



The Beeline

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rlcrouse@qis.net and tell us your name
and email address!*



President's Message

by Allen Hayes

So now it's my turn...to be MSBA President! I enjoyed working with Toni Burnham for two years as first VP and will continue to work with her as Secretary. For those new to MSBA, you may not realize that in addition to having been a First VP and 2nd VP (Howard), I was Secretary under Presidents Dean Burroughs, Barry Thompson and David Smith. David Morris probably holds the record for offices held, as he has held all of these plus he's been Treasurer and Director. My goal is to protect the best interest of MSBA, and therefore never become Treasurer! I have benefited immensely from what I have learned at MSBA meetings, all due to the hard work of countless volunteers who have run MSBA, and the 2016 board is committed to continue. We have always been able to bring in top notch speakers, many are sought-after for conferences such as EAS/HAS and national events. Education is our top priority and we will continue to hold meetings where all can learn and have fun. What a crazy winter we are having! Warm temperatures have the bees flying and burning through more honey stores than if they were clustered. I peek in my colonies every 2-3 weeks just to see where the cluster is and to add some fondant and a sliver of pollen patty for insurance. When doing a quick inspection on January 15, I found drone brood in burr comb! I have never seen this at this time of year. Make sure there is adequate food in contact with your clusters rather than inches away or only in the box above. Remember: February is starvation month and your bees are likely to be as hungry as mine.

In other news, following White House guidance, MDA is looking at creating a Managed Pollinator Protection Plan (MP3). This has its roots with the EPA and despite a generic name, it really has to do with pesticides. The program is voluntary and many states are ignoring it because no funding was provided. It's not clear how it will shake out but many MD Beekeepers and other stakeholders are involved with a facilitator chosen by MDA that hopes to hammer out a plan. We all hope this will actually benefit our bees.

In 2015 we lost Ernie Miner, an EAS Master Beekeeper, longtime supplier of bee equipment and a fixture at MSBA meetings. I first met Ernie years ago when, after an absence from keeping bees I decided to get back in and needed equipment. I found his ad in the yellow pages. He was the first Master Beekeeper I ever met and it was he who first mentioned the concept of a bee club to me when he suggested that I take the CCBA short course. I said that I had kept bees before and knew the basics; he replied, "That's good; you should take the short course." I responded that I had been reading extensively and to that he said "That's great! You should take the short course." I did take the class and it was the best thing I ever did related to beekeeping. Today I am a member of five beekeeping organizations. It's all Ernie's fault.

News from the Apiary Inspectors

From Cybil Preston, State Apiary Inspector, MDA
Phone (410)841-5920, Fax 841-5835, Cell 410-562-3464

Statistics for 2015: Beekeepers 1,895, Colonies Registered 14,466, Colonies Inspected 2,224.

Bee Informed Partnership: I am looking for volunteers to let us sample their hives for the BIP/National Honeybee survey. Qualifiers must have 8 hives in one apiary. This survey monitors for the presence or absence of invasive threats to honey bee colony health. These possible threats would be *Tropilaelaps clareae*, *Apis cerana*, and Slow Bee Paralysis Virus. An additional objective is colony pesticide analysis to assess both the variety and quantity of pesticides present in honey bee hives. Please think about volunteering to help this survey.

Permits: 21 Entry permits were issued for 4,332 honey bee colonies to move into Maryland, primarily for overwintering, and 18 Exit permits for 1,191 colonies to move out of Maryland primarily for pollination services.

K-9 Training and Certification: In 2015 we acquired, trained, and certified a dog and handler to detect American foulbrood disease in honey bee colonies.

Senate Bill 113: All bees being moved **into** the state of Maryland must be inspected at the state of origin, and actually they are to be inspected at each state where they are taken off the truck and put on the ground/bees are foraging. As it currently stands I receive an inspection report from the state of origin and **then** I must issue a permit(x3) that allows movement into Maryland. I am trying to streamline by eliminating the issuing of the permit back to the beekeeper, the *(cont'd above)*

EAS 2016 is in New Jersey in July!

The Eastern Apicultural Society Conference and Short Course is always one of the central beekeeping education events in North America, and this year it is both close by and early!

The New Jersey Short Course will take place July 25-27, the conference is July 27-29.

Located just 10 minutes west of Atlantic City, this year's EAS conference is coming together as one of the best EAS event ever. Presenters include James Frazier and Dennis vanEngelsdorp, Jeff Pettis and Medhat Nasr, Maryann Frazier, Sarah Red-Laird, David Tarpy and many more. Though as usual there will be dorm accommodations, off-campus hotels in this area will book quickly in the summer months, so start making arrangements soon!



shipper, the state of origin. With the state of origin inspection that says they are free of disease Maryland still has the right to deny entry. Denial or acceptance of entry can be issued verbally: ie. an entry permit does not need to be issued. We will allow or deny the entry by a verbal acknowledgement and to not have to issue a permit(x3). You must be a registered beekeeper with MDA. For the official text of the bill: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2016RS/bills/sb/sb0113f.pdf>

Nuc/Hive Sales: Anyone selling nucleus colonies or selling beehives that will leaving Maryland are **required** to be inspected **before** leaving the state. Anyone buying Nucleus colonies or beehives from outside of Maryland and having them shipped **into** Maryland **must** have an inspection report or permit from the state of origin and any state along the way where they were off loaded onto the ground. In-state nucleus/beehive sales should be inspected .

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

Western Pennsylvania Beekeepers Conference, Monroeville, PA. February 19 (7-9:00 pm), February 20, (8:00 am-4:30 pm) Registration Deadline: February 14. <http://tinyurl.com/zbtrt8r>

5th MidAtlantic Organic Honey Bee Convention, March 5, 21 J.B. Finley Rd Sandston, VA. \$50/one, \$90/two, info: maohbc.com

Delaware Beekeepers Association Annual Meeting, March 19, 2016, St. Jones Reserve. <http://www.delaware-beekeepers.com/>, debeekeepers@gmail.com

VA State Beekeepers Assoc. Spring Conference, June 17-18, Smithfield Center, Smithfield, VA, www.virginia-beekeepers.org

Maryland State Beekeepers Assoc. Summer Meeting, June 18, 8 AM to 3 PM, UMD/College Park. Free.

Maryland State Beekeepers Assoc. Fall Meeting and Honey Show, November 12, 8 AM to 3 PM MD Dept of Ag, Annapolis. Free.

Other Upcoming Events:

9th Annual Organic Beekeepers Meeting, February 26-28, 2016, Oracle Arizona. \$200 per person. www.treatmentfreebeekeeping.org

Pollinator Week 2016, June 20-26, events around the country, details <http://pollinator.org>

Heartland Apicultural Society Conference, July 7-9, 2016, Bowling Green, KY. www.heartlandbees.org.

EAS Conference and Short Course, July 27-29, Richard Stockton University, Galloway, NJ. www.easternapiculture.org

Maryland State Beekeepers' Association Fall Meeting
February 13, 2016
Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD

8:00 am	Refreshments, Coffee, Donuts, etc.	
9:00 am	Opening and Welcome	Allen Hayes, President
9:15 am	Maryland Apiary Inspector's Report	Cybil Preston, Maryland State Inspector
9:30 am	Genetics of Honey Bee Populations	Dr. Deborah Delaney, University of Delaware
10:30 am	Queen Rearing Using the Nicot Method	Larry Truchon, Vice President, Carroll County Beekeepers Assoc.
11:15 am	Maryland Managed Pollinator Protection Plan (MP3) Preliminary Meeting Results	Ashley Jones, Entomologist, Maryland Department of Agriculture
11:45 am	Lunch	
1:00 pm	Honey Bee Die Offs from a Virology Perspective	Humberto Boncristiani, University of Maryland
1:45 pm	2016 Maryland Pollinator Legislation	Bonnie Raindrop, Legislative Committee Chair, Central Maryland Beekeepers
2:15 pm	Honey Bee Nutrition	Dr. Deborah Delaney, University of Delaware
3:15 pm	Ask Expert Beekeepers Your Anonymous Questions	Panel Discussion
4:00 pm	Adjourn	Allen Hayes, President

Directions to the Howard County Fairgrounds

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:

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.

Winter 2016 Meeting to Feature Dr. Deborah Delaney



In our first keynote of the year, MSBA is honored to welcome **Dr. Deborah Delaney**, assistant professor of entomology and wildlife ecology in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the University of Delaware. Dr. Delaney is an expert in honey bee genetics, the evolutionary biology of honey bees, pollination ecology, and the world of feral bees. She has used her

deep background in genetics, the history of beekeeping in North America, and work in Dr. David Tarpy's lab to develop a unique understanding of survivor bees! Recent research projects look at native and bumble bees as well. Dr. Delaney continues to publish with Dr. Tarpy and Dr. Tom Seeley of Cornell. In addition, Dr. Delaney is a 2015 recipient of UD's Excellence in Undergraduate Academic Advising Award.

Larry Truchon is currently Vice President of the Carroll County Beekeepers, and has kept bees for several years. He has become active in raising his own queens, and has presented his methods clearly and persuasively in his home club. He is here to share the Nicot Method, which allows amateurs



to raise high quality queens without the intricacies of grafting or manipulation of larvae. **Ashley Jones** is an entomologist with the office of the Pesticide Regulation Section of the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Ashley was formerly a faculty research assistant at UMD as a part of the Bee Informed Partnership. She received

her Master's degree in Entomology under Dr. Paula Shrewsbury: her thesis research was on biological control of the brown marmorated stink bug. Having been raised

on a farm, Ashley first became interested in insects at a very young age and has pursued learning about them ever since. Prior to her master's, Ashley received a bachelor's degree in Biology from Widener University.



Dr. Humberto Boncristiani is Research Associate in Entomology at UMD/College Park. He has also been a researcher at UNC-Greensboro, the National Academy of Sciences, and the USDA-ARS Bee Lab in Beltsville. Dr. Cristiani received his

doctorate from the Universidade de São Paulo, and his research focuses on the effects of *Varroa* on the immune systems of honey bees, particularly the synergy created by viruses and mites to the detriment of honey bee health.

Bonnie Raindrop is the Legislative Chair for the Central Maryland Beekeepers Association. She began learning about bees in 1987, when she started providing marketing services for a new client the Really Raw Honey Company. She soon became fascinated with what her client was teaching her about honey bees and the miraculous ways they communicate, work as a super organism and contribute to the web life. When reports began to surface about CCD, she formed a study group to learn about CCD and pesticide links. The next spring, the group took a beekeeping course and began keeping bees in 2007. Still fascinated, Bonnie continues to study bees, beekeeping and pesticide links and in 2012 began volunteering with the Smart on



Pesticides Coalition to help pass legislation to fund a pesticide reporting database in Maryland to provide better access to pesticide use data for bee researchers and health professionals. Last year and again this year, Bonnie is working with the coalition to pass the Maryland Pollinator Protection Act to reduce the exposure of pollinators to non-essential consumer uses of neonic-containing products. In her professional life, Bonnie is a web project manager and marketing communications consultant.

Vendors Attending the MSBA Winter Meeting

As a convenience to members, several national and local vendors will be available at the February 13th meeting: please contact them regarding possible pre-orders:

Dadant, VA: Patrick Ferrer, pferrer@dadant.com

Mann Lake, PA: Danielle Misliński, 800-880-7694
daniellem@mannlakeltd.com

Maryland Honey Co.: Jim Fraser/Brushy Mountain,
marylandhoneycompany2011@gmail.com

McDaniel Photography: mail@mcdanielphotography.com

Miller Bee Supply: <http://www.millerbeesupplies.com>

Snyder's Apiaries: <http://www.snydersapiaries.com>

Can Smells in the Hive Predict Honey Bee Health?

Haverford College Researcher seeks to find out, needs samples

Several beekeepers in our area recently received an email from a Haverford College Chemistry professor, Dr. Robert L. Broadrup, requesting to sample bees from hives across the region. Dr. Broadrup has ties to the Frederick area, and is a beekeeper himself: “A few years ago I got interested, and set up a hive. By the end of the season, I had eight!” A disclaimer: first, this project is in its design stage and arrangements may vary from this description; second, while volunteers are sought, project resources may restrict the number who can eventually participate!

Dr. Broadrup is designing an experiment that begins with a goal, but *not* a hypothesis, and which uses technology for assaying samples and doing big data analysis that have previously been used for human health. “In a nutshell we’re looking to capture data on all of the chemical compounds we can detect (by mass spectrometry) from a sample of foragers—and hopefully soon all of the volatile organic compounds we can capture passively inside the hive with a simple sampling device we would like to slide just inside a hive entrance or outer cover for about 24 hours—and all of the viral, fungal, and bacterial information we can also get from another small set of foragers taken from the same hive at the same time.”

“We are then using statistical software to try to correlate specific compounds, or biomarkers, to specific pathogens or—if possible—to compounds that appear to be unique to a hive preparing to collapse or in the process of collapsing. Ideally we will reach a point where we do not need to sample bees at all, but rather simply sample the hive air in a passive and completely benign way and then analyze that small sampling device for the biomarkers present in that hive.”

The experiment design is called “non-hypothesis” research. Rather than testing a specific disease question, say “Does the presence of volatile compound X indicate an environment conducive to *Nosema ceranae*?” the scientists will look at every chemical footprint in the colony through the season, crunch the mountains of data, and then look for markers about relationships between in-hive scents and health conditions.

Dr. Broadrup would like to know if local beekeepers would be interested in collaborating with the project by providing access to their hives: “Ideally I would be able to come several times during the beekeeping season to sample, and I would be interested in any information you have on the health/mite counts/etc. of your hives. Our hope is that we will be able to identify biomarkers from bees that will allow future testing of only the air in the hive to give a beekeeper a detailed indication of the health status of his/her hives or the risk of their collapse.”

This would be new information, and in fact the tools to gather it did not exist much earlier. One future outcome of this kind of research is potentially a remote-monitoring system, a sniffer, which we could place in our hives to transmit health information to smart devices. For those seeking less intrusive approaches to beekeeping, this would be an extraordinary victory.

But even lacking such a tool, this research will certainly give us new insights about life and the chemical equilibrium inside healthy and struggling colonies!

Robert Broadrup, Ph.D., Dept. of Chemistry, Haverford College, rbroadru@haverford.edu, (484)432-7313

Barranco and McMahon Receive Imirie, Free State Beekeeper Awards

Each year the Maryland State Beekeepers Association has the opportunity to present two special awards in beekeeping education and citizenship to noteworthy members of our community. For 2015, the MSBA awarded the George Imirie Award for Beekeeper Education to **Tim McMahon** for his work both as an active participant on Maryland’s behalf in the Eastern Apicultural Society and his efforts to speak to every beekeeping association in Maryland every year about EAS, the Annual EAS Conference, and information there that can further the MSBA’s educational mission. Tim is also President of the Montgomery County Beekeepers.

The Imirie Award has been presented since 2003 to encourage continuing education for active beekeepers, the

general public, and for young people.

The Free State Beekeeper Citizenship award was given to **Lindsay Barranco**, both a State Apiary Inspector and President of the Anne Arundel Beekeepers Association. Lindsay graciously assumed the organization of the MSBA’s only public outreach event, the annual Honey Harvest Festival, and has continued to grow the number of participating beekeepers/associations and attendees from the general public. Lindsay helped move the Honey Harvest Festival to Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, Maryland, and has involved beekeepers from organizations including UMD, the Maryland Pesticide Network, and the Bee Informed Partnership in this day of education.

Are Pesticides the Root of All Evil?

By Tim McMahon, MCBA President and Master Beekeeper

Disclaimer: I will most likely anger anti-pesticide members of the community with this article. I will most likely anger the pro-pesticide community with this article. I will most likely, just in general, anger most beekeepers with this article. But my goal is to try to make clear that there are no simple or clear answers to our problems when it comes to pesticides.

The only pesticides I use are miticides. I don't want to tell anyone that they can't use a pesticide if they so choose, but I do think that Americans overuse pesticides. I wanted to write about them for several reasons. First, I do use pesticides in the form of miticides. Second, if I stay home from work for a day I see pesticide company trucks move up and down the street, which scares the daylights out of me (that's a lot of chemicals flowing in our communities each day). Third, I know that CCD has not been found in the US for over three years now and that our use of neonicotinoids (neonics), has increased each year proving, along with other scientific data, that they are not the sole cause of CCD or of yearly high bee losses as many seem to think who have only read about it in the popular news. Fourth, I know that if we ban a single class of pesticides such as neonics (which are not harmful to adults, kids or pets), that people will then use the other non-banned pesticides such as the carbaryls (SEVIN), organophosphates and pyrethroids: pesticides which are all much worse for adults, kids and pets and which also kill bees.

CCD: When CCD first hit, neonics were fairly new. Many things were thought to be the cause of CCD, even crazy stuff like cell towers, cell phones and microwaves. Neonics were considered by many, without much science behind the claims, to be the cause. Some places in Canada and France have even banned some forms of neonics. I'm not sure what the right answer is, but I do know that the problem is more complex than many would like to think. The data is pretty clear that neonics are not the cause of CCD. The data is also pretty clear that neonics can kill bees. It is unclear just how the low level that most bees encounter in the field affects them,, but it is pretty clear that it does not kill them outright. It is well known that the dust drifting off of neonics application to seeds can kill a hive in just a few hours (which is not the normal way in which the bees encounter neonics).

Monoculture: Other things to consider are the way we farm and grow our food in America. We use "monoculture" for growing our food, meaning large tracks of land where only one crop is cultivated. Monoculture allows us to grow more food per acre than otherwise and at lower costs. Most of the rest of the world does not use mono-

culture to grow crops, but some do. Switching away from monoculture is not easy, would cost billions of dollars, and take many years to accomplish. The fallout from using monocultures is that you have set up a situation where a pest can be extremely virulent and still not kill off its entire host. To prevent pests from impacting our crop investments we need to use a "chemical shield" to protect them from pests. This "chemical shield," in the form of pesticides, protects the crops but also kills some or many of the beneficial insects: namely bees.

IPM: Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a concept that has been around for many years. In a nutshell, it says that you use your treatments intelligently to save on cost, to protect the environment, to prevent resistance from forming and to protect ourselves. Most pesticides homeowners buy are "General Use" pesticides that do not require a license to use (such things as "RAID" or even more harmful ones such as SEVIN can be had in low concentrations). The average person can easily overuse or misuse a pesticide and not think twice about it. I can see a person saying, if one spoon full is good, then two spoons will be twice as good. The average homeowner is also not as concerned about the cost, since pesticide packaging causes them to buy more than they need. Homeowners are not the only issue, as many farmers struggle to understand the complex issues of when and how to best apply a pesticide to insure that you kill what you want and not beneficial insects. Also, the interactions of pesticides, fungicides, herbicides etc. is very complex and no one has mapped out these interactions in the field with our bees. It's also simple fact that it's hard to kill one undesired insect while not killing the desired insect sitting next to it. Lastly, the home pesticide control companies' main goal is not to control pests, but to make money, so the more pesticides we apply the more money they make (farmers do not fall into this category as the pesticide is a cost to them and not the end product).

Banning: Montgomery County is considering a ban on the use of pesticides by homeowners. The details are still being looked at, but agriculture and golf courses would be exempt. It is also unclear just what would be banned. Would the "General Use" products be banned (things like "OFF") or just pesticides that require a license? Would only a single class of pesticides be banned, such as neonics? If a single class is banned, people wanting to use a pesticide will simply take the next product on the shelf. It's well established that neonics are not harmful to humans or mammals but most if not all the alternatives to neonics are harmful to humans and pets, and of course kill our bees. Lots of data is out there on how neonics

Maryland Legislature Considers Bills to Help Bee Losses

By Bonnie Raindrop, CMBA Legislative Chair

For the second year, a bill to limit the non-essential, cosmetic use of neonicotinoid pesticides will be considered in the 2016 Maryland General Assembly. *Neonicotinoid Pesticides – Labeling, Signage, and Restrictions on Sales and Use (Pollinator Protection Act of 2016)*-HB 198 and SB 211 are the same as the 2015 Pollinator Protection Act, except for changes in the labelling language to be more favorable to nursery growers. The bill will (1) remove neonic-containing home garden products from store shelves (there are over 300 low-toxicity alternatives) and (2) require retailers to label or provide signage in close proximity to nursery plants, seeds and seedlings when they have been pretreated with neonics (over 50% of “bee-friendly” labelled plants sold in 18 cities, including Maryland, were found to contain 1 or more neonics at levels high enough to kill bees outright—from a 2014 Friends of the Earth study).

With Maryland managed colony losses at an all-time high of 61% last year, and losses hitting highest recorded numbers in the two previous, concern for Maryland’s high pollinator mortality may get pollinators some relief by a reduction in the growing and widespread consumer use of systemic neonic pesticides.

Hearings for the bill are scheduled for February 10 in the House Environment & Transportation Committee at 1 pm (HB 198), and on February 16 in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee at 1 pm (SB 211). A strong beekeeper presence for these hearings will be helpful, so if you can attend please use the contact information below to obtain details.

Another way to help pass the Pollinator Protection Act is to email or call your representatives.

The Smart on Pesticides Coalition is a group of 75 organizations and businesses, including 7 bee clubs, who support the Pollinator Protection Act and have a web page to help you find your representatives and send an email to them in support of the bill. You can customize it with your own message and/or use the pre-written letter of support. Access the web page by typing this compressed URL into your web browser: <http://tinyurl.com/zjfob6o> A second bill, *State Pollinator Habitat Plans*-HB 132 would require certain State agencies that own or manage property or land to establish pollinator habitat plans and implement pollinator plantings.

Send written testimony in support of the bill to House Chair Kumar Barve, kumar.barve@house.state.md.us Email your representatives to support HB 132 (find your legislator using in this compressed URL <http://tinyurl.com/zs59qgf>).

For more info about how you can support these important bills, contact Bonnie Raindrop, legislate@central-marylandbees.org or 410-404-3808.



“Pesticides,” continued

can kill bees, but the data is all lab data of putting a drop of liquid on the back of a bee and not field data of what bees are truly exposed to in the field. Banning a class of pesticide will in no way deter people from using pesticides as when they decide to use a pesticide they don’t consider what pesticides have been approved or not. So if we ban neonics then people will not decide to *not* apply a pesticide they will simply grab the *next* pesticide on the shelf and apply it.

Answers: I have none for the full scope of this issue.

Q. Are pesticides bad for bees?

Answer: YES

Q. Do we need pesticides?

Answer: YES

Q. Do we overuse pesticides?

Answer: YES

Q. Are neonics bad for bees?

Answer: YES & NO

Q. Is banning pesticides the answer?

Answer: YES and NO

Q. Is banning a single class of pesticides (neonics) the answer?

Answer. Be careful what you wish for, as this can lead to a worse situation for our bees and our health.

Q. Are pesticides the root of all evil?

Answer: NO, but jumping to simple solutions to complex questions is the root of much evil.

I’m reminded of a famous quote by Jack Ward Thomas: “Nature is not more complex than you think. It’s more complex than you *can* think!”

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SUSQUEHANNA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
President: Harry Dutcher, hspaboy@comcast.net, website:
susquehannabeekeepers.com
WASHINGTON COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
Fred Smith, frederick.smith@kentvm.com
WYE RIVER BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
Contact: George Meyer, BeeGeorgehoney@hotmail.com

MDA OFFICE OF APIARY INSPECTION

Cybil Preston, (410) 562 3434, cybil.preston@maryland.gov

MSBA HOME PAGE:

www.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?

Interesting Headlines in Beekeeping, Late Winter 2016

Honey Bee Health Coalition Publishes Fantastic New Varroa Management Resource

A fantastic new, and free, guide to effective varroa sampling and control is now available to all from the Honey Bee Health Coalition at <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/>

The Guide explains practical, effective methods to measure Varroa mite infestations and select appropriate control methods. The Coalition offers the guide free of charge and asks that you reference the Coalition if distributing, for example to students. Almost 40 organizations and agencies from food, agriculture, government, and conservation formed the Coalition to reverse declines in honey bee health and ensure the long-term health of honey bees and other pollinators.

Science Magazine: Study Demonstrates that Varroa Drives Worldwide DWV Epidemic

Deformed Wing Virus (DWV) did not arise in Asia, and move to European bees: it started here. But the Varroa mite was brought West, and made DWV into a whole new kind of problem. And all of this happened because of the actions of humans. A new analysis shows that the virus has gone from an endemic to a global epidemic because of greater movement of a major vector, the Varroa mite. The mite has spread in large part due to human trade in bee colonies. Previous evidence indicates that the presence of Varroa increases the spread of DWV across honeybee populations, not only by acting as a vector but also by increasing the virulence of the virus. Lena Wilfert and colleagues used molecular sequencing of the virus and mites from 32 locations in 17 countries. Their results lend support to the idea that DWV is an endemic honeybee pathogen of the European honeybee that has recently reemerged through the spread of Varroa as a vector. To reduce the negative effects of DWV on pollinators, tighter controls, such as mandatory health screenings and regulated movement of honeybees across borders, should be imposed, the authors say.

EPA Registers New Biochemical Miticide to Combat Varroa Mites in Beehives

EPA has registered a new biochemical miticide, Potassium Salts of Hops Beta Acids (K-HBAs), intended to provide another option for beekeepers to combat the Varroa mite and to avoid the development of resistance toward other products.

MSBA Director David Taylor uses this creative measure to secure an apiary that has been tampered with in the past!

The registrant, a company called Beta Tech Hop Products, derived K-HBAs from the cones of female hop plants, *Humulus lupulus*. To control mites on honey bees, the product is applied inside commercial beehives via plastic strips.

This biochemical, like all biopesticides, is a naturally-occurring substance with minimal toxicity and a non-toxic mode of action against the target pest(s). There are numerous advantages to using biopesticides, including reduced toxicity to other organisms (not intended to be affected), effectiveness in small quantities, and reduced environmental impact.

How Queen Bees Control The Princesses

Queen bees and ants emit a chemical that alters the DNA of their daughters and keeps them sterile and industrious! “When deprived of the pheromone that queens emit, worker bees and ants become more self-centred and lazy, and they begin to lay eggs,” said lead researcher Dr Luke Holman from The Australian National University (ANU). “Amazingly, it looks like the queen pheromone works by *chemically altering workers’ genes*,” said Dr Holman, a biologist in the ANU Research School of Biology.

Recent research suggests that a chemical modification to a baby bee or ant’s DNA, called DNA methylation, helps determine whether the baby develops into a queen or a worker. Dr Holman collaborated with biologists from the University of Helsinki to investigate whether the queen’s pheromone altered DNA methylation in workers. The team found evidence that workers exposed to pheromones tag their DNA with methylation differently, which might suppress queenly characteristics.

Surprisingly, the queen pheromone of honeybees seemed to lower methylation, while the queen pheromone of ants seemed to increase it, suggesting things work differently in bees and ants.



Maryland State Beekeepers Association

Name: _____

Returning members – please only detail any *changes* in your contact information.

Email: _____ (home / work)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ County: _____

Phone : _____ (home / cell / work)

Description	Unit Cost	Number	Sub-Total
Annual Membership	\$10		
Or, Lifetime Membership	\$200		
Donations			
To MDA's Apiary Inspection Fund**			
To MSBA, general donation			
To MSBA, for George Imirie Education Fund			
To MSBA, donation for Vehicle Plates (Plus MVA Fee)	\$15		
Grand Total:			

** will be passed on to MDA

Questionnaire

- I am a **new Annual Member**
- I am interested in serving on the MSBA Executive **Board** or a committee
- I am interested in judging or assisting at the MSBA Annual **Honey Show**
- I am interested in giving a **presentation** at a future MSBA event
- I am interested in providing an **article** for the 'Beeline'

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?

NOTE: Checks Made Out For Early Membership Payment Will Not Be Deposited Until January!!

Please make check payable to '**MSBA**'
or pay online at www.mdbeekeepers.org/membership.html

Mail check and form to:

Bob Crouse, Treasurer
1606 Dogwood Lane,
Bel Air MD 21015

phone: (410) 638-0105
email: RLCROUSE@QIS.NET

MSBA Use Only
Check Date.....:
Check Num.....:
Check Amt.....:
Details updated:

Check our web site, www.mdbeekeepers.org, for any changes, updates and program details.

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