

**AABA MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 22, 2014 AT ARLINGTON**  
**ECHO**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Loyd welcomed everyone to our meeting. 8 people were attending for the first time. Attendance was 53.

We examined the colonies in the bee yard and found that the two new colonies contained lots of brood. The overwintered colony was not very strong, but is doing o.k.

The minutes of our last meeting in February, 2014 are posted on our web site. It was moved to accept them as written and the motion passed.

The treasurer gave a report on our finances. We have a total of \$4,584.44 in the account. A financial report on the 2014 short course is detailed below.

Anne Arundel County Fair – Michael Doyle gave us a detailed report for the 2013 county fair and encouraged beekeepers to enter honey or other products/entries in this year's county fair to be held in September 2014.

Mentoring: Loyd indicated that we are in need of mentors for new beekeepers. Approximately 10 mentors contacted Loyd and they will be matched with new beekeepers in the same geographic area. Thank you mentors! If you are interested in mentoring beekeepers, please contact Loyd.

Members: 228 – several members paid their \$3 dues .

Short Course was completed on April 5 with 43 students. Joe Brotherton had two students who got some hands on assistance, on March 31. Weather caused rescheduling, the package delivery date was changed, but we adjusted satisfactorily. On the financial side, income was \$1,065, expenses were \$884.45, for a profit of \$180.55. Statistics: from 1997 through 2014, we have graduated exactly 700 students. Loyd read somewhere that only 5% of those will keep bees after five years.

Earth Day at Quiet Waters was held on April 19. AABA did not sponsor an event; however, our John Connors who is also a master gardener, did give a couple of demonstrations using the hive that they maintain there.

Dates for future meetings are: June 17, August 19 and the MSBA Honey show on November 15, 2014.

**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!**

**Program:** Loyd gave a demonstration on how to catch a swarm of honeybees using a citrus box. It is important to cut multiple slits in the box so as to ventilate the box and to allow the bees to grasp onto the rough areas on the inner sides of the box so they have more room to spread out inside the box, otherwise they will pile on one another in the bottom and smother. Drawn comb should be placed inside and sprayed with sugar water. Also attach a queen lure (pheromones that will lure the swarm into the box).

**A panel of experts answered questions from members and topics included:**

-moving hives can be done a couple of feet at a time or can be moved by first moving the colony several miles from the old location and then moving it to a new place.

-when combining two weak hives, it's best to have the stronger hive on the bottom and the weaker one up top.

-reverse deep boxes when most bees are up top, so that the queen will have room to move upward as she lays brood

-nectar flow in Maryland is usually in late April, early May – supering can be done now if not earlier

-the pros and cons of using a queen excluder – some beekeepers do use the excluder to keep the queen from laying up top in the supers. Some beekeepers do not use the excluder and believe this allows the bees easier access to work the super and that more honey is obtained.

The door prize drawing, a frame holder, was won by Laura Berry. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.