

Maryland State Beekeepers Association Winter Meeting

February 16, 2013

Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD

8:30am	Refreshments, Coffee, Donuts, etc.	
9:30am	Opening and Welcome	Dr. Wayne Esaias, President
9:45am	Md. Apiary Inspector's Report	Jerry Fischer Md. State Inspector
10:00am	Information and Observations on Current Honey Bee Strains: A Bee Breeder's Take	Adam Finkelstein, VP Queen Bees
11:00am	Announcements: MSBA Legislative Agenda Poll, BeeInformed Survey 2013	
11:20pm	Auction	Contact msba@mdbeekeepers to donate or consign items
11:45pm	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
2:45pm	Ask the Beekeepers	Panel
3:15pm	Adjourn	

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, Donuts, Sodas and Water during the winter meeting.

There will be an opportunity to order a Subway sandwich on a cash-only basis before 10:00 AM. Attendees are welcome to order upon registration or are advised to individual arrangements.

MSBA WINTER MEETING WEATHER POLICY

In the event of a storm, please listen to WBAL (AM 1090) or WTOP (FM 103.5). 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