



THE BEE LINE

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MSBA Summer Meeting Sept 11, 2010

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President's Message

by Paul Dill

Just got back from this year's very good EAS Meeting in Boone, NC, though we are still struggling with a number of significant problems for beekeeping.

Many beekeepers seem to still be searching for a single cause to blame for Colony Collapse Disorder, though a large number of us think that a number of things have come together to cause this problem. My opinion is that it can be complicated: the bees go out and bring in materials from the environment that are safe by themselves, but in combination with our treatment we may get unpredictable results that are the death of the hive. Even in our own kitchens, baking soda and vinegar are just fine on their own, but put them together and they boil!

This year, American Found Brood was found in samples from two of my hives that sit side by side. You might think that they got it from each other, right? Diagnosis was a bit strange: there was no smell and no sunken cappings, but the end-stage scale was present. I puzzled over it, because it seemed that one would be Terramycin resistant, but the other one wasn't. I will not treat with Terramycin or Tylan: to my mind, the only way to cure AFB is to get rid of it. I may have caused my own problems by failing to cull old frames: who knows what was in all that old, dark wax? It was clear that the bees on older comb did not do as well as bees on newer comb.

With new ideas and discussions with old friends from EAS, and lessons learned from this year's bees, we are approaching the time to close down this year and think about our plans for next Spring. Our September 11 meeting in Rockville includes the famous biologist Dr. Tom Seeley from Cornell, who might have some ideas about that, as well as beekeepers from across our region with their own stories to tell. I hope to see you there!

###

Directions to:

**MSBA Summer Meeting
Camille Kendall Academic Center , Room III-3241
Universities at Shady Grove, Rockville , MD:**

From Washington, D.C. and points south & Annapolis and points east:

- Take I-95/495 N toward Baltimore/Silver Spring.
- Merge onto I-495 toward Silver Spring and follow to I-270 N.
- Take the MD-28 W, exit 6B, towards Darnestown.
- Merge onto W. Montgomery Ave./MD-28 W.
- Turn LEFT onto Darnestown Rd.
- Turn LEFT onto Shady Grove Rd.
- Turn RIGHT onto Gudelsky Way.
- Turn LEFT onto Gudelsky Dr.
- Parking available in lots 1 and 2 on your left

From Hagerstown/Frederick and points west:

- Follow I-70 E to I-270 S.
- Take I-270 to Exit 8, Shady Grove Road West.
- Go 1.5 miles, cross Darnestown Road.
- Turn RIGHT onto Gudelsky Way.
- Turn LEFT onto Gudelsky Drive.
- Parking available in lots 1 and 2 on your left.

From Baltimore and points north:

- Take I-95 S toward Washington, D.C.
- Take the I-495 W exit toward Silver Spring/Bethesda.
- Merge onto the Capital Beltway (I-495) and proceed to I-270 N.
- Take the MD-28 W, exit 6B, towards Darnestown.
- Merge onto W. Montgomery Ave./MD-28 W.
- Turn LEFT onto Darnestown Rd.
- Turn LEFT onto Shady Grove Rd.
- Turn RIGHT onto Gudelsky Way.
- Turn LEFT onto Gudelsky Dr.
- Parking available in lots 1 and 2 on your left.

Call 301.738.6023 for more detailed information.

LUNCH: Due to the Universities restrictions we are not able to offer meals other than coffee service on site during our September meeting. **We encourage you to either bring lunch or visit one of several nearby restaurants.**

Mark your calendars:**COMING EVENTS****MSBA Summer Meeting:**

Sept 11, 2010; Universities at Shady Grove, Rockville , MD

Maryland Honey Harvest Festival:

Sept 18, 2010; Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Bowie, MD

MSBA Annual Meeting & Honey Show:

November 20, 2010; Maryland Department of Agriculture HQ Annapolis, MD

###

Upcoming Local/ National / International Meetings:

EAS 2011 Short Course and Conference
July 25 - 29, 2011; Warwick, RI

APIMONDIA 42nd International Apicultural Congress; Buenos Aires, Argentina, Sept 21-25, 2011.

###

Beeline seeks new Editor

I will be stepping down as Editor of the *Beeline* at the end of the year. We are looking for a volunteer for this position and I will be happy to work with the new Editor to effect a smooth transition.

Please contact me if you have an interest in becoming Editor or have any questions.

John Moyer (410) 923-0190
jmoyer28@comcast.net

###

WEST VIRGINIA PASSES BEEKEEPER IMMUNITY LAW

West Virginia has become the first state in the nation to pass a law giving beekeepers immunity from liability for ordinary negligence. This law came about as a result of strong support by the leadership of both the House and Senate. We are fortunate to have a State Senate President, Earl Ray Tomblin, whose father is a beekeeper. Additionally, House Speaker Richard Thompson was raised by a grandfather who was a beekeeper. Finally, it helped that the honey bee is the state insect!

The law requires that beekeepers register their hives. It also mandates the WV Department of Agriculture to promulgate Best Management Practices for beekeepers. All beekeepers who abide by these two provisions will have absolute civil immunity from ordinary negligence. The Department is working on a set of emergency rules they hope will be in effect soon. Governor Joe Manchin signed the bill into law the first of April making this the first state to protect its beekeeping industry. (Courtesy of Russ Dean, Dean's Apiary)

A BILL to amend and reenact §19-13-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to limiting the liability of apiary owners and operators.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia: That §19-13-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 13. INSPECTION AND PROTECTION OF AGRICULTURE.

§19-13-4. Registration of bees; identification of apiaries.

(a) All persons keeping bees in this state shall apply for a certificate of registration for beekeeping from the commissioner, within ten days of the date that bees are acquired, by notifying the commissioner, in writing, of the number and location of colonies they own or rent, or which they keep for someone else, whether the bees are located on their own property or someone else's property. All apiary certificates of registration expire on December 31, of each year and must be renewed annually.

(b) All persons owning or operating an apiary which is not located on their own property must post the name and address of the owner or operator in a conspicuous place in the apiary.

(c) A person who:

- (1) owns and operates an apiary;
- (2) is registered with the Commissioner; and
- (3) operates the apiary in good faith, in a reasonable manner and in conformance with best management practices, is not liable for any personal injury or property damage that occurs in connection with the keeping and maintaining of bees, bee equipment, queen breeding equipment, apiaries and appliances.

-reprinted from lehigh valley beekeepers assoc. website

####

Scientists stunned as bee populations continue to decline

Monday, August 16, 2010 by: David Gutierrez, staff writer (NaturalNews)

Scientists remain stymied as honeybees in the United States and across the world continue to die in large numbers.

"There are a lot of beekeepers who are in trouble" said David Mendes, president of the American Beekeeping Federation. "Under normal condition you have 10 percent winter losses ... this year there are 30, 40 to 50 percent losses."

For many years, beekeepers have been plagued by colony collapse disorder, in which formerly healthy bees abruptly vanish from their hives. The number of beehives in the United States dropped 32 percent in 2007, another 36 percent in 2008 and still another 29 percent in 2009.

A number of explanations for the phenomenon have been suggested, including diseases, parasites, malnutrition, but toxic chemicals are emerging as a major concern among beekeepers.

"It might not be the only factor but it's a contributing factor," said Jeff Pettis of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland.

A study recently published in the journal *Public Library of Science* found 121 different pesticides in 887 samples taken from beehives in 23 U.S. states and Canada.

"I don't put my bees in Florida because the last couple of years there has been tremendous increase in pesticide use in the orange crop to fight a disease," Mendes said. "A few years ago they did not use any pesticide at all."

Pettis said that the destruction of natural lands is having a negative impact on the health of bees, which require a "diverse natural habitat."

"The world population growth is in a sense the reason for pollinators' decline," he said. "Because we need to produce more and more food to feed the world we grow crops in larger fields."

The irony, he noted, is that global agriculture depends heavily on honeybees to pollinate critical food crops.

"A growing world means growing more food and to do that we need pollinators," he said. "And the fact that the world is continuing to grow is the driving force behind the habitat destruction."

Sources for this story include:

<http://www.breitbart.com/article.ph...>

###

Maryland State Beekeepers' Association

Summer Meeting

September 11, 2010

Camille Kendall Academic Center , Room III-3241
Universities at Shady Grove,
Rockville, MD

8:30am	Refreshments, Coffee, Donuts, etc.	
9:30am	Opening and Welcome	Paul Dill President
9:45am	<i>Md. Apiary Inspector's Report</i>	Jerry Fischer Md. State Inspector
10:00am	<i>House Hunting by Honey Bees</i> <i>A study of effective group decision making</i>	Dr. Thomas Seeley Author, <i>The Wisdom of the Hive</i> Cornell University
	Break	
11:15am	<i>A Zoning Victory for Honeybees and Beekeepers: The Prince William County, VA Story</i>	Karla Eisen Prince William County, VA Beekeepers
12:00 noon	Lunch (not provided on site)	
1:30pm	<i>Baltimore Honey: Community Supported Apiaries and Sustainable Urban Beekeeping</i>	Meme Thomas, Director of Baltimore Honey www.baltimorehoney.org
2:15pm	<i>Getting Freebies:</i> <i>The design and use of effective bait hives</i>	Dr. Thomas Seeley Author, <i>The Wisdom of the Hive</i> Cornell University
3:15pm	<i>Panel discussion: Wintering Nucs</i>	
4:00pm	Adjourn	

###

Our Speakers:

Dr. Thomas Seeley is Professor and Chairman in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior at Cornell University. He is a world authority on animal behavior, especially the social behavior of honey bees.

At home more in the field than the laboratory, his scientific work features observational and experimental investigations of the inner workings of honey bee colonies living under natural conditions. A member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, he is the recipient of numerous honors for his scientific work including a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Alexander von Humboldt Distinguished U.S. Scientist Award, and a Gold Medal from Apimondia for his book *The Wisdom of the Hive*. Currently, he is working on a new book, *Swarm Intelligence in Bees*.

Karla Eisen and other beekeeping leaders in Virginia's Fairfax County recently won a significant zoning victory, a new law which opened the door to hives in the full range of neighborhoods in this highly diverse jurisdiction. Karla will speak to us about the challenge they faced and how they organized and worked together to meet it

Meme Thomas is Director of Baltimore Honey (producers of the B'More Honey brand, www.baltimorehoney.org) as well as a successful landscape business owner whose pioneering model of community supported apiaries (CSAs) will be expanding into additional Maryland communities over the next year or so. Meme is committed to sustainable beekeeping and beekeeping in urban and suburban environments.

###

*3rd annual***Maryland Honey Harvest Festival**

Dear MSBA members:

On page 7 is a flyer advertising our Honey Festival coming up in less than two weeks. Please share this info to everyone you can think of, beekeepers and friends and co-workers alike, and let me know if there is any problem with the flyer, its format, or something else you think should go with it. Please post it on any website where someone might see it. We need a strong email effort to get good attendance at the festival.

We can still use a few more volunteers to demonstrate honey extracting, etc. Anyone who wants to help should contact me ASAP. Any volunteer may sell honey, wax, or other bee products at our sales table. Potential suppliers should contact me first for approval before bringing anything to the festival. We do not sell royal jelly or pollen, but almost anything else is welcome, and I would like to have a variety of vendors. The supplier gets 75% of the selling price. 10% goes to the Friends of Patuxent and 15% to MSBA. We set the prices on standard items, e.g., 1-lb extracted honey is \$8, of which the beekeeper gets \$6. If the supplier has something unique, he or she should set the price. Honey should be labeled and have a taste sample provided in a squeeze bottle with a pointed spout. All items should be top-quality, prize-worthy products packaged attractively: no sticky, under-filled jars, off flavors, cloudy or partially-crystallized honey, and so on. Consignments may be delivered on Friday afternoon (setup begins at 1 pm) or Saturday morning before 9:30 and leftovers picked up at the end of the festival. Last year, with poor attendance, we sold \$2500 worth of products, so we need a lot of stock for this year's sale.

With your help, this year's festival can be the best ever!

Steve McDaniel, ph: (410)239-7496

###

CATCH THE BUZZ - by Bee Culture magazine

Scientist of the Week: Dennis vanEngelsdorp

Laboratory Equipment magazine features a Scientist of the Week, chosen from the science industry's latest headlines. This week's scientist is Dennis vanEngelsdorp from [Penn State Univ.](#) vanEngelsdorp has been tracing and researching the rapid decline of honeybee colonies, a problem he says has heavy implications as bees are intrinsically linked to our environment, as well as our food supply.

Q: What made you research bees?

A: It goes back to when I was an undergraduate student actually. I took a bee keeping course as an elective. There is a saying in the bee world, "once you get stung by a bee, it's in your blood and you are in for life." That turned out true for me. They are such a fascinating species, I am just fascinated by them.

Q: As of now, what do you think the future of bees and pollinators are?

A: I do not think they are going to go extinct. Commercial beekeepers, who own half the population of bees, are trucking them up and down the coast to pollinate and the beekeepers have been losing a lot of colonies for four years now. I worry that they can't keep it going, especially financially. I think it is their love of bees that only keeps them going.

Q: What was the most surprising area of your research?

A: The most surprising thing of the CCD (colony collapse disorder) research that came up was in that first year- when we were mapping we thought we would find one clear cut cause of CCD and then be able to find a solution. That was naïve. Our work has highlighted that a lot of different things stress and kill bees. There is a segment killed by CCD, but there is a lot of colony mortality going on in general. That was a reminder that everything is so interrelated- and so complicated. That means the solution is going to be complicated, too.

Q: What is the "take home" message of your research and results?

A: There are three messages: 1.) Honeybees are vital if we want to continue producing fruits and vegetables. 2.) A lot of different environments factors stress bees. Bees are an indicator species, they are a keystone. There is a lot of environmental studies going on in that department now. 3.) It is so complicated. There are a lot of different factors causing bee mortality. Here, the general public can help. We have seen a swell in public interest, and from the corporate side as well. The public can do a lot of things to help. Buy local honey, be a bee keeper, plant a garden, have room in your environment for pollination. There are thousands of bee species in this country, not just honeybees, and we need to have room for them as well.

Q: What is next for you and your research?

A: A lot of academic research has been going on now. We are conducting autopsies on the bees looking for new organisms associated with honeybees. We thought we would be looking for diseases in the bees, but now we are particularly interested in the organisms associated with the species.

###

From the National Honey Board:

Easy Honey Chicken Wings

National Honey Board's Beekeepers' Favorite Recipe Contest Winner — Appetizer North Central Beekeepers Association

Makes 8 servings

- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/3 cup soy sauce
- 1/4 cup chili sauce
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 8 drops red pepper sauce
- 3 lbs. chicken wings or drumettes

Combine honey, soy sauce, chili sauce, garlic salt, pepper and red pepper sauce. Arrange chicken in single layer in a 9x13-inch baking pan and pour on sauce. Turn chicken over to coat with sauce. Bake at 350°F for one hour, turning over once. Cool slightly and serve.

Cranberry Muffins

Makes 12 muffins

- 1 cup cranberries, chopped
- 1/3 cup honey
- 1/4 cup margarine
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 orange rind, grated
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 Tablespoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt

Mix cranberries with 1/3 cup honey. Cream margarine and remaining honey, until light and fluffy. Add egg and beat thoroughly. Stir in cranberry mixture, milk and orange rind. Sift together dry ingredients; add to the cranberry mixture and stir until just combined. Batter should be lumpy. Spoon batter into greased muffin tins, filling 2/3 full. Bake at 400°F for 15 to 18 minutes.

###

**3rd Annual
Maryland Honey
Harvest Festival**

Saturday September 18, 2010 10 am - 4 pm

Patuxent Research Refuge

National Wildlife Visitor Center

*10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708-4027 *
301-497-5763 fax: 301-497-5765 <http://Patuxent.fws.gov>*



**Celebrate Pollinators and
Help Save The Bees**

*Meet Amy Boner,
American Honey Princess*

**Family Friendly
Games for the Kids
Bee-Catching Contest
Bee Smoker Contest
Doorprizes**

**Local Honey
Honey Extracting
Live Honey Bees
Beeswax Candle-Making
Open-Hive Demonstrations
Master Beekeepers
Tram Tours of the Refuge**

Speakers
Save The Bees
Bee-Sting Therapy
Starting Beekeeping



Honey Bees: Fun, Food, Fascination

Sponsored by the **Maryland State Beekeepers Association**, founded 1908, in cooperation with the **Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association**, **The Patuxent Research Refuge**, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the **Friends of Patuxent**. Proceeds benefit wildlife research and education, beekeeping education, and pollinator protection.

* Located off Powder Mill Road between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway (Rt. 295) and MD Rt. 197. Wheelchair accessible.

FREE ADMISSION

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Address corrections requested

Celebrating Women Beekeepers!

Women beekeepers are leading the trend in backyard and [urban beekeeping](#), according to a recent [NPR story](#) that featured *The Beekeeper*, Kim Flottum.

By TDG Community

Read more: <http://www.thedailygreen.com/green-homes/latest/women-beekeepers#ixzz0yncyi4Lc>

Among the beekeepers featured in this article is our own Toni Burnham!

Rooftop Beekeeping in Washington, D.C.



Toni writes: "I keep bees in three locations within Washington D.C., as well as one in the Virginia suburbs. My first two packages of bees arrived and were installed on my roof. My Virginia apiary was started the following year. I now look after seven hives within DC, one of which actually belongs to the DC Parks and Rec Department. I have two hives on my roof, and the picture comes from there.

The picture shows me with my roof hives at mid-year last year. Every year they grow up stronger than the last, which results in me pressing all sorts of gear into service ahead of swarming -- which I believe must be avoided in an urban context. The electrical cords attach to [Bee-Cool](#) units, which make me feel better because roof temps top 110 degrees F at least once every summer here. My bees are really productive, so perhaps it helps them, too."

###

About the E version of the BEELINE:

MSBA members 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 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.

Members without email addresses will continue to receive the mailed version.

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

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 8-10 page mailed version. MSBA members may submit small classified ads 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:

jmoyer28@comcast.net

How Pesticides Can Be Safe for Bees and Frogs, and Still Kill Them

Two stories of unintended consequences.

September 3, 2010 at 9:25AM by Kim Flottum , in The Daily Green, Monday, Sept 6, 2010

Read more: <http://www.thedailygreen.com/environmental-news/blogs/bees/pesticides-frogs-bees-0903#ixzz0ynfq1B1Z>

Scientists in Florida wanted to know why frogs were disappearing from ponds. They suspected all manner of things... homeowner pesticide runoff, global warming, a new, exotic disease... anything and everything was up for grabs. What with [bees](#) and [bats](#) crashing and burning, who knew what it could be..

[What they found](#) wasn't what they were expecting, however. It turns out that the agricultural herbicide atrazine, a chemical that inhibits weeds from growing in crop fields, was washing out of the farm fields, flowing into groundwater and draining, eventually, into the ponds the frogs were disappearing from. But earlier tests had shown that atrazine didn't affect frogs if they had to live in water polluted with small amounts of the stuff. So it couldn't be that, could it?

The next level of tests discovered that the atrazine (remember, it's a plant killer) was, once in the pond water, killing the green algae bloom that always grows on top of most ponds in Florida. Well, that makes sense... but how could that harm frogs?

Well, once the algae on top is gone, sunlight is able to filter to the bottom of those ponds, and down there another algae lives, a brown algae. When sunlight is filtered by green algae on the surface the brown algae on the bottom is barely able to grow and isn't much of an issue. When there's light though... watch out!

Brown algae is the primary food source for the snails that live in these ponds. Lots of food means lots of snails. But snails have a parasite that lives part of its life in a snail, and part of its life in a frog. The parasite grows in a snail, then gets into a frog, killing or weakening the frog in the process, and allowing the parasite to produce eggs... which enter the water and continue the cycle. I think I have this right... I'm not an amphibian parasitologist, or a snail doctor, either.

Nevertheless, frogs were dying by the score because of the Unintended Consequences of an herbicide application made long ago and miles away.

I mention this example of Unintended Consequences because it is similar to another Unintended Consequence that is occurring in the food producing fields of the world that is having a direct and deadly affect on the bees I keep and the food you eat.

Plants, like animals, are plagued by all manner of pests. Bacteria, fungi, viruses, pests and predators all have some role. Everything is something else's lunch. For food crops, if the bad guys win there's no food, or at least a lot less of it. So farmers strive to protect their crops anyway they can. And, as you would imagine, as inexpensively as they can... Food production is a very, very thin margin business.

Lots of crops are attacked by fungi and bacteria. These organisms aren't all that aggressive so they need to find a plant's most vulnerable spot, and for a lot of plants that spot is the flower. Flowers are fragile and susceptible to damage from the weather, from animals eating them, and from invaders at the microscopic level. So farmers have to protect flowers... and to do that they have to spray pesticides directly on the flowers themselves. Sprays that attack and kill the invaders. Sprays that are absorbed by the flowers to protect them all during bloom.

Here's where the Unintended Consequences come in. It seems that the new generation of chemicals the farmers are using (called fungicides because they kill fungi) are very effective at handling the pests that are invading the flowers. But, they are also very effective at killing the pollen grains that are trying to fertilize the flowers so the fruit and nuts can grow. That's not good. The protective agent is actually killing the host it's supposed to protect.

But there's more. The pollen that my bees collect from these blossoms has the residue of these chemicals on and in it. Bees collect the pollen as a protein source in their diet, and in the process spread pollen amongst the flowers they are visiting and the flowers get pollinated. Well, they *did*... until this stuff was sprayed on them. But the collected pollen is contaminated with this stuff too, and bees eat it. And then...

The chemicals effectively kill all the micro-organisms in the bees' guts that help digest all the food bees eat. Just like when you take an antibiotic, you have digestion problems... so do the bees. In fact, they can't digest food at all. And then they feed this stuff to their young back home, and guess what? They actually starve to death, trying to eat more and more and more food that they can't digest. There's an Unintended Consequence for you.

###