



THE BEE LINE

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MSBA Fall Meeting & Elections Nov 21, 2009

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President's Message

by Steve McDaniel

The last meeting of the year is just around the corner, and it's one you won't want to miss. We're going to end the year on an upbeat note, featuring some of the best aspects of beekeeping, a celebration not just of our association or even of the bees themselves, but of the craft that brings us all together. There really are reasons why we are fool enough to play with stinging insects.

Why do you keep bees? Is it fun for you? Do you find them fascinating? Is it a purely practical matter of needing bees for honey or pollination? Do you make money from your bees? Do you find that working your colonies takes your mind off your problems? Do you keep bees to help the environment? Do you enjoy being outdoors on a sunny day, caring for your charges? Do you appreciate their beauty, their sounds, the heavenly smell of a beehive? Do you love your bees?

Each of us has our own answers to those questions, but one thing is universal—our willingness to overcome the natural fear of stings to ply our craft. Whatever your motivation, we can all agree that keeping bees is worthwhile, despite an occasional sting. Most of us don't do it to make money, though many manage to make our beekeeping pay for itself.

The only way to fulfill your goals in beekeeping is to have live bees, and not just barely living, but thriving bees. We are fortunate to have Nancy Ostiguy, a bee researcher from Pennsylvania State University, to give us advice on "Helping Your Bees Thrive," based on her research. She has done a lot of work on hive contaminants, such as viruses and pesticides, which may not sound upbeat until she tells us how to overcome their negative effects on the bees.

Pat Haskell, a Master Beekeeper from Northern Virginia, teaches several courses in beekeeping each spring. Working with Billy Davis and nine different associations, their courses enrolled over 400 people this year. She will tell us how she does it and how we can be better Bee Ambassadors.

If you have ever had a neighbor complain about your bees, you will want to hear how the Howard County Beekeepers Associa

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tion, with the help of MSBA, beat back an attempt to outlaw beekeeping in Howard County. The experience of Allen Hayes, Wayne Esaias, and company may serve as a model for countering other problems that are bound to come from time to time.

I've even put myself on the program for a quick five minute pep talk on "Making Your Beekeeping Pay for Itself." Note that the title is not "How to Make a Million Dollars" or "How to Go Commercial." I just have a few ideas on how to use the honey you have sitting in a bucket in the basement and your knowledge of beekeeping to make enough money to pay for those new top covers you need. I'll also be revealing some secrets of close-up photography of many nature subjects, especially bees, including the thought process that goes into making a photograph a work of art, as well as the technical details of working the camera. I'll have an exhibit of some of my pictures so you can decide for yourself if you think I have something worthwhile to say on the matter.

Our ever-popular auction is back, with Master Beekeepers you can get to consult with you in your own apiary, stainless-steel honey extractors, jars, and much more. If you want to contribute items to auction or consign larger items (half to you, half to MSBA), call me (410-239-7496) before the meeting. Bring your checkbook, credit card, or cash and go home with a treasure!

The Secretary of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Buddy Hance, our host for the meeting, will have a few words to say about how MDA and MSBA work together for you. I know you will want to meet Secretary Hance, if only to thank him for our excellent bee inspection service.



This meeting will be not only the last of the year, but my last as your President, as my term is ending. We still need nominees for some offices, so if you want to help, please call me and volunteer—we consider every office open until the

election on Saturday. Thank you for the opportunity to be MSBA President. I have enjoyed the experience and appreciate all the kind words and all the help you have given me.

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Mark your calendars:

COMING EVENTS

Fall Meeting: Nov 21, 2009

MD Dept of Agriculture, Annapolis

Directions to MD Dept of Agriculture, Annapolis:

Directions: Take Rt. 50 East to Annapolis. In Annapolis, take Exit 22, Rt. 665 to Riva Rd. Follow the Riva Rd. exit onto Riva Road South.

Go 4/10 miles to Harry S Truman Pkwy and turn right, at the light.

Go 1.2, miles to 50 Harry S Truman Hwy; the MDA building is on the right. Look for the yellow "BEE MTG" signs and the cows.

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Upcoming Local/ National / International Meetings:

American Beekeeping Federation's **National Beekeeping Conference**, Orlando, Florida, Wyndham Orlando Resort
January 12-16, 2010

EAS 2010 August 2-6, 2010
Boone, North Carolina

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Special Thanks to the Honey Show Judges and volunteers for their hard work and expertise. Your efforts made the show a success!!

**NEWS FROM THE APIARY
INSPECTORS OFFICE
PLANT PROTECTION & WEED
MANAGEMENT
APIARY INSPECTION**

Phone: 410-841-5920 Cell: 410-562-3464 Fax: 410-841-5835

October 23, 2009

SMALL HIVE BEETLE (SHB)

Attention, Attention, Attention to the beetles invading your colonies! I don't mean the 60's Rock and Roll band, but the Aethina tumida or more commonly known as the small hive beetle (SHB). Infestations are almost statewide with only a few isolated areas where no SHB are found yet... but it is just a matter of time until infestation levels will be statewide.

Some beekeepers operations (mainly commercial) have reached the pandemic level. Since the beetles fly, it will only be a few seasons or less until they arrive at your apiary. If you are located near one of these commercial outyards or if you have bought package bees, nuc's or established colonies from infested areas, your chances are accelerated to acquire beetles.

You must be prepared! Refer to SHB articles in the October 2009 issues of both Bee Culture and American Bee Journal for treatment and procedures. Please read the SHB Extension leaflet as it appear in this newsletter.

Any further questions of concerns should be directed to the Maryland Department of Agriculture Inspection Services at the numbers above.

Submitted by
William J. Troup III
Assistant Field Supervising Inspector



Meet our Speaker:

Nancy Ostiguy, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Entomology Penn State

Research Interests:

Honey bee and native pollinator health, Integrated Pest Management; Impact of pesticides on non-target species; Sampling strategies

- My interests are in the area of sustainable and organic agriculture. The current focus of my research is in the area of environmental consequences of pest control strategies, including non-pesticidal approaches to pest control (IPM), pesticide residues in foods and other products, risk communication, and sub lethal effects of pesticides on non-target organisms.
- We are investigating the impact of in-hive pesticide use on behavior and survivorship of honey bees during all life stages. Our investigations also focus on methods to prevent the Varroa mite from reaching lethal levels using novel combinations of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) tactics. Included in our tactics are genetic, physical and cultural control techniques, with a focus on environmental factors that influence mite levels and the use of advanced statistical methods to control for multiple influences on mite population levels. Other work relating to IPM tactics to control maladies of the honey bee include the development of beekeeper friendly methods to measure mite levels in colonies.
- I am interested in pesticide residues in food, especially honey and beeswax. We are looking at long and short-term residues from the application of fluralinate and/or coumaphos in honey bee colonies.

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Maryland State Beekeepers' Association Fall Meeting

Saturday, November 21, 2009

Maryland Department of Agriculture

50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Program

8:30am	Refreshments, Coffee, etc.	
9:30am	Opening and Welcome Announcements, Annual Report	Steve McDaniel, MSBA President
9:45am	Maryland Department of Agriculture and MSBA	Buddy Hance, Secretary of Agriculture
10:00am	MD Apiary Inspector's Report	Jerry Fischer, MD State Inspector
10:15 am	Helping Your Bees Thrive	Nancy Ostiguy, Penn State Univ.
11:00am	Howard County Bee Complaint— A Success Story	Allen Hayes, HCBA President, Dan and Jeri Hemerlein
11:10am	break	
11:15 am	Raising Queen Bees in Maryland	Adam Finkelstein
11:55am	Making Your Beekeeping Pay For Itself	Steve McDaniel
12:00pm	Election of Officers	
12:15 pm	Lunch	
1:00pm	Auction	
1:30 pm	Research at Penn State Univ.	Nancy Ostiguy
2:20 pm	Break	
2:30 pm	Teaching Beekeeping	Pat Haskell, Master Beekeeper
3:00 pm	Digital Nature Photography	Steve McDaniel
4:00pm	adjourn	

Small Hive Beetle (*Aethina tinnida*)

If found in hives Please call Your State Apiary Inspector

Damage

In Hive

Adults and Larvae of small hive beetles (SHB) are attracted to and feed on honey and Pollen. SHB have also been seen eating honey bee eggs and larvae. If the infested hive has stored honey, it will be riddled with beetle larvae tunnels. The honey will ferment and run down the combs, and out the hive. If the SHB population gets large enough the bees abscond.

Honey House

Beetles are attracted to stored comb or honey waiting extracting. Any Brood or pollen in the stored comb will further attract SHB toward the honey house. If not extracted right away, the SHB will take over the supers, destroying the honey. Any cappings left around will also be attacked. Larvae will crawl across the floor in mass till they find soil to pupate in.

Management Practices

Bee Yard

Beekeepers need to check their hives every two to three weeks in the spring, summer and fall for the presence of SHB, and treat when SHB are found. Keep hives strong with strong queens. Put on honey supers when needed, and take off when full. It is not a good ideal to keep stacking honey suppers on top of hives. Unprotected honey supers are ripe for beetles to move into. When a hive is weak from SHB, stacking the supers on a stronger colony only causes the destruction of that colony. Sloppy or careless beekeepers will have the biggest problem with SHB.

Treatment consists of GuardStar™ as a ground drench around the hives. CheckMite™ is used as a treatment in the hive. **READ PESTICIDE LABELS AND FOLLOW DIRECTIONS AT ALL TIMES.** Know what safety equipment you must wear and any other precautions you should take.

Honey House

Extract what can be extracted right away or within two days. All bits of comb and cappings should be rendered as soon as possible. Clean equipment when done extracting. Make sure there is no honey left in the extractor, including the drain. Wash down walls and floors with bleach water. In Africa, supers are stored outside under a roof, open sided, with supers crisscrossed so light gets into the supers. Stored combs should be examined at least every three weeks for the presence of SHB. If SHB gets in the honey house, spray the perimeter with GuardStar™.

How to look for SHB

There are several ways to find SHB in the hive. Opening the lid and looking for them on the inner cover is one, but it is not always reliable. When heavily invested then will see them running across inner cover moving into the hive. Another way is to look at the back corners of the bottom board. Just tilt back the supers and look for the beetles. You could look for beetles in the hive itself by looking for them running across frames or in cells, or look in the grooves where frames are hanging. Where honey and pollen meet on a frame is where larvae may first be seen.

The easiest and the one that has shown good results is where you take off the top super, put the inner cover back on then place the top super on top of the inner cover, leaving the top cover off. Leave the hive this way for 5 to 15 minutes. Then lift off the super and look on the inner cover for beetles. The light coming into the top super activates the beetles to move down out of the super onto the inner cover.

More beetles will be seen on the inner cover in the morning. As the temperature decreases, more beetles are found on the inner cover. As the temperature increases, more beetles are found on the bottom board. Shady bee yards tend to have more beetles found in them. The beetles do not always need soil to pupate in. If the bottom board has enough debris they will pupate in the debris (this is a management problem). Both adults and larvae like darkness and will scurry away from light. When the larvae are ready to pupate only then will they move towards the light. They will go through any cracks or opening and drop down to the ground. When they do this you usually see honey oozing from these openings.

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How Temperature and Moisture Affects SHB

Only adults over-winter in the hive in colder climates. They can be found on margin and center of clustering bees. If hive is weak then beetles cluster together for warmth. SHB will not survive in cold climates in supers empty of bees.

SHB Larvae and egg survival is affected by relative humidity. 88% humidity is the best survival rate. As the humidity goes down, less larvae is observed and less eggs hatch. Low humidity deteriorates the eggs. As eggs are exposed to colder temperature hatching will be delayed.

The SHB pupates in the soil and will be affected by soil temperature and soil type. Extreme dry or saturated soil slows pupation. Larvae either adjust depth or waits for the right conditions. The SHB does like sandy soil better than clay. If the soil temperature is at 30° C (88°F), 98% adults emerge between 13 and 30 days. At 20° C only half the adults emerge in 30 to 40 days. At 10° C few emerge and ones that do are delayed by 100 days.

MSBA 2009 Honey Show Award Winning

Honey Oatmeal Bread

Recipe adapted from West Bend recipe book
by John Moyer

Dough prepared in bread-maker, baked in Oven

Ingredients:

Water (80 deg +/- F)	1 1/4 C + 3T
Honey	3T
Bread Flour	3 1/4 C
Oatmeal (Old Fashioned)	1C
Dry Milk	2T
Salt	1 1/2 t.
Butter or Margarine	2T
Bread maker Yeast	2t.



Place liquid ingredients in bread-maker first. Stir flour, oatmeal milk & salt together and add on top of the liquid ingredients in the bread-maker. Hollow out a hole in the dry ingredients and add the yeast and cover it over with some of the dry ingredients. Divide the butter and place some in each corner of the bread-maker. Set the bread-maker to the Dough cycle.

When the dough preparation is complete, remove from bread-maker. Shape the dough and place into a greased 9"x5" bread pan. Place the pan in a warm place cover it and let the dough rise until it is double in size (about 45 min). Bake in oven (preheated to 350 deg F) for 50 min. or until crust is golden brown. (Slightly longer if a darker crust is desired)

Makes (1) 2lb. Loaf

links of interest:

We often come across interesting links to articles and information that you may enjoy with the click of your mouse. If you find something of interest forward it along to the *Beeline* so we can share. Here are some recent ones:

Subscribe to Malcolm Sanford's [Apis Newsletter](http://www.apis.shorturl.com/) :

Check out Bee Culture's [Global Beekeeping Calendar](http://my.calendars.net/bee_culture/) :

What's New At Mann Lake right [Here](http://www.mannlakeltd.com/catchthebuzz/index.html) :

<http://www.mannlakeltd.com/catchthebuzz/index.html>

New Book intro : *The Incomparable Honey Bee*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6w-Z7XlnHI>

Friends of the Bees:
<http://fotb.drogon.org/index.php>

Wonderful NYT slide show on the White House bees.
http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2009/11/04/us/politics/20091104_BEES_SS1/index.htm

MAAREC slide shows various Bee Topics:

<http://maarec.cas.psu.edu/slideshows.html>

Welcome to Pollinator Paradise :
<http://www.pollinatorparadise.com/>

NHB on-line recipe newsletter called *The Honey Feast*:
<http://www.honey.com/consumers/honeyfeast.asp>

MSBA Honey Show



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