

**AABA MEETING MINUTES– AUGUST 19, 2014 AT ARLINGTON  
ECHO**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and Loyd welcomed everyone in attendance. Three people were attending for the first time. Total attendance was 56.

First on our program was our own Bart Smith who talked about his work at the Beltsville Bee Lab. (Notes from Bart's presentation follows.)

The minutes of our last meeting in June 2014 are posted on our web site. It was moved to accept them as written.

The treasurer gave a report on our finances. We have a balance of \$4670.64 in our account. A recent check was written for the repair of the extractor (amount of \$341.85)

The AA County Fair is September 10-14; entries will be accepted on Sunday, the 7<sup>th</sup> and Monday the 8<sup>th</sup>. Judging is on Tuesday, the 9<sup>th</sup>. Copies of the catalog are on the table. A signup sheet is available to man the honey booth. Our AA Fair board member, Michael Doyle is away; he has all the display materials for the honey booth.

Lindsay Barranco has exhibition jars if you need them for the County Fair honey competition.

The Maryland State Fair is August 22<sup>nd</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup>. If you wish to sell honey there on consignment, the rules and prices were available.

Dates our meetings in 2015 have been approved by Arlington Echo as follows: **Regular meetings**: Wednesday, February 18, 7-9 P.M.; Tuesday April 21, 6:30 – 8:30 P.M.; Wednesday, June 17, 6:30 – 8:30 P.M.; Tuesday, August 18, 7-9 P.M. **Short Course**: 7-9 P.M.: 2/24; 3/17; 3/24; 4/7, and Saturday, 4/7, 9 A.M. – 1 P.M.

A status report on the AABA extractor was given by Chrissy Perry. Neither extractor is working. A discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of a hand-cranked extractor vs. a motorized extractor. It was decided that a good-quality hand-cranked extractor would meet the needs of the membership and

Chrissy Perry will research extractors and purchase a new one for the association.

Ryan Moschell had proposed a Google discussion group for AABA members. Ryan was not in attendance at the meeting, so we will hear more about this at the next meeting.

If you have honey you want to sell, the Severna Park Farmers market is a good venue. It is Saturday's 8-12 and there is a \$10 fee for a space.

Date for the MSBA Honey show is November 15, 2014 at the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

Susan Langley agreed to serve as an advisor to Gwen, a local girl scout who is working on a bee-friendly garden project.

An auction of items donated by Dick Van Meter was held and an auction of Loyd Luna's equipment was held.

An election was held to replace Loyd and Doris who are moving to Huntsville, Alabama. Pat Beers-Bloch was nominated to serve as treasurer and Lindsay Barranco was nominated to serve as President. Pat and Lindsay told the membership a bit about themselves and a motion was made to close the nominations. The members voted unanimously for each candidate to serve in their nominated positions. Michael Doyle, who could not be present for the meeting, has agreed to continue serving as Vice President.

The door prize drawing was won by Tim Becker.

A farewell from your President: Loyd and Doris were presented with a gift of wine and a floral bouquet from the association for their many years of service to the AABA. Loyd and Doris have spent countless hours serving as treasurer and president, have manned the county fair and honey shows, have organized the AABA short course, assisted beekeepers in the club, worked on community outreach and have responded to numerous inquires from the public about stinging insects and honeybees.

Loyd told the group what an honor it had been to be part of the Anne Arundel Beekeepers Association and how much they have enjoyed their time with the members of the association. Loyd has served as President for 10

years and Doris has served as treasurer for 25 years. There are currently 189 members of the AABA. Over 700 students have graduated from the AABA Short Course since 1997. Loyd and Doris are moving to Huntsville, Alabama at the end of September and are beginning a new chapter in their lives. The group expressed their gratitude to Loyd and Doris and applauded their many years of service.

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### **Presentation by Bart Smith:**

Bart works as an entomologist and is head of the diagnostic lab at the USDA Bee Research Lab in Beltsville, Maryland. The focus of the Bee Lab in Beltsville is to work on understanding and improving treatments for honeybee diseases and pests. There are scientists who come from all over the world to conduct research in the lab. For instance, Bart explained that Dr. Judy Chen is currently working on RNAi (interference), which is focusing on material that interferes with the way RNA works in the cells, in order to control viruses in honeybees.

Other USDA Labs in the United States have other roles. Bart's Lab diagnoses bee disease (and pest presence); the USDA Lab in Baton Rouge studies stock for genetic resistance; the USDA Lab in Tuscon, Arizona works on race identification and the USDA Lab in North Carolina does pesticide testing (for a fee of \$330 per sample).

### **Bart presented a power point that explained the following:**

- In 2013 the Lab received 2,269 samples
- 25% of those samples were sent in by beekeepers and 75% of the samples were sent by apiary inspectors

### **Mites:**

- adult bee samples are checked for varroa mites, tracheal mites and nosema
- brood samples are also received
- Bart indicated that most samples have varroa
- scientific research shows you don't want more than 2-3 varroa mites per 100 bees per colony
- 1.6% of samples have tracheal mites
- tracheal mites are less prevalent than they were 20 years ago

### **Nosema:**

- Nosema diseases: 95% of all nosema in the US is “Nosema ceranae”.
- “Nosema apis” is not as prevalent anymore
- Honeybees with Nosema apis make fewer foraging trips and suffer from dysentery
- Bart explained how honeybees are prepped in the lab for disease diagnosis. This involves cutting off 30 abdomens, putting them in quart Ziploc bags, squishing them, adding water and counting nosema spores
- Of the 1,248 samples tested in 2013, 645 had nosema (51.7%)
- Bart stated that there is a great deal about nosema that is still unknown

### **American Foulbrood:**

- AFB is a spore forming bacterium that is highly contagious and usually kills the colony
- In its vegetative state within the cells, AFB will be “ropey” if pulled out from the cell by a toothpick
- In its dried state it forms as “scale” a hardened dried-up material in the bottom of the cells
- AFB has a very specific odor
- Bart explained how the lab conducts antibiotic sensitivity testing
- In 2013 1,003 samples were examined for AFB
- 25.5% had AFB (256 samples)

### **Other Points:**

- Bart indicated that European Foulbrood appears to be on the rise this year.
- the lab does not do virus testing or pesticide testing
- To send a sample to the USDA Bee Research Lab, google USDA Bee Research Lab and the site has a link to “Bee Disease Diagnostic Service” with the address, email and phone and instructions for sending samples.

Loyd thanked Bart for his informative presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by AABA Secretary, Lindsay Barranco