

**AABA MEETING AT ARLINGTON ECHO**  
**JUNE 17, 2015 Minutes**

Lindsay Barranco welcomed everyone to the meeting at 7 pm. Four people were attending for the first time. Attendance was 47.

Status of Arlington Echo hives: We examined the hives at 6:30 pm and Bart Smith demonstrated the sugar roll test for varroa mites. There were no mites found during the test. This was great news and correlates with the samples that have been sent as part of the Sentinel Hive program with the University of MD. The new hives need a second box and feed to get combs drawn and filled.

**Announcements:**

**1. Anne Arundel County Fair:** Members were asked to volunteer at the fair to talk to members of the public about honey bees. This year's fair is September 16-20th at the AA County Fairgrounds. AABA will have an observation hive, educational material, and honey on display. A volunteer schedule was circulated and members will have another chance to sign up at the August meeting.

**2. Volunteers:** Thanks were given to several of our members for recent volunteer efforts:

- Dave Clark, Andrew Keppel and Jessica Shue represented the AABA at the Riverfest Event in Shady Side on June 6<sup>th</sup>.
- John Conners – for his efforts in teaching beekeeping to the women at the Women's Correctional facility in Jessup. They now have two hives and would like to have three hives and add a vegetable garden.
- Bethany Precht pressure washed old combs, then she and Debbie Hewitt rewaxed the plastic foundation for Arlington Echo.

More volunteers are needed to help fix up/paint some of the Arlington Echo woodenware stored by the hives outside. All help will be greatly appreciated.

**3. Jar orders:** Linda Elliot is organizing a bulk order for honey jars and members should have received an email with the details.

## **Program: Fair Entries/Preparing Honey for the Fair:**

Our first speaker, our own Michael Doyle, is Anne Arundel County Fair Chairman. He presented an overview of the fair, explained the exhibit classes, and handed out a page with the policies, procedures, and rules. He encouraged all members to participate by exhibiting honey or products from the hive.

Michael reminded the members that beekeepers entering for the first time may use any clear glass jars (8 fluid oz. minimum) instead of the standard 1 lb. jars.

Michael also requested a volunteer to demonstrate honey extraction at the fair. Pat Block has usually volunteered but is not available this year.

## **AA County Fair Timeline**

### Entries accepted:

Sunday, September 13

Monday, September 14

### Judging Day:

Tuesday, September 15

### Anne Arundel County Fair:

Wednesday, September 16-Sunday, September 20

Our next speaker, Dave Morris, advised us on preparing honey and other entries for competition. Dave is an EAS Master beekeeper, former President of MSBA and current member of BUMBA and serves as the BUMBA Newsletter editor.

Dave gave us a judge's perspective on what wins at a fair and encouraged us all to enter as many categories as possible. There are even entry classes for children. In addition to the AA County Fair, he encouraged beekeepers to enter the Maryland State Fair in August and the Honey Show during the Maryland State Beekeepers Fall Meeting.

Dave reminded us that not only is there prize money to be won at the fair, but the chance to label honey or other hive products as "1st place" or "Prize Winning" would be great for marketing our products.

Judges have standards for fair entries that are the same as those applied to commercial products. Quality, attractiveness, cleanliness, and uniformity are all important criteria. Dave encouraged beekeepers to use a refractometer to be sure that their honey had the proper moisture content or density (18.5% or less). Higher than 18.5% is disqualified because at that level of moisture, the honey will ferment in the jar. Dave also brought in an instrument known as a polariscope. When honey is viewed under polarized light in a polariscope, the judges are able to see crystals and impurities in honey which are not desirable.

Each class for honey, wax, candles, and other hive products has its own techniques and guidelines for processing and packaging for the best presentation. Judging standards are shown using a point scale that adds up to 100. The 1st place entry will score highest for meeting those standards.

Lindsay and the members thanked Michael and Dave for such informative and practical presentations.

### **Business Meeting:**

**Minutes** from the April 2015 meeting are posted on the web site and a motion was received to accept the minutes as written.

**Finance report:** Pat Beers-Block reported that the AABA club checking account balance was \$4,880.38. She also had received additional membership fees and expected extractor rental income from Chrissy Perry. She reminded us of some of the benefits of membership: rental of extractors at very reasonable rates, use of the AABA library, and mentoring including Hive Hops.

**Hive Hops:** Pat was trying to schedule the next hive hop visit and will email when she finalizes details. Thanks were given to Jim and Karen Larson for hosting the May visit which included capturing a swarm from high in the trees. There were about 10 participants.

## **Sentinel Hive Project – UMD Honey Bee Diagnostic Lab**

Update: Lindsay explained that the club originally wanted two yards, but due to difficulty in getting the second scale and technical glitches with the scale at AE, the board decided to wait to start the second yard at Nate Fincher's yard.

May results: the AE Disease Load Monitoring reports are posted at [aabees.org](http://aabees.org) under the AABA Library tab.

The AE yard has a schedule of set days (Fridays) throughout October to sample. Lindsay and Carl Guerci are the main samplers, but if members would like to take part in pollen collection or adult bee sampling, please contact Lindsay. Thanks were given to Lindsay and Carl.

**Severna Park Farmer's Market:** Carl Guerci is keeping a schedule for beekeepers wishing to sell honey. Begins April 24<sup>th</sup> through October – please see Carl if interested in selling at the SP Market.

**Hood College Survey:** The membership participated in a written survey on hive management as part of a research project on honey bee health conducted by Dr. April Bolton of Hood College.

### **Important Dates:**

August 18, 2015 AABA meeting

September 16-20, 2015--Anne Arundel County Fair

September 19, 2015-- MSBA Honey Harvest Festival (11 am to 4 pm)

November 14, 2015-- MSBA Fall meeting and Honey Show (9 am to 4 pm)

Leila MacCarthy won the door prize of an outer cover. Our thanks to Dwight Fielder for providing the prize.

Nancy Bott won our second door prize of a jar of honey.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

**REGISTER YOUR BEES WITH THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE!! Applications are available (online). Cybil Preston is the Maryland State Apiarist. Maryland law dictates that you must register your bees.**