



The Beeline

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President's Message

By Jim Fraser

As I look out the windows of my truck traveling to my bee yards, I know that it is fall based on the calendar; however, the trees aren't showing many signs of fall and the temperatures aren't really fall like either. Once again, the weather is not reading the books. Either way, the bees need to be put to bed for winter – feed them so they are heavy, put on mouse guards, and kill the mites. Many beekeepers do more, many do less and we all hope for the same results...strong hives in the spring. Let's wait and see.

We have a great meeting coming up in Annapolis on November 17, featuring the annual Honey Show, great speakers (Mel Disselkoen, "On the Spot Queen Rearing," Val Dolcini of the Pollinator Partnership, and Eastern Apicultural Society Director Dr. Doug Vinson), vendors, etc. We will also have our annual elections where everyone has an opportunity to step up and take an active part in making MSBA stronger and bringing more services to our members and the public. Our club now has more than 940 members! It is bigger than it has ever been, and we can use some more volunteers.

We are planning to hold a honey judging seminar again next year. The goal of this class is to explain what the honey judges are looking for. If you are trained like a honey judge is trained, you can better prepare your entries. Also, we plan to offer a class on making splits and nucs. We all want more bees. Don't we? Our plan is to offer these events in a timely fashion so what you learn can be put to use right away.

We would also like to have a Honey Harvest Festival in 2019, but we need a place to hold it. I think the best plan is to combine it with another event large or small in your county. Let me know if you would like to host the festival.

Enough about 2019. This year has been a pretty busy year for beekeepers in Maryland. Between county fairs, the state fair, beekeeping classes, county meetings, state meetings, mentoring and taking care of our bees, we are a busy bunch. More than 81 beekeepers from Maryland attended EAS 2018 in Virginia and enjoyed a fantastic week of programs. I hope all of us can take the time to educate our neighbors about the importance of beekeeping.

I want to send a special thanks to Bob Crouse, our current treasurer, as he will be stepping down after many years of hard work maintaining the books and forcing the board to toe the line financially.

I hope to see you all at the November meeting.

News from the Apiary Inspectors

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

What a crazy weather year! I was hearing about swarms all the way into September...WEIRD!!!!

Unfortunately I am again seeing a large number of "Fall Crash or "Fall Dwindle." Without opening the beehive you'd think it is a fairly strong because robbing bees can make the hive look industrious. Some symptoms are more than a handful of dead bees in front of the hive with normal activity inside: upon inspection no bees at all meaning no brood no nothing. Some of these hives were treated for mites some were not. My diagnosis is that this is mite/viral load-related.

If you are treating for varroa mites, please do a mite count prior to and after use of your varroa control. There have been questions around concerning the efficacy of some of the varroa controls. This pre-count and after-count could also show that your control worked. But keep in mind that your strong colony could be bringing back varroa from robbing out a weaker colony. Also check the brood pattern before and after treatment to make sure the queen is still laying. After removal of or a varroa treatment check for eggs and young larvae to ensure that your colony is still queen right.

Also please check the best use dates on your products make sure your product has not expired. ALSO make sure you use it PROPERLY. Misuse of varroa controls is part of this problem, also.

We have two newly hired inspectors: *Micah Falcon* for Southern Central Maryland including Anne Arundel, St. Mary's, Calvert, Charles, and *Matt Bechtel* for Central Maryland including Carroll, and Frederick Counties.

If you are in one of those counties, please introduce yourself to your new inspector!

Yellow Jackets and European hornets are plaguing beekeepers' hives with more than a handful of calls from non-beekeepers, also. Make sure to reduce entrances, especially if feeding.

Clark the beagle decided he did not want to be a Working dog, or at least he did not want to work for me...LOL! He has retired to a life of hunting/COUCH sleeping on our farm. Clark was replaced with a Springer Spaniel named Tukka. Tukka, the new bee dog in training, will hopefully be certified soon. I hope to have him inspecting alongside Mack this winter.

With cooler weather on the horizon, Mack will be back into his inspection routine. We will work on commercial beekeepers moving to California first.

If you are purchasing bees from another state PLEASE make sure they are inspected from the state of origin

before shipping. Maryland Department of Agriculture MUST receive the Inspection report and permit from the state of origin before the bees are shipped, both Nucleus colonies and packaged bees. Packaged bees usually have a general blanket inspection permit so we know from where imported bees are coming.

If you are planning on selling Nucleus colonies in the spring, it is your job to have them inspected for out of state sale. It is the beekeeper/sellers' job to know weather the hive will be crossing state lines. Don't wait until the last minute notify your inspector early.

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

Maryland State Beekeepers Fall Meeting & Honey Show, November 17, 2018, Annapolis, MD, Agenda and speakers on Pages 3-4..

Virginia State Beekeepers Association 2019 Spring Meeting, May 31-June 1, Fredericksburg, VA. Registration fee, <http://www.virginiabeekeepers.org>

Western Pennsylvania Beekeeping Seminar, February 15-16, 2019, Gateway High School, Monroeville, Pa. Keynote: Randy Oliver. Info: jyakim@aol.com.

Maryland State Beekeepers Winter Meeting, February 2, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Harford Community College, Bel Air, MD. Keynote: Dr. Sam Ramsey, Bill Sprengle,

More Upcoming Events:

American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) Conference, Myrtle Beach SC, Jan. 8-12, \$360 for non-members, <http://nabeekeepingconference.com/>

12th Annual Treatment-free Beekeeping Conference, Oracle, Arizona, March 1-3. Info: decalusby1@aol.com or call 520 748 0542. , www.treatmentfreebeekeeping.org

Heartland Apicultural Society Conference, July 10-12, Belmont Univ, Nashville, TN, , www.heartlandbees.org.

Eastern Apicultural Society Conference and Short Course, July 15-19, Greenville, SC. www.easternapiculture.org/conferences/eas-2019.html.

Apimondia 2019, Montreal, Canada. September 8-12, www.apimondia2019.com.

Some Beekeeping Podcasts of Note

Beekeeping Today, <http://beekeepingtodaypodcast.com>

Hive Talk with David & Jon, <https://www.talkshoe.com/show/hive-talk-with-david-and-jon>

The Kim & Jim Show, <https://www.beeculture.com/kimandjimshow/>

Kiwimana Buzz Beekeeping Show, (NZ) <https://kiwimana.co.nz/category/podcast/>

PollNation, <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/pollination-podcast/>

**Maryland State Beekeepers' Association Fall Meeting
November 17, 2018**

Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis

| | | |
|----------|---|--|
| 8:15 am | Honey Show Entry Drop Off, Refreshments | |
| 9:00 am | Opening and Welcome | Jim Fraser, MSBA President & Master Beekeeper |
| 9:15 am | Maryland Apiary Inspector's Report | Cybil Preston, Maryland State Inspector |
| 9:30 am | Improved Overwintering Success: Reduced Cavity Nest Size | Dr. Doug Vinson, VP/North Carolina State Beekeepers Assoc., EAS Director |
| 10:15 am | On the Spot Queen Rearing: The Beeyard Pre-Solstice | Mel Disselkoen Master Beekeeper and Author |
| 11:15 am | Partnering for Pollinator Health: The North American Mite-A-Thon and More | Val Dolcini, President and CEO Pollinator Partnership |
| 11:45 am | MSBA Annual Business Meeting and Elections George Imirie Education & Freestate Beekeeper Citizenship Awards Presentations, | Nominations Committee Jim Fraser, President |
| 12:15 pm | Lunch | |
| 1:15 pm | On the Spot Queen Rearing: The Beeyard Post-Solstice | Mel Disselkoen Master Beekeeper and Author |
| 2:30 pm | Summer Splits: Timing and Techniques for Mite Reduction | Dr. Doug Vinson, VP/NC Beekeepers Assoc., EAS Director |
| 3:30 pm | Honey Show Awards | Honey Show Superintendent |
| 3:30 pm | Ask the Beekeepers Your Anonymous Beekeeping Questions | Panel |
| 4:00 pm | Adjourn | |

Directions to the Maryland Department of Agriculture

Take Route 50 towards Annapolis. Take Exit 22 (Route 665) to Riva Road. Follow the exit in the direction of Riva Road South.

Continue 4/10 miles to Harry S Truman Parkway and turn right at the light.

Go straight 1.2 miles to 50 Harry S Truman Parkway; the Maryland Department of Agriculture building is on the right. Look for yellow "BEE MTG" signs and the cows at the entrance to the drive. Take the second entrance. You may park in the lot. Enter at the front of the building: meeting is one floor down in the auditorium.



Fall 2018 Meeting to Feature On the Spot Queen Rearing, Overwintering Expertise, Honey Show, More!

Mel Disselkoen was born on a farm in a Dutch settlement in South Dakota. He grew up with an independent farming mentality of hard work and creative problem solving. A Master Beekeeper, he has kept bees for over 40 years and is familiar with all facets of beekeeping.

Today Mel enjoys observing honey bee behavior and teaching beekeepers how to use his OTS queen rearing method to self-sufficiently reach their objectives.

A creationist and naturalist, Mel sees the honey bee as an exquisitely -designed being that unites the plant and animal kingdoms and therefore he is devoted to its well-being and protection.



Val Dolcini is the President & CEO of the Pollinator Partnership, an organization dedicated to the support and protection of pollinators throughout North America.

Formerly the Administrator of the USDA Farm Service Agency, Val is a fifth generation Californian, a passionate supporter of American farmers and ranchers, and a firm believer in the promise of our

nation's rural places. Over the course of his career, Val

has worked at all levels of government and for Fortune 500 companies. Val has served on numerous boards and commissions and is currently a Director of the San Francisco State University Foundation, his alma mater. He lives in Washington, D.C., where he serves on the DC Food Policy Council.

Dr. Doug Vinson, is a beekeeping dentist living in central North Carolina and maintaining about 40 colonies for honey production. Doug was introduced to the craft by his father at an early age and has since passed it on to a daughter, an active beekeeper.



In addition to honey production, nucleus colony production, management and science has intrigued Doug for the passed several years. He shares his information with beekeepers at the local level as well as nationally.

Doug is VP for the North Carolina Beekeepers Association, and is a Director for EAS, the Eastern Apicultural Society.

Annual Honey Show! Finish the season by entering in one of dozens of categories for some of the hundreds of dollars of prizes. Many community members have stepped up to volunteer to with an eye to opening the show early for you to enjoy and learn more of the craft of beekeeping.

Vendors to Attend November 17 Meeting and Honey Show

Dadant and Mann Lake Ltd. will have vendors' tables at the upcoming Fall 2018 Maryland State Beekeepers Meeting. If you have a special order or would like to pre-order supplies for pick up at the meeting, please contact these vendors directly.



Dadant: Patrick Ferrer, pferrer@dadant.com, (434)432-8461 www.dadant.com



Mann Lake Ltd: beekeeper@mannlakeltd.com, (800) 880-7694, www.mannlakeltd.com

Note from the Treasurer: Record MSBA Membership but Apiary Inspector and Imirie Fund Shortfalls

By Robert Crouse, MSBA Treasurer and Master Beekeeper

Folks, in going over the membership records I have noted that, even while we have an all-time high in members enrolled, we are almost \$1000 behind in donations to the Apiary Inspection Fund from the usual average. Also, the George Imirie Education Fund has not received the usual donations, either.

I suspect that because most member dues payments are now on line, that folks do not have the paper form with the donation options in front of them. Perhaps these funds have fallen by the wayside as we change our membership process.

We now have almost 100 more members now than we had last year. Surely, some of you can go to our website

(www.mdbeekeepers.org) and click on the 'Donation' in the Header and contribute some small amount via PayPal, credit card or send to me a check.?

I will be at the November 17th general meeting and can accept funds then, though it is far easier for me if done on line. (The George Imirie Fund has its own page at www.mdbeekeepers.org/george-imirie-education-fund/ or you can designate where the funds are to go on the payment sites.) The page for the Apiary Inspection Fund is at www.mdbeekeepers.org/apiary-fund/

I am retiring from the position as your Treasurer, after 10 years, and hope that enough donations come in to at least meet the average from past years. Thank You

Changes to MSBA Membership: Change from Calendar Year Basis, Dues now \$20

On October 19, MSBA's Board voted on two changes that are linked to changes in the organization and changes in the tools we have available to serve you better.

Change from Calendar Year to 365 Day Membership

At the November 17 meeting, MSBA members will vote on the Board's proposed change to the bylaws that will allow your membership to run for a full year from the date you pay, rather than the calendar year when you paid. For the first time, you will also have the option to pay for future years in advance. MSBA's bylaws specify a calendar year membership, so this change requires a vote at the Annual Membership Meeting, which takes place each Fall.

Until now, membership has been from January to December: a member joining in June would receive only 6 months, unable to credit dues to future years.

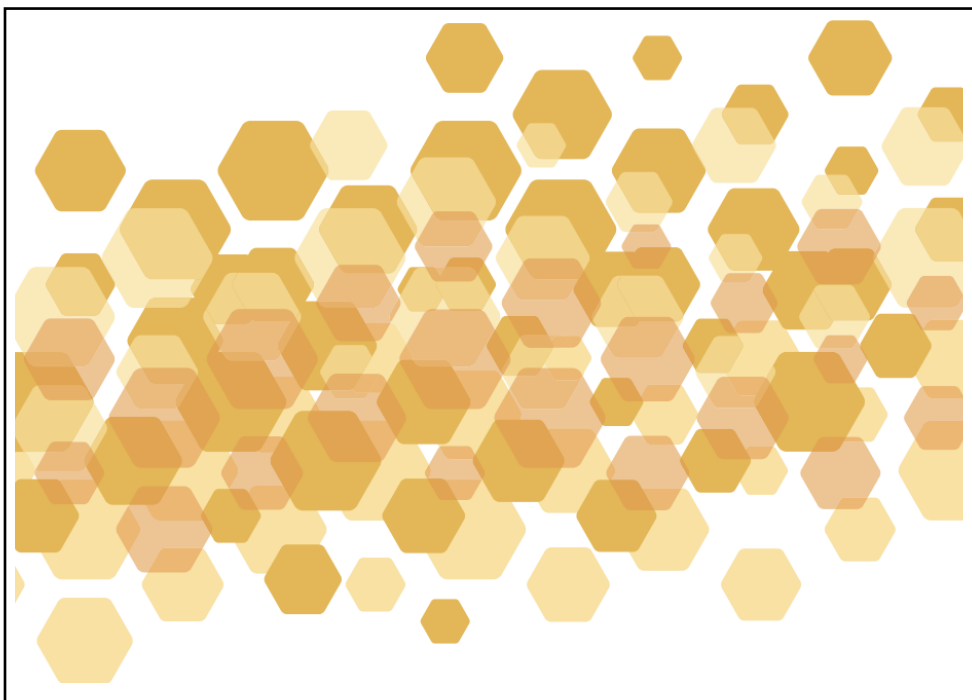
Even though MSBA's membership is at a record level, changes in technology help us not only manage the status of over 940 members, but will also alert you individually about renewals or expirations.

Imagine individually tracking the start and end date of the memberships of almost 1,000 people, including the over 300 Life Members with their different requirements. This level of service to you

was not feasible before the considerable contributions of Phil Frank to the www.mdbeekeepers.org site.

Member Dues Rise to \$20

Also part of changing times, while our association grows, so do the costs of speaker airfares and honoraria, accommodations, and club insurance, among other requirements. While MSBA's board has worked to deliver three full days of meeting programming from national and regional experts for over two decades without increasing dues (as well as classes and other activities), the future health of the organization depends on balancing dues and costs.



EAS Conference 2018 Overview

By Malcolm T. Sanford (Reprinted with permission from Apis Information Resource News)

Hampton, Virginia, “Where it all Began” was the venue for the 2018 edition of the Eastern Apicultural Society, August 13-17, 2018. Some 700 beekeepers, a record crowd, showed up to celebrate one of the oldest beekeeping institutions in the country, established in 1955.

A full week of presentations were on display at EAS 2018. It began with the current edition of the electronic colony monitoring workshop, coordinated by Frank Linton who calls himself among other things the “bee-peaker.”

The first rollout of this workshop was at EAS in Vermont in 2012. I was privileged to cover the 2014 event, which took place in Missoula, Montana, as part of the 37th edition of the Western Apicultural Society. Some of the same players were back in action in Hampton, including Hive Tracks and Arnia. New guys on the block included folks concentrating on, among other things, solar and conventional hive scales, robots, new deployments of RFID technology and something called the “genius hive.”

The next day I attended the symposium focusing on the Russian Honey Bee Breeding Association’s activities. Billed as somewhat of a membership recruiting endeavor, along with a general information session, the Association trotted out some of its longest and most trusted members, providing a fairly complete background on the program, some of which I reported on in the past. A big part of the presentation was addressing various “myths” that have cropped up about “Primorsky” stock, including increased swarming and defensive behaviors.

Russian bees do indeed require beekeepers to manage their colonies somewhat differently. However, it is increasingly clear that the trade off between these issues and the fact that Varroa tolerance results in much less

energy and expense controlling mites makes adjusting to these management decisions worth considering.

Meanwhile, in the same two days a slew of presentations oriented toward beginner, intermediate and advanced were offered, along with the Society’s vaunted Master Beekeeper Program. It is prestigious enough that one student came all the way from Australia; the participant passed the exam and will take some of this experience back to the land down under!

The main meeting the remainder of the week featured several keynote addresses by luminaries including Randy Oliver, Celia Davis, Wyatt Mangum, Jamie Ellis, Juliana Rangel.

A standout presentation was by Michael Young, a professional chef who has brought Welsh honey judging to a new level in this country that was on full view at the honey show.

The range of speakers can only be appreciated by glancing at the EAS Speaker preview website. The organizers in Hampton also provided an up-to-date schedule of events via its daily *Waggle*, the “Ocellus of the EAS Conference.”

Other surprises were in store for attendees, including a painted hive body competition that is a tradition of the Nansemond Beekeepers Association (see photo from *EAS Journal* below). In the vendor area, *Bee Culture* Magazine trotted out a “Facebook-live-event” that provides a nice recap of many of the exhibits on hand. All this was topped off by the traditional awards ceremony and banquet, and EAS life member and business meeting, those planning future conferences would do well to emulate the Hampton event.

MSBA’s Newest Master Beekeeper!

A record 30 candidates took this year’s EAS Master Beekeeper Examination, and 16 passed! Please congratulate MSBA’s newest Master Beekeeper, Clyde Strang!



PHOTO CREDIT:
Kevin Inglin

Beekeeping News Notes: Summer-Fall 2018

How Honey Bee Clumps Withstand the Wind

Beekeepers have always been impressed with how much wind and weather a swarm can take, but some scientists can now tell us a bit more about how they do it.

To keep the large clump of a swarm together, individual honeybees change their positions, fine-tuning the cluster's shape based on external forces.

[A Harvard University team led by O. Peleg and J. M. Peters](#) built a movable platform with a caged queen in the center, around which honeybees clustered in a hanging bunch. When shaken back and forth, bees moved upward, flattening out the clump and lessening its swaying. The bees might be moving based on the strain — how much each bee is pulled apart from its neighbors as the cluster swings. So the researchers made a computer simulation to determine how the bees decided where to move. When simulated bees were programmed to move to areas of higher strain, the simulation reproduced the observed flattening of the cluster. As a bee moves to a higher-strain region, the insect must bear more of the burden. So by taking one for the team, the bees ensure the clump stays intact.



Common Weed Killer (Glyphosate) May Impact Honey Bee Mortality

University of Texas/Austin scientists Erick V. S. Motta, Kasie Raymann, and Nancy A. Moran have found that a substance found in the common herbicide RoundUp perturbs the gut microbiota of honey bees.

The herbicide glyphosate is expected to be innocuous to animals, including bees, because it targets an enzyme only found in plants and microorganisms. However, bees rely on a specialized gut microbiota that benefits growth and provides defense against pathogens.

Using exposures similar to environmental levels, scientists show that glyphosate disrupts critical bee gut biota by reducing its size, slowing its development, increasing vulnerability to opportunistic bacteria, and impacting some biota more than others, potentially

altering gut function. Having noted these changes, the experiment provides new questions concerning how they may actually affect the decline of honey bee colonies.

Royal Jelly is not just superfood, it's super glue

Ever wondered how queen cells could hang from the bottom bars, but the larvae never fall out? [Protein biochemists at the Technische Universität Dresden](#) have confirmed that small changes in the pH of royal jelly (usually around 4.0) result in more larvae dropping out of the queen cells.

Royal jelly is not only food-eaten-on-the-ceiling, it's glue that keeps a royal baby in an upside-down cradle. USDA/Beltsville's Dr. Steven Cook is mentioned in this research.

Save the Bees...a little less yard work at a time!

For the second year, The Xerces Society is encouraging the spread of pollinator habitat by reducing the effort spent to rake all those leaves together with its [Leave the Leaves](#) program! Besides providing the right plants, and protecting your garden from pesticides, one of the next most valuable things you can do to support pollinators and other invertebrates is to provide them with the winter cover they need in the form of fall leaves and standing dead plant material. Frequently however, this is the hardest pill for gardeners to swallow. Xerces points out that leaves are free mulch, and are a logical outgrowth of gardener decisions to avoid chemical use, introduce native species, and enrich the soil by natural means.



MSBA Web Site Now Does Even More For Members

By Phil Frank

ThMSBA now has special web pages to help you connect with other beekeepers and the public. Checkout these great NEW FEATURES on the MSBA website www.MDBeekeepers.org!

SELL YOUR HONEY: If you sell your honey, you can have your name, telephone number, and email address included on our page “LOCAL HONEY FOR SALE”.

Customers in your area can now find you when they Google “buy local honey,” or similar search terms. Our list of members selling honey is searchable and sortable (e.g. by zipcode), so customers can find the nearest MSBA member selling honey.

Sign-up is easy: just check-mark the appropriate box on your personal profile page (the first page you see when you login to our website). So far, 60 members are on the list, representing many counties across Maryland.

BUY/SELL BEES: If you need to buy bees, or want to sell bees, we’ve got a page for that! Fourteen MSBA members have already put their contact info on the list, so buy local and support your fellow members! Signing up to be on the “sell” list is easy. Just check mark the

appropriate box on your personal profile page (the first page you see when you login to our website).

MSBA ONLINE DIRECTORY: Want to carpool to a meeting? Want to borrow a tool? Want to meet friendly, nearby beekeepers? Now you can find MSBA members near you with our online “Members Only Directory.”

Like our other pages, you have to sign-up to be included: 213 members have already opted-in. Only MSBA members who are logged into our website can access the directory. Again, sign-up is easy. Just check-mark the appropriate box on your personal profile page (the first page you see when you login to our website).

All of these features can be accessed from our website’s home page: www.MDBeekeepers.org.

T-Shirts Available for \$15 at meeting

MSBA t-shirts, are available at the Nov. 17 meeting, a chance to avoid the \$4 shipping fee. The shirts are in sizes S-4XL. Email beeline@mdbeekeepers.org for info!



Free Art Institute of Chicago Site Includes Wonderful Bee Images

By Jan Day

The Art Institute of Chicago has made public 82,000+ high resolution digital images of paintings, prints and other artifacts. All are completely free to download and reuse. I typed “bee” into the search engine and was delighted to find [this gem of a print](#) from hundreds of hits. This is from 1578 by Joannes Stradanus, a Flemish artist who when working in Florence was called Giovanni Stradano.

Resources like these can be a real help when putting together presentations, or even making labels or greeting cards for hive products!

The detail that he captured is spectacular (click on the picture to go to the original)! The netting over the bee catchers’ faces, the woman marveling at the swarm. See the man and child banging on pots-called “tanging” to call the

bees to settle. Notice the log at the foot of the ladder—perhaps it is a bee gum? This is no random swarm. Likely it was cast from one of the six skep hives along the wall in the left of the picture.



Eastern Apicultural Society



This is the first ever EAS Conference, to include states on the Eastern Seaboard, to be held in Greenville, South Carolina



Location: Hilton Greenville
43 West Orchard Park Drive
Greenville, SC
Book your rooms at Hilton
Greenville



Join the team EAS 2019 !

Volunteer positions are available with Registration consideration. Join us now to help make decisions about the 2019 Conference.

Contact Buddy May
buddy_may@bellsouth.net

www.easternapiculture.org



Dr. Dewey M. Caron



Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp



Dr. Kirsten Traynor



Dr. Geoff Williams



Dr. Meghan Milbrath



Jennifer Berry



Dr. Jay Evans

EAS 2019
July 15-19
Greenville, SC
Hilton



Elaborate display of Honey, Food Exhibits, Gadgets & Artwork

Major Beekeeping Suppliers and Artisans

2 Day Short Course
Different Learning Tracks

30 LIVE Hives for on site, hands on training

EAS 2019
5 days under one roof, One Facility

Friday Night Banquet with Speaker, New EAS President

EAS Master Beekeeping Program Testing & Certification



Creating the perfect learning environment to help you become a better beekeeper.

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