

MINUTES

AAPA Annual Business Meeting
Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada
December 4, 2002

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Pettis at 8:18 am. The following members were present: S. Cobey, R. Cole, S. Dedej, K. Delaplane, M. Ellis, J. Fischer, Sr., A. Harman, M. Hood, Z. Huang, G. Hunt, W. Mangum, E. Mussen, N. Ostiguy, J. Pettis, J. Skinner, I.B. Smith, and M. Spivak.

President's Report

Jeff stated that he felt the previous day's opening was "successful" in introducing the participating organizations to one another. He also explained that Bee Culture editor, Kim Flottum, intended to publish an article on North American bee research efforts and possible gaps in our areas of interest. Please contact Jeff (pettisj@ba.ars.usda.gov) or Kim (kim@BeeCulture.com) about the research being conducted in your institution, if you have not done so already. Names of researchers and research specifics are not required, at this time, just areas of emphasis, such as "Biological Control of Varroa."

Jeff still is concerned about the lack of "prestige" of AAPA. At its inception, AAPA hoped to gain the level of influence that CAPA enjoys in Canada. That has not happened. In fact, Jeff's offer to supply an AAPA member to meet with the Research Committees of the American Beekeeping Federation and American Honey Producers' Association has been ignored. (However, we have never developed research-related suggestions from AAPA as a group to share with other organizations.) Perhaps, CAPA has some influence on Canadian research since they operate a fund that generates around \$20,000 annually to support projects. The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees (affiliated with the ABF) has some funding, but they haven't requested AAPA input, either.

Jeff's evaluation of the Port Deposit meeting was that it accomplished our goals very well. It was a tightly planned meeting and the failure of a few expected attendees to arrive resulted in a financial loss of about \$500. However, it probably would be a good idea to meet in conjunction with the major U.S. industry groups (ABF, AHPA) on an alternating basis, at our own venues, and eventually with CAPA, CHC, AIA, etc. at a U.S. location. The idea of an all-encompassing "industry" meeting is still on the minds of certain AAPA members, but getting the ABF, AHPA, AIA, CHC, and CAPA to hold overlapping meetings with us would be miserable to schedule and nearly impossible to implement given the fractured U.S. industry.

A question about the Honey Bee Genome Project prompted the following response. Apparently, the sequencing will be conducted at the Baylor College of Medicine starting in

December and taking about two months (to get raw data), assuming funding becomes available from the federal government. It will take quite a bit longer to analyze the data and put it into a usable format for researchers.

Minutes

The Minutes of the August 7, 2001, Annual Business Meeting held in Port Deposit, MD, were accepted as distributed by email.

Financial Report

The Financial Report, covering the period from September 31, 2001 to November 27, 2002 was accepted as presented. The balance on hand was \$8,051.32 (a \$1,158.36 "loss" over the year). There is an outstanding bill of \$1,750.00 for publications that is expected to be paid, soon.

Standing Committee Reports

Member Award - None this year

Nominations - President: no candidate

Vice-president: Jerry Bromenshenk and Marion Ellis

Secretary/Treasurer: Eric Mussen

Pesticides -

1. Apilife VAR (thymol and other essential oils): IR-4 residue funding for analysis at Weslaco ARS lab. Field testing in various states in conjunction with Brushy Mountain.
2. Apiguard (gelled thymol from England): efficacy studies being conducted outside and within (Florida) the U.S.
3. Aptiol (cymiazole): hard on brood; probably no U.S. registration will be attempted
4. Amitraz: Bayer and others have strip formulation; may apply for re-introduction to U.S. market; amitraz resistance is surprisingly common in U.S. Varroa. Selim Dedej commented that history predicts two years of control, then resistance the third year with amitraz.
5. Formic acid: USDA/ARS still pushing hard on Betterbee, Inc. to get a product on the market, even if the "formulation" (read packaging) has to be modified over time. If an inexpensive, "non-hazardous" (for shippers) container can not be developed, then we should recommend having each state OK dilution and application of liquid formic acid by individual beekeepers.

6. sucrose octanoate esters: registered and labeled for use in bee hives (EPA Reg. #70950), even though we don't know the dosage. Steve Sheppard found good mite control in the lab and up to 90% in broodless colonies at 0.25% a.i. However, the sugar ester seems to be less harmful to caged bees (tolerated 1.3%) than to bees in colonies. The ester caused substantial mortality in field colonies at 1% and significant mortality at 0.6%. Steve does not know the end point for honey bee mortality, so he is "erring on the safe side" with 0.25%.

7. carboxamines: new class of insecticides/miticides. One of them (tebufenpyrad) provided pretty good mite control but causes some adult bee mortality. Caused queens to reduce or cease egg laying, and premature supersedure, when present in the hive for three weeks. Other carboxamines should be investigated because mite control is good and maybe one or more are not toxic to bees.

Marion Ellis and Eric Mussen will formulate a statement to EPA and States describing the effects of neonicotinoids on bees and lack of appropriate testing protocols in registration process.

Student Awards

1. Scholarship - Heather Mattila, University of Guelph
2. Paper - Janisse Bailey, University of Guelph

Old Business

AAPA Website - will be transferred to the Entomology Department at UC Davis.

Bylaws - Members in attendance concurred that it would be better to elect a "President Elect" instead of a "Vice-president." Although the change would not alter the duties of the office, some modifications of other portions of the bylaws would be required. Keith Delaplaine and John Skinner will develop the recommended changes for subsequent voting by the members.

Lapel pins - An attempt was made to give every member a gold rimmed, white background, logo pin at previous annual meetings, but every member should have one regardless of attendance. If you would like to have a pin, let me know and I'll send you one (as long as supplies last).

New Business

Abstracts - Review of the financial statement revealed that we paid more to publish the 2001 abstracts than we collected. We received an offer of free abstract publication in Bee Culture. The members would prefer to continue publishing in the American Bee Journal. Jeff and John Harbo will be contacting Joe Graham about the pricing policy. The members reached a consensus that the Secretary/Treasurer will pay the publisher no more than \$50 per abstract.

AAPA Publications - The supplies of all but two of our "for sale" publications are exhausted. However, we have many copies of the Cornell pollination statistics reprint left. Jeff is going to remind the other USDA/ARS bee labs of their availability.

The supply of Pollinators in Your Garden seems to be inexhaustible. They are of no value sitting on the floor of Marla's lab. Therefore, when the Web site is brought up to date, the sale price on those booklets will have a large discount for volume orders (a box of 750 for \$100 plus shipping). If you have any ideas about who could use thousands of copies, please contact them and have them get in touch with us.

Elections

President - John Skinner
Vice-president - Marion Ellis
Secretary/Treasurer - Eric Mussen

Next Meeting Site

President Skinner will announce the 2003 site in the future.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Mussen