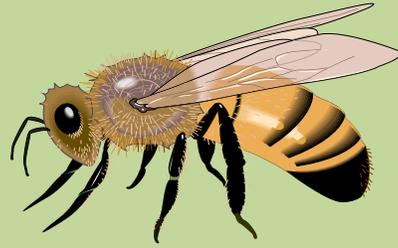


The Arundel



Anne Arundel Beekeepers Association Newsletter

Issue No. 23

January, 2016

The President Speaks

By Lindsay Barranco

Hello and Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and I wish each of you a healthy and happy new year. We had a busy and interesting year in 2015. The AABA participated in the University of Maryland Bee Lab's Sentinel Hive Research Project, which was fascinating, rewarding and accumulated helpful data from around Maryland (and beyond) and gave us specific information about hive weight, varroa and nosema levels in the Arlington Echo beehives. The final report and short description of the research project are included in this newsletter.

January is a good time for thinking about the year to come with our colonies and what, if anything, we might do differently or better than we have in the past. I'm not one for New Year's resolutions, but I do think it makes sense to give some thought to making improvements in the way we keep bees and one of those key things in my mind is – **knowing what is going on in our hives**. This truly is the first step in improving our management practices with our colonies. If we know what is going on in our hives, we can figure out what actions to take (or not take). When I first started beekeeping, it was very difficult for me to even remember what

was going on in my hives just a few minutes after I closed them up. Other AABA members at meetings would ask me about my hives, and I would answer vaguely that they were "fine" but honestly, it took me some time to get on top of what was happening in each hive. In time, I began keeping notes after looking in each hive, so I could at least remember what I saw and could give thought to what steps to take next. I probably held off on taking notes because I thought it would turn beekeeping into a real chore. To the contrary, it helped me remember and to make better management decisions. So, if you resolve to do one thing differently this coming year, give it a try this coming season and know what is happening in your hives – keep some notes and keep up with the needs of your colonies.

Lastly, on behalf of all AABA members, I would like to bid a fond farewell to longtime AABA member, Bart Smith. On December 31, 2015 Bart retired from the USDA-ARS Honey Bee Lab in Beltsville, MD where he served as a support scientist for 13 years. We in Anne Arundel County have been very fortunate to have had Bart as a fellow-AABA Member and have benefited greatly from Bart's knowledge and beekeeping experience. For many years Bart helped teach our Short Course. We wish Bart and his wife Rosemary all the best in retirement and in their soon-to-be-new home in Howard County.

Thank you Bart!

**LONG TIME AABA MEMBER
BART SMITH RETIRES FROM
THE USDA-ARS BEE RESEARCH
LABORATORY IN BELTSVILLE,
MARYLAND**



Bart Smith retired on December 31, 2015 after working 13 years as a support scientist at the USDA-ARS Bee Research Laboratory (BRL) in Beltsville, MD. His duties included running the bee disease diagnostic lab, and he had overall responsibility for the 400 honey bee colonies maintained by the BRL for research purposes. While the BRL's diagnostic service remains in good shape thanks

to Bart's leadership and mentorship, he will be sorely missed for his hard work at the BRL and for his extensive service to bees and beekeepers. Prior to coming to the BRL, Bart worked as State Apiary Inspector at the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) for 27 years, leading their bee health and educational programs. From 1984 to 2002 he served as secretary of the Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA), and he continues as a leader for his local (Anne Arundel County) and state clubs. Bart received an MS degree in entomology from the University of Maryland where he investigated the bee louse, *Braula coeca*, a wingless fly that is found only on honey bees. He is eagerly anticipating more time with Rosemary and their family and more time to travel the United States.

SENTINEL HIVE PROJECT

By: Lindsay Barranco

During 2015, the Anne Arundel Beekeepers Association was a participant in the University of Maryland Bee Lab's Sentinel Hive Project. This project was designed to accumulate and analyze data from numerous locations in Maryland and other states across the U.S. so that varroa mite loads and nosema loads could be gathered. Over a 6 month period, AABA members gathered adult bee samples and pollen samples from the Arlington Echo apiary where we had 5 research colonies.

The results are in and a final report has been compiled by the UMD lab and can be found at:

http://aabees.org/ebooks/SAAL_FinalReport_2015.pdf

The final report for the Arlington Echo hives can be found at http://aabees.org/ebooks/S15_SAAL_6_Oct.pdf

The current threshold for Varroa mite treatment is 3 mites per 100 bees, meaning that if a sugar roll test or alcohol wash test is done by a beekeeper, if that beekeeper were to use a ½ cup of adult bees in the sampling (which is a little over 300 bees), a treatment threshold would be 9 mites per 300 bees (or 3 mites per 100 bees). A Varroa mite count higher than this means that the colony is unlikely to survive and treatment should occur. As set out in the report, Varroa mite numbers can spike very quickly - especially in August through November, so regular monitoring is required and mite treatments used when needed, especially mid-summer through fall. For example,

in one hive in the apiary (hive #4) there were 5 varroa mites per 100 bees in September and 20 varroa mites per 100 bees in October – a huge spike in one month's time. Similarly, in hive #1, 10 varroa mites per 100 bees were found in August and by October, there were 43 varroa mites per 100 bees. Please remember that phoretic mites (those traveling on the outside of adult bees and are collected when we sample) are a small indication of even greater numbers of mites that remain undetected within capped developing cells.

I would like to thank Carl Guerci for his assistance with this project and for all the other AABA Members who came out to help during our monthly sampling. Thank you also to Ted Hall and Jessica Seabright at Arlington Echo. Lastly, I would also like to thank Rachel Fahey for all her work on the Sentinel Hive Project. Rachel is employed by the University of Maryland Bee Lab and is the project leader for the SHP. Rachel's interest in honeybees began when she worked as an intern on a stink bug project at the Wye Research Center. Rachel reports that the bee lab will continue to work on identifying the pollen that was collected and to sort it by color and to identify the plant source bees are feeding on throughout the 6 month period of time. This will be useful for us as beekeepers - so that we know what the bees are bringing in and feeding the larvae. In studying the pollen the researchers are looking at studying the correlation between pollen diversity and the health of honeybees. This is an ongoing project and it will be interesting to see the results as they unfold. So when you get a moment, take a look at the Anne Arundel SHP data at: <http://hivescales.beeinformed.org/hives/154>

THE MD PESTICIDE NETWORK

The AABA is a coalition member of the Maryland Pesticide Network, a large group of concerned organizations that include water keepers, beekeeping associations, health care organizations, researchers and numerous environmental groups. The MPN will continue to advocate for legislative changes this legislative session in Maryland. The legislative session will kick off with the **Environmental Summit on Wednesday, February 3rd from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Beekeepers are welcome!** Beekeeper Bonnie Raindrop, legislative chair from the Central Maryland Beekeepers Association, will be speaking about the honeybee/pesticide issue and proposed legislation. **To receive updates on the group's effort and to receive emails directly, please take a look at MPN Online:**

Maryland Pesticide Network
website: www.mdpestnet.org
Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/MarylandPesticideNetwork>
YouTube:
<http://youtube.com/PesticidesSmart>

2016 AABA MEETING SCHEDULE

**By Bart Smith, AABA Program
Chairman**

We meet every other month, starting in February, at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center in Millersville. The schedule and speakers follow:

Wednesday February 17, 2016, 7-9 p.m.:

“Sustainable Beekeeping through Nucleus Colonies” – Joe Lewis

Susquehanna Beekeeper Association member and occasional bee journal contributor, Joe Lewis, will give a presentation on “Sustainable Beekeeping Through Nucleus Colonies” and will share numerous beekeeping tips and techniques.

Tuesday April 19, 2016, 6:30-8:30 p.m.:

“Open Hive Demo”

Help examine the honeybee colonies at Arlington Echo. You will be able to see the progress of overwintered colonies, and new colonies that were established from packages during the Short Course.

“Backyard Queen Rearing Using the Nicot System” - Larry Truchon

Larry Truchon serves as the Vice President of the Carroll County Beekeepers Association and is the owner of Shelby's View Apiary. Larry raises queens on a small scale for use in his apiary and to use in overwintered nucs. Larry is striving to keep his apiary self-sustaining, so that he does not have to order replacement queens and packages/nucs and is happy to share his knowledge and experience with AABA members.



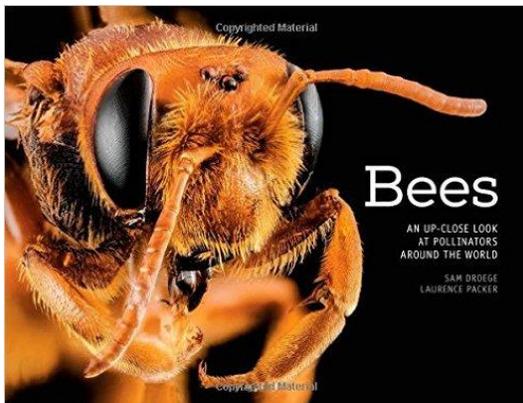
Wednesday June 15, 2016, 6:30-8:30p.m.:

“Open Hive Demo”

Examine the honeybee colonies at Arlington Echo and observe the results of the May honey flow. Also, see the continued progress of new colonies that were established from packages during the Short Course.

“Maryland's 400 Other Bees: Our Hidden Native Bees” – Sam Droege

Honeybees are well known to beekeeping societies. However, almost everything that you know about honey bees does not apply to our native species. This talk will illuminate the many beautiful species of bees and the native plants they pollinate using specially created photography and dive deeply into the natural history of this varied group that lives in nests in your gardens and parks. Sam will also bring copies of his new book “Bees: An Up-Close Look at Pollinators Around the World” that has stunning high resolution pictures – that you can purchase. All profits go towards pollinator protection.



Tuesday August 16, 2016, 7-9 p.m.:

“Panel of Experts”

The evening will be devoted to beekeeping questions. Get answers from our panel of experienced beekeepers about how to manage your bees and other issues regarding beekeeping. We plan to also review varroa mite treatment options.

November 2016: (date to be determined)

“Maryland State Beekeeper’s Association Annual Meeting and Honey Show”

The MSBA will hold their annual meeting and honey show at the Maryland Department of Agriculture Headquarters, 50 Harry Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland. Members and non-members are welcome to attend so don’t miss this top-notch meeting. Additional information about the MSBA and future meetings can be found at <http://www.mdbeekeepers.org/>



2016 SHORT COURSE

By Lindsay Barranco

This will be our nineteenth year to offer a Short Course--*Beekeeping, A Honey of A Hobby*. Last year 60 people completed the course. The fees for this year's course are: \$30 for an individual and \$5 for each additional family member. This year the AABA Short Course was filled to capacity by November. Here is the schedule:

Session 1 (December 15, 2015) - Introduction – Lindsay Barranco; Equipment Assembly – Jim Frasier, Maryland Honey Company

Session 2 (February 23, 2016) - Honey Bee Biology – Steve McDaniel, McDaniel Honey Farm

Session 3 (March 1, 2016) – Spring and Summer Management, Pat Beers-Block, Anne Arundel County Beekeepers Association

Session 4 (March 8, 2016) - Fall and Winter Management – Tim McMahon, EAS Certified Master Beekeeper

Session 5 (March 29, 2016) - Maintaining Healthy Bees - Bart Smith; Nectar Sources - Bart Smith.

Session 6 (April 2, 2016) - Honey Extracting – Bridgett Kennedy; Products of the Hive - Bart Smith; Hive Management/Manipulation - Bart Smith; Installing Packaged Bees – Bart Smith and Lindsay Barranco.

Sessions 1 - 5 are 7-9 P.M.; Session 6 is 9 A.M. - 1 P.M. The course coordinator is Lindsay Barranco 410-570-1132 or lbarranco@comcast.net

This year EAS Certified Master Beekeeper and owner of Maryland Honey Company, Jim Frasier, taught the first session of the AABA Short Course on "Equipment". Jim's business, Maryland Honey Company, is a Brushy Mountain affiliate and is located in Gaithersburg, Maryland. If you are interested in ordering package bees or obtaining equipment, you can contact Jim at 301-518-9678 or see Maryland Honey Company on Facebook.

Looking for a Beekeeping Course?

EAS Certified Master Beekeeper, Steve McDaniel, is offering a Beekeeping Course at Irvine Nature Center in Owings Mills on two Saturdays - March 19th and March 26th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Here is the link to register:

[McDaniel Short Course at Irvine](#)

UPCOMING MARYLAND STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION MEETING ON FEBRUARY 13, 2016



The Maryland State Beekeepers Association's first meeting of 2016 will take place February 13, 2016 (9 a.m.) at the Howard County Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Road, West Friendship, Maryland. We are in the Dining Hall: from Fairgrounds Road take the second entrance, second building on the left. If asked, refer to beekeeper meeting.

In our first keynote of the year, MSBA is honored to welcome Dr. Deborah Delaney, assistant professor of entomology and wildlife ecology in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the University of Delaware. Dr. Delaney is an expert in honeybee genetics, the evolutionary biology of honey bees, pollination ecology, and the world of feral bees. She has used her deep background in genetics, the history of beekeeping in North America, and work in Dr. David

Tarpy's lab to develop a unique understanding of survivor bees! Recent research projects look at native and bumble bees as well. Dr. Delaney continues to publish with Dr. Tarpy and Dr. Tom Seeley of Cornell. In addition, Dr. Delaney is a 2015 recipient of UDEL's Excellence in Undergraduate Academic Advising Award

ELECTION YEAR!

At our February 2016 meeting we will hold an election of officers. Here is the proposed slate: (*Note: If you would like to hold an office or be involved in any way in the AABA, please contact Lindsay Barranco at lbarranco@comcast.net)

President – Lindsay Barranco
Vice President – Michael Doyle
Treasurer – Pat Beers-Block
Secretary – Debbie Hewitt
Chairlady, Publicity – OPEN
Chairman, Programs – OPEN
Chairman, Competition – Michael Doyle
Chairman, Awards – Dwight Fielder
Chairlady, Refreshments – OPEN
Social Chair - OPEN
Librarian – Carl Guerci, Jr.
Web Master - Ollie Snyder

The Friendship Cut-out by AABA Member Debbie Hewitt

What would a Maryland beekeeper expect when hearing of a "bee nest or colony hanging from a large maple tree" at the end of September? My first thought was "swarm", but it was an exposed colony that had built comb hanging from a large maple branch in Friendship, Maryland.

Instead of passing this on to a more experienced beekeeper, I called in my husband Scott's assistance for our first cut out. Unfortunately, the weather forecast was not in our favor. The next day was predicted to be drizzle turning to rain as Hurricane Joaquin threatened Maryland, and the weather was not expected to improve for days. The bees would have to weather the storm.

Finally, on October 5th we had our weather window--sunny and 75 degrees. I had read up on cut-outs and had my list of equipment double-checked (list attached). Some substitutions were made because I had most of my equipment filled. The first task was to determine whether we had a ladder that would reach. Fortunately, one just made it at 20 feet, and Scott secured the ladder to the branch while I set up the site. I spread a large sheet under the colony to give a work area and to minimize bees getting lost in the grass. Then we carried an assembled hive, a cardboard nuc box, and the buckets of equipment that we had brought down to the site and set everything out to be able to reach it easily, including a bucket of water to be able to rinse gloves when they got sticky.

In looking at the colony, we decided to install them directly into the hive body rather than the nuc to save having to transfer them a second time. Scott volunteered to do the ladder work. He realized that he wouldn't be able to hold on to the smoker, brush, and knife while balancing at the top of a ladder, so he opted to spritz the bees with syrup to keep them calm, and the handle of the sprayer could then hook onto the ladder. Scott started cutting the first comb away, cutting as close to the tree as possible, and

giving bees time to move out of the way. The outer comb was just a few inches across and empty, so that one he just dropped, and it went into the scrap bucket.

The next two combs were larger with a little nectar and pollen on them. Scott carried those combs down as he cut them and handed them to me to inspect and place in frames (after brushing or shaking as many bees as possible into the hive onto two drawn combs). We had prepared cut-out frames with brads and fine wire. On one side the wire was fixed while the other side could be opened to place the combs, then secured with a wire that zigzagged across the opening. In looking at the width of the cut-out combs and knowing how late it was in the season for the bees to be able to draw wax, I decided to place the two combs in one frame. This frame went in the hive against one wall.

The next comb was heavier with a band of honey at the top and was covered with bees. Part of the comb broke away and fell onto the sheet while Scott was trying to hold the comb with one hand. I picked up the piece and put it into the frame with the other part of the comb. The combs were getting longer and I needed to trim the bottom to make it fit in the frame (deep frames would be better for this work).

We realized that the next combs would need to be supported, so Scott took the nuc lid up with 1/4 inch spacers to lay the comb on. This worked great and just in time--the next comb had the queen--not only a queen, but also an open queen cell with the flap still attached. This was my first time catching a queen, but I used my queen catcher and successfully caught her. I then placed the queen

and queen introduction frame inside the muff so she couldn't fly away and was able (eventually) to transfer the queen into the frame. I closed off the entrance and placed this frame in the hive.

Scott and I were able to work more quickly now that we had secured the queen. The bees remained calm though a number were flying around Scott. Some of the combs had capped brood, but I did not see eggs or larvae. I did not want to cut through brood, so two combs were placed on spacers (to give bee space on the bottom) with additional spacers between the adjoining combs to be able to have these combs stand independently (I will have to clean it up in the spring). All of the combs but one were textbook straight. One of the last major combs made a right angle, probably to protect against weather. The largest comb was about eight inches wide by eight inches long. There was so little honey or pollen that these bees would not have lasted long. Our gloves barely got sticky.

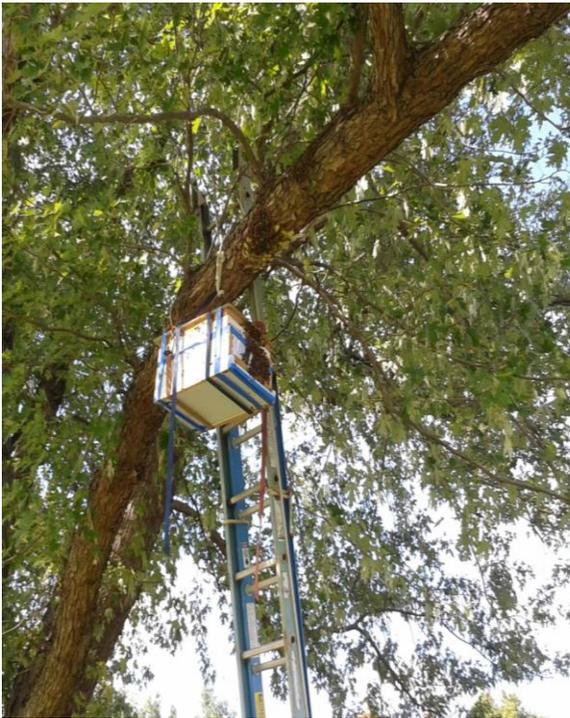
When we had all the combs in the hive, we moved the hive off the sheet, then scooped up bees off the sheet into the top before closing the hive. We strapped and taped the hive together with the entrance open with an open robber screen on the front. Then instead of leaving it under the tree for the night, we decided to hang it from the branch next to the old location to get the stragglers because so many bees were returning to the branch.

We returned before sunrise the next day and closed the robber screen entrance and taped the upper entrance. It was cool so the bees were not active yet. There was a handful of bees still on the branch that Scott brushed into the nuc lid

and then they traveled to our yard on a comb in the nuc box. Once we got the hive in location, we opened the hive to add the stragglers and opened the top of the queen frame. I added a pollen patty then placed the inner cover with a mason jar feeder (with 2:1) inside an extra box. Once the entrance on the robber screen was opened (but still reduced), the bees were flying and trying to orient, and I went in to place an order with Brushy Mountain.

I returned two days later to remove the queen frame. She was free and they had even built a finger of comb off the bottom. On my next inspection, I found brood, so the queen had survived. To set the hive up for winter, I donated additional drawn combs from my other hives and set the hive up as a 5 over 5 medium nuc with the cut-out frames on the bottom and five drawn frames (some with honey) above. I placed cardboard dividers in each box to limit the space and placed insulation behind the dividers. I also added insulation on the inner cover with a hole cut out so I could continue feeding through the fall.

The Friendship cut-out has enjoyed our extended fall. The hive was tested and treated for varroa. Once it got too cold for feeding syrup, I placed 2 inch foam under the telescoping cover and insulated the sides. I added fondant before Christmas and the number of bees seen in the seams looked good. With some coddling, I hope to see this colony move up into the top box (so I can remove the cutout combs) and be ready to build in the spring. If nothing else, doing a cutout was a great learning experience.



Equipment List for cut out

- 8 frame medium hive (assembled)
- screened bottom board with insert
- hive body
- 2 drawn combs/1 with honey
- screen inner cover
- plywood cover (telescoping cover if you have one)
- Cut-out frames--wired (6 medium frames)
- Robber entrance screen
- Queen clip and muff
- Queen introduction frame
- Nuc box--cardboard 5 frame deep
- Tape (we used painter's tape but had duct tape on hand)
- Ratchet straps
- Rope
- Ladders
- 5 gallon buckets w/lids (2)--one to hold water to rinse gloves/one to hold scrap comb
- 1/4 in sticks for spacers
- smoker w/fuel and lighter
- water sprayer
- extra light syrup (.5 sugar/1 water)
- Serrated knife
- Scissors

Hive tools
Bee brushes
dust pan
sheet
Protective gear
 Jackets with veils
 boots
gloves--blue latex

EAS 2016 to be held □ at Stockton State University in New Jersey

by **Tim McMahon (EAS
Representative in Maryland)**

Have you ever considered taking a “Beekeeping Vacation”? Well now is the time to make your plans as EAS 2016 will be taking place at Stockton State University outside of Atlantic City, New Jersey. EAS (Eastern Apiculture Society) is one of the largest noncommercial beekeeping organizations in the United States and one of the largest in the world. Every summer EAS conducts its week long Annual Conference of lectures and workshops in one the 26 member states or Canadian provinces. This year’s EAS conference will be held at Stockton State University in Galloway, NJ, from July 25 to July 29. The conference usually brings in about 600 to 800

beekeepers from around the world.

The conference is made up of the Short Course, running from Monday to Wednesday, and the conference proper, running from Wednesday to Friday, with Wednesday as the overlap day. Normally about half of the attendees stay the whole week with the other half coming just for the conference. The Short Course will contain classes for beekeepers of all levels and special events such as an open apiary with Langstroth, Warre’ and Top Bar Hives, a microscope workshop on bee anatomy, a Honey Show for you to enter your bee products and classes on all aspects of beekeeping. The conference proper will consist of over 100 different talks about all aspects of beekeeping including classes on Queen rearing, Mead and Beer brewing and on IPM (Integrated Pest Management).

I first attended EAS several years ago in Boone NC, and the experience was so great that I became a lifetime member. I’ve not missed an EAS conference since. Every year I go with a set of questions in mind that I then try to find the answers to from

the best minds in Beekeeping. You can't get much better than that. Maybe the best thing about the week-long EAS was that I get to talk "bees" all week long and no one says that they had heard enough (normally my family asks me to shut-up after the first 2 minutes or so). You can find out all about the specific topic covered and how to sign up at the EAS webpage here

<http://www.easternapiculture.org/>.

I hope to see you there. EAS 2017 is scheduled for Delaware, 2018 in Virginia. Come and join the fun!

AABA MEMBER JOHN CONNERS HELPS NEW BEEKEEPERS AT THE WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION AT JESSUP

Late last spring, the Anne Arundel Beekeepers Association received a request from the Women's Correctional Institution at Jessup for some help with installing four hives and a vegetable/flower garden. John Connors, AABA member

and Master Gardener, answered the call. After meeting with the Warden, Director of Security, two Security Guards and two inmates, plans were finalized to install two hives this past Spring. It was decided that the vegetable and flower gardens would be handled by members of the Anne Arundel County Master Gardener program and that John would assist with the installation of beehives.

At the beginning of June, the equipment and bee packages arrived and were successfully installed. Two security guards and five inmates were designated as beekeepers for the prison and were present at the package installation. Over the following few weeks John met with the new beekeepers and demonstrated all the things they would need to do to keep and maintain healthy hives. By the end of the summer both hives were prospering and were in healthy condition.

In October, the Institution's warden requested educational beekeeping programs for the general inmate population and four workshops were held on the topics Honeybees, Pollination, Hive Dynamics and Colony Collapse

Disorder (problems of the hive). A total of 112 inmates attended the lectures.

This year the Institution's beekeepers would like to increase the number of hives at the prison and perhaps use the honey as a potential source of income. John informed them that we would help them in every way possible and so far it has been a very successful project.

The Bee Informed Partnership has posted a new item, 'JOIN THE P. APIUM PROJECT! - A CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT TO TEST OUT A NEW HONEY BEE PROBIOTIC'

Dr. Vanessa Corby-Harris from the USDA-ARS is currently enrolling participants in a study to look at the effects of a probiotic, *Parasaccharibacter apium* (or *P. apium*) on colony health. In both lab and small-scale field studies,

she sees a potential benefit of *P. apium* to colony health. Bees supplemented with this bacterium can survive better [...]

You may view the latest post at <http://beeinformed.org/2016/01/12/join-the-p-apium-project-a-citizen-science-project-to-test-out-a-new-honey-bee-probiotic/>

RECIPE WITH HONEY

(Courtesy of AABA Member Susan Langley)



Sticky Honey-Soy Chicken Wings

Total Time:
2 hr 25 min
Prep:
10 min
Inactive:
2 hr
Cook:
15 min
Yield: 6 to 8 servings

Sticky Honey-Soy Chicken Wings (01:59)
Tyler Florence makes marinated Asian-style wings with a honey-soy sauce.

Ingredients

2 pounds chicken wings
1 cup low sodium soy sauce,
1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger
2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro leaves
2 cloves garlic, minced
1/2 lemon, juiced
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons butter
1/2 cup honey
Sesame seeds, for garnish

Directions

Rinse chicken wings and pat dry. Remove tip and discard; separate each wing at the joint into 2 pieces. Place wings in a shallow dish and pour over the soy sauce, ginger, cilantro, garlic, and lemon juice. Toss well to coat; marinate, refrigerated, for 2 hours.

Remove wings from marinade and pat dry; season with salt and pepper. In a large saute pan over medium-high heat, melt the butter in the olive oil. When the butter stops foaming, add the honey and chicken wings and fry until browned on each side, about 5 minutes. Continue cooking the wings, turning them over often to coat them as the glaze reduces. Cook until the wings are sticky and cooked through. Garnish with sesame seeds and serve.

Recipe courtesy of Tyler Florence

A FINAL REMINDER FROM

YOUR EDITOR:

Many colonies starve to death in January, February and March. If you have a surplus of your own honey, feed it back to them. Since they can't get to sugar syrup (and syrup will freeze and contain too much moisture), feeding fondant is the best option.

Fondant Recipe:

- Mix 1 pint of water with 5 pounds of sugar
- Heat to 234 degrees F (soft ball stage)
- Remove from heat and cool to 200 degrees F
- Add ¼ teaspoon of white vinegar per pound of sugar
- Stir and keep cooling
- Syrup will begin to turn whitish and looks like watery cream of wheat

(Can add 1 teaspoon natural spearmint oil or lemongrass oil to syrup before pouring into a pan lined with wax paper). This recipe will fill one 9x13 pan.

Place a cake of sugar on two small, ½-inch square strips of wood in an empty super or rim spacer above the cluster of bees. Cover the candy and the space around it with cloth or newspaper to keep it warm. Remove any remaining candy and feed syrup when the weather gets warm.



Many thanks to all our Newsletter contributors!