



The Beeline

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Want to get the e-newsletter instead? Just send an email to Bob Crouse at rlcrouse@qis.net and tell us your name and email address!



President's Message

by Wayne Esaias

I want to extend best wishes for you and your bees for the happy and productive 2013 on behalf of the MSBA Board of Directors, and to thank you for your support during 2012.

At the recent Board meeting we discussed the need to prioritize opportunities and topics of importance to Maryland beekeepers, especially at the state level, and would like to hear your thoughts on what MSBA should be pushing.

We would like to focus on a few items. One important avenue of support for any legislative initiative pertaining to bees is the Maryland Farm Bureau, whose support of the Honey Standards legislation was notable. MFB operates on a county by county basis, with ideas trickling up to the top, and prioritized (voted on) at the MFB annual convention in early December. We need to begin by stating our desires at county meetings, to help insure that the top item for MD beekeepers is clear and is included in their shopping list alongside the top item for soybean growers, dairy farmers, etc.

We have established an ad-hoc committee to try and coordinate this across the state, but it will take action in the form of local participation by county beekeepers in a few county meetings. We would like to hear from any beekeepers who already have made contact with their local farm bureau, perhaps through other interests or activities, especially our commercial and sideline beekeepers. The MFB recognizes the importance of bees for crop production, and mutual support of agricultural initiatives can be very useful.

The Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) annual meeting was held at Hershey PA just prior to the American Beekeeping Federation meeting in the first week in January. Maryland beekeepers were making notable contributions at both. The good response from MD to last year's BIP loss and management survey was highlighted by Dennis, and I encourage you to respond again this year. We want to be able to see statistics for MD as a group, which requires more than 300 responders. Participation by those with large operations is especially important in order to get reliable information that represents the commercial industry. BIP representatives will attend our February meeting for more information and feedback.

There are some discouraging words about higher than normal colony loss this year, so keep your fingers crossed and peek in on your bees when you get a chance.

Looking forward to another fine Meeting on Feb 16. See you there!

News from the Apiary Inspection Office

From Jerry Fischer, State Apiary Inspector, MDA

Apiary Statistics: Maryland law calls for mandatory free registration. Here's a reminder to re-register your apiary for 2013 if you have not done so. It is very important so we have an accurate number of beekeepers and colonies to create an effective budget.

Registration for 2012 included 1,782 registered beekeepers and 13,924 colonies in 2,338 apiaries!

AFB is at 1.2% per number of colonies inspected.

Colony Conditions: This past Fall was unusual to say the least. We saw a very poor nectar flow in most areas due to drought. Honey surplus was zero to half production of the previous season. With little honey stores, much of which was consumed during the summer. The Fall flow was also weak, producing low stores. Late Fall inspections across the state found that colonies were low on winter stores. We hope that many beekeepers were on top of this and fed prior to Winter.

Just having ample amounts of honey on the colony does not mean it will over Winter. This will also be a much colder winter than last year. If the honey stores are not consolidated and the cluster is not in contact with them, the cluster will not be able to move to adjacent stores.

Monitoring for mites and treating with approved controls when above the threshold level (applied as per label) is of highest importance.

Mite Control; Special Exemption (Section 18): Hop Guard. This product is not available to the general public, so the Maryland Department of Agriculture (Pesticide Section) has applied for a special exemption (section 18) for 2013. Approval must be obtained on a yearly basis from EPA.

Web Sites for Apiary Information:

- The Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) (www.beeinformed.org)
- eXtension.org (click on bee health) Programs from Drs. Malcolm Sanford & Eric Mussen
- "Honeybees & Beekeepers" management tips and videos on YouTube

Apiary Enhancement Fund: Donations from beekeeping Associations and beekeepers have greatly supported the Apiary Inspection Enhancement Fund Program. These monies are used specifically for contractual apiary inspector salaries. We received donations from 124 contributors for a total of \$4,995 during 2012.

Phone: 410-841-5920, Fax: 841-5835, Cell: 410-562-3464, email: Jerry.Fischer@Maryland.Gov

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

10th Annual Honeybee EXPO at the Univ. of West Virginia, Parkersburg, February 2. \$23 adults, \$8 kids under 12. www.angelfire.com/nb/movba/expo2013.html

Philadelphia Beekeepers Guild's 3rd Annual Natural Beekeeping Symposium with Michael Bush, February 10 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Group discounts. Details guildnaturalbeekeepingsymp2013.eventbrite.com

Delaware Beekeepers Association Annual Meeting, March 16, 8:30 AM-3:30 PM, 818 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover, DE. www.delawarebeekeepers.com

Mid-Atlantic Organic Honey Bee Convention, March 16, 2013, Richmond, VA. Info/registration: maohbc.com

West Virginia Beekeepers Association Spring Meeting, April 12-13, Eastern Panhandle, Cacapon State Park, Berkeley Springs, www.wvbeekeepers.org

Queen Rearing Retreat with Larry Connor: May 3-5, Graves Mountain Lodge, Syria, VA, \$275 plus lodging (see Page 10), info@Haywoodhoney.com

VA State Beekeepers Assoc. Spring Conference, June 14-15, Chesapeake, VA, www.virginiabeekeepers.org

Maryland State Beekeepers Association Summer Meeting, June 15, 2013, 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM, University of Maryland/College Park.

Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Annual Conference, November 8-9, at the Best Western Inn/Country Cupboard, Lewisburg, www.pastatebeekeepers.org

Maryland State Beekeepers Association Fall Meeting, November 9, 2013, 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S Truman Parkway

Other Upcoming Events:

Sixth Annual Organic Beekeepers Meeting, March 1-3, Oracle, AZ. www.beeuntoothers.com

Pollinator Partnership Pollinator Week, June 17-23, local and national events, pollinator.org/pollinator_week_2013.htm

Heartland Apicultural Society Annual Conference, July 11-13, Tennessee Tech University, Cookeville, TN, www.heartlandbees.com/2013

Northeast Treatment Free Beekeeping Conference, July 16-21, Leominster, MA, www.beeuntoothers.com

Eastern Apicultural Society Conference and Short Course, August 5-9, at West Chester University, West Chester, PA, www.easternapiculture.org

Apimondia 2013, Kiev, Ukraine, September 29-October 4, apimondia2013.org.ua

Maryland State Beekeepers' Association Winter Meeting
February 16, 2013
Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD

8:30 am	Refreshments, Coffee, Donuts, etc.	
9:30 am	Opening and Welcome	Dr. Wayne Esaias, President
9:45 am	Maryland Apiary Inspector's Report	Jerry Fischer, Maryland State Inspector
10:00 am	Information and Observations on Current Honey Bee Strains: A Bee Breeder's Take	Adam Finkelstein, VP Queen Bees
11:00 am	Announcements: MSBA Legislative Agenda Poll, BeelInformed Survey 2013	
11:20 am	Auction	Contact msba@mdbeekeepers to donate or consign items
11:45 pm	Lunch	
1:00 pm	Farmer-to-Farmer Program: International Volunteer Opportunities for Beekeepers	Meghan Olivier, Deputy Director Farmer to Farmer Program Partners of the Americas
1:45 pm	Beekeeping Research: Preliminary Findings from Weslaco and Upcoming Maryland Projects	Dr. Steven Cook Research Entomologist USDA/ARS Beltsville
2:45 pm	Ask Expert Beekeepers Your Anonymous Questions	Panel Discussion
3:15 pm	Adjourn	Dr. Wayne Esaias, President

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 / Refreshments at the Winter Meeting:

Refreshments:

MSBA will provide Coffee and Donuts, Sodas and Water as refreshments during the winter meeting.

There will be an opportunity to order a Subway sandwich on a cash-only basis for those who register before 10:00 AM for this meeting. Members/attendees are welcome to order upon registration or are advised to bring their own lunch or to make plans to dine at a local establishment.

MSBA WINTER MEETING WEATHER POLICY

In the event of a major winter storm, please listen to WBAL (AM 1090) or WTOP (FM 103.5) for announcements. If a Snow Emergency Plan is in effect for Howard County, the meeting is cancelled.

MSBA Winter Meeting 2013 Speakers

Adam Finkelstein has owned and operated VP Queen Bees with his wife, Kelly Rausch, for the last six years. VP Queen Bees produces artificially inseminated breeder queen bees for the beekeeping industry: customers range in size from 5 to over 25 thousand hives.

VP Queens' production and breeding population is untreated and has been so for the last 14 years. Using VSH expressing traits and breeding techniques, these breeder queens provide a means to control bee and hive pests reducing or even eliminating hive treatments.

Adam works with the USDA Bee Breeding Lab, and several commercial queen rearing outfits around the USA to continue to select for hardy and productive queen stock. His background in Biology and Agriculture provides him with an appreciation for the setting all beekeepers work in and stimulates him to share knowledge and information with others.

Like many well-known honeybee researchers, **Dr. Steven Cook** has come to study *Apis mellifera* via previous work with a related group of hymenopterans, the ants. He started his studies on ants as an undergraduate student, and continued during both his graduate work at the University of Utah, and post-doctoral training at Texas A&M. In May 2011, Dr. Cook joined the USDA/ARS Honey Bee Research Unit in Weslaco, TX as a Research Entomologist. Due to the recent closure of Weslaco, in December he relocated his laboratory and research program to the Beltsville Lab. Dr. Cook's research program has a strong basis in honeybee physiology, and initial studies focused on understanding how chronic exposure

to sub-lethal doses of a variety of pesticides, and infection with parasites and pathogens, affect individual honeybee health and colony vigor. Steve hopes his research will provide both economically sound integrated pest management (IPM) strategies for control of key pests of honey bees, and suggest straightforward beekeeping practices that might ameliorate any negative effects that common IPM approaches may have. Steve looks forward to presenting some preliminary results from the programs begun in Texas, as well as planned research to



be launched in Maryland in the spring and summer of 2013.

Meghan Olivier is Deputy Director of the Farmer to Farmer Program of the Partners of the Americas, as well as a Maryland beekeeper. Partners' mission is to "Connect, Serve, Change Lives" and their network is

comprised of volunteers and development professionals who are committed to serving others. Farmer to Farmer is one part of that network, and beekeepers are playing an important role in helping them meet their goals. The Farmer to Farmer Program improves economic opportunities and creates sustainable solutions by linking U.S. volunteer experts who can provide technical assistance to producers, agribusinesses and others in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Keynote Adam Finkelstein with wife and partner Kelly Rausch inseminating queens at VP Queen Bees. Photo credit: www.vpqueenbees.com

American Foul Brood and Nucs: Concerns and Recommendations

by Wayne Esaias

American Foulbrood (AFB) continues to be relatively rare in Maryland (<1.5% of colonies/yr) thanks in large part to active identification and elimination by beekeepers and MDA Apiary Inspectors. However, it is extremely disruptive in those cases, resulting in loss of colonies, equipment, time, and enthusiasm.

Transmission of AFB is chiefly through robbing of infected colonies by healthy bees, and also by transferring contaminated equipment (especially old comb) containing spores from previous infections. Over the past few years there have been instances where new colonies have developed AFB in late summer, clearly linked to nucs purchased here and out of state. There was a useful discussion of this at the November meeting that included State Inspector Jerry Fischer, guest speaker (and Georgia nuc producer) Jennifer Berry, and various members that resulted in key recommendations that we suggest you review and include in your local short courses.

Nucs have several advantages for starting colonies, but we need to continue to emphasize that old comb in nucs can sometimes transmit AFB (and possibly other diseases). The beekeeper needs to keep an eye out for AFB development, much more so than with packages. Nuc producers also share the responsibility and are, by and large, very conscientious in this regard.

Buyers of nucs should insist on several conditions, and be prepared to go elsewhere if the requisites are not agreeable to both parties.

First, there should be an MDA inspection sticker on the nuc. This helps, but does not insure freedom from AFB in its early developmental stages.

Second, the buyer should insist that the nuc box be new, and that frames and comb are 2 years old or less.

Third, the NUC and comb should be carefully inspected for compliance, and presence of AFB scale and the nuc producer agrees on replacement/refund if scale or very old comb is found at inspection within two weeks.

Inspection at the producer's apiary would suffice, but usually requires a second visit to screen entrances and prevent loss of foragers. Often this inspection occurs a week or more after delivery. New beekeepers could benefit from the experience of a mentor or Master Beekeeper during that inspection.

Comb age is estimated by color, especially the comb near the top corners, not necessarily by a date written on the frame. It should be well drawn out, with little damage, and absolutely no AFB scale. The frames should still have a fresh new wood or plastic look about them—not old and gray. Although not directly related to AFB, the

queen age, strain, and source, including breeder and state, should be provided, and the agreed upon number of frames of brood and pattern should be acceptable. I recommend marking the queen, but this is something that the purchaser can do.

Treatment of colonies adjacent to an infected colony (which must be destroyed) with terramycin or tylan may be in order provided that the AFB strain is confirmed by (free) testing at USDA Beltsville Bee Research Lab to be sensitive to the antibiotic.

Treatment may be especially important if equipment has been exchanged between the infected colony and others. But be careful! Note that many of our texts include instruction for mixing terramycin from 6.4 oz packets, but those directions are both obsolete and dangerous. The 6.4 oz packets which were labeled for honey bee use are no longer on the market, but much more concentrated packets labeled for swine and poultry (but not bees) are still marketed and on the shelf in farm supply stores.

Do not substitute, or try to mix your own from unlabeled sources, at the risk of killing the colonies. All bee supply houses now market ready mixed Terramycin and Tylan of the proper strength for treating bees that are more economical and much safer. And be aware that research at UMD has shown that terramycin treatment affects the honey bee's pesticide detoxification systems, and can render the bees hundreds of times more sensitive to certain pesticides.



Do I Need All this Stuff in the Beekeeping Catalog?

by Dean Burroughs, Master Beekeeper

I've been keeping bees for twenty-seven years and have at least an average level of knowledge about ordering equipment from a beekeeping catalog. I'm currently receiving copies of the new 2013 catalogs and have been reviewing the contents. Is it just me, or have these things become complicated. Just look at the catalog contents and try to select the type of frame or foundation you want! This is not easy.

For instance, consider ordering frames and try selecting the one(s) you want and need. No longer do we merely order small, medium or large frames. No, now we must consider wood, plastic, groove top bar, wedge top, end bar holes, split bottom and do you want them assembled?! And hey! That's just thinking frames! Now you need foundation, too, and have to make choices about like size, color, wired with hooks, without hooks, thin surplus, small cell or standard, and don't forget drone brood foundation. Folks, this is confusing, to say the least. Just for kicks, I reviewed and compared the contents of two

catalogs from the same prominent beekeeping supply company. One was dated 1988 (25 years ago) and the other was the current 2013 catalog. The older one was much smaller in length and width and contained 63 pages. The latest one was much larger in cover size and contained 139 pages. That's a gain in number of pages only, by 83%, not to mention the increased size of pages. Do beekeepers really need the plethora of gadgets and gizmos for sale? No wonder some of us (me) are having trouble thumbing through pages and ordering correctly. Maybe my beekeeping colleagues have solved the problem of how to easily order desired beekeeping equipment from among everything on offer. I haven't, and my honey house is cluttered. What is this JZ-BZ queen rearing kit doing sitting on my work bench? (I don't remember ordering that!) Well, I don't need all this stuff I bought mistakenly and unintentionally the past few years. Who out there would like to buy a few frames or sheets of foundation? Will sell all...cheap!

Spring 2013 Beekeeping Short Courses in Maryland

Beekeeping instruction is offered by county clubs, individuals, educational institutions and others in many different forms. Here's a quick overview of short courses offered in Maryland this year, with more details soon on www.mdbeekeepers.org. Though many have already sold out, we hope this helps clubs to compare notes, and by presenting times and options, that newbees will know where and when to go when they are ready. If you would like to supply additional course information or offerings, please email msba@mdbeekeepers.org and we will include it on our "Links and Resources" page.

Allegany College of Maryland: Four 4-hour classes weekly, 3/4-3/25. Limited to 25. www.allegany.edu under "Continuing Education" class no. C/S205.

Anne Arundel Beekeepers: *Beekeeping-A Honey of a Hobby*, 2/12-4/13, four 2-hour and one 4-hour session. \$25 individual plus \$5 for each additional family member. Details mdwvo.com/aabees.org/nl_18.php

Association of Southern Maryland Beekeepers: 13 hour course in five sessions beginning 2/2. Contact for details: ralphwhipkey@gmail.com

Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers: Six 2.5 hour sessions each week 2/14-3/21 with later field day. \$40 individual, \$25 additional family member.

Carroll County Beekeepers: 5 sessions, Wed. 2/20-3/20, \$60 per family. Through Carroll County Comm. College, www.carrollcc.edu/instantenrollment:

Central Maryland Beekeepers: Weekly for 6 weeks starting 3/7, 7:15-9:30 PM. "Honey Bee Info Night" and registration deadline 2/18. \$35 individual \$40 for family. www.centralmarylandbees.org

Greg Ferris' Beekeeping 101: Six two hour classes from Feb. through July, includes lectures and hands on sessions. Registration deadline 1/31, \$325.00, space limited. Call Office: 301 743-5050, Home: 301 743-5933, or email honeybs@radix.net

Frederick County Beekeepers: Short Course is three full days, 1/12,1/19,1/26. \$50 per person, \$25 each additional student. Info at frederickbees.org

Howard County Beekeepers: Five 2.5 hour classroom sessions and one field day, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 3/12, & 3/19. \$30 indiv. \$45 family, www.howardcountybeekeepers.org

Lower Eastern Shore Beekeepers: Course planned for April 13, details upcoming. Other in depth workshops offered. lowershorebeekeepers.org/events.html

Steve McDaniel's Intensive at the Irvine Nature Center: Two full Saturdays, 9 AM-4 PM 3/16 and 3/23, \$50. Details: www.mcdanielhoneyfarm.com

Montgomery County Beekeepers: Class meets 2/20, 2/27, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 4/3 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, \$75. Details available at www.montgomerycountybeekeepers.com.

Susquehanna Beekeepers: Seven two-hour sessions offered through Harford Community College, 3/1-4/13, fee \$50. susquehannabeekeepers.com

Potential MSBA Priorities for 2013: Your Comments Wanted!

Your newly elected board would like your help to decide our highest priorities for the year, in order to prepare for the 2014 session in Annapolis. The topics below have been brought up, and are given here in very rough form, to promote discussion. Some may not be possible, or need revision. Rather than give a list with numbers, which might denote a priority order, I simply give them names of our major nectar sources. If you have comments, additions, or new topics, please send them to msba@mdbeekeepers.org so that they can be posted on our website or perhaps in a blog we can set up to support these discussions. We will mention these at the winter meeting, work on them this spring and will likely take a census of support at the June meeting to proceed into the fall winter decision process.



Tulip Poplar Topic: Incentive for MD Queen and Bee Suppliers

Several years ago MDA got a grant to subsidize 50% of the cost of nucs, packages and queens for MD beekeepers, provided the bees were produced in MD. This is essentially a

repeat of that successful, one time grant. This encourages beekeeping and the local production of queens and bees which might be better adapted for our region. It helps limit incidental transport of Africanized bees and diseases into Maryland. This program increased the number of queen breeders in MD, provided an outlet for existing breeders, and increased local nuc availability considerably. But spring orders still exceed MD needs by a considerable margin, and we still have problems with out of state packages and nucs. Similar but more extensive programs were sponsored for North Carolina recently, amounting to about 2 colonies per beekeeper. The earlier MDA grant was \$50K. I am thinking \$250K, as the costs have gone up.



Black Locust Topic: State-wide permit for beekeeping.

Florida recently enacted legislation that made it clear that their state department of agriculture held the sole permitting responsibility in their state. That action prevents generation of permitting fees

and regulations by county and municipal governments, which seemed to be multiplying and causing beekeepers to spend a lot of effort fixing them. Maryland has a similar situation with Baltimore City being the latest to

demand permits and fees. This action did not force local zoning, just that the state apiarist is in charge of permits for bees and MDA sets the permit fee (zero in our case). The recommendations given in our Best Management document might be cited for guidance. Homework is needed on the wording of the FL statute.



Linden Tree Topic: Encouraging Bee-friendly Planting

MSBA would strongly encourage state and local departments and jurisdictions to use their authority to change landscape specifications and manuals (e.g., Departments of Public Works, Recreation, transportation,

etc.) to provide forage plants for honeybee and other pollinators.

In this action. MSBA would provide the state and local jurisdictions with a preferred list of bee forage plants, and agencies would perhaps require suppliers of plant material suppliers for state and local government landscaping contracts to carry stocks of the material, and perhaps set goals for percentage of bee friendly plants installed in new construction, roadside improvement, etc. Both tree, shrub, and forb (herbaceous) listings are needed. This action will benefit managed honey bee and non-apis pollinators and our native wild pollinator populations, as well as continue to help with the greening of Maryland.



Clover Topic: Underwriting Beekeeper Liability

A very simple act like that passed by the West Virginia legislature that effectively limits the liability of beekeepers. (See the February 2011 *Beeline* for information on the West Virginia Law.)

Note To February Meeting Vendors

Due to increasing demand for vendor spaces, please contact msba@mdbeekeepers.org to reserve a table for the Winter 2013 meeting. Even if you regularly sell at this meeting, please confirm your plans. We intend to accommodate everyone, but need info to do so. Also, vendors are asked to please contribute a door prize or auction item in support of this meeting.

MSBA OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:

President: Wayne Esaias (301) 854-3180
1st Vice President: Toni Burnham (202) 255-4318
Secretary: Liz Filter (410) 643-1486
Treasurer: Robert Crouse (410) 638-0105
MD EAS Director: Janet Bardzik (410) 467-4249
"Beeline" Editor: msba@mdbeekeepers.org

Directors:

Jon Bealer (410) 357-9166
David Morris, beefriend@verizon.net
Meme Thomas, queenbee@baltimورهoney.org

Past Presidents:

Paul Dill (302) 249-1866
Steve McDaniel (410) 239-7496
Carol Johnson (301) 432-6413

COUNTY VICE PRESIDENTS:

Allegany: Ben Cooper (814) 324-4550
Anne Arundel: Oliver Snyder (410) 437-5489
Baltimore County: Jerry Fischer (410) 562-3464
Baltimore City: Beth Passavant, bethpas@gmail.com
Calvert: Jerry Worrell (410) 257-3267
Caroline: Paul Dill (302) 249-1866
Carroll: Jody King (410) 861-6678
Cecil: Jeff Powell (410) 392-5985
Charles: Greg Ferris (301) 743-5933
Dorchester: Oliver Collins (410) 943-3448
Frederick: Bill McGiffin, bbmcfiffin@yahoo.com
Garrett: Jerome 'Hop' Cassidy (240) 321-5186
Harford: Dennis Hertzog (410) 420-9625
Howard: Allen Hayes (410) 489-2835
Kent: Matt Redman (410) 708-0344
Montgomery: Allison Abernathy, abernathy.allison@gmail.com
Prince George's: Linda Thompson, (301) 352-3663
Queen Anne's: Charles Campbell (410) 364-5037
Somerset: George Dreyer (410) 623-2221
St Mary's: Harry Dalton (301) 475-8224
Talbot: George Meyer, beegeorgehoney@hotmail.com
Washington: Mark Gibson (301) 371-0811
Wicomico: Dean Burroughs (410) 546-2910
Worcester: Wes Townsend (410) 641-1030
Washington D.C. Toni Burnham (202) 255-4318
Fairfax, VA Pat Haskell (703) 560-3484

LOCAL BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATIONS:

ALLEGHENY MOUNTAIN BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.
President: Walter Shreeve, cooperville@atlanticbb.net
ANNE ARUNDEL BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.
President: Loyd Luna (410) 757-5797, wlluna@verizon.net,
www.aabees.org
APPALACHIAN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
President: John Slawter, (304) 735-6051, jmslawter@frontiernet.net
ASSOC. OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND BEEKEEPERS
President: Chip Whipkey (240) 925-2196, ralphwhipkey@gmail.com
BOWIE-UPPER MARLBORO BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.
President: Bob Greenwell (410) 279-3086, rfgreenwell@aol.com
CARROLL COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
President: Fred Sypher, Info@CarrollCountyBeekeepers.org
CENTRAL MARYLAND BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.
President: Roger Williams, president@centralmarylandbees.org
EASTERN SHORE BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.
President: Paul Dill (302) 249-1866
FREDERICK COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.
President: Dave Maloney (301) 228-2279, dave@maloney.com
www.frederickbees.org
HOWARD COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.
President: Tom Wilson, hocobeekeepersassoc@gmail.com
LOWER EASTERN SHORE BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.
Website: www.lowershorebeekeepers.org
MONTGOMERY COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.
President: George Meyer, beegeorgehoney@hotmail.com,
www.montgomerycountybeekeepers.com
SUSQUEHANNA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
President: Dennis Hertzog, dhzog@verizon.net, website:
susquehannabeekeepers.com
MDA OFFICE OF APIARY INSPECTION
Jerry Fischer (410) 562 3434, FischeJE@mda.state.md.us
MSBA HOME PAGE:
www.mdbeekeepers.org, webmaster@mdbeekeepers.org
If your dues are not current, please pay them at the next meeting or mail to: MSBA Treasurer, Robert Crouse, 1606 Dogwood Lane, Bel Air, MD, 21015. Note: we will only accept dues payments for a single year.

THE BEELINE

c/o A. Burnham
318 12th Street NE
Washington, DC 20002



Address corrections requested

**Using email saves MSBA
more than \$2,000 per year.
Can we have your address?**

Sustainable Urban Agriculture Apiculture Act of 2012 Legalizes Beekeeping in DC

On January 16, Washington, DC Mayor Vincent Gray signed The Sustainable DC Act of 2012, including a subtitle called "The Sustainable Urban Agriculture Apiculture Act of 2012" which loosens restrictions on urban beekeeping. Beekeepers in DC contributed language enabling Top Bar Hive and rooftop beekeeping into an act which was drafted with an eye to promoting and protecting beekeeping while holding beekeepers to reasonable standards for management and safety.

The heart of the act calls for bees to be kept in hives with movable frames, 4 hives may be kept per quarter acre, 15

feet from a property line or 5 feet with a flyway barrier. Rooftop hives may be within 10 feet of a property line without a barrier with permission from neighbors.

The Department of the Environment has begun developing registration procedures, rules, standards, and fines for non-compliance with help from local beekeepers, including members of the MD and VA beekeeping communities who have kindly offered to share their knowledge and experience. These standards are expected to be drafted and the law to come into full effect in time for this year's beekeeping season.

Imirie & Free State Beekeeper Awards 2012

Each year the Maryland State Beekeepers Association has the opportunity to present awards in beekeeping education and citizenship to noteworthy members of our community. For 2012, the MSBA award the George Imirie Award for Beekeeper Education to Charlie Brandts for his work both in outreach to the non-beekeeping community and for the many talks and other contributions he has made throughout the past few years. Charlie also retired in 2012, making this a watershed year that MSBA enjoyed celebrating with him.

The Free State Beekeeper Citizenship award was given to two recipients this year, Delegate Kathy Afzali (R District 4A Frederick County) of the Maryland House of Representatives and Senator Ronald Young (D Frederick County) of the Maryland State Senate.

For two years running, Del. Afzali led legislative efforts to protect Maryland consumers and beekeepers through the new Honey Standard. She introduced the bill in the House, while Senator Young led the successful Senate effort.

Both remain friends and allies of Maryland consumers and beekeepers, and the MSBA looks forward to future collaboration.

Queen Rearing Class Saturday, April 13th, at VA Bee Supply, Remington, VA

Learn to produce queens for your hives or for profit! Special guest instructor, Mike Church, will instruct students on the various techniques of queen production. This class includes "hands on grating" and other methods.

In addition to receiving a class CD, students will receive their own grafting tool. Class registration will be \$40.00 per person for the 4 hour session.

For group registrations, each additional person will require a \$15.00 registration fee & will receive a grafting tool only. All registrations include morning snacks. Contact vabeechclass@aol.com to register.

Survey: Maryland College Student Thesis on Beekeeping Practices

from Seanna Hunt, schunt@smcm.edu

Greetings Apiarists! I am a senior biology major at St. Mary's College of MD completing my St. Mary's Project, a self-directed thesis in a biology topic of my choosing. What could be more compelling than honeybees? How healthy are domestic honeybees in Maryland and the surrounding areas, and how can we keep them healthy? I am trying to answer this by creating my survey, distributing it to you, and using statistical methods to analyze the results. If you are interested in participating, please email me at the address above and you will receive the survey later this Spring.

I will focus on just a few aspects of beekeeping. When completed, my project should evaluate how beekeeper experience, hive type (Langstroth, TBH, Warré), bee breed, proximity to farmland, and distance travelled for pollination may or may not affect hive health. "Health" will be quantified in terms of how healthy you, as beekeepers, consider a hive to be, and by how many hives survived the year. I will also consider the presence of honey bee pests and diseases, and figure out if their mal effects can be alleviated by any of the factors above.

In conclusion, would you please agree to take my survey? The more we know about honey bees and share our knowledge, the more we can protect honey bees and all that they do for us.

Call For Auction Items!

This Winter, can you clear out unneeded gear and support the most popular MSBA meeting of the year? If you have items you can offer for auction in February, please email msba@mdbeekeepers.org. For small items, we need to ask for donations, but if you have a large or expensive item (extractors, large lots, etc.) we'd be happy to discuss other arrangements.

Queen Rearing Retreat

May 3-4-5, 2013

**Hands-on Hive and Classroom Instruction
presented by *Dr. Larry J. Connor***



Retreat starts at Noon May 3rd with check-in & Lunch at Graves Mountain Lodge, Syria, VA.

Class size limited to 20 students
to ensure hands-on participation
First come - first registered.

--Recommend 3 years beekeeping experience to attend--

Retreat Cost:

- **Tuition: \$275 (includes book Queen Rearing Essentials, a \$23 value)**

Plus one of the below options:

- **2 Nights & 7 meals (Lunch Friday- Lunch Sunday) includes tax & gratuity:**
 - **Single room (1 in a room): \$225.00 per person**
 - **Shared room (2 in a room) \$200.00 per person**
- **7 Meals Only (no lodging) includes tax and gratuity: \$130**

All meals served family style – all you can eat

To register, send check for full amount to: HHS-Continuing Education Initiative, P.O. Box 769, Madison VA 22727, be sure to include type of room selection. Cancellations accepted and money refunded up to 2 weeks before the retreat.

For more information contact Shirley Ammon (540) 923-5075 or e-mail info@Haywoodhoney.com.

**To see more about Dr. Connor and his activities go to:
www.wicwas.com**

Sponsored by: Haywood Honey, LLC and The Northern Virginia Beekeeping Teaching Consortium



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**PLANT PROTECTION SECTION
APIARY INSPECTION**

50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF HONEY BEE COLONIES FOR _____

If blank, print Name and Address Below

PHONE NO. (H) _____ (W) _____ IDENTIFICATION NO. _____

By law, all honey bee colonies in the State of Maryland must be registered with the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

Will you be keeping bees on another persons property this year? Yes No

If yes, at least one colony in apiary must be identified as to ownership with an approved name or number.

If an ID number has not been assigned, check 1 or 2 below.

1. Assign me an ID number or
2. Assign me the following name or number ID _____

PLEASE NOTE THE SPECIFIC LOCATION OF EACH APIARY BELOW

YARD	LOCATION (Street address, road name, town, etc.)	COUNTY	NUMBER OF COLONIES
No. 1			
No. 2			
No. 3			
No. 4			
No. 5			
No. 6			

Total colonies _____

SIGNATURE

DATE

SEE BACK

Mandatory information - Please fill out

Have you purchased queens, packaged bees, nucs of colonies form out-of-state during the previous year?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes the MDA may examine your bees for mites. Please answer the following:

_____ Date of Purchase _____ State of Purchase _____ Items Purchased _____

Do you employ one or more persons in beekeeping?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, you must file with the Department a Certificate of Compliance with the State Workmen's Compensation Laws, or you may provide the Department, as evidence of insurance, a workmen's compensation policy number or binder number. POLICY NUMBER/BINDER NUMBER, EXPIRATION DATE: _____

Optional information - You are not required to complete this section

Honey For Sale, Collecting Bee Swarms, Stinging Insect Removal

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Offices (CES) receive calls from the public requesting sources of local honey, and reporting honey bee swarms during the spring swarming season. Occasionally a local beekeeper cannot be found that has honey for sale or to collect these bees (usually collected free of charge). Calls are also received regarding honey bee nests in the walls of houses, and yellow jacket and hornet's nests that homeowners would like someone to come and remove (usually removed for a fee).

If you plan on having honey for sale and you would like your name, town and telephone number included on a list that will be distributed to the public, please indicate this below. If you are seriously interested in collection honey bee swarms and/or removing honey bee, yellow jacket or hornet nests, and you would like to have your name included on a list that will be used by the MDA and CES, indicate this below. Your name will be given out to the public when calls that pertain to the categories you have checked are received.

Please note: If you use any insecticides when collecting stinging insects, Maryland Law requires that you be licensed and certified to use pesticides by the MDA or be employed by a licensed pest control company. Collecting stinging insects without using an insecticide does not require any license.

Check Appropriate Boxes. I want to be included on your list and receive calls for:

- 1. Honey for sale
- 2. Removing honey bee swarms
- 3. Removing honey bee nests in walls of buildings, etc.
- 4. Removing yellow jacket and hornet nests

County or counties in which I am interested in collecting/removing stinging insects:
