

## **AABA MEETING – AUGUST 21, 2013 AT ARLINGTON ECHO**

Loyd welcomed everyone to our meeting. 3 were attending for the first time. Attendance was 63 – a record number!

We heard Allen Hayes, Past President, Howard County Beekeepers Association, and very active member of MSBA, speak to us. (See notes following).

Mary Edwards: Of the two colonies of bees that were installed as packages on May 25<sup>th</sup>, one is thriving and the other has died.

The minutes of our last meeting in June, 2013 are posted on our web site.

The treasurer gave a report on our finances. \$3893.30 is in the account as of August 21, 2013. Rental fees for extractor usage is \$ 119. We spent approximately \$670 on the State Fair Organizational Display.

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>. We still have some empty spaces on the signup sheet which is being circulated. For those who have signed up, be sure to collect your tickets for free entry. See Doris to pick them up. Michael Doyle gave a recap of activities.

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>. Entry tickets were mailed to you. The Organizational Display was put up yesterday. I have some photos.

MSBA Honey Harvest Festival is on Saturday, September 21, 9-3. Information is on a clip board which was passed around.

Follow up on the Storm Water Runoff Bill and “farm” definition. Bill 2-13 defines a “farm” for county tax purposes as one having bees, but other criteria may need to be filled. There is a very specific definition of “farm” that includes all livestock, bees, poultry, etc. I have an application for anyone who wishes to review it.

The best information on the Small Hive Beetle is: *Handbook of Small Hive Beetle IPM*, Extension Bulletin 160 dated October 2011, by Wm. Michael

Hood, Extension Apiculturist, Clemson University. It is available on their Web Site.

Carolyn Matthews submitted some questions for comment and discussion.

AABA Social – to be held October 5<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. at the Maerzke residence. Details to follow soon.

Dates for future meeting: MSBA Honey show on November 9, 2013.

REGISTER YOUR BEES WITH THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Short course dates have been set and fliers will be distributed at the County Fair. Course to begin February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Linda Elliot will be ordering jars from SKSbottle.com. Please contact Linda if you are interested.

The door prize drawing, a hive top feeder, was won by John Battan.

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Notes from Allen Hayes' presentation. Allen is the Past President of Howard County Beekeepers Association and an EAS Master Beekeeper:

Allen presented a fascinating power point presentation on wax moths and yellow jackets:

Facts about wax moths:

- not native to North America.
- the greater wax moth is the bigger problem for beekeepers.
- Life cycle – only the larval stage eats and does damage.
- moths prefer darker comb that brood was raised in – they eat pollen and honey.
- wax moths don't kill colonies of honeybees – they move into weak or dead colonies.
- don't put more brood chambers or comb on the hive in excess of what the bees can take care of – otherwise moths will move in.
- moths are less problematic in colder climates.

- adult moths do not eat – they only lay eggs and then die. Only the larval stage eats.
- wax moths won't damage plastic foundation.
- Chemical control of wax moths include PDB (paradichlorobenzene) – be careful when handling: stack no more than 10 shallow supers; seal cracks with masking tape. Put stack on newspaper. Put 6 tablespoons of PDB at the top on a piece of cardboard. PDB kills all stages of wax moth except eggs. Air out supers for a few days before using them again.
- Non-chemical control of wax moths include cold freezing for 48 hours or more which kills all stages of the wax moth.

Allen recommends “The Beekeeper’s Handbook” by Diana Sanmataro.

#### Facts about Yellow Jackets:

- some are ground nesting (6 species) and some are aerial nesting (15 species).
  - The *Dolichovespula maculate* is a bald faced hornet, which is really a yellow jacket.
  - yellow jackets are about the same size as honey bees and their flight pattern can resemble that of a honey bee, but they have YELLOW legs and not black legs.
  - yellow jackets can sting more than once.
  - only the queen overwinters.
  - yellow jackets are not pollinators – they have no hair on their bodies.
  - they are carnivores.
  - people can be allergic to yellow jacket venom and not honey bee venom.
  - bald faced hornets are not true hornets – they are yellow jackets.
  - yellow jackets can chew through wall board – honey bees cannot.
  - aerial real nests look gray and papery.
  - Europeans call them “wasps”.
  - yellow jackets sting after the nest is disturbed.
  - drier sheets repel yellow jackets.
- “paper wasps” are the wasps that fly with their legs down in the back – they are generally docile.
- Check out more on yellow jackets – USDA Handbook 552 The Yellow Jackets of America North of Mexico on the internet.