



# THE BEE LINE

Founded 1908  
Issued Quarterly

Volume XXIX, No. 105

October 2003

## President's Message

by Barry Thompson

Let me begin this issue by thanking some of those individuals who have made our state organization what it is today. Any organization must have a careful and conscientious treasurer, and MSBA is no exception. For quite a period of time, Garey Wilmsen has received and properly recorded the dues, disbursed funds in a timely fashion, and kept the organization on an "even keel" financially. Not the least of his contributions has been the provision of the almost 600 address labels for each of the newsletters and other mailings to our members. As Garey steps down as treasurer, I want to thank him, on behalf of the membership, for his continual efforts "behind the scenes" (and for his sense of humor when organization life gets a bit rough.) The fall meeting again will feature nationally-recognized experts whose presentations will increase our understanding of bees and improve our beekeeping. David Smith has been First Vice President for the past two years and strong "back-up" for your president. He has done a masterful job in arranging programs for our meetings that combine the experience of area beekeepers with the scientific and business expertise of individuals prominent in American beekeeping at large. Berry, Caron, Hood, Spears and Spivak - to mention a few - can one ask for more? MSBA owes David its appreciation for a job done exceedingly well! Both of these gentlemen have carried this organization forward, and they will be difficult to replace. Interested parties or individuals who wish to recommend a member for either of these key positions should contact the chairperson of our nominating committee, Allen Hayes, or any officer.

Although he will not be leaving his post, I'd also like to recognize our editor, John Moyer, for crafting a newsletter that is informative and entertaining.

The "Bee Line" is our main means of communication with many of our members who don't get to MSBA's meetings. Working with a variety of contributors and with deadlines that always seem to be "yesterday", John has produced a publication of which members can be proud. Thank you, John, for your stalwart service! The membership can assist John by contributing articles and news items to the "Bee Line". A practical hint, a new gadget, a synopsis of a useful article in one of the national or international bee journals - share your knowledge with your fellow beekeepers.

The "first-ever" joint meeting of Maryland and Virginia beekeepers in June 2003 was a real success, as those of you who attended know. Marylanders made up about 25% of the audience and were active participants in the silent auction (VSBA) and raffle (MSBA.) Registration fees covered the meeting expenses, and returned a small amount to MSBA.

Our association conducted a raffle of a Brushy Mountain bee suit and a honey refractometer, provided "at cost" by Steve Forrest of Brushy Mountain.

*Cont. on p. 10.*

### **MSBA Fall Meeting, Elections & Annual Honey Show**

**November 8, 2003**

**Maryland Department of Agriculture,  
Annapolis, MD**

***Program information***

## News from the Apiary Inspection Office

*By Jerry E. Fischer, Office of Apiary Inspection, Maryland Department of Agriculture*

**APIARY INSPECTION:** The year of 2003 has 992 registered beekeepers, with 9,337 colonies in 1,335 apiaries. This is the actual number that has been re-registered. There still remain approx. 340 beekeepers (that have bees) that have not re-registered for 2003. To date this year, Apiary Inspectors have examined 2,986 colonies in 538 apiaries. Inspectors spend additional time, assisting beekeepers with hive manipulation, mite surveys and other related problems. American Foul Brood, the emphasis of inspection, was found in 42 colonies, in 23 apiaries during the year. This is a 1.4 % of inspected colonies. Lets remain very vigilant beekeepers, with good hive management and working with the inspectors to keep this low percentage.

For Apiary Inspection request service, contact: Jerry Fischer, State Apiary Inspector, Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S. Truman Pkwy. Annapolis, Maryland 21401. Phone # 410-841-5920.

**COLONY CONDITIONS:** In June it was reported that the first half of the year, was so unusual. With the high winter colony loss (colonies replaced with packages or nuc's), very cool wet spring, the bees did not have much chance of a very productive year in most locations. Most beekeepers produced about half of the honey as during a normal year, as others didn't make any honey at all. Most of the colonies that we see while inspecting are (now) above average to strong. The problem is now, the bees have eaten their honey stores and are low on winter stores. Most (about half) of the colonies seen during inspection, indicate they will not survive two months let alone through the winter. Check your colonies now and feed if necessary. The feeding of a 2:1 sugar/water syrup will be adequate. A full size colony needs approx. 60 pounds of honey stores to survive the winter.

**VARROA & TRACHEAL MITES:** The two parasitic mites we have in Maryland, must still remain a major concern for the beekeeper. Our job is to keep the infestation below the threshold level so the colony can remain healthy and productive. It is not necessary to just treat because you have mites. Survey your colonies to determine whether treatment is necessary, as soon as the surplus honey has been removed. If treatment is, then use the control that will best suit your situation. Alternate control substances to eliminate resistance.

Apistan has shown that it is not affective in most areas of Maryland. If this is your case, use Check Mite Plus (Coumaphos strips) that is made available with the approval of an emergency exemption (Section 18) by EPA. Coumaphos is very effective in killing Varroa but it is an organophosphate pesticide that must be used exactly as labeled. Knowing that the controls that we have used over the last 12 years or so, are now not available or has build up resistance, and may not be effective for long. The MDA has received approval from our pesticide department and applied for Special Exemption (Section 18) for the use of API LIFE VAR. The approval from EPA should be received by the reading of this letter.

**SMALL HIVE BEETLE:** There have been several incidents of SHB in Maryland during the year 2003. The hives had been treated with Coumaphos strip traps, ground treated with GardStar to prevent reproduction. These locations were re-inspected and considered eradication. If during your routine hive manipulations you detect or suspect SHB contact the Apiary Inspection Office.

**ETO - FUMIGATION OF BEE EQUIPMENT:** The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) will be sterilizing equipment in the fumigation chamber with ethylene oxide (ETO), during the winter months. Beekeepers with diseased colonies identified by MDA apiary inspectors will be contacted regarding the equipment. If you have purchased used equipment of unknown origin or have suspect hives, it is recommended to have the equipment sterilized.

***Apiary Inspection:*** (cont.)

If this service is needed, contact: Jerry Fischer, State Apiary Inspector. Please call a.s.a.p. so we can schedule your equip.

The charges for fumigation are as follows:

\$80.00 Full load (Approx. 15 deeps w/ frames,	tops, bottoms, inner covers)
\$4.00 Deep hive body with or without frames	
\$3.00 Super with or without frames	
\$1.50 Tops, bottoms inner covers,	

etc.

Payment is due at time of service.

**INSPECTION ENHANCEMENT FUND:**

145 individuals or Associations has contributed \$3996.00 to the Inspection Enhancement Fund. These contributions are greatly appreciated, for 100% goes to the contractual salaries. Only because of this contribution can we continue the inspection program that we have had in the past.

**Future dates:** The Maryland Department of Agriculture will hold an annual open house in March 2004. Look for this in the future newsletters.



**MEDICATION RATHER THAN DEVASTATION**

*By Bill Troup III, Regional Apiary Inspector*

Now is the time, if ever, for you to medicate your bees. You have legally, at your disposal, Checkmite+, Apistan and Menthol. Menthol applied by the shop towel method would still be effective during October. If the State of Maryland obtains its Section 18 for ApilifeVar, you may still have time to apply this new Varroa treatment. Remember, if you have not treated your bees for 2 years, then your bees will probably not see 2004. Untreated bees cycle out every 2 years.

A good application of medication in the fall will almost guarantee you a live colony in the spring. Spring medication may not be necessary, if you treat your bees properly for Varroa mites, Tracheal mites and Small Hive Beetle (If applicable) in the fall. Also, have you re-queened your bees lately? Re-queening is along the same line of thinking as medicating your bees.

Young, hygienic and vigorous queens keep a colony well populated to a degree where some of the mite and mite related problems take a back seat. Think about it!



**George W. Imirie, Jr. Award for Education in Beekeeping**

Announced earlier this year, this award emphasizes that aspect of beekeeping that George most values - continuing education for active beekeepers, the general public, and for the young people who will become the beekeepers of the future. The annual award (to be first presented at the November MSBA meeting) will consist of a plaque, and, after sufficient funds have been accrued to make that possible, a small cash award.

Contributions to the fund *are welcome* and may be sent to the MSBA treasurer, Garey Wilmsen. Please identify any contributions as intended for the Imirie Award fund. Nominations to recognize the area beekeeper who has made the most significant contribution to the education effort may be sent to Bill Troup III, Chairman of the Selection Committee for 2003



*Mark your calendars:*

## COMING EVENTS

The following events were announced at the MSBA Board meeting. Locations and details to be announced. Please note that the dates may be tentative and subject to confirmation of location approvals:

8 Nov 2003 - MSBA Fall Meeting  
Sat. - Nov 8, 2003)  
MDA, Annapolis



### Upcoming National Meetings:

61st Annual ABF Convention  
Set for Jacksonville, Florida  
Jan. 14-17, 2004  
[info@ABFnet.org](mailto:info@ABFnet.org)

Apimondia Conference on Tropical  
Beekeeping: Research and development  
for pollination and conservation

San José - Costa-Rica  
22 - 25 February 2004

<http://www.apiservices.com/apimondia/index.us.htm>

EAS 2004 Short Course & Conference  
August 9-13, 2004  
Seven Springs, PA



*Fall Meeting*

## Lunch / Refreshments

Refreshments will be provided during Breaks at the Fall Meeting.

A lunch menu will again be available providing sandwiches & lunch items for purchase. MSBA is negotiating with a local vendor to provide this service. Please be sure to ask about this service immediately upon your arrival to the meeting as there will be a mid morning cut-off for ordering.

The annual Pot Luck dinner will be held immediately following the meeting. If you plan to attend the pot luck dinner you should also bring a dish to be shared. There are no facilities available for cooking or refrigerating your dish so plan accordingly -- bring a cooler or warmer if required.



**MSBA FALL MEETING**  
**November 8, 2003**

9:30 - Welcome and President's Report; Treasurer's Report  
Secretary's Report

9:45 - **Report by MDA Inspector** - Jerry Fischer

10:15 - **D E A D L I N E** for Honey Show Entries

10:15 - **House-Hunting by Honey Bees** - Dr. Tom Seeley, Professor of Biology, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

11:15 - **BREAK**

11:30 - **Honey Bees Can Learn the Sun's Movements Only Once** - Dr. William Towne, Professor, Department of Biology, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania

12:25 - **Election of MSBA Officers for 2004**

**12:30 - LUNCH**

1:45 - **Tracking Flight Behavior with Radar** - Elizabeth A. Capaldi, Ph.D; Director, Program in Animal Behavior & Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA.

2:30 - **The Beehive as a Honey Factory** - Dr. Tom Seeley, Professor of Biology, Cornell University

3:15 - **BREAK**

3:30 - **Questions for the Experts** - Drs. Capaldi, Seeley and Towne.

4:15 - **Presentation of Honey Show awards** - David Morris

4:30 - Closing remarks by President; adjourn for Pot-Luck dinner



## Annual Honey and Honey Cookery Show Rules and Premium List

### General Rules

- 1) Entries will be accepted from 8:30 a.m. until 10:15 a.m. sharp on the day of the show. Entries must remain in place until released by the show chairman.
- 2) Entries will be accepted from anyone attending the MSBA meeting (MSBA members and non-members). Entries from exhibitors not present at the MSBA meeting (entries brought to the show by someone else) will only be accepted if the exhibitor is a MSBA member.
- 3) Only one entry will be allowed in each class from any household, partnership or beekeeping establishment.
- 4) The exhibitor will select the class for his/her entry. (Assistance will be provided in selecting the correct class when making entries). The chairman of the show reserves the right to make a final determination and change, if necessary, entry classes. Classification of sweet and dry mead may be changed by judges (correct classification may be determined by chemical tests after the bottles of mead are opened).
- 5) No exhibitor's name or label will be allowed on any entry except in designated classes.
- 6) The decisions of judges are final. Judges may withhold prizes for insufficient merit or award a lower prize at their discretion. Entries that do not comply with the rules or class description may be disqualified.
- 7) The show chairman reserves the right to adjust any class and/or premiums offered. (For example: if sufficient entries are made for one stated color class for extracted honey to create two color classes, then two separate classes would be created with appropriate ribbons and cash awards).
- 8) Competition between local bee clubs is encouraged. An award will be presented to the local bee association who's members earn the highest number of points based on the number of quality products entered in the show. The following point system will be used: 1st prize - 3 points, 2nd prize - 2 points, 3rd prize - 1 point. If clubs are tied, the 1st place winner will be the club with the most 1st place awards in the show. If a tie still exists, the club with the most exhibits in the show will win.

### Premium List

Individual Classes: Ribbon and Cash Award  
Division Champion: Ribbon and Cash Award  
Best in Show: John V. Lindner Award  
Best Club Showing: I. Barton Smith Award

### **Premium Cash Awards:**

<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>5th</u>
\$12	9	6	4	2

### **Division I HIVE PRODUCTS**

- 9) All entries must be the product of the exhibitor's bees and have been produced within a 12 month period prior to entry.
- 10) All honey exhibited must have been gathered and ripened in a natural way by honey bees.
- 11) An entry consists of 1 jar, container, frame, block, etc.
- 12) All extracted, chunk and finely granulated honey, and pollen pellets must be exhibited in 1 lb. glass or clear plastic jars, except Class 1. Beekeepers entering the first time in class 1 only may exhibit honey in 1 pint glass canning jars or 1 lb. glass or plastic honey jars.

### **PREMIUMS**

#### **Beekeepers entering for the first time**

Class 1 - Extracted Honey

#### **Beekeepers with 10 colonies or less**

Class 2 - Extracted Honey - Water White thru Extra Lt.  
Class 3 - Extracted Honey - Lt. Amber  
Class 4 - Extracted Honey - Amber thru Dark Amber  
Class 5 - Extracted Honey - Dark

#### **Beekeepers with 11 colonies or more**

Class 6 - Extracted Honey - Water White thru Extra Lt.  
Class 7 - Extracted Honey - Lt. Amber thru Amber  
Class 8 - Extracted Honey - Amber thru Dark Amber  
Class 9 - Extracted Honey - Dark

#### **Open to all**

Class 10 - Comb Honey - Square Section  
Class 11 - Comb Honey - Round Section  
Class 12 - Cut Comb Honey in clear plastic box  
Class 13 - Chunk Honey in wide mouth 1 lb. Jar  
Class 14 - Finely Granulated Honey in regular or wide- mouth 1 lb. jar  
Class 15 - One Shallow or Full Depth Frame Honey  
- must be protected with plastic wrap or suitable container  
Class 16 - Beeswax Block 2 lbs. minimum  
Class 17 - Dry Pollen Pellets in 1 lb. honey jar

# MARYLAND STATE BEEKEEPER'S ASSOCIATION

Division Champion: Ribbon \$10  
Division I Total: \$571.00

## **Division II ARTS AND CRAFTS**

- 13) All entries must have been made or produced by the exhibitor.
- 14) Label for Honey Container - One marketable container of honey, any size, any form, WITH LABEL designed by the exhibitor and affixed to the container. The container, unless opaque, must contain honey. Commercial stock labels are prohibited. Apiary and/or exhibitor name is permitted on the label.
- 15) Creative or artistic endeavor in Class 23 must prominently feature the honey bee, beekeeping or pollination. (Formerly the "Presidents Prize")
- 16) Photography - A single black and white OR color print 5" x 7" minimum, suitably framed or mounted, pertaining to beekeeping.
- 17) Equipment or Gadget - Any original tool or equipment useful in beekeeping. A written description giving details of construction, materials, cost and labor MUST ACCOMPANY THE ENTRY.
- 18) Honey Wine - Entries must be a least 12 months old and shall be exhibited in unlabeled standard 750 ml. or "fifth" wine bottles. Exhibitor must state whether entry is straight (honey-and-water "must" only) or augmented (honey-and water "must" plus fruit juices, herbs, spices, etc.) Allowed ingredients in all classes - sulfiting, yeast nutrients/energizers, tannin, citric acid or acid blends.
- 19) Gift arrangements/packs must include one or more products of the hive but may also include other items that enhance the appeal or promote the use of hive products. Personal gift arrangements should be suitable for personal gift use regardless of commercial applications, and should be in a box, basket or other suitable container. Mailable gift packs should be suitable for commercial applications and will be judged on mailability.

### **PREMIUMS**

- Four Molded Beeswax Candles
- Four Dipped Beeswax Candles
- Four Rolled Beeswax Candles
- Artistic Beeswax - candles, figurines or other forms, at least 1½ lbs.
- Label for Honey Container
- Artistic creation or Craft featuring the honey bee,

- beekeeping  
or pollination.
- Photography
- Equipment or Gadget
- Honey Wine - Sweet Mead, one bottle
- Honey Wine - Dry Mead, one bottle

### **PREMIUMS**

- Honey Wine - Augmented Mead, one bottle
- Personal Gift Arrangement of honey bee products
- Mailable Gift Pack of Honey Bee Products

Division II Champion: Ribbon \$10  
Division II Total: \$439.00

## **Division III YOUTH DIVISION**

### **PREMIUMS**

#### **Exhibitors age 18 or under**

- Extracted Honey (As in Div. I)
- Bee Crafts (As in Div. II)
- Honey Cookery (As in Div. IV)

Division III Total: \$81.00

## **Division IV HONEY COOKERY**

- 20) Entries in all classes must use 100% honey for the sweetening with the following exceptions: frostings, fillings, glazes, dusts and meringue may contain up to 100% sugar. Honey used in entries does not need to have been produced by the exhibitor. Non-beekeepers are encouraged to enter honey cookery.
- 21) Mixes and packaged prepared foods are not permitted.
- 22) Each honey cookery entry must be accompanied by TWO copies of the recipe for the entry. The ingredients in the entry must match the recipe. Recipes must not contain the exhibitor's name or other personal identification. Please identify the origin of the recipe (e.g. "personal", "National Honey Board")
- 23) Plates and protective covers must be supplied by the exhibitor.

### **PREMIUMS**

- Cake - One unsliced cake that may be unfrosted, frosted, filled, glazed or dusted.
- Cookies - 12 drop, refrigerator, rolled or filled cookies that may be unfrosted, frosted, glazed or dusted.
- Cookies - 12 bar or sheet cookies (brownies, date bars, baked granola, etc.). May be unfrosted, frosted, glazed or dusted.

- Pie - One unsliced pie.
- Candy - 12 pieces. May be cooked, uncooked, or may be candied peels and candied fruits.
- Yeast Bread (Non Sweet) - One unsliced loaf or 9 rolls.
- Yeast Bread (Sweet) - One unsliced loaf, coffee cake, tea ring, or 6 Danish or sweet rolls.
- Quick Bread (Sweet) - One unsliced loaf. Examples are: banana bread, nut bread, etc.
- Quick Bread (Other) - One unsliced coffee cake, tea ring, 6 doughnuts or 6 muffins.
- Jellies, Jams, Preserves or Conserves - 1/2 pint or 1 pint in a jar, sealed with lid or paraffin.
- Condiments, Salad Dressings, Barbecue Sauces - One half-pint or one pint in glass jar. Examples are: catsup, pickles or relishes.
- Any other entry - honey cookery

Division Champion: Ribbon \$10  
Division IV Total: \$406.00

Grand Total: \$1,497.00



**Recipes from the HONEY BOARD:**

### Honey Balsamic Vinaigrette - Makes 1 cup -

**Ingredients**

- 1/2 cup canned apricots, drained
- 1/3 cup balsamic or red wine vinegar
- 1/4 cup honey
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon dry Italian seasoning
- 1/4 teaspoon each salt and pepper
- 1 Tablespoon olive oil

**Directions**

In blender or food processor, combine apricots, vinegar, honey, mustard, garlic and seasonings; blend until smooth. With motor running, slowly drizzle in olive oil until combined.

### Honey Popcorn Balls

- Makes 6 servings (1 popcorn ball each) -

**Ingredients**

- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 5 cups warm popped popcorn
- Butter

**Directions:**

Combine honey, sugar and 1 Tablespoon butter in 2-quart microwave-safe container. Microcook, covered with plastic wrap, at HIGH (100%) 5-1/2 to 7 minutes or to 275°F. Pour over warm popcorn; stir with wooden spoon until popcorn is thoroughly coated. Cool until mixture can be handled. Butter hands and shape popcorn into balls.



## NUCLEUS COLONIES

for beginners, expansion or replacement



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WE CARRY ALL YOUR  
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SUGAR AVAILABLE IN 100# BAGS

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**Protect Your Investment ... FEED NOW!**

*By John Moyer, Editor*

At the MSBA Board meeting this fall, members indicated the widespread lack of stores in beehives throughout the state. In some areas beehives are in such poor shape that there were *no stores* available and the bees would, in general starve *before* winter without beekeeper intervention. If we have another month of rather mild conditions there may yet be enough time to get enough feed on the bees to give them a fighting chance.

Bees in our area need about 50 to 60 lb. (or more) of stores generally to make it through the winter. When they cluster they must remain in contact with the stores to survive, so effective feeding through winter months limits the choice of feeders that actually work under these conditions to the inverted pail or glass jar placed directly on top of the frames in the hive, or perhaps a division board feeder (baggies, entrance feeders, and Miller-type hive-top feeders require the bees to leave the frames to get the feed, which generally won't happen when the bees are clustered). Many beekeepers will not use the division board feeder because they are not easy to refill, and tend to drown bees. The inverted pail or glass jar feeders are perhaps the most effective, and are easily refillable - - a big plus for the beekeeper, and also to the bees because it minimizes disturbing the hives in cold weather. George Imirie in his Pink Pages recommends using gallon jars "In the final analysis, a gallon size GLASS (not plastic) jar with 4-5 one sixteenth inch holes punched in the cap is hard to beat as a feeder, because it can be placed right on the bees, syrup level is visible to the beekeeper, and the hive does not have to be opened to replace the feed. Used gallon GLASS jars are used by delicatessens for hot sausages, pickles, and pig knuckles and are thrown in the trash when empty, unless a beekeeper swaps them for a jar of his honey. Plastic jars (like milk jars) tend to lose the inverted suction from the syrup, collapse, and "flood" the bees with syrup, so use only GLASS jars." Flooding the bees with the bucket/pail feeders is also a concern. I invert the pails over an empty 5 gallon bucket so that the initial surge of syrup is not dumped all over the bees. If you have not previously used your pail style feeder I would recommend filling it with water and test for leaks by inverting it and watching for a potential problem - auto-pumping, or leaking. Auto-pumping occurs when the holes drilled in the lid are too large, or are placed improperly. Under these conditions if the feeder is not exactly level, a continuing cycle of air entering a higher level hole, releasing syrup from the lower level holes occurs (inverted feeder fails to establish a stable vacuum to hold the syrup). This may drown the bees and even run out of the bottom of the hive promoting robbing and waste. If your bees need a lot of feed, invert up to 4 of the filled gallon glass jar feeders or several pail feeders and place them directly on the top frame of the hive and place an empty deep super over them, followed by the inner and outer covers.

Feeding at this time of the year should be a heavy syrup (2lbs granulated sugar into 1lb boiling hot water). A easy approximation is 7 1/2 lbs granulated sugar in 2 quarts of boiling water. You may have to heat the syrup gently (on medium heat while stirring) to get the sugar to fully dissolve. Let the syrup cool before placing the feeder on the hive.

Feed syrup now to protect your investment ...or face the even stickier prospect of having to buy nucs or packages next spring to fill those empty hives!



## **Saving your supers**

By Steve McDaniel

Wax moths and mice are ever-present dangers to your beautiful drawn comb, which has been called “the beekeeper’s gold.” Why is it so valuable? It can be used to manipulate bees (making splits or nucs, for example) and to allow the bees to put up honey in marginal conditions. Bees can only build comb when the weather is warm enough for them to work the wax, which in the central Maryland area means mid-April through August, and nectar (or sugar syrup) is coming in. It is very difficult to get bees to draw out foundation in September or later, even if the days are warm and you feed them heavily, so it is important to protect the comb you have.

After you have extracted your honey, the best way to clean up the sticky supers is to let the bees do it. Put your supers, one at a time, on colonies above the inner cover and under the top cover, preferably the same colonies they came from (one good reason for numbering or otherwise identifying your colonies). The bees will lick up every drop of honey and take it down into the hive where you want it to go, mending any damage you caused in the extracting process. In a day, it is finished, and you can take it off, smoking and shaking the bees out, and put another one on, if you were lucky enough to get a good yield this year. Why not two or three at once? The bees may move into them, storing more honey and even laying brood.

Some lazy and irresponsible beekeepers just set the supers out in the yard, starting a frenzy of robbing. This is a bad practice for three reasons: robbing bees damage the comb, and may even chew all the way through wax foundation, as well as fighting and killing each other. Also, any undetected disease, especially American Foulbrood, present in any of your colonies has just been spread to all of them, and to any other bees in the neighborhood. Last, the robbing may extend to your colonies themselves, and weak colonies may actually die of starvation as a result. There is a fourth reason, if you have neighbors close by ...they will hate you!

Once your supers are clean and dry, they are not too attractive to wax moths unless brood has been raised in them or there are cells of pollen, either of which can provide nutritious protein to the moth larvae. Never take them into your basement or any warm area, and do not put them into plastic bags! These conditions are tailor-made for breeding wax moths.

Stack the supers in a cool area such as an unheated shed or carport, and they will be ready to go in the spring. You can even stack them outside if you keep rain out of them and screen them bee-tight, but they will last years longer if stored under a roof. To keep mice from damaging your combs, place a queen excluder or metal screen (window screen or ¼” mesh hardware cloth) on the top and bottom of the stack, and screen any soft corners or other spots where they might get in. Ventilation helps keep moths from developing, so do not use a top cover unless the stack is exposed to rain.

If you must store supers in a heated area, you must also use moth crystals (paradichlorobenzene) sold in discount, hardware, and grocery stores. Never use moth balls (naphthalene), which poisons wax and kills bees. Get sloppy here, and your colony will die, not to mention having to replace all your “golden” comb with new foundation. Stack supers reasonably air-tight (flat on a floor or top cover at the bottom) three high, add a piece of paper about notebook size (8 1/2” x 11”) on the top bars, and put about ¼ cup of crystals on the paper. Add three more supers and repeat, until you run out of supers or space. Put a top cover on top, and tape any cracks or holes to keep air from blowing the vapors out of the stack. Open the stack once a month and add more crystals, then reseal. In the spring, stand the supers on end outside at least one day (preferably three) to air them out. Even para crystals leave a residue in the wax, but it is not as bad as naphthalene. I prefer to avoid contamination completely by not using the stuff, and wax moths do not bother my supers.

Next spring, use your “golden” drawn combs to make lots of the other “beekeeper’s gold”—honey!



**Presidents Message:** ( cont. from p.1.)

A profit of \$144 was deposited in the MSBA general fund. The educational aspect of the conference was the most important: the speakers were first-rate and the subjects topical and timely. Kevin Hackett, Keith Delaplane, Jeff Pettis, Wyatt Mangum, Rick Fell, Mark Feldlaufer and Pedro Rodriguez. What a line-up! Keith Tignor and our own Jerry Fischer. David Morris. Karina Blizzard (Wildlife Management, Maryland Department of Natural Resources) on the black bear. And Pat Wagner and Donna Chandler reporting on bee sting therapy in multiple sclerosis. If you didn't get there this time, be sure to attend the next time (probably several years hence.)

Alan Fiala, a member of both state associations was the "site selection" and arrangements guru. The Northern Virginia Community College at Manassas was the venue, and a site convenient to many of our beekeepers it was. Accommodations at nearby motels and the large number of restaurants in the area recommended NVCC. Alan's dogged efforts over the preceding months and his attention to myriad details brought the meeting into being. Without him, the meeting simply would not have been possible. Kudos, Alan, for a job well done!

Our fall meeting on 8 November promises to be another great opportunity to learn. Elizabeth Capaldi, William Towne, and Thomas Seeley will be our guest speakers.

The annual Honey and Honey Cookery Show will be managed by David Morris. Make plans to enter that "perfect" capped comb, the pristine jars of your finest honey, wax creations or the labor-saving device you've designed. Ribbons and cash prizes abound. And don't forget the "potluck" supper that will be held about 5 PM - a chance to relax with your colleagues and enjoy another outstanding meal.

I'll see you on the 8<sup>th</sup>!



**About the Speakers for the Fall MSBA Meeting:**

**Featured Speakers:**

**Elizabeth Capaldi** - is an assistant professor of Biology at Bucknell University in Lewisburg PA. She is also the Director of the Animal Behavior Program. She began her job at Bucknell in August 2000; before that, she was a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she worked with Drs. Gene Robinson (bees) and Susah Fahrbach (insect neurobiology.) Elizabeth's Ph.D. work was completed in 1996 from Michigan State University, where she worked in Zoology and Ecology & Evolutionary Biology. Originally, she is from New England (Rhode Island), where she attended Trinity College in Hartford CT for her undergraduate degree in Biology. At Bucknell, Dr Capaldi teaches courses in animal behavior, biology, social insect biology, and tropical ecology.

**Thomas D. Seeley** - is Professor of Biology at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. He grew up in Ithaca and, as a high school student, fell in love with bees and began working as a summer helper at the Dyce Lab at Cornell. He studied biology and chemistry in college, then focused on the biology of bees in graduate school. Since 1980 he has been teaching animal behavior and researching bees. His laboratory at Cornell contains numerous observation hives that are his main tool in his research, but also used in his teaching. Pull out your January 2003 issue of *Bee Culture* and read his article *Bees in the Forest, Still*. Also, his book *The Wisdom of the Hive* is a must-read for all serious beekeepers.

**William F. Towne** - is Professor, Department of Biology, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. He received his Ph.D. in 1985 from Princeton University. Originally from Pennsylvania he studied bees in the countryside around Allentown, PA. His research has involved the dance language as well as the bees' senses and learning. For the past several years his work has focused on how bees re-learn (or, as it turns out, fail to re-learn) the suns' pattern of movement relative to a new landscape when the bees are transplanted from one site to another.



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*Jerry Fischer (410) 682-3251*

### **MSBA HOME PAGE:**

<http://iaa.umd.edu/mdbee/mdbee.html>

David Morris (301) 725-6185

### **BEELINE EDITOR:**

John D. Moyer (410) 923-0190

[jmoyer28@comcast.net](mailto:jmoyer28@comcast.net)

## THE BEELINE



Garey Wilmsen, Treasurer  
3601 Oxwed Ct.  
Westminster, MD 21157



Address corrections requested