy Oliver conducts independent research and writes about it in *American Bee Journal*. He also maintains the Scientific Beekeeping site at <http://scientificbeekeeping.com/>.

\$542 (approximately) to Arlington Echo for replacement of old hive equipment for the side bee yard.

A show of hands was requested. All approved and none opposed.

Important Dates:

Regular meetings:

Tuesday April 19, 6:30 – 8:30 P.M.

Wednesday, June 15, 6:30 – 8:30 P.M.*

Tuesday, August 16, 7-9 P.M.

*If you cannot make our meeting in June to hear Sam Droege speak, he will also be speaking to the AAC Bird Club on March 16th at Quiet Waters Park.

The door prize drawing: the book *“Simple, Smart Beekeeping”* was won by Pam McFarland.

Thanks to Dwight Fielder for bringing the prize.

REGISTER YOUR BEES WITH THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE!! Applications were available (online). Bee hives must be registered within 30 days of obtaining bees. Registration forms in back.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.