President’s Message
by Steve McDaniel

The birthday party is over, so what do we do to follow it up? Here are some ideas for our 101st year and beyond.

Our primary mission is education of beekeepers and the public. In the recent past, we have concentrated on our members pretty much exclusively, but we changed all that with our Centennial Honey Harvest Festival.

Over two thousand people came to the festival and learned about bees through our open-hive demonstrations, speakers, honey extracting, wax-working, educational exhibits, and more. Thousands more learned about bees from television and newspaper coverage of the event. Can we keep it up by doing another festival this year? That is up to you! We need someone to step up and be chairman for this year’s festival, as well as lots of worker bees to help pull it all together. We can offer lots of guidance, but we need one person to follow in Toni Burnham’s footsteps and make this event happen. Call or e-mail me to volunteer. It’s not as hard as raising queens, but lazy people need not apply.

The officers and the Board have also come up with lots of ideas for expanding our activities through the establishment of a number of active committees, but there are not enough people on the Board to do it all. If you want to help but cannot commit the time to be an officer, you can still contribute by joining a committee. Thanks to e-mail and conference calls, most committees will have to meet physically only rarely, if at all. We need people with ideas and the willingness to follow through on them. Look over the list of committees on page 9 and contact me or one of the other officers to ask questions or volunteer. Don’t wait for someone to call and beg you to help.

continued on p3
Mark your calendars:

COMING EVENTS

The following events were announced at the MSBA Board meeting. Please note that the dates may be tentative and subject to confirmation of location approvals:

MSBA MEETING SCHEDULE:

Winter Meeting: Feb 21, 2009
Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD; Dr Jeff Pettis

Spring Meeting: June 20, 2009
Location TBD; Dr David Fletcher

Summer Meeting & Honey Show: Sept 26, 2009, Oregon Ridge Nature Center

Fall Meeting: Nov 21, 2009
MD Dept of Agriculture, Annapolis

Upcoming Local/National/International Meetings:

EAS 2009 Short Course and Conference
August 3 - 7, 2009 at Holiday Valley Resort in Ellicottville, NY

APIMONDIA 2009 will be held from 15 till 20 September 2009 in France.
www.unaf-apiculture.info
www.apimondia2009.com

Link to MSBA’S On-line Calendar:

Please check out the MSBA calendar and input your local club events

Contact msbacaledar@gmail.com to add, edit, or correct entries

MSBA Winter Meeting:
Feb. 21, 2009
Howard County Fairgrounds,
West Friendship, MD

Directions:

Via I-70: Get off I-70 at Exit 80 (Rt. 32 Exit); go south on MD Rt. 32 for 1/8 mile to first traffic light; turn right (west) onto Rt. 144; turn right at crest of hill onto Fairgrounds Road; turn into second entrance; meeting is in the Dining Hall, second building on left

Via Rt. 32: Stay on Rt. 32 to West Friendship; turn west (left, if coming from the south) onto Rt. 144, at the traffic light within sight of I-70; turn right at crest of hill onto Fairgrounds Road; turn into second entrance; meeting is in the Dining Hall, second building on left

From Eastern Shore & Annapolis Area:
From Rt. 50, just west of Annapolis, take I-97 North toward Baltimore; exit onto Rt. 32 toward Columbia; follow directions above, via Rt. 32

From NE MD: Proceed to Baltimore Beltway (I-695); take I-70 west toward Frederick; follow directions above, via I-70

Lunch Menu:
Meeting attendees can purchase sandwiches from our caterer. Please place your order by 10am.
Coffee & refreshments will be provided during breaks.

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Presidents Message, cont fm p1

You won’t want to miss our next meeting on February 21 at the Howard County Fairgrounds. Our featured speaker is Dr. Jeff Pettis, Research Leader of the Beltsville Bee Lab, inventor of the Pettis Board (the screen bottom boards that many of us use to control Varroa mites), and leader of the research effort to find the cause of Colony Collapse Disorder. We have asked him to reveal at the meeting the true cause(s) of CCD, because if anybody knows what’s happening, he does. I know it’s not cell phones or aliens, and he may not have pinned it down yet, but he can narrow down the list of possible causes to some likely culprits. He also has some good news about American Foulbrood for a change.

Bring your checkbook to the meeting, so you can participate in our Live Auction of bee-related items to benefit MSBA. We already have some donations, including a honey extractor, but we need more. Anything related to bees is welcome—please call me at 410-239-7496 with your ideas. One item which promises to be very popular is the “Buy-A-Beekeeper,” a one-on-one consultation with an experienced beekeeper (even some Master Beekeepers) in your own apiary. We have a dozen top beekeepers ready to help you in your beeyard. See the list on page 11.

This meeting is usually our best-attended of the year, so come early if you want to get a seat. We had nearly 200 last year. Great speakers, friends from all over the state, vendors of all kinds of bee equipment, refreshments, doorprizes—what a great way to spend a winter day!

Support Apiary Inspection

We are so lucky to be Maryland beekeepers! Not only do we have abundant pollen and nectar sources, the best-tasting honey anywhere, and a lot of hard-working and interesting people, we also benefit from the best bee inspection service around.

Those bee inspectors now need our help. For years, the state government that funds the Maryland Department of Agriculture has cut its budget to the bone, and the bee inspection part of MDA has suffered.

We need to supplement that bare-bones funding through our contributions to the Apiary Enhancement Fund.

Neighboring states have few bee inspectors—only one in Delaware, three in West Virginia, and six in the huge state of Virginia. Here in little Maryland, we have six inspectors covering every part of the state. They do more than just inspect and enforce—they teach. Go through your hives with one of them, and I guarantee you will learn a lot.

If you suspect that one of your beehives has a disease, you can call your local inspector, and he or she is there in no time. If your local association needs a speaker for a meeting or a short course class, these folks are there with bells on. If you have a problem with a neighbor you can’t handle yourself, they do their best to help. If a diseased colony is found in your area, they let you know so you can take appropriate precautions. Neighboring states have few bee inspectors—only one in Delaware, three in West Virginia, and six in the huge state of Virginia. Here in little Maryland, we have six inspectors covering every part of the state. They do more than just inspect and enforce—they teach. Go through your hives with one of them, and I guarantee you will learn a lot.

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If you buy used equipment and suspect that it may be contaminated, or if one of your own colonies comes down with American foulbrood, you can have the boxes and frames, even the drawn combs, fumigated so you can use them again. Maryland is one of only two states to offer this service. In other states, you take your chances with old boxes and burn any infected colonies. What a waste!

We get all of this for free, except for a nominal fee if you use the fumigation chamber. What is it worth to you to keep your bees alive? How important to you are all these services? $10? $35? $100? Every penny of this fund goes to pay the salaries of our inspectors. Please express your appreciation for the inspection service by making a contribution in any amount to the Apiary Enhancement Fund. Every little bit helps, and your gift will help maintain the high quality of Maryland’s bee inspection service. It may also help keep registration free.

###
Finally, A Complete Description Of Colony Collapse Disorder Across Time and Location.

Jerry Bromenshenk has been involved with Colony Collapse Disorder from the very beginning. He and his colleagues at the University of Montana, the U.S Army's Edgewood Chemical and Biological Center, his own company called Bee Alert Technology, and BVS, Inc. have ferreted out an amazing amount of information on this Disorder and are close to understanding the answers to this problem. Because of their work the beekeeping community is more aware of the best management practices over time to combat the worst of the regular pests and diseases bees have, and this year the almond orchards should have an ample supply of bees for pollination, in part due to their efforts, and of course the work of many other researchers and scientists. Of course it’s only late December and bees are fickle, fragile creatures…and in bee time, it’s a long way to February.

Over the two years that Colony Collapse Disorder has been a recognized problem, this group has probably visited more beeyards suffering from CCD, in more locations, and over a longer a time than most of the people involved in this search. As a result, in a full report prepared by this team to be released in the February issue of *Bee Culture* magazine, Bee Alert’s Scott Debnam and Jerry Bromenshenk from Missoula Montana, David Westerveld from Florida’s Apiary Inspections Bureau, and Randy Oliver, a commercial beekeeper with significant honey bee research experience from Grass Valley, California detail the symptoms of CCD with respect to where it hits, and when it hits. This information is critical in making a diagnosis as symptoms do change as seasons progress and knowing what to look for and when to look for it is absolutely necessary in making correct decisions. So far, no better guidelines exist for diagnosing this disorder.

To review what’s commonly known: The symptoms of the final stages of CCD have been oft repeated:

**In collapsed colonies**

- Complete absence of older adult bees in colonies, with few or no dead bees in the colony, on the bottom board, in front of the colony, or in the beeyard.
- Presence of capped brood in colonies during time of year when queen should be laying.
- Presence of food stores, both honey and pollen, unless a drought or time of year restricts availability of food resources.
- Absence of pest insects such as wax moth and hive beetle.
- Lack of robbing by other bees
- Robbing and return of hive pests is delayed by days or weeks.

**In collapsing colonies**

- Too few worker bees to maintain brood that is present.
- Remaining bee population predominately young bees.
- Queen is present.
- Queen may lay more eggs than can be maintained by workers, or is appropriate for the time of year.
- Cluster is reluctant to consume supplemental food such as sugar syrup and pollen supplement.

However, these are the terminal symptoms. By the time colonies reach this point it is far too late to do anything but bury the dead. Being able to spot colonies that are just becoming affected is a real plus because beekeepers can turn them around most times and keep them productive. Even though they still don’t know the cause, proper and appropriate management techniques go a long way in helping.

Here’s what the team has found:

**One year out:**
- Colonies are “just not doing well” with few other visible symptoms. They seem healthy, but have lackluster honey production.
Six months out:
Symptoms are vague and easily missed. Monthly inspections and careful comparisons are needed. Brood nests are slow to expand, with most in a single hive body. Mid-day inspections show bees dispersed in the colony, but this varies. Population growth slows to stops during growing season when compared to other colonies in the same yard. Honey stores remain untouched, bees are feeding on nectar recently collected. These symptoms are difficult to spot due to the careful comparisons needed.

Three months out:
CCD colonies appear slow to grow and are outpaced by non-CCD colonies in the apiary. There is a noticeable population decrease going from 3 to 2 boxes, or 2 to 1, and often the bees are on only a few frames in the bottom box…and they appear restless. Brood is shot gunned because of dead brood removal, and honey stores begin to diminish if it’s late in the season, but if early, the honey remains untouched. Routine maintenance goes undone and no propolis seals are noticeable.

One month out:
Usually 8 frames of bees or fewer remain and they decline rapidly. Brood is produced, but can’t be supported, queen replacement is often tried and abandoned brood is common. Stored honey depends on the season…in summer it may all be depleted, in winter untouched.

Finally:
Remaining bees fail to eat supplied food or medications, and it’s mostly young bees that remain now, as the older bees are gone. Queens continue to lay excessively, and the colony usually lacks any aggressiveness at all.

Visual Symptoms of a CCD Colony

1. Just days before its collapse the colony seemed to be strong and fully functional
2. Mostly young bees remaining in the hive
3. Bees are not aggressive
4. Queen is present
5. Eggs are present
6. Full frames of brood may be present
7. Brood may show signs of “shotgun” pattern
8. Capped honey and fresh nectar are often present, although not in summer collapses, which are uncommon
9. Fresh pollen has been stored in the hive recently, if external resources are available
10. Supplemental feed (syrup and extender patties) if supplied, are ignored
11. No robbing occurs
12. No secondary pests (small hive beetles, wax moths or ants) are found
13. No dead bees are noted around entrance of the hive
14. Bees do not show any signs of winglessness, paralysis or other adult bee diseases.

CCD tends to travel like a wave through a beeyard, and combining affected and unaffected colonies usually gives 2 dead colonies. Adding a package may help, and may not. There is a time until secondary pests will move in…using equipment before that time for more bees is risky and the colony may die again.

The Cause of Colony Collapse Disorder remains unknown, but the diagnosis, and thus the opportunity to administer remedial treatments is getting better all the time.

For the full article with additional information see the February issue of Bee Culture on our web site www.BeeCulture.com after Feb 1.

Thanks to Scott, David, Jerry and Randy.

###
New Florida Honey Law!

By David Morris

The State of Florida is adopting new regulations to define honey. The purpose of the regulation is to give the State the power to identify adulterated or fraudulent “honey”, prevent its sale, and punish the perpetrator. The State petitioned the FDA to establish a national definition of honey, but the FDA, in 2006, declined to consider the petition. The failure to act allows importers to more easily sell fake, diluted, or contaminated honey to packers in the United States. The diluted or fake honey can be sold at prices far below the price of pure honey produced in America. Examine the difference in the price between a bottle of honey and a bottle of corn syrup or a pound of sugar and you can easily see the profits to be made with fake honey. Further, the FDA and the Customs Dept rarely test imported honey, relying on individual packers to have the resources and integrity to perform their own tests. Read the December 30, 2008, article "Honey Laundering: A sticky trail of intrigue and crime" by the Seattle Post Intelligencer (online at http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/394053_honey30.asp) to gain a better understanding the extent of the problem.

The State of Florida is joining a movement with several other states to establish a legal definition of honey. Without such a definition it is very difficult to prove something is not honey. The Maryland State Beekeepers Assoc. is considering if following a similar course of action in Maryland would be appropriate.

One result of multiple states enacting their own definition of honey might be to show that this is a widespread concern. Another result might be that if the standards differ from state to state it could cause an impediment to interstate commerce. These reasons may give cause to the new administration to have the FDA reconsider the issue and enact a national definition of honey.

We generally expect beekeepers to have their own, “home grown”, honey supply, and therefore do not need to concern themselves with what happens to the honey everyone else consumes. But beekeepers are in the position to be the most knowledgeable, and concerned, about the reputation of the purity and safety of honey, even if you give it as a gift, and especially if you sell it. The result of a national honey definition would be to provide more protection for the health and safety of the American consumer, to help protect the image of purity that honey enjoys, and uphold the reputation and income of honest beekeepers.

###

Ag pesticides not uncommon in trapped pollen

Researchers in Connecticut, during the 2007 growing season monitored pesticides found in pollen collected in pollen traps. Colonies studied were under normal conditions and were not collapsing or in any other way ill. No colonies died during the experiment. The researchers collected the pollen twice a week from four locations in Connecticut during the season. Samples were analyzed using HPLC/MS.

Results: 102 samples were collected and analyzed. 37 pesticides were detected. 15 insecticide/acaricides, 11 fungicides, 10 herbicides and 1 plant growth regulator. All samples had at least one pesticide detected. The most commonly detected pesticide was coumaphos. Carbaryl and phosmet, both highly toxic to bees were the most commonly detected field pesticides. Imidacloprid was detected 30 times, mostly at low levels. The pesticides found at the highest levels were both fungicides: myclobutanil and boscalid.

This message brought to you by Bee Culture, The Magazine Of American Beekeeping www.BeeCulture.com

###
Maryland State Beekeepers’ Association
Winter Meeting
February 21, 2009
Howard County Fairgrounds

9:30 – 9:45  Opening and Welcome - Steve McDaniel  MSBA President
            (Lunch arrangements, Vendors Auction, Short Courses, Membership
            Thank Yous)

9:45 -- 10:00  MDA Apiary Inspection Report  - Jerry Fischer

10:00—11:00  The Latest on Colony Collapse Disorder - Dr. Jeff Pettis

11:00—11:10  Break

11:10—11:50  The Need For A Standard For Honey - Nancy Gentry

11:50--12:10  Business Meeting—Committee Sign-Up, Scale Hive Certificates

12:10—1:30  Lunch, Vendors

1:30—2:00  Auction

2:00—2:45  American Foulbrood: It’s Harder To Get Than You Think - Dr. Jeff Pettis

2:45—3:00  Break

3:00—3:15  Natural Beekeeping: Thriving Bees Without Chemicals - Steve McDaniel

3:15—3:45  Farm Bureau Initiatives On Beekeeping

3:45—4:30  Panel Discussion—Small Hive Beetle—Keeping It Out or Dealing With It

Lunch:  Bring your own, or purchase your sandwich from our caterer (order before 10 AM).  We
supply beverages.

(Vendors are welcome at meetings.  Please notify Steve McDaniel, President or David Morris,
Secretary one week prior to meeting date.  It is requested that vendors donate an item to be
a door prize when attending MSBA meetings. )

###
Maryland Nectar Flow Study Update
By Wayne Esaias

Eighteen volunteers monitored the nectar flow in Maryland in 2008, an increase of 4 total, and 7 new sites including two on the Eastern Shore. The overall results are consistent with earlier years, although comparison with satellite data is still underway (NASA is reprocessing all 2008 data, due to be done in a few weeks). Of the 10 repeat sites, the 2008 nectar flow was an average of 9 days earlier than last year, reinforcing the trend toward earlier blooming dates. At all 10 repeat sites the total weight gained was significantly less than last year, averaging 41 pounds less! The gradient at the fall line along I-95 was very similar to 2007, about 14 days later on the west side than the east. The nectar flow on the Eastern Shore might be a bit later than coastal western shore data but with only 2 sites it is a bit uncertain.

The data are excellent - several volunteers collected data in all 12 months and many added blooming information - and represent a fantastic set of new and very unique information. If you have not sent your data in yet, please do so. I will post some results at the Feb 20 meeting, and present all volunteers with an official NASA certificate of appreciation for your efforts.

We expect more participation in 2009, and hope that the current folk can continue their observations. This benefits everyone, and is setting a high mark for the national effort. We are still looking for volunteers to keep scale hive records throughout the state. In order to get better distribution of sites, MSBA is providing 4 additional scales. At this writing, a scale is still available for an Eastern Shore volunteer (one already taken), and two for Garrett and/or Allegany County as first priority, courtesy of MSBA. Contact Wayne Esaias wayne.esaias@nasa.gov (301-646-3025) if you are interested, The scales can be picked up at the meeting.

# # #
Committees

Most of the work of the association is done by committees, but many of them never physically meet. E-mail, phone, and the Web allow participants to put their heads together and share ideas at their own pace, regardless of location. Joining a committee is an ideal way for a member who lives in a part of the state distant from the Baltimore-Washington area to contribute to MSBA and benefit from being an active part of the association. Each committee needs one person to coordinate its activities by serving as chair, or nothing will get done.

To sign up for a committee, contact the chair of the committee or Steve McDaniel. Contact information is on the back page of the Beeline.

Current Committees (most of these could use helpers):
Newsletter—John Moyer, Editor, Chairman
Awards—Jody King, Chairman
Finance—Jon Bealer, Treasurer, Chairman
Program—Marc Hoffman, Vice President, Chairman
Website—Jon Bealer, Chair
Honey Show—chair needed

New Committees and their responsibilities:
Membership—retain current members, expand membership, and look for new benefits for our members
Chair: Members: Adam Finkelstein
History and Archives—organize and maintain a permanent archive of newsletters, clippings, documents, and photographs; prepare historical information for presentation to members
Chair: Members:
Education—outreach to the public and projects for our members, such as a short course, speaker’s bureau, educational publications, articles for the newsletter and website, etc.
Chair: Members: Wayne Esaias
Events: Honey Festival, MDA Open House, State Fair, etc.
Chair: Members: Toni Burnham
Master Beekeeper Program—classes and exams to certify Maryland beekeepers
Chair: Members: Bill and Nancy Troup
Government Affairs—Federal, State, and local government legislation, regulations, zoning
Chair: Marc Hoffman Members: Jerry Fischer, Wayne Esaias
Business—needs of commercial beekeepers, sideliners, anyone who sells honey, bees, or hive products; honey standard
Chair: Members: Byron Rice
Organizational Relations—cooperation with other state and local associations, MAAREC, EAS, NAPPC, etc.
Chair: Members: David Morris, EAS Director
Management and Research—Best Management Practices, local queen rearing, pest control, dealing with Africanized bees, incorporate latest research findings into management recommendations
Chair: Members: Jerry Fischer, Adam Finkelstein, Wayne Esaias
Report on Farm Bureau
“Annapolis Day”

By Mark Hoffman

On Tuesday, February 5, 2009, the Maryland Farm Bureau held its annual “Annapolis Day” for lobbying the state legislature. I attended representing MSBA. I found it an eye-opener.

The program opened at 9 am in Calvert House, a historic hotel right on State Circle, the road that encircles the State Capitol. The MFB legislative staff presented information to us, about 100 people, about 6-8 bills that were high priority for farmers. We then proceeded to the gallery of the House of Delegates, where we were recognized from the floor as guests. It was also announced in the House that MFB would be providing lunch for the legislators across the street. We then had a couple of hours to observe committee meetings. I went to a meeting about the state budget, which was depressing.

Then we assembled for lunch, which was very well organized. The MFB had name tags printed for every Delegate and Senator, and as the representatives walked in the door the staff greeted each by name and got the name tag. I found this impressive. This system also provided a record of who came, by the name tags that were gone. Maybe half of the delegates came. Everyone at the lunch, representatives and MFB folks alike, were seated at tables according to county, so I was seated at the Montgomery County table.

I was a little surprised by what transpired next. On reflection, I got that the delegates know the bargain: free lunch for getting lobbied. It is an annual event. Of course, they are all very interested in knowing what the MFB, aka “the farmers,” think. The three MFB folks I sat with, two of whom I know from past meetings, are very experienced, and whenever a delegate sat down, after greetings (and they knew many of the delegates already) they went through the list of bills and positions in a pretty aggressive way. Sometimes a delegate said “What do you need?” when he or she sat down.

This is not to say that there was anything improper. The delegates asked hard questions and pressed the MFB folks on certain points, and the ones attending were perhaps self selected as people who are sympathetic to MFB positions. (Maybe they were self-selected as people who were hungry.) The detailed discussions meant that the delegates became completely familiar with the ins and outs of the MFB positions on the bills, so they could decide their positions and support their positions to other delegates. There was also a lot of joking around.

The other thing I heard about, from the MFB folks, was how hard it is to get pollination services. I think MSBA is completely out of touch with this situation, and I plan to follow up to get, if not data, at least more first-hand accounts of what is happening. I got these stories from folks whose job it is be in the field keeping track of the situation with the farmers.

###
Auction at February Meeting

Once again, we plan to auction off items of bee equipment or books or anything bee-related, as well as consultations with experienced beekeepers in your own apiary. If you have bee items to donate for sale, please bring them to the meeting. If we have many of them, we will have a silent auction of the smaller items to save time. The first auction, at the November meeting, proved to be very popular, but we ran out of time to auction the consultations, so we are doing that this time. You can pay for your item with cash, check, or credit card.

The following experienced beekeepers, including many Master Beekeepers, have volunteered their services to be auctioned off.

**Participating Beekeepers:**
(MB denotes EAS-certified Master Beekeeper)
Jon Bealer (top-bar hives) Baltimore County
Toni Burnham Washington, D.C.
Dean Burroughs, MB Wicomico County
Bob Crouse, MB Harford County
Wayne Esaias, MB Howard County
Jerry Fischer Baltimore County or City
John Knapstein Harford County
Loyd Luna Anne Arundel County
Steve McDaniel, MB Carroll County
David Morris, MB Prince George’s County
Carole Johnson Frederick County
Bill Troup, MB Washington County

Note that the county listed is where the home of the beekeeper is located, but the one-hour radius can include other nearby counties. Anyone living in Central Maryland should have a number of beekeepers within range.

Purchase includes a one-hour visit to your apiary (within a one-hour drive of the beekeeper’s home) for a personal consultation. You can ask the beekeeper to advise you on management, evaluate your colonies and prescribe actions needed, or even find and replace your queen for you. The visit is to take place at a mutually-agreeable time within one year from the date of the auction.

###

**Short Course Info Requested**

If you or your bee association are giving a course in beekeeping this year, bring some registration forms to the meeting. We want to promote as many courses as possible. You may also send your information to Jon Bealer, and he will put your dates and contact information on the MSBA website.

**Bee Craft America**

There is a new free bee magazine with strong ties to Maryland available only in digital form on disc or on the Web. Edited by Dr. Dewey Caron (former University of Maryland professor) and Ann Harman (past President of MSBA and current president of the Virginia Beekeepers Association), Bee Craft America, a new U.S. version of a respected British magazine, deals with the practical as well as the scientific aspects of beekeeping.

The first issue includes articles on Selective Breeding for Varroa Resistance, The Value of Eggs and Young Larvae, Nosema ceranae, and much more. To get your free copy, send your name and e-mail address, with “Bee Craft America” in the subject heading, to secretary@bee-craft.com.

**MSBA Annual Dues for 2009 are due!**

Please mail your $10 membership dues for 2009 to Jon Bealer, 702 Monkton Road Monkton, MD 21111-1114.

Please include your Email address so we can send a link to the larger, e-mail version of the BEELINE...jam packed with more info and pictures....directly to you!
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John D. Moyer, Editor
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Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Assoc.
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Carroll County Beekeepers Assoc.
President: Adam Finkelstein Telephone: (410) 239-0957

Central Maryland Beekeepers Assoc.
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Eastern Shore Beekeepers Assoc.
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Frederick County Beekeepers Assoc.
President: Adam Finkelstein (301) 662-4844

Howard County Beekeepers Assoc.
President: Allen Hayes Telephone: (410) 489-2835

Hagerstown Valley Apian Society
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Montgomery County Beekeepers Assoc.
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Address corrections requested
Press Release
23th January 2009

A date for your diary!
The 2009 Apimondia Congress:
The Market of Honey and Co.!
From the 15th-20th September 2009, at Montpellier, France

In addition to the scientific Congress and technical exhibitions for professionals from the world of international apiculture, Apimondia 2009 has a space dedicated to the general public.

The Market of Honey and Co., located at the foot of Montpellier’s magnificent congress centre at the heart of the city centre on Europe’s largest pedestrian area, will be a key event with over 2,000 m2 dedicated to the benefits of produce of the hive.

Stands for rental are available to groups of producers, federations, associations or vendors to present and/or sell their products. These 16m2 stands may be shared in order to allow several producers to participate and become ambassadors for their region or territory.

For almost one week, 10,000 participants along with attentive members of the general public (Montpellier conurbation has a population of 300,000 people) will enjoy the wonderful world of Bees and Apiculture.

The Languedoc Roussillon’s “Terroir and Flavour” village will also offer tasting of regional produce, and a special Animation for the General Public area will run exhibitions, games, film showings and conferences in order to inform participants on the Life of Bees -the exceptional role played by this insect in pollination, preservation of biodiversity, causes of bee mortality etc.

For further information:
Please call +33 (0) 99 61 30 12
organisation@apimondia2009.com
SNYDER'S APIARIES
4747 Norrisville Road, White Hall, MD 21161

(410) 329-8671 or Email SnydersApiaries@clearviewcatv.net or coming soon www.SnydersApiaries.com

Woodware

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hive Body</th>
<th>1-4</th>
<th>5-9</th>
<th>10 -15</th>
<th>16 &amp; UP</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>$16.00</td>
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<td>$14.45</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Telescovers</td>
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<td>Inner Covers</td>
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<td>Top Feeders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slatted Boards</td>
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<td>Slat Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Screened Bottom Board</td>
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<td>Bottom Board Screen Insert</td>
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Frames

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 Pierce Products

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<th>101 - 1000</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois Super Waxed Frame</td>
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<td>$1.61</td>
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Medications

| Check Mite - [10 strip package] | $34.00 | Fumarii 5 Gram | $69.00 | Apistan [10 strip pack] | $28.00 |
| Apidgard [10 pack carton]      | $34.00 |             |         |                      |        |

HB Hive Kit [Includes Telescover, Inner Cover, 2-Hive Bodies w/Wood Frames, & Bottom Board]. Just purchase the foundation of your choice. $87 HB Hive Kit with Pierce plastic frames $109
ILL Hive Kit [Includes Telescover, Inner Cover, 3 Illinois Super w/Wood Frames, & Bottom Board]. Just purchase the foundation of your choice. $100 ILL Hive Kit with Pierce plastic frames $125
HB Starter Kit [Includes Telescover, Inner Cover, 2-Hive Bodies w/Frames, Bottom Board, Top Feeder, 20 Pierce Foundation, 4x1 SS Smoker, Folding Veil, Plastic Helmet, & Hive Tool]. $194 HB Starter Kit with Pierce plastic frames $219
ILL Starter Kit [Includes Telescover, Inner Cover, 3 Illinois Super w/Frames, Bottom Board, Top Feeder, 30 Pierce Foundation, 4x1 SS Smoker, Folding Veil, Plastic Helmet, & Hive Tool]. $212 ILL Starter Kit with Pierce plastic frames $237

PACKAGE BEES - NUCS & QUEENS

As in previous years we will have 3-pound packages of bees available for purchase. The packages are made up with young high quality Italian bees. Packages received over the last 11 years, when installed on foundation and with proper care, drew out two hive bodies of wax and with a good honey flow one to three shallow supers of honey were harvested from these colonies. The packages will be available for pickup on Saturday, April 4, 2009. A 3-pound package with an Italian queen is $87.00 each or $70.00 each with a Russian queen. Queenes are also available for pickup the same day at $14.50 each for Italian queens or $16.75 each for Russian queens.

Package Bee orders MUST BE PLACED by MARCH 25, 2009.

There will also be a limited number of 4 frame nucs available for pickup in May with either Italian or Russian queens. The nucs are $50.00 each.

Open Tuesdays & Thursdays 8-9 PM & Saturdays 8AM – 1PM March 1 through May 23, 2009 For other pickup days or times give us a call to make arrangements.

PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
Maryland State Beekeepers Assoc, Inc.

Dedicated to beekeeping in Maryland since 1908

February 2009

Dear Beekeeper,

We are so lucky to be Maryland beekeepers! Not only do we have abundant pollen and nectar sources, the best-tasting honey anywhere, and a lot of hard-working and interesting people, we also benefit from the best bee inspection service around.

Those bee inspectors now need our help. For years, the state government that funds the Maryland Department of Agriculture has cut its budget to the bone, and the bee inspection part of MDA has suffered. Unlike most states, Maryland charges no registration fee for beehives, so the whole budget has to come from state appropriations. We need to supplement that bare-bones funding through our contributions to the Apairy Enhancement Fund.

Neighboring states have few bee inspectors—only one in Delaware, three in West Virginia, and six in the huge state of Virginia. Here in Little Maryland, we have six inspectors covering every part of the state. They do more than just inspect and enforce—they teach. Go through your hives with one of them, and I guarantee you will learn a lot.

If you suspect that one of your beehives has a disease, you can call your local inspector, and he or she is there in no time. If your local association needs a speaker for a meeting or a short course class, these folks are there with bells on. If you have a problem with a neighbor you can’t handle yourself, they do their best to help. If a diseased colony is found in your area, they let you know so you can take appropriate precautions.

If you buy used equipment and suspect that it may be contaminated, or if one of your own colonies comes down with American foulbrood, you can have the boxes and frames, even the drawn combs, fumigated so you can use them again. Maryland is one of only two states to offer this service. In other states, you take your chances with old boxes and burn any infected colonies. What a waste!

We get all of this for free, except for a nominal fee if you use the fumigation chamber. What is it worth to you to keep your bees alive? How important is it to you to be able to do these services? $10? $35? $100? Every penny of this fund goes to pay the salaries of our inspectors. Please express your appreciation for the inspection service by making a contribution in any amount to the Apairy Enhancement Fund. Every little bit helps, and your gift will help maintain the high quality of Maryland’s bee inspection service. It may also help keep registration fees.

Thanks for anything you can do.

Yours,

Stephen McDaniel
MSBA President
**CATCH THE BUZZ**

**Bee Damage Data Lacking**

Dr. Eric Mussen, at U.C. Davis, puts out a newsletter that is always full of good information. I've referenced it before here, and will again I'm sure. This time he talks about reporting problems with bees and pesticides...worth reading for sure. Thanks Eric.

A group of forward-looking commercial beekeepers took it upon themselves to contact administrators from EPA and asked to discuss their concerns about honey bee-pesticide interactions. Given the history of previous, explosive exchanges, both sides had to take a deep breath and approach the concerns cautiously.

One detail that really caught the attention of the beekeepers was the fact that, at their reporting level, EPA lists only two reports of bee kills in 2006 and none between 2003 and 2005. Therefore, it seemed a bit odd to EPA representatives that the beekeepers felt so strongly about this issue.

In theory, there should be a mechanism by which any person, who believes that an application of pesticide caused a problem, can file an official state document detailing the purported loss. That document should become part of the state’s permanent record and should be transmitted to the federal office on an annual basis.

In California, that form is called “Report of Loss, Nonperformance or Damage” (PR-ENF-008). The form can be obtained at the office of any of the county agricultural commissioners or on the Web, if you search long enough. In California, the Reports of Loss are usually taken in to the ag commissioner’s office, to become part of the permanent file for that year. The last thing a commissioner wants is a drawer full of loss reports. It suggests that things are not being handled well in the county. It is likely that you will meet resistance to submitting a bunch of loss reports, but this is the ONLY WAY beekeepers can document how much loss actually is being encountered. When asked, I tell anyone that California beekeepers lose, or have severely damaged, an average of 10% of the state’s bee colonies. Not everyone suffers losses each year, but some of the losses are very large.

You may have to explain to the ag commissioner that you do not believe that these losses were misuses of the products, but the data is essential to document how much bee loss actually is occurring.

To prove the sincerity of the EPA to collect this data, the following two individuals wish to see copies of the all loss reports as they are being filed in the states:

F. Nicholas Mastrota
USEPA Headquarters
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Mail Code: 7507P
Washington, DC  20460
703-305-5247
Mastrota.nicholas@epa.gov

Norman Spurling
USEPA Headquarters
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Mail Code: 7502P
Washington, DC  20460
703-305-5835
Spurling.norman@epa.gov

A third person is interested in keeping track of any possible problems with fungicide applications. If you believe that you have encountered bee problems following a fungicide application next year, report that to your state and to:

Tony Kish
USEPA Headquarters
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Mail Code: 7505P
Washington, DC  20460
703-308-9443
Kish.tony@epa.gov

This message brought to you by *Bee Culture*, The Magazine Of American Beekeeping

EASTERN APICULTURAL SOCIETY – 2009 CONFERENCE

Every summer EAS conducts its Annual Conference consisting of lectures, workshops, vendor displays, short courses for beginning and advanced beekeepers, and annual business meeting in one of its 26 member states or provinces in the eastern U.S. and Canada. Over 400 people generally attend the conference each year.

EAS 2009 will be held August 3 - 7, 2009 at Holiday Valley Resort in Ellicottville, NY

An exciting opportunity exists for beekeepers to help make spectacular volumes from the E.F. Phillips Beekeeping Collection at Cornell University’s Albert R. Mann Library available to the public via the World Wide Web. EAS has donated seed money to the effort to digitize rare books in the E.F. Phillips Beekeeping Collection at Cornell University’s Albert R. Mann Library. The Tampa Bay Beekeepers Association has offered a challenge grant where TBBA will match the next $1,000 in new public donations to this effort. This PDF file provides additional details, as well as a form for submitting your donation. As these volumes are digitized, they will be made available at The Hive and the Honeybee: Selections from the E.F. Phillips Beekeeping Collection. As of the summer of 2004, the first ten volumes are available on-line.

The following information is available within this section of our web site:

- Phillips Beekeeping Collection Digitization effort - Book List
- Phillips Beekeeping Collection Digitization effort - Background & Donation Form
- EAS Awards Program
- EAS Foundation for Honey Bee Research
- Master Beekeeper Certification Program
- Archive of past EAS Conference web sites
- Archive of past issues of the EAS Journal

About the E version of the BEELINE:

The Beeline encourages news and articles submitted for publication that would be of interest to the general membership of MSBA.

Articles submitted from members and from local clubs may be included in the Beeline Electronic version, if there is not enough space in our 12 page mailed version. MSBA members may submit small classified adds for personal beekeeping items to be placed on a space available basis. Members submitting ads for their businesses must submit WORD formatted ads, 1 page or less. Business ads will be placed in the electronic version of the Beeline. Submissions to the Beeline are made to the Editor.

MSBA members may receive the electronic version of the Beeline by providing their email address to the MSBA Treasurer. The electronic version of the Beeline will be posted to a 'blind address' on the website and the membership will be sent an email announcing the link to the newsletter. The on-line newsletter is in PDF format which can be read on-line /downloaded as desired.

Links to recent past editions of the Beeline are posted to the website.
Worker Bees

by Steve McDaniel

Any volunteer association operates solely on the generosity and energy of the many “worker bees” who devote so much time and effort and even their own money to make sure the association runs smoothly. They use their own cars and homes and computers and never get reimbursed except for specific items they may purchase for MSBA. We are blessed to have so many great volunteers, be they officers or board members or general members, that any effort to thank them all inevitably leaves someone out, so at this time I will concentrate on just two of our best worker bees.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a wife-and-husband team who have given a great deal to MSBA, Adele and David Morris.

Adele served for three years as MSBA First Vice-President and declined to go on to be President, despite her demonstrated devotion to MSBA, only because she is uncomfortable with public speaking. I will miss her able assistance largely because she made me look good. She would have made a fine President.

As Veep, Adele was in charge of program for the general meetings. We worked together to decide whom we should ask to speak, and she would make contact with the speakers, working out the logistics of transportation, scheduling, reminders, payment, and accommodations. More than once, she and David picked up out-of-town speakers at the airport and hosted them at their home to save MSBA the cost of a hotel. I’m sure the speakers were happy with that, because she is an outstanding, even gourmet, cook, as well as a most gracious hostess. If you liked the excellent programs we have had in the last few years, thank Adele. I do.

For our last meeting, Adele provided a terrific variety of speakers, from the scientific to “Joe the Trapper,” with something for everyone.

She arranged for the dinner and the cake and contributed many items to the auction, including the auctioneer. Without her, there would not have been much of a program.

In addition to doing a fine job as auctioneer, David has done so many things for MSBA, it is hard to know where to start. He served as President from 1994 to 1996, and has been on the Board as Second Vice President for Prince George’s County so long I can’t remember when he wasn’t. David was one of our best Presidents, keeping everything running smoothly and reliably and presenting great programs. You can always depend on David, and I do, as he is now Secretary. He keeps the best records of anyone I know, and he can always answer questions at the board meetings about what we voted on and when. He has our history at his fingertips. A voice of reason, he helps to keep us grounded and on track. I have left out most of his accomplishments and contributions, but I cannot thank him enough for all he has done.

Every hive depends on its worker bees, and without people like David and Adele, MSBA could not exist.
BEEKEEPING - A HONEY OF A HOBBY

FOR: Anyone interested in bees.

SPONSORED BY: Anne Arundel Beekeepers Association
Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center
Maryland Department of Agriculture

PLACE: Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center
975 Indian Landing Road
Millersville, MD 21108

DATES: March 10, 2009 - 7:00 to 9:00 PM
March 17, 2009 - 7:00 to 9:00 PM
March 24, 2009 - 7:00 to 9:00 PM
March 31, 2009 - 7:00 to 9:00 PM
April 4, 2009 - 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

FEES: $25.00 SINGLE $30.00 FAMILY $5.00 STUDENT

OPTIONAL TEXT - BEEKEEPING FOR DUMMIES - $20.00

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Loyd Luna - (410) 757-5797
DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: February 28, 2009

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A FIVE SESSION COURSE; YOU SHOULD PLAN TO ATTEND ALL FIVE SESSIONS.

COMPLETE AND RETURN THE APPLICATION BELOW.

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________
City: ____________________ State _________ ZIP __________
Telephone: Home (      ) ________________ Work (      ) __________
E-Mail ____________________________________________

I want: Text _____ book(s) @ $20.00 each - Total ______

Course Fee: Individual @ $25.00 each _____
Family @ $30.00 each _____ Total number & names of attendees
Student @ $5.00 each _____
Grand Total Paid: $ ______

Make checks payable to AABA and return the application and check to: Doris Luna, Treasurer - AABA, 754 Carlisle Drive, Arnold, MD 21012 by February 28, 2009.
Savor the Sweet Rewards of Beekeeping!

A FANTASTIC HOBBY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Educational & Fun! Improve Your Garden Crops Can Be Done Almost Anywhere

Learn About Nature’s Seasons and Cycles Enjoy your Own Home Harvested Honey!

Experienced beekeepers will answer your questions about Honeybees and beekeeping! How do Honeybees make honey? Why do Honeybees Swarm?

Why are Honeybees so important to one-third of the food we eat? Learn how to Make your own Queens and Colonies!

Experienced Beekeepers will benefit too! Make new Beekeeping Friends!

Brush up on Bee Biology & New Management Tips!

Introduce your family to the fascinating world of honeybees, their importance to our environment and our food supply. Bottle your own honey and prepare honey and beeswax gifts for friends and family. Learn how to make candles, soap and other Hive products! You don’t have to become a beekeeper to learn about Honeybees!

*Class begins March 12, 2009, Limited to 50 students, Sign Up Now!*  
**Class Dates:** Thursdays, 7:30 - 9:30 PM, March 12, 19 & 26, April 2, 9, (7:00PM) & 16  
**Field Days:** Saturday, April 4, 10:00 AM, Saturday, April 11, 10:00 AM

**A Complete Hive with Honeybees will be Raffled off! Door Prizes Nightly!**

**Location:** Watkins Park Nature Center, 301 Watkins Park Dr., Largo, Md. 1/2 mile south of Rt. 214 at the intersection with Route 193. Tel (301) 218-6702  
**Our thanks to the Watkins Park Nature Center staff for their assistance.**

Cost includes course text, 1 year membership with newsletter and mentoring with experienced beekeepers: Single $30 Family $35

Come Learn why the Honeybee is so important to our survival and the role they play in our daily lives!

Sponsored by the Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association and the Watkins Park Nature Center

For details and registration, please contact:

- David Morris 301-725-6185  
- beekeeper@verizon.net  
- Scott Secomb 301-686-2086  
- scott.secomb@verizon.net

Equipment will be available from Free State Bees (301) 580-9313
Greetings from beautiful Cache Valley in Northern Utah!

Pollinating Insects – Biology, Management and Systematics Research Unit was founded in the late 1940s as part of the alfalfa seed production unit. We focus primarily on pollination research with bees. At this website you will find information about our staff, programs, and research highlights. We are located at the Logan campus of Utah State University and our scientists maintain adjunct positions with the U.S.U. Biology Department.
Maryland State Beekeepers Association

Membership Application

Name: ____________________________________________

Membership

Lifetime

[ ] I am enclosing $100 for a new Lifetime membership
[ ] I am an existing Lifetime member

Annual

[ ] I am enclosing $10 for a NEW annual membership (please complete all contact details below).
[ ] I am an existing Annual member, I am enclosing $10 for this year’s dues.

Donations

[ ] I would like to make a general donation to MSBA of $_________
[ ] I would like to make a donation to the George Imirie Education Fund of $_________
[ ] I would like to make a donation to the Apiary Enhancement Fund of $_________
[ ] I would like MSBA vehicle plates and enclose a donation of $15.

Change of Contact Information

[ ] The existing contact information on file is up to date.
[ ] Please apply the changes indicated below:
Address: __________________________________________________________________
City: ________________________ State: _____ ZIP: ________ County: ___________
Phone: ______________________ (home / cell / work)
Email: __________________________________________ (home / work)

Questionnaire

[ ] I am interested in serving on the MSBA Executive Board or a committee
[ ] I am interested in judging or assisting at the annual MSBA Honey Show
[ ] I am interested in giving a presentation at a future MSBA event
[ ] I am interested in providing an article for the ‘Beeline’
[ ] I would like to receive my copy of ‘Beeline’ by email, instead of via USPS (saving MSBA Postage & Printing costs!)

Suggestions / Feedback

Do you have any suggestions for the MSBA – topics for future meetings; things you would like to see MSBA doing; improvements to the website etc?

Please make all checks payable to ‘MSBA’

Mail checks and forms to:
Jon Bealer, Treasurer
702 Monkton Road,
Monkton MD 21111

Office Use Only

Check Num: ________________________
Check Amt: ________________________
Details updated: __________________
LEARN TO BE A BEEKEEPER!

2009 Introductory Beekeeping Class Begins March 5—Register Now

At Holiday Park Sr. Center
3950 Ferrara Drive
Wheaton, Maryland

Near Veirs Mill and Connecticut Ave.

• Register in advance
• $50 materials fee includes book & MCBA membership
• Schedule:
  Thursday evenings,
  March 5-April 2,
  7-9 pm, April 8, & one field afternoon

Information: www.MontgomeryCountyBeekeepers.com
Questions: Jim Fraser at jfraser71@aol.com

12/08