

## **AABA MEETING – FEBRUARY 20, 2013 AT ARLINGTON ECHO**

Loyd welcomed everyone to our first meeting of 2013. Four people were attending for the first time. Attendance was 163.

We had a fascinating talk by Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp from the University of Maryland. A summary of Dr. vanEngelsdorp's presentation is attached. AABA made a donation to cover his travel expenses.

The minutes of our last meeting in August, 2012 are posted on our web site. It was moved to accept them as written and the motion passed.

Election of officers:

The following people agreed to serve as officers for 2013:

President – Loyd Luna

Vice President – Michael Doyle

Treasurer – Doris Luna

Secretary – Lindsay Barranco

Chairlady, Publicity – Amy Jameson

Chairman, Programs – Bart Smith

Chairlady, Competition – Amy Jameson

Chairman, Awards – Dwight Fielder

Chairman, Refreshments – Heather Hatfield

Chrissy Perry – Extractor Operations

Librarian – Carl Guerci, Jr.

Web Master – Ollie Snyder

There were no other nominations. All on the slate were elected by the membership.

Doris could not attend, so Loyd gave a report on our finances: There is \$4,710.24 in the banking account.

CDR Mumford award – was presented to Karen Koch, who received Best in Show at the county fair.

Arlington Echo changes: Steve Barry, the director of AE for many years is retiring on April 1, 2013. We wish him well and hope that his replacement is as cooperative and helpful as Steve.

Anne Arundel County Fair – In April, Michael Doyle will give us a detailed report for the 2012 fair and tell us about upcoming changes, including the exciting news that we can sell honey at the county fair in 2013.

Mentoring: Steve Hanlon has resigned from AABA. We need a new mentoring chairman. Please contact Loyd if you can help.

Short Course began on February 12 with 41 students. Additional sessions are scheduled for March 19, April 2, 9, & 13. The course was started earlier this year to give students time to build equipment. Joe Brotherton has offered to have anyone from the course get some hands on assistance. His home phone number is (410) 320-5890.

Earth Day at Quiet Waters is April 27 10-3. Dave and Linda Crump asked for some help to answer questions from the public. You can contact Dave at 410-923-3538

We have a request for an Earth Day program at Fort Meade on April 18<sup>th</sup> 10-2 P.M. Any volunteers?

Maryland Beekeeping Statistics as of 12/31/2012:

	2009	2010	2011	2012
MD Beekeepers Registered	1,353	1,425	1,200	1,782
MD Colonies	11,474	11,650	12,120	13,924
MD Apiaries	1,849	1,968	1,968	2338
AA Beekeepers Registered	140	148	115	184
AA Colonies	416	473	393	573
AA Apiaries	163	172	144	222

Dates for future meetings are: April 17, June 19, August 21 and the MSBA Honey show on November 9, 2013.

Carl Guerci, club librarian, has many interesting books members can take out at any of the meetings. A listing of the books can be found on the website.

**REGISTER YOUR BEES WITH THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE!! Applications were available. Jerry Fischer, Maryland State Apiarist advises that registration is down. Maryland law dictates that you must register your bees. Please do it now!**

The door prize drawings including a hive top feeder, many books and a hive tool were some of the prizes won by association members.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Minutes by Lindsay Barranco

**Presentation by Dr. Dennis vanEnglesdorp:**

“Understanding Honey Bee Colony Losses and Declines – and what you can do about it” – this interesting presentation was given by a power point presentation along with a game involving 4 bee association members who competed in teams of two.

**Interesting facts:**

- the world honey bee population has gone up since 1960 (especially in Asia and India)
- 30% of our food is pollinated by honey bees
- varroa mites are the single most important driver of honey bee colony losses in the U.S.
- In the 1980's Ronald Reagan, as part of U.S. budget cuts, cut the annual bee colony count and replaced it with an every 5 year count. Following this change there was a revolt and the annual count was reinstated – much of the statistical number information was faulty due to this change in counting colonies.
- Change in land use and economics are the two most important drivers of colony decline in the U.S.
- Check [www.beeinformed.org](http://www.beeinformed.org) – Please be involved in the survey and participate in the study
- Dennis strongly recommends a Spring and Summer treatment of Apiguard for varroa mites, but remember not to apply treatments near harvest. Formic Acid may be the better treatment for Spring in our area (end of March/early April).

- only 61% of beekeepers treat for varroa mites
- The rest don't but probably should – the most important factor in keeping bees alive is to have a mite control strategy
- biological based products are not necessarily less harmful to bees than synthetic products. Beware of over-treating
- The two most common viruses in the U.S. are the deformed wing virus and the black queen cell virus
- buttercup (ranunculus family) pollen is poisonous to bees – buttercups tend to bloom in drought conditions

A brief Question and Answer period followed