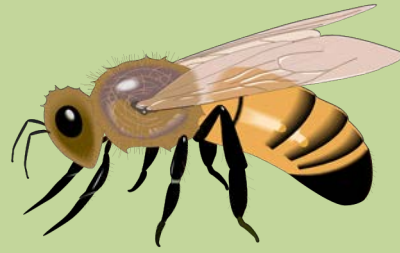


The Arundel



Anne Arundel Beekeepers Association Newsletter

Issue No. 24

January, 2017

The President Speaks

Dear AABA Members,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. Now is the time when beekeepers assess last year's colonies and make plans for the coming year – How many colonies will you manage this year? How will you monitor for varroa mites? Will you order mite resistant queens? Will you purchase local nucs/queens? These are good topics to give thought to now before the season begins. (see the December 2016 American Bee Journal articles by Meghan Milbrath and Randy Oliver on “Your Bees Don't Have to Die” and “The Varroa Problem Part 2” respectively, for some good information). Winter is also a great time for putting together wooden ware and reading up about bees and learning as much as we can. Remember to feed fondant if colonies are light on food. Many colonies starve in the winter without sufficient food stores.

We have some excellent speakers this coming year, so please join us for our general meetings in 2017. We will hear about swarming, varroa mites and pesticides and feedback on the Sentinel Hive Project from the University of Maryland bee lab researchers. From

our sampling this past year, we learned that varroa mite levels spike significantly in July, August, September and October and that regular monitoring for varroa, during each season, but particularly in mid-late summer, is essential in order to avoid colony losses.

I wanted to thank everyone in the AABA for allowing me to serve as President of this wonderful group of beekeepers. My husband and I purchased a home in northern Baltimore County and will be moving this Spring, so February will be my last meeting as President of the AABA. Longtime AABA member, Carl Guerri, has offered to step up as AABA President and I hope you will join us for elections at the February meeting. We are in need of a Secretary, so if you would like to help out the beekeeping association, please let us know.

Lastly, I wanted to thank all mentors and to ask all of you to consider serving as a mentor to a new beekeeper this coming year. Beekeepers, as a group, are generous with their time and knowledge. I have been the recipient of help over the years by experienced beekeepers like Loyd Luna, Peter Quinton and especially my good friend, Dwight Fielder. These beekeepers helped me along the way and answered the many questions I had in those early years. I also want to thank all the

beekeepers out there who wonder about bees and ask questions. The more we talk with one another about honeybees, the biology of the colony and maintenance practices, the more we are able to help one another become better beekeepers, which only benefits the bees.

Thank you!

Lindsay Barranco

Calling All New Beekeepers!

It can be tricky trying to figure out what is happening in your beehives. This year experienced beekeepers in the AABA will be hosting a new beekeeper session one full hour before our regularly scheduled meetings in April, June and August (see dates below). Please bring your bee suit and veil/protective gear. We will open the Arlington Echo hives to see what is happening with each colony and will have a Q and A session. Hope to see you there!

Wednesday, April 19th at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 20th at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 16th at 6 p.m.

2017 AABA MEETING SCHEDULE

By Lindsay Barranco

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

Wednesday February 15, 2017, 7-9 p.m.:

“Swarming Behavior,”
by Mike Church

Our friend from Northern Virginia, Mike Church, will join us as a speaker for the February meeting. Mike will cover swarming behavior and what the beekeeper can do to manage his hives in order to control swarming. Mike is a long-time beekeeper and hails from the Gateway Beekeepers Association and the Northern Neck Beekeepers Association.

Wednesday April 19, 2017, 6:30-8:30 p.m.:

Double Feature:
“Pesticides & Pollinators” and
“Varroa: Biology, Control and Virus Transmission”
by Kirsten Traynor, PhD and Michael Traynor

“Pesticides & Pollinators”

Honey bee colony losses remain high, despite beekeepers’ best efforts to keep colonies healthy. While neonicotinoids are often highlighted by the press, many other pesticides end up in honey bee colonies. Learn what the Traynors are finding in hives and how the panic over the Zika virus may impact the health of your hives.

“Varroa: Biology, Control and Virus Transmission”

Varroa continues to be one of the biggest drivers of colony losses. It's easy to think you don't have varroa, as 70-80% of the mites are hidden beneath wax cappings in the brood nest. Hidden out of sight, the varroa feed on developing bees when they are at their most vulnerable. The Traynors will show detailed photos of varroa, highlight how varroa spread viruses, and how your colony can pick up mites from the neighborhood. To help stay on top of varroa, the speakers will highlight simple methods of monitoring varroa levels and how to control escalating infestations.

Tuesday June 20, 2017, 6:30-8:30p.m.:

Note the Date and Stay tuned - Speaker: TBD

Wednesday August 16, 2017, 7-9 p.m.:

**“The Sentinel Hive Project,”
by Kelly Kulhanek and Dan Reynolds.]**

University of Maryland graduate students, Kelly Kulhanek and Dan Reynolds, will come speak about the Sentinel Hive Project conducted by the UMD Honeybee Lab and what has been learned so far from the project, in which the AABA has participated for the past two years. We will also have a “Panel of Beekeepers” to discuss hive management practices.

November 2017: (date to be determined)



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

The MSBA will hold its 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 meeting. <http://www.mdbeekeepers.org/>



2017 SHORT COURSE

By Lindsay Barranco

This is our twentieth 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 13, 2016) - Introduction – Delia Edelman, Crownsville Gardens; Equipment Assembly

Session 2 (February 21, 2017) - Honey Bee Biology – Steve McDaniel, McDaniel Honey Farm

Session 3 (February 28, 2017) – Spring and Summer Management, Carl Guerci, Anne Arundel County Beekeepers Association

Session 4 (March 7, 2017) - Fall and Winter Management – Tim McMahon, EAS Certified Master Beekeeper

Session 5 (March 14, 2017) – Pests and Diseases and Nectar Sources – Lindsay Barranco.

Session 6 (April 1, 2016) - Honey Extracting & Products of the Hive – Bridget Kennedy; Package bee installation – Carl Guerci and Debbie Hewitt

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

UPCOMING MARYLAND ELECTION YEAR!

At our February 2017 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 – Carl Guerci
Vice President – Michael Doyle
Treasurer – Debbie Hewitt
Secretary – vacant
County Honey Fair Judge – Michael Doyle
Mentoring Chair – Jim Larson
Program Chair – Jim Larson
Honey Extractor – Chrissy Perry
Chairman, Competition – Michael Doyle
Web Masters – Ollie Snyder/Dave Mumford
Librarian – Carl Guerci

EAS 2017 to be held at the University of Delaware this summer!!

EAS 2017 University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware, **July 31-August 4, 2017** The Eastern Apicultural Society of North America was established in 1955 with the purpose of promoting honey bee culture, the education of beekeepers, and excellence in bee research. Every summer, EAS organizes an annual conference in one of the member States/Provinces. About 500 people from around the world, attend this conference every year. Delaware beekeepers host the 2017 conference. University of Delaware, Clayton Hall Conference Center The 60th Annual EAS Conference and Short Course will be July 31-August 4 at University of Delaware, Clayton Hall Conference Center (Laird Campus), Newark, Delaware. This is conveniently located about 2 miles north of I 95, west of Wilmington, DE adjacent to MD state line. Beekeeping Short Course & Conference lecture sessions will be conveniently located in the Clayton Conference Center and connecting Pencader Hall. Participants may stay in University dorms or in full service Courtyard by Marriott Hotel, both immediately adjacent to the Center or at over 20 motels in the immediate region. We will post a Lodging list on the EAS website. The Short Course includes several one or two day mini-courses appropriate for beginner/hobbyist, intermediate Sideliner and for Advanced beekeeper interest. The presenters will include Larry Connor, popular author and Wicwas Press Publisher, Mike Embrey, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Maryann Frazier, retired from Penn State University, Clarence Collison, Allan Hayes, Maryland MB, Landi Simone, New Jersey MB and a host of local

experts and EAS Master beekeepers. The EAS Conference begins on Wednesday, with Short Course participants included, extending through Friday afternoon. There will be keynote presentations to begin our daily programs followed by multiple tracks of presentations continuing through the afternoon. Speakers include Tom Seeley, Marla Spivak, Michael Palmer, Michael Young, Northern Ireland beekeeper extraordinaire and chef, popular author James Tew, our Hambleton and student award winners, Clarence Collison our 2007 Roger Morse Extension/regulatory award winner, Jay Evans, USDA, Beltsville, Past EAS President Tammy Horn and many more. Full program will be posted by the beginning of 2017 to the EAS website. <http://easternapiculture.org> A special feature will be opportunity to take bee practice at the University of Delaware Apiary. In addition an EAS apiary will also be just outside the Conference Center. Our Bee Wranglers, retired DE Apiary Inspector Bob Mitchell will be assisted by Don Hopkins, NC Apiary Supervisor, Jennifer Keller, bee tech of NC State University and several current and former apiary inspectors from NJ, DE and MD. The EAS Conference is all about Fun too. We will have a Honey/Bee Products Competitive Show, the popular Honey Exchange (bring your honey to swap for another), and social events arranged for each evening -- swapping of bee tall tales Monday night in the apiary; Beeopardy Tuesday with Beekeeping for Dummies author Howland Blackiston followed by delicious DE watermelons on the cafeteria/dorm mall; Wednesday we will be Dancing with the Bees orchestrated by Cliff Sunflower of Kutztown, PA; on Thursday there will be a buffet with auction following [many unique one-of-a-kind Bee Items will be featured]; and our closing Banquet and Awards ceremony will be Friday. In between

there will be lots of opportunities to meet and chat with beekeepers from near and far. The EAS meeting Field trip will feature an intense bee-flower field experience to one of the finest 18th Century French style Mansion and Garden's, A.I DuPont's Nemours estate and /or to Mt Cuba gardens. The interactions and interdependence of bee and nectar/pollen producing flora with honey bees and pollinators will feature explanations/identifications by photographer, author and beekeeper Peter Lindtner and ecologist/author Doug Tallamy (Bringing Nature Home), plus MB experts. Our vendors will have the latest gadgets and gizmos. Bee authors will be on hand (bring your personal copies or purchase new) to get your bee books signed. The Short Course and Conference features many opportunities to have a one-on-one conversation with the brightest bee scientists/extension specialists, as well as the most accomplished practitioners of bee colony stewardship. EAS is one of the largest, and we think you will agree, the bee-friendliest conference of the entire year. If you have never attended an EAS conference you are in for a treat. **YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED!!** On behalf of the Delaware beekeeper hosts, Dr. Debbie Delaney, University of Delaware Bee Specialist, Bob Bauer, EAS 2017 President, **we want to SEE YOU at EAS 2017, July 31-August 4 in DELAWARE.**

AABA Extractors Are Up and Running!

by Chrissy Perry

The AABA currently owns three extractors that are available to members for rent. In recent years, our first and oldest extractor, a Maxant 3100P 9 Frame Power Extractor has had continual operational problems that rendered it unusable. One of our members, Dave Clark, recently repaired the motor and created a detailed set of instructions for users so that we can avoid future breakdowns. Dave also repaired our newer hand-cranked extractor, the Mann Lake HH 190 which had also been mishandled and in need of repair. Dave created a detailed set of instructions for this one as well. Please read these instructions before using either extractor in the future – and thank you Dave for your time and expertise!



CONTACT: Cybil Preston,
410-841-5929

Veterinary Feed Directive: How will it affect beekeepers and honeybees

ANNAPOLIS, MD (Nov. 14, 2016) – The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced a new set of regulations that will affect the way medically-important antibiotics are given to food animal species. Concern over antibiotic resistance—in humans and animals—has moved the FDA to regulate the use of over the counter antibiotics in feed and drinking water.

Effective January 1, 2017, the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) will require veterinary oversight whenever antibiotics are given to any food animal species—even if the animal is not intended for food production.

Under the new regulation, both hobbyist and commercial beekeepers will no longer be able to purchase antimicrobials over the counter, and will be required to obtain a prescription for any antibiotic given to their honeybees. This will help promote good beekeeping practices, which is truly the most effective way to prevent and control disease in honeybees.

However, this new requirement may initially present a challenge: Most veterinarians typically do not deal with honeybees and beekeeping.

In an effort to help ease this transition, the Maryland Department of Agriculture is partnering with the University of Maryland and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to host a free seminar for veterinarians that will give an in-depth look at antibiotic use in beehives. This will include discussion of American foulbrood, European foulbrood and other stress-related honeybee health

issues. There will also be discussion of sampling techniques and submissions. The seminar will be held on Wednesday February 1st, 2017 from 9am till 12noon. Veterinarians must RSVP. The session will be held at the Maryland Department of Agriculture building in Annapolis. 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(Note: beekeepers in Maryland who need to use antibiotics for AFB or EFB will need to establish a vet/patient relationship with a veterinarian who can prescribe these antibiotics. This training described above is intended to educate Maryland veterinarians about these bacterial diseases – more to come on this in the future)

An Interview with AABA Member Susan Langley, the Governor's Mansion Beekeeper!!

Question: What is your name, how many hives do you keep and what kind of work do you do?

Answer: *My name is Susan Langley and I work as the Maryland State Underwater Archaeologist. I usually keep 3-4 hives but I had one abscond in the fall, so have 2 at the moment (at least they were alive in late December).*

Question: How long have you kept bees and how did you become interested in beekeeping?

Answer: *I started keeping bees in 2006 so I'm going into my 11th year. As a child, distant relatives had a dairy farm in the eastern counties of Ontario and sent us the most fabulous cheese and quart mason jars of honey with huge combs in them and I was enthralled by the idea of bees and honey. When I was in graduate school I re-awakened an interest in heritage lifeways and I started attending pioneer festivals. I decided that I seriously wanted to learn to use a spinning wheel and to keep bees. I completed my doctoral studies while working on a Master Spinner program but sadly, the year I started that course, the nearby Agricultural College ceased their Apiary course and the next nearest program was about a 5 hour drive North. Finally, when I had been in Maryland for about 12 years I ran across a promotion for the AABA Short Course at the Riva Road Farmers' market. The first night I fully expected it to be two retired couples and me and found it a real eye-opener when there were about 44 people at*

Arlington Echo. It was a terrific program and I haven't looked back.

Question: How is it that you began keeping bees on the Governor's Mansion grounds?

Answer: *About 6 years ago, there was a problem in Harford County with new agricultural zoning threatening to prevent beekeeping in some areas and certainly Colony Collapse Disorder was in the news as well as other, increasing threats to bees. I learned that there was a beehive on the White House Grounds and at the time Governor O'Malley was putting indigenous species and vegetable gardens onto the Government House grounds. I had the opportunity to speak with him once a year at the Board of Public Works as part of my professional position, and when he asked for some additional information, I had the opportunity to contact him outside of the meeting and thought it was worth the effort to ask about a beehive on the grounds. I mentioned that the President had a hive at the White House and since the governor was known for environmental concerns, could I install a hive on the grounds? I indicated that I would agree to tend it and give all the honey to the Government House for him to use to promote Maryland products and as an example to others. I also suggested that he could hold a staff contest to name the product something like "Governor's Gold". Governor O'Malley said that he wanted to use that name and so we have. The governor would present the honey to various guests over the years. In the end, Harford County did resolve favorably for beekeeping due to the hard work of beekeepers throughout the State but I would like to hope that the Governor having a hive might have helped a tiny bit.*

Question: Are there any specific challenges to keeping bees there?

Answer: *Aside from having a security clearance to enter, there are only a few rare challenges such as arriving to find that the landscapers or gardeners also want to work in the same area. Sometimes the first family would like some private time. However, I think if it were really necessary it would be permitted. Trying to have the fabulous fountain turned on as early as possible and left on as late as possible in the season are constant requests from me and usually indulged. Once it was broken and not a priority for being repaired and the Governor came through and overheard the discussion about the need for water and had it moved to a priority item. Everyone gets in on the act and the kitchen staff and gardeners sometimes come by to watch and I speak with passersby often. The House provides sugar and reimburses me for the bottles and their custom labels and anything else I might need (water, trash bags). Some troopers have asked about beekeeping and usually bring a box of the little*

2oz. bears of my honey to the security office once a year for the Troopers' kids and any staff who would like to try it. Each year the Governor, (so far both Governors O'Malley and Hogan), have hosted "Eat Local" parties in the garden in July to promote Maryland farmers and watermen, as well as restaurants that support them or actually grow their own food. I have been asked to man a table at each of these events and the Government House contributions usually include one dish or dessert that uses their honey.

Question: What has the feedback been from Governor Hogan and former Governor O'Malley?

Answer: I'm pleased to say we have bipartisan bees. They seem to perform equally well under both administrations since their installation. I enter the honey into the State Fair, the Anne Arundel County Fair, and the Maryland State Beekeepers Association competitions each year and it usually does quite well.

Question: Any interesting stories?

Answer: The first time I met Governor Hogan and was unsure if he would be amenable to keeping the hive, he introduced me to the First Lady's dog and told me that the dog had snooed around the hive until she was stung. "Doomed", I thought, but he said she learned her lesson and hasn't bothered it since. Whew! He is very supportive and the First Lady, who is extremely gracious, and their daughter often come by and just say "thank-you."

Question: What happens with the honey that is extracted?

Answer: I know that the honey from the hive is always on Governor Hogan's breakfast table but I don't know how he has chosen to distribute it. I mentioned above how Governor O'Malley used it. I do use it with other honey samples from my collection for tastings at the "Eat Local" event.



Photo provided by the Executive Office of the Governor



Photo provided by the Executive Office of the Governor

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.

A variation of the fondant recipe from Carl Guerci:

Fondant

Boil 1 quart of water. Remove from heat
Add 5 Lbs Sugar & 1¼ Tsp Vinegar (¼ tsp per lb Sugar).

Stir to dissolve (apply heat if needed)

Insert Confectioner's thermometer.

Bring to boil, reduce heat, but maintain boil.

Temperature will be 225°F.

Prepare two metal cookie sheets. Cover with aluminum foil and wax paper.

After ~30 minutes temperature will begin to rise.

As syrup thickens there will be a roil of ~ ¼" bubbles.

At ~ 45 minutes the temperature will reach 250°F, large bubbles will be forming.

Place pot in sink of cold water.

Mix with a small hand mixer.

When temp nears 200°F syrup may begin to show stiffness. Stop

Pour mixture onto lined cookie sheets.

Allow to cool undisturbed.

Place fondant between wax paper and freeze.



Many thanks to all our Newsletter contributors!