



# The Beeline

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Just send an email to Bob Crouse at  
rlcrouse@qis.net and tell us your name  
and email address!*



## President's Message

*by Allen Hayes*

We are experiencing a mild winter so far. While this allows our bees to make more cleansing flights, your bees may be consuming their winter stores faster than you expected! I suggest you peek in and see where they are clustered. If the cluster is not in direct contact with honey, they may starve.

February is starvation month, so either move a frame of honey over next to them, or slide a patty of fondant or some granulated sugar on wax paper just above them. Putting emergency feed on the top bars of the top box does no good if they are still lower in the brood chamber. Keep your eyes peeled for bees coming back on warm days with green pollen on their corbiculae. It is likely pollen from skunk cabbage, usually the first source we see in central Maryland.

Again this year, MSBA will be partnering with the folks at Brookside Nature Center and Brookside Gardens, 1400 Glenallan Ave., Silver Spring for our Honey Harvest Festival, MSBA's only public outreach event of the year. The Festival is held in conjunction with Brookside's annual Children's Day. The date is Saturday September 16, 2017, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The day really is a lot of fun, I go every year.

Last year the weather cooperated and there were tons of people on the grounds. Brookside does most of the advertising, and families come out of the woodwork to learn about bees, pollination, producing honey and many other related topics. Marc Hoffman, MSBA's Montgomery County Second Vice President, has stepped forward to chair this activity. Thanks, Marc! He'll be working with Brookside staff who do a lot of the legwork, and plan many of the activities that will continue from past years. Lindsay Barranco did a fantastic job chairing this event for several years and she will also be advising on this task. MSBA wants to offer her our sincere thanks for a job superbly done. Please contact Allen Hayes if you, too, are available to volunteer for this richly rewarding experience.

I have updated the four club trophies that are awarded each Fall with name plates identifying the winners, but I need your help with something. I cannot locate the information for who won the John V. Lindner "Best in Show" Award in 2011 and 2014. If you won or know who did please notify Allen Hayes.

Finally, we often consider different locations to hold our general meetings. They need to meet some critical criteria, not the least of which, they must either be free or reasonably priced. Remember, unlike most state bee associations, our meetings are **free!** We would like to keep it that way. If you have a connection with a location that is suitable for an MSBA general meeting please notify Jim Fraser or Allen Hayes.

## 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)*

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## EAS 2017 in Delaware

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: Dennis vanEngelsdorp, Maryann Frazier, Sarah many more. Though as usual, off-campus hotels in the summer months, 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.

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## 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](http://maohbc.com)

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

**VA State Beekeepers Assoc. Spring Conference,** June 17-18, Smithfield Center, Smithfield, VA, [www.virginiabeekeepers.org](http://www.virginiabeekeepers.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.

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## Other Upcoming Events:

**9th Annual Organic Beekeepers Meeting,** February 26-28, 2016, Oracle Arizona. \$200 per person. [www.treatmentfreebeekeeping.org](http://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](http://www.heartlandbees.org)

**EAS Conference and Short Course,** July 27-29, Richard Stockton University, Galloway, NJ. [www.easternapiculture.org](http://www.easternapiculture.org)

**Maryland State Beekeepers' Association Winter Meeting**  
**February 11, 2017**  
**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	The Pennsylvania Queen Improvement Project: The "Leg Chewer," and the Heartland Honey Bee Breeders Co-Operative	Mark Gingrich, Second Vice President, PA State Beekeepers and Co-Chair, PA Queen Improvement Program
10:30 am	EAS Update	Tim McMahon, MSBA EAS Director and Master Beekeeper
10:40 am	Bee Sex Essentials: Queen and Drone Biology	Dr. Larry Connor, Wicwas Press
11:40 a	The Human Side of Urban Beekeeping, or "I Fought the Law and Bee Law Won"	Toni Burnham, Secretary, Maryland State Beekeepers Association
12:30 am	Lunch	
1:30 pm	Best Management Practices for Backyard Beekeepers in the North-East US	Nathalie Steinhauer, BeeInformed Partnership
2:15 pm	Mating Biology of Honey Bees	Dr. Larry Connor, Wicwas Press
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 2017 Meeting to Feature Dr. Larry Connor



In our first keynote of the year, MSBA is honored to present renowned beekeeper, entomologist, teacher, photographer and writer, **Dr. Larry Connor**. It has been more than a decade since our members have heard from Dr. Connor, who is also

the owner and publisher at Wicwas Press. Larry Connor was born in Kalamazoo and graduated from Richland High School in 1963. He earned three degrees in entomology from Michigan State University and was hired as Extension Entomologist in Apiculture at The Ohio State University in 1972. In 1976 he was hired by Chuck Dadant of Dadant and Sons to run a new bee breeding program located in Labelle, Florida. Called Genetic Systems, Inc. this firm had two missions: to produce breeder queens for the Starline and Midnite hybrid bee programs (established by Dr. G.H. "Bud" Cale, Jr), and to mass produce instrumentally inseminated three-line hybrid bees called the Cale 876 Hybrid. Dr. Connor is also a monthly columnist for *BeeCulture* and *The American Bee Journal*. He also conducts workshops on queen rearing and bee breeding, honey bee microscopy and related topics. Since childhood Connor has a strong interest in photography. He continues to expand his collection of images of bees, beekeepers and bee flora.

**Mark Gingrich** is Second Vice President of the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association, and Co-Chair of the Pennsylvania Queen Improvement Program ([www.pastatebeekeepers.org/project.htm](http://www.pastatebeekeepers.org/project.htm)). The goal of the Pennsylvania Queen Bee Improvement Program is to develop and breed honeybees that are resistant to varroa mites and brood disease, requiring little or no treatment, hardy with at least an 80% overwintering survival



rate, gentle, and produce honey. The project received a \$15,000 2016 SARE Grant for its work on developing stock with a signature mite-biting behavior ([mysare.sare.org/sare\\_project/fne15-819/](http://mysare.sare.org/sare_project/fne15-819/)). The project has depended on wide beekeeper participation and enthusiastic outreach, from which we are pleased to benefit!



**Tim McMahon** is MSBA's Eastern Apicultural Society Director (our representative at EAS) and President of the Montgomery County Beekeepers. Tim is an avid beekeeper and student of native and non-managed pollinators, including those in Latin America. Tim was the 2015 recipient of MSBA's George Imirie Award for Beekeeper

Education.

**Toni Burnham** is a past president of MSBA, founder and president of the DC Beekeepers Alliance, and a columnist for *BeeCulture* magazine.

Despite being generally noisy and bossy, this is her first MSBA talk, and she hopes that you will be nice to her. Burnham became a beekeeper on April 9, 2005, when Lloyd Snyder had the poor judgment of putting two packages of Italians in her hands. Toni learned beekeeping through the Montgomery County short course, and has gone on to misinform beginners in courses in that county, Prince Georges, DC and Northern Virginia. She runs about 20 hives in apiaries across DC, including community gardens, a cemetery, a monastery, an arboretum and the occasional embassy, as well as a roof deck at her home. Which is not in the picture.



### As of Presstime: Vendors Attending the MSBA Winter Meeting

As a convenience to members, several national and local vendors will be available at the February 11th meeting. Please contact them directly regarding interest in possible pre-orders:

**Dadant, VA:** Patrick Ferrer, [pferrer@dadant.com](mailto:pferrer@dadant.com)

**Mann Lake, PA, order by 2/8 for meeting delivery:** Paul

Medina, [paul.medina@mannlakeltd.com](mailto:paul.medina@mannlakeltd.com), (877) 829-4077

**Maryland Honey Co.:** Jim Fraser/Brushy Mountain, [marylandhoneycompany2011@gmail.com](mailto:marylandhoneycompany2011@gmail.com)

**Wicwas Press,** [orders@wicwas.com](mailto:orders@wicwas.com)

**MSBA T-shirt sales,** [beeline@mdbeekeepers.org](mailto:beeline@mdbeekeepers.org)

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### **James Naurot and David Morris Receive Free State, Imirie 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.

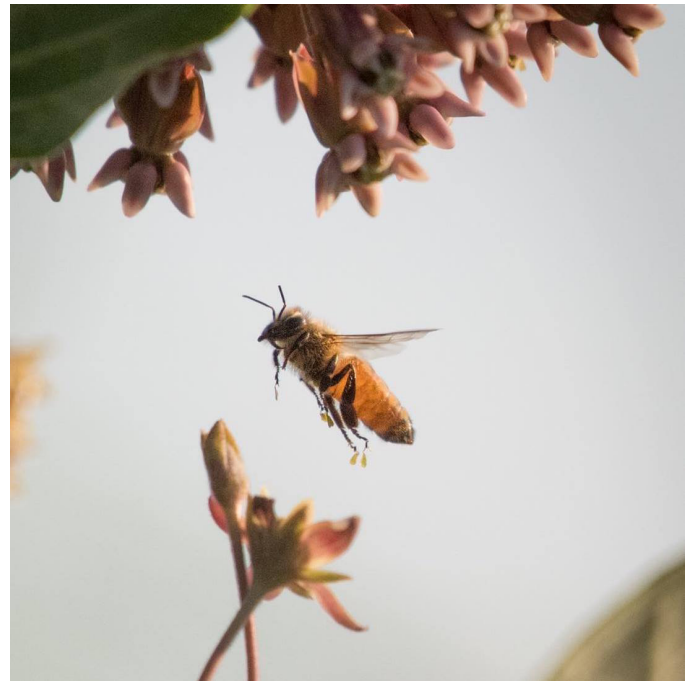
The Imirie Award has been presented since 2003 to encourage continuing education for active beekeepers, the

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.

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Milkweed is is not just for Monarch Butterflies: it is a honey plant, too. Milkweed blooms are sticky, however, and honey bees may fly away with pollen grains along for the ride! More at [www.beeeculture.com/milkweeds-honey-plants](http://www.beeeculture.com/milkweeds-honey-plants). Photo by Clint Thayer, Focal Flame Photography , [www.focalflame.com](http://www.focalflame.com)

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Address corrections requested

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