

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

Loyd welcomed everyone to our meeting. Four were attending for the first time. Attendance was 41.

We examined two colonies of bees that were installed as packages on May 25<sup>th</sup>. One was thriving and the other has been requeened.

The minutes of our last meeting in April 2013 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. \$4,358.48 is in the account as of June 20, 2013.

Short Course was finally completed on May 25<sup>th</sup> when two packages were installed in the apiary. Forty one students completed the course.

The AA County Fair is September 11-15; entries will be accepted on Sunday, the 8<sup>th</sup> and Monday the 9<sup>th</sup>. Judging is on Tuesday, the 10<sup>th</sup>. A signup sheet is available.

The Maryland State Fair is August 23<sup>rd</sup> to September 2<sup>nd</sup>. AABA will work on Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. A signup sheet is available. Ideas for the state fair display booth were discussed and it was decided to use the supplies we had on pollination.

Earth Day at Quiet Waters on April 27 was a big success. Dave and Linda Crump had lots of volunteers to answer questions from the public.

Storm Water Runoff Bill and “farm” definition. May be important for beekeepers. Loyd reported on bill 2-13 which defines a “farm” for county tax purposes.

Dates for future meetings are, August 21st and the MSBA Honey show on November 9, 2013.

Following the business meeting, Loyd gave a demonstration on purifying and processing beeswax for use in candle making with polyurethane and other molds. A handout was provided which is as follows:

“This procedure is for small amounts of beeswax; while labor intensive, it produces beautiful lemon yellow bees wax to make candles and other items.

### PROCESSING BEESWAX

You may use this method to separate honey from wax cappings or any wax containing some honey. After honey has drained from the wax, place it in a stainless steel bowl. Put the bowl in the back window of your car and position the car where the sun shines directly on the bowl. The temperature will quickly exceed the melting point of wax -140 degrees F. When it is completely liquid, use gloves to remove the bowl from the car. As the liquid cools, wax will rise to the top and the honey will remain in the bottom. When the wax solidifies but is still warm and malleable, use a putty knife, or spatula, to remove the wax in chunks. The honey may be used to feed your bees, or for your own consumption. I never sell honey that has been heated; that destroys the esters and flavonoids.

### PURIFYING WAX

Cut the top from an empty ½ gallon cardboard orange juice container. Place chunks of wax from the above procedure in the container until it is ½ to ¾ filled. Add about a cup of water. Microwave it until it is completely liquid, but don't boil it. Stir occasionally to speed the process. When it is completely melted, place a Scotch Brite Heavy Duty Scour Pads (6" X 3.8") on another empty orange juice container. Strain the mixture through the Scour Pad while it is still hot. Discard the Pad. When the mixture is completely cold, the wax will have risen to the top and the water will remain on the bottom. Puncture the bottom to let the water drain out. Then peel the carton away to reveal the block of wax.”

### REGISTER YOUR BEES WITH THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

The door prize drawing, a hive top feeder, was won by Kacky Carter.