MARYLAND STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

THE BEELINE

Founded 1908

Volume XXXI, No. 118 June 2007

MSBA Summer Meeting
Jun 16, 2007
See program information inside

DR CARON THANKS MSBA MEMBERSHIP

A sincere and heartfelt THANKS to the members and officers of MSBA for the parting (retirement) gifts and dinner "roast" provided at the Winter meeting. I still proudly display the print from my earlier "retirement" [when I left University of Maryland to become Chairman at Delaware] provided by the Association. Now every time I use the engraved wine glasses (so wonderfully done by Adele Morris) I will have another opportunity to remember and "toast" the many, many Maryland friends, students and acquaintances made over my 40 years of beekeeping. As I indicated in remarks at the meeting I am looking forward to my "redirection" and what the (hopefully) next 40 years will bring. I will still likely be doing "bee stuff" so I expect to cross paths again and come back to speak and visit. Thank you Maryland Beekeepers for this most appreciated recognition of my "service" to our/your interest and avocation – I have received so much in return from you as I have sought to make a difference -- and the best part is to have gotten to know so many great people – Maryland bee people are the GREATEST!!

Dewey Caron

###

April 3 Meeting of the Maryland Farm Bureau Board

by Marc Hoffman

I represented MSBA at the quarterly Board of Directors meeting of the Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) on April 3 from 9am-2pm at the state headquarters in Randallstown. MSBA is an affiliate member of the MFB. The MFB board comprises the state officers, plus the presidents of each county branch. MFB is a chapter of the American Farm Bureau (AFB).

Recommendations based on my attending this meeting:

1. MSBA should develop a policy formulation process similar to MFB's.
2. MSBA should learn from the MFB how to use telecommunications to run an effective statewide organization.
3. MSBA should encourage our county VP's to become close to the county Farm Bureaus and attend their meetings.
4. MSBA should determine specific research objectives and seek to have them carried out.
5. MSBA should attend the MFB meetings and be active at the state level.

They treated me very kindly as a guest and introduced me to the group at the beginning of the meeting. Another guest at the meeting was Dr. Wei, Dean of the College of Agriculture at the U of Md., who spoke when he was introduced. By previous agreement, I was given time to speak later in the morning after the County Reports.

The meeting was chaired by new MFB president Mike Phipps, who just moved up from 1st VP because their president Buddy Hance was just appointed Deputy Secretary of Agriculture for Md. Valerie Connelly and Kurt Fuchs presented a very detailed summary of legislative activity at the federal and state level. They work full time from the MFB office in Annapolis during the Md. legislative session. They coordinate MFB's legislative effort based on a policy formulation process that the MFB engages in every summer, preparing for the Md. session, which is also coordinated with the AFB for federal efforts.

MSBA should have a policy formulation process so that we can speak clearly on matters of importance to beekeeping in Maryland. Valerie, Kurt, and the officers and staff of MFB can be a valuable resource so that we can learn how to go through such a process. Part of the discussion was about how tight the budget will be next year.

The legislative activities were discussed and various committee reports were given and discussed. Their statewide committees often meet through teleconferencing. **MSBA should learn from the MFB how to use telecommunications to run an effective statewide organization.** County presidents discussed issues of importance.

I presented information about the structure of the beekeeping industry in Maryland, the threats to beekeeping, including efforts to ban beekeeping in certain jurisdictions, and the lack of infrastructure (university support, extension) compared with Delaware and Pennsylvania, fully aware that the Dean of Agriculture was there and that Md. Extension is a part of the School of Agriculture. I asked if anyone at the meeting came from a county in which there weren't significant honeybee pollinated crops, and not a single hand went up, so I knew we were all on the same page. I explained that the beekeeping community fully supports the regulatory activities of MDA doing hive inspection (because farmers might assume that we do not support regulatory activity) and support complete funding of those activities. (Although I didn't say this explicitly, this was a reference to HB1292 in the legislature in which the MDA will be given permission to set the period for inspections in connection with interstate shipment of colonies. Currently, the 60 day expiration period is set in the statute. Jerry has told me that they want to set it at 1 year, primarily because they don't have the funding to do repeated inspections of colonies going in and out of the state.) I mentioned that according to Jerry and Mike Embrey, we can expect the advent of AHB in 5 or 6 years and w e need to be prepared.

President Mike Phipps, when I had concluded, said, in part, "…and as you see our programs are based on activities that come up from the county level, so

- *Cont p.5*

Mark your calendars:

COMING EVENTS

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

MSBA MEETING SCHEDULE

Summer Meeting

June 16, 2007 Harford Community College, Bel Air, Md.

Annual Meeting and Honey Show

Nov 10, (Confirmed), Md Dept of Ag. Hq, Annapolis, Md.

(Vendors are welcome at meetings. Please notify Carol Johnson, President or David Morris, Secretary one week prior to meeting date. It is requested that vendors donate an item to be a door prize when attending MSBA meetings.)

Upcoming Local/ National / International Meetings:

EAS 2007 will be held Aug 6 – 10, 2007 at the **University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware.**

WEST VIRGINIA HONEY FESTIVAL
August 25th, 26th, 2007
City Park, Parkersburg, WV

Apimondia 2007 - Sept 9-13, 2007, Melbourne, Australia

###

Please note: If you Beeline mailing label says- Member Thru: 2006 -- Your MSBA membership is past due. Please mail you $10 membership dues to Jon Bealer , 702 Monkton Road Monkton, MD 21111-1114

Summer Meeting:

June 16, 2007

***Harford Community College*,**
401 Thomas Run Rd., 207 Bel Air, MD 21015

From points West and South of Baltimore:
Take the Baltimore Beltway, I-695 North, to I-95 North. Take I-95 north to MD 24, via exit 77B toward BEL AIR. At US-1, turn RIGHT onto US-1. Stay STRAIGHT to go onto FULFORD AVE/MD-22 E. Continue to follow MD-22 E. for 3.5 miles. Turn LEFT onto THOMAS RUN RD.

From points North of Baltimore:
Take I-95 South toward BALTIMORE. At exit 89, merge onto MD-155 toward CHURCHVILLE (go 6.8 miles). Turn RIGHT onto CHURCHVILLE RD/MD-22/MD-155. (go 2 miles). Turn RIGHT onto THOMAS RUN RD.

###

Lunch Menu:

The tentative menu offered for the June meeting:

1 Cheese steak sub w/chips a) PLAIN b) let tom may c) everything Including hots

2. Italian cold cut w/ chips a) PLAIN b) let tom may c) everything including hots

3. Garden salad choice of House, French or Ranch dressing

4. Mixed green salad, balsamic vinegar dressing

Orders will be ***taken at check- in by 9:00AM***. All orders are priced the same at $6.50.

###

WINTERING BEES

By Bob Cory,Dunkirk, MD, at 301-855-8431

I've often said the two most important things in trying to manage bees are winter survival and swarm discouragement. Two years ago Chris Drazba told me of a winter management technique that he had tried and seemed to be promising. Chris is a St. Mary's county beekeeper holding the So. Maryland record for honey production in excess of 800 pounds for seven colonies, his third year of beekeeping! I verified that because I bought most of his honey that year.

Chris had read an article where the late Roger Morse of Cornell Univ. advocated mid-summer placing of the queen in the bottom box of a two story colony and confining her there with a queen excluder. The idea was in response to another beekeeper who advocated wintering bees in a story and a half colony. Sorry Chris could not recall the reference to this discussion.

July 2, 2005 after removing the last of my honey supers, 5 of 15 colonies in my outyard at Swann Farm, located in Calvert County, Md., were randomly selected. The top box was tilted up and a queen excluder placed at the top of the bottom box. The queens were found, picked up, and released into the front entrance of the bottom box. At the end of October, 2005, the queen excluders were removed and all of the top boxes were nearly full of capped honey. That autumn had produced a good nectar flow from goldenrod and wild aster. By moving some of the honey from the five experimental colonies only one of 21 colonies was lost. No sugar was fed either in autumn or the following spring 2006.

This winter 2006/2007 has been a peculiar one. Early July, 2006, I used the wintering technique on 11 of my 24 colonies. Eight at Swann farm and three at my home yard in Northern Calvert county. January 4, 2007, all of my 24 colonies were inspected on a day where the temperature exceeded 70 degrees F. About half of the colonies had several frames of capped brood while the other had no brood or only eggs. My next inspection was Feb. 23. Much to my dismay 13 of the 24 colonies were dead-outs. A 55% winter loss from starvation. The survivors were the 11 experimentals. Three at my home yard and eight at Swann farm. April 4, three of the strongest colonies were split and 5 more were split April 21. If all goes well I should be up to 19 colonies by the end of May.

My goal is to maintain about 25 colonies without feeding any sugar water. I hope some other beekeepers will try this wintering method and if you do let me know the outcome.

###

Stolen Bee Hives in Southern Maryland

With bees becoming more and more scarce it is becoming more important that beekeepers brand their equipment. I have just found out the hard way. In early April I had 16 hives in an out yard near Brandywine, Maryland that were stolen. I ask that all beekeepers be on the lookout for those hives. All the hive bodies have my brand on them. The brand is a G with an F superimposed over it. The hives are painted different colors, pink, green, white, red etc. If anyone sees these hives please call Greg Ferris toll free at 1-866-838/5933.

Report of Farm Bureau Meeting cont. fm p2

I would encourage your organization to become active with our chapters at the county level." Therefore, **MSBA should encourage our county VP's to become close to the county Farm Bureaus and attend their meetings.**

During lunch I had a substantial conversation with Dr. Wei about how to encourage research and extension activities at the university**. MSBA should determine specific research objectives and seek to have them carried out.**

It was very valuable to see how the MFB operates and we can get a lot by cooperating with them. Many of the attendees came up to me in the informal times to express support. **MSBA should attend the MFB state meetings and be active at the state level.** A staff member will be sending me full information about their activities and how we can cooperate.

Their next board meeting will be a part of their effort to lobby Congress in July.

I represented the Montgomery County Beekeepers Association at the Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board meeting, which happened to be in the evening of the same day, and had a very positive experience at that meeting.

###

Retiring from Beekeeping

BEE Equipment Sale

George Farrell

(301) 464-5535

###

The West Virginia Honey Festival has an exciting schedule for the Parkersburg City Park. Plenty of shade and a historical log cabin! NEW DATES in August 2007, Saturday the 25th and Sunday the 26th! Please join us and bring the kids for an educational, interesting and fun weekend!

26 years + Anniversary!

"WEST VIRGINIA HONEY FESTIVAL"

August 25th, 26th, 2007

City Park, Parkersburg, WV

WONDERFUL CRAFTS
HONEY & WAX SHOW
HONEY & BEESWAX PRODUCTS
HONEY BAKE CONTEST & HONEY PRINCESS PAGEANT
Auction of Baked goods and "show" honey & beeswax
HONEY EXTRACTION & LIVE BEEHIVE DEMONSTRATIONS
LIVE BEE BEARDS BY STEVE CONLON & FAMILY
COOKING DEMOS
HISTORICAL PRESENTATIONS
Honey of a "CAR" Show
AMERICAN HONEY PRINCESS
Little Mr. & Little Ms. Honey Bee Pageant
Dwight Isenhower (Elvis Impersonator)
THE GOSPEL GROUP "**Taj Rohr" + RUSH**!
Josh Oldaker – Country music

SPECIAL CHILDREN ACTIVITIES !
ADMISSION ONLY $3.00 adults, $2.00 Seniors and ages 6-18! (5yrs & under free)

FOR MORE INFORMATION WRITE TO:
WV HONEY FESTIVAL
P.O. BOX 2149,
PARKERSBURG, WV 26102

CALL the WOOD COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU 1-800-752-4982 (304-428-1130) WVU Wood County Extension Service (304) 424-1960

Maryland State Beekeepers' Association
Summer Meeting
June 16, 2007
Harford Community College

8:30am	Refreshments, Coffee, Donuts, etc.	
9:30am	Opening and Welcome	Carol Johnson President
9:45am	Md. Apiary Inspector's Report	Jerry Fischer Md. State Inspector
10:00am	Working with the Africanized Honey Bee	Ann Harman EAS Master Bee-keeper MSBA Past-President Flint Hill, Va
10:50am	Break	
11:00am	Colony Collapse Disorder – The latest update on research and findings.	Dr. Jeff Pettis USDA Bee Lab Beltsville, Md.
12:00pm	MSBA Awards Free State Citizenship Award George Imirie Education Award	Carol Johnson President
12:05pm	Lunch	
1:30pm	Summer and Fall Management – Tips and Techniques	Steve McDaniel EAS Master Bee-keeper Manchester, Md.
2:30pm	Is Fall Requeening in Your Future?	Ann Harman EAS Master Bee-keeper Flint Hill, Va
3:30pm	Adjourn	

Speakers:

Ann Harman

Ann Harman is a noted speaker throughout the country on the subject of honey bees. She is a former Maryland resident and an MSBA past president, the 2004 recipient of the MSBA George Imirie Education Award, and was awarded a lifetime MSBA membership in recognition of her many years of support to Maryland beekeepers. On the international scene, she is a honey judge and has been sent on many international trips sponsored by VOCA, the Volunteers Overseas for Cooperative Assistance, an American program where experts in an agricultural field are sent overseas to provide advice and training. Her international travels have given her the opportunity to see and work with Africanized Honey Bees first-hand, 'up close and personal'. Ann is also a monthly columnist for Bee Culture magazine. She is an active leader in the Eastern Apicultural Society, including serving as its Vice-Chairman, and is an EAS Master Beekeeper.

Dr. Jeff Pettis

Dr. Pettis is the Research Leader for the USDA Bee Lab, in Beltsville, and one of the two leaders of the research into Colony Collapse Disorder. A noted and experienced bee researcher, his expertise is in honey bee biology. He has conducted important work on developing the screened bottom board, work on controls for bee parasites and pests using organic acids and organic oils, and behavior regarding host-parasite relationships.

He is currently much in demand as a result concerns about the threat from Colony Collapse Disorder to the health of the nation's honey bee population, including providing testimony before Congress about CCD and its affect on the American beekeeping industry. Dr. Pettis will provide an update on the research into CCD, what we know and what we don't know. If you want to know what is happening with CCD, this is the meeting to attend.

Steve McDaniel

Steve McDaniel, an MSBA member and Maryland beekeeper, is a distinguished nature photographer, having received international awards for his photos, and as a photo contributor to the popular book "Beekeeping for Dummies". An EAS Master Beekeeper, popular speaker on bees and beekeeping, including terrific bee photos, Steve currently is the vice-president of the Central Maryland Beekeepers Association and also is it's past president. He is also the past president of the Carroll County Beekeepers Assoc., having helped to establish both organizations.

###

EAS 2007: Newark, Delaware

www.easternapiculture.org

Key facts: **Deadline** for Dorm room, meals and banquet registration, July 13.
Dates: Short Course: Aug 6-8
Conference: Aug 8-10
Location: Univ. of Del., Newark
Dues: $25 Annual / $250 Life
Registration: **Online** using credit card at www.EasternApiculture.org. Registration by **check or mail** to John Tulloch, EAS Treasurer, PO Box 473, Odessa, DE 19730
Additional registration information from John Tulloch, 302-378-1917, or Treasurer@EasternApiculture.org
Program info is on the EAS web site.

The annual Eastern Apiculture Society conference, one of the premier beekeeper meetings in North America, will be held in Maryland's backyard. Maryland beekeepers could not have a more convenient opportunity to attend. The conferences always consist of two parts, the high-powered short course (Monday-Wednesday) and the conference itself (Wednesday – Friday). Each, distinctly different, provides excellent opportunities and advantages to improve as beekeepers in everything from hive management and marketing, to the latest results from bee researchers.

The short course provides class time, lab work, and extensive time in the apiary. One of the principle criteria for EAS site selection is the question, "And where do you place the 40 or 50 hives we'll be using?" The short course is also two-tiered, aimed at new beekeepers, and the advanced or experienced ones. Prominent researchers, authors and speakers are always a feature, such as **Dewey Caron, Larry Connor, Clarence Collison, Jeff Pettis Diana Sammataro, Jim Tew, Ann Harman and Kim Flottum.** You will hear from experienced beekeepers, inspectors and extension personnel, such as **Bill Troup, Bob Mitchell, Jennifer Berry, and Dennis Van Engelsdorp**. Topics will include biology, anatomy, behavior and hive management, disease, treatments and IPM, and the all important queen.

The conference is a combination of morning lectures, an extensive set of afternoon workshops and hive time, as well as evening social events. Lectures and workshops are lead by **Kim Flottum, Jeff Pettis, Jennifer Barry, Dewey Caron, David Tarpy and Anita Collins**, many names MSBA members will recognize, such as **Jerry Fischer, Bill Troup, Warren Seaver, Paul Dill, Dean Burroughs, Lloyd Snyder and Mike Embry**. This is not to ignore the many leaders that come from around the country, such as **Joli Winer** from Mid-Con, **Lisa Jager** from the National Honey Board, and **Greg Hunt** from Purdue, this year's Hambleton Award recipient for his work on the bee genome with respect to behavior and mite resistance, and many, many more!

Stellar conferences like these cost money; EAS makes every effort to keep down costs and still make the profit needed for the organization to carry on its work. For example, this year, EAS is awarding $5,000 in grant money towards research on CCD. One way the costs are kept down is by meeting on college campuses.

Attendance and costs are very flexible; you can stay off campus at a motel or campground, or park your RV on campus. Meals are optional, but you won't beat the all-you-can-eat buffet offered here. Here's a rough estimate of costs for a single person.

	Short Course	Conference
EAS Dues $25	Aug 6, 7 & 8	Aug 8, 9 & 10
Registration	$125	$125 (3 day)
Meals (B$7 /L$10 /D$12)	$75	$58
Rooms ($50/Nt sge)	$150	$150
Awards Banquet		$35
Totals	$350	$368

See you in Newark!
David Morris, EAS Director

###

MDA Open House:

Again this year MSBA had a booth at the Maryland Department of Agriculture annual open house. This year the booth was manned and womaned with two people in two hour shifts. This worked out well and helped to keep the energy level up during the entire day. I would like to thank this year's group of volunteers who were, Joanne Pendleton, Steve McDaniel, Marc Hoffman, John Knapstein, Bob Crouse and Paul Dill.

There seemed to be as many folks at the event as last year but our give-aways were down some from last year. Not quite sure why that is.

This year there seemed to be more and longer conversations with people. The hot topic this year was Colony Collapse Disorder. An article had run the day before in a local paper about CCD and a good number of people had read the article. Along with having a few conversations myself about CCD, I heard the other volunteers discussing it as well. Seem s that this subject has hit a nerve with lots of people other than beekeepers. It is kind of nice to be the center of attention. Unfortunately the reason is such a negative one, but always in the conversations was talk about the pleasure and fun that is involved in playing with the honeybees. Hopefully these conversations have increased people's concern and appreciation for the honeybee and highlights the importance of the honeybee to all of us.

For the kids who visited us, the attraction was often the video running that showed honeybees up close during different parts of their work day. I think the WOW factor is what draws the kids in. Now our job is to get those kids out of the exhibit hall and into the apiary where they can really appreciate the WOW factor and get use to the ouch factor.

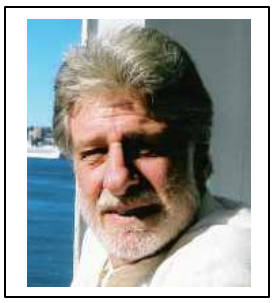
I think that the open house is a valuable tool for MSBA to get the word out about both our organization and about honeybees. We know that the information goes directly to those who are interested.

And while I have your attention, let me take a moment to correct a mistake I made at the honey show in November. I neglected to acknowledge, until reminded, the help provided by Lloyd Snyder and his team at the registration table. Let me thank them now for their good work at the table which they handle year after year. It was a regrettable oversight on my part and again THANKS guys for the help. If you didn't do your part the rest of us would be waiting around with nothing to do!!!!

Greg Clark

Bill Troup - EAS Bee Wrangler *from EASarticle by Dewey Caron*

At the annual Short Course and Conference, EAS has designated Bee Wranglers to be sure colonies are ready for instructors. Wranglers insure all equipment is in place to assist the workshop presenters and to help "read" the colonies. This year Bill Troup will be the EAS wrangler, a function he has been doing since the 2000 EAS in Maryland. Bill will have able assistance from DE apiary inspector Bob Mitchell and NC Apiary Supervisor Don Hopkins.



Bill Troup takes an EAS vacation each summer, now from his half-time MD Apiary Inspector position. Bill is owner/operator of HoneyField Apiaries of western Maryland. Bill manages 150 colonies in MD with his wife Nancy. Both he and Nancy are EAS Master beekeepers, passing the tests at the 1990 Salisbury, MD EAS. Both are very active in training of new beekeepers through the Hagerstown Valley bee club and other county associations in MD. Bill retired from MD Weights and Measures in 2003 and Nancy last year from the Washington County school system so they can do bees "full time" now.

Bill started bees in 1979 when a friend asked if he would like to help him move 12 colonies inherited from a family member. Bill continued his interest after his friend decided to quit bees. He moved a colony to the home site so he and Nancy could both work bees. And beekeepers know the rest of the story … that one colony grew and grew and grew…. Fortunately their two sons Bill and Dan also became involved with the bees. In 1999, Bill started as part-time apiary Inspector with MD Dept Ag with responsibility for the 3 central counties of MD.

Bill and Nancy produce and sell about 100 nucs from their colonies each spring. They also sell Brushy Mountain bee equipment and use colonies to pollinate apples and pumpkins. Bill is a master craftsman of honey in the comb and at one time almost exclusively produced this product. They have a unique outlet for their honey to health resorts and most of the sales are in gallon or 50# buckets. A new venture is to produce quality queens from survivor stock. Their dream is to sell nucs with their own queen stock in a couple of seasons.

Bob Mitchell will also be a DE EAS Bee Wrangler this season. Bob started bees in 1972 when he was working alongside his dad on the family farm in Lewes DE (alongside coastal DE). At one time he had 150 colonies - currently he manages about 100 for honey production and pollination in watermelons. The family farm market has been closed for a few years as Bob became DE apiary inspector in 1985. He plans to retire next spring and return to reopen the farm stand next season. He expects to run colony number up with splits to take on more pollination contracts as increasing vine crop acreage fuels demand for quality pollination units.

The second state apiary inspector who will help wrangle the bees in the University apiary will be Don Hopkins. Don is state apiarist of North Carolina. He supervises a staff of 6 full-time bee inspectors in North Carolina and is a very active manager, more often in the field performing inspections than supervising from his office. He, like Bill and Bob, brings lots of teaching and beekeeper experience to the EAS attendees.

Like Bill Troup, both Don and Bob are very active with in-state Short courses and workshops. All are masters at hive inspection. It is a pleasure to merely watch them manipulate a colony and "read" the bees so effortlessly. All three are real beekeeping artists.

These three EAS Bee Wranglers are a great resource to assist EAS Short Course and Conference attendees learn how and why to inspect bee colonies. The extensive bee sessions during the short course and our "walk in the apiary" arranged for every workshop period utilizes different experts, who with the assistance of EAS Bee Wranglers, make each bee colony visit an invaluable training experience. EAS is fortunate to have such skilled and highly effective bee wranglers. I and the three Bee Wranglers invite you to come and experience colony inspection with the best. EAS will be held August 6-10 at University of Delaware.

###

NEWS FROM THE APIARY INSPECTORS OFFICE

Jerry E. Fischer Sr., State Apiary Inspector,
Maryland Department of Agriculture
Phone: 410-841-5920 Cell: 410-562-3464 Fax: 410-841-5835
E-mail: fischeje@mda.state.md.us

APIARY STATISTICS: The annual colony registration for 2007 has been going slow as normal to date. Of the estimated 1,380 beekeepers, there are 992 beekeepers re-registered for the coming year, with 7,682 colonies in 1,337 apiaries. In the year 2006, there were 4,164 colonies in 714 apiaries inspected by apiary inspectors. AFB was found in 44 colonies, in 28 apiaries through out Md. This is still a very low percentage, compared to the National average. Contact the Inspection Office if you expect or detect any condition that is questionable.. There were 7 beekeeping short courses, by local assoc's during the spring of 2007, with 277 students.

COLONY AND HONEY FLOW CONDITIONS: As you are aware, this has been one of the most unusual years in the past 12. Weather conditions from Nov.06 through March 07 were unfavorable for the honey bee. We had a 50% loss of all the bees in the state. Yes this is high, but not much higher than it has been for the past 5 years. Colonies that were checked early and feed are in good condition at this time. Maryland's major nectar flow had started two weeks ago in the southern region and at this writing is now to the central part of the state. Black Locust came to full bloom in Montgomery and Anne Arundel Counties on Thursday 5-05-07 and will progress north.

HONEY BEE DISEASE AND MITE CONTROLS: The MDA has again received a section 18 Special Exemption for Check Mite+ for your use. There are many controls available for use in the control of Mites. It is recommended that you survey colonies to determine threshold level prior to treating. As always, only treat with recommended registered controls and use only as prescribed by label.

SWARM LURES: Swarm lures that had been requested were mailed out by the third week of March. This is another free service of the MDA and hope that it assists in your beekeeping management. The office has received several swarm calls to date.

SMALL HIVE BEETLE: The small hive beetle has been reported in (11) eleven counties to date. These finds have been reported with the introduction of new packages. There had been very little report of active larva during the year 2006. Contact your local bee inspector or the MDA office if you receive packages this year that contain SHB.

NUC PRODUCTION: Nuc producers in Md. must contact the Inspection Office. All mother colonies and individual nuc's must be inspected and stickered prior to delivery to recipient There are six NUC producers in Md. that will be providing approx. 200 units to beekeepers.

ETHYLENE OXIDE FUMIGATION (ETO): MDA is sorry for the inconvenience to all that had scheduled fumigation this past winter. Permission was not received from EPA this year due the re-registration of a 24C label. This is expected to be resolved in the near future so this service will again be available.

COLONY COLLASPE DISORDER (CCD): Colony collapse disorder (loss of bees in a very short time with no dead bees (or very few) in the hive with honey stores). CCD has put our honey bees on the front pages of even the smallest local paper and the radio/television alike. We have needed the public attention but, not with the loss of our bees and the pollination benefit to the many fruit and field crops. CCD has affected 25 states with a high loss of bees in major commercial operations that will be critical to agriculture crops this year. As was stated, we had a 50% loss of colonies this past winter but, with 90% of these losses due to hive starvation or management

CHANGE IN BEE LAW: Bill No. 1292 The current law specifies that an inspection must occur with in two months of movement into Maryland from any other state. This law change is being revised, including an increase in time requirement from two months to one year for inspection prior to movement of colonies between states. We need to be able to tailor this inspection time-frame to different areas based on honey bee pest risk assessments in order to avoid putting undue burden where it is not necessary, and be more restrictive when a new emerging threat exists. This bill provides flexibility in the timing of inspection required for honeybee colonies and equipment. This bill was passed by the House (Ways and Means Committee) and the Senate April 2007.

2007 MSBA OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:

President: Carol Johnson (301) 432-6413
1ST Vice President: Adele Morris (301) 725-6185
Secretary: David Morris (301) 725-6185
Treasurer: Jon Bealer (410) 357-9166
MD EAS Director: David Morris (301) 725-6185

Directors:	Past Presidents:
Marc Hoffman (301) 585-7601	David Smith (410) 556-6222
Greg Clark (301) 934-6080	Barry Thompson (301) 947-4652
Paul Dill (302) 249-1866	Dean Burroughs (410) 546-2910

COUNTY VICE PRESIDENTS:

Anne Arundel: Lloyd Luna (410) 757-5797
Allegany: David L. Hall (301) 729-8220
Baltimore: Jerry Fischer (410) 841-5920
Baltimore City: Bob Crouse (410) 265-7999
Calvert:: Bob Cory (301) 855-8431
Caroline: Paul Dill (302) 249-1866
Carroll: Steve McDaniel (410) 239-7496
Charles: vacant
Cecil: Jeff Powell (410) 392-5985
Dorchester: Oliver Collins (410) 943-3448
Frederick: vacant
Garrett: Madonna Poole (301) 334-7670
Harford: John Knapstein (410) 692-9823
Howard: Wayne Esaias (301) 854-3180
Kent: Matt Redman (410) 778-2385
Montgomery: Kameha Bell (240) 893-2483
Prince George's: Toni Burnham (202) 255-4318
Queen Anne's: Vacant
Somerset: George Dreyer (410) 623-2221
St Mary's: Harry Dalton (301) 475-8224
Talbot: Winslow Womack (410) 745-9589
Washington: Carl Kahkonen (301) 432-1906
Wicomico: Dean Burroughs (410) 546-2910
Worcester: Wes Townsend (410) 641-1030
Washington D.C. Stanley Nesheim (202) 244-8794

LOCAL BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATIONS:

ALLEGHENY MOUNTAIN BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.
President: David Hall Telephone: (301) 729-8220

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.
President: Lloyd Luna Telephone: (410) 757-5797

APPALACHIAN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
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SUSQUEHANNA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
President: John Knapstein Telephone: (410) 692-9823

MDA OFFICE OF APIARY INSPECTION

Jerry Fischer (410) 562-3464

MSBA HOME PAGE:

http://iaa.umd.edu/mdbee/main/home.html
Jon Bealer (410) 357-9166

BEELINE EDITOR:

John D. Moyer (410) 923-0190
jmoyer28@comcast.net

THE BEELINE
John D. Moyer, Editor
713 Doages Dr.
Millersville, MD 21108

Address corrections requested

News Updates from Bee Culture Magazine:

----CATCH THE BUZZ

ARS Finds Bacteria Toxic To Small Hive Beetle

A bacterium discovered by U.S. Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists that is toxic to Colorado potato beetle also has been found to be toxic in varying degrees to small hive beetle.

Findings on the new bacterial species, Chromobacterium suttsuga, now called Chromobacterium subtsugae sp. Nov are published in the May issue of the International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology.

Soil rich in decomposed hemlock leaves, collected from the Catoctin Mountain region in central Maryland, was the source of the new species. The team isolated the microbe by suspending samples of forest soil in water and then plating it directly on growth medium that doesn't contain glucose. Bacteria in the samples initially formed small and cream-colored colonies that gradually turned to light-to-dark violet from the center of the colony outward.

Some 59% of small hive beetles died within five days when fed a pollen-based diet containing the bacteria and the survivors weighed only 10% as much as small hive beetles that weren't exposed to the bacteria.

Microbiologist Phyllis Martin and her colleagues will work to isolate the toxin from the bacteria. Insects usually develop resistance to toxic substances, so it is important to identify new toxins.
From Alan Harman.

UC DAVIS REBUILDS BEE LAB, AND BEE PROGRAM

From UC Davis News....

Intent on meeting the needs of California's multibillion dollar agriculture industry, the University of California, Davis, is revitalizing its honey-bee research program, the oldest such program in the nation.

Once a powerhouse in bee biology research, the UC Davis program declined during the 1990s as faculty retirements and budget shortages collided. With California's honey-bee industry now facing challenges ranging from mites to small hive beetles to colony collapse disorder, rebuilding the 65-year-old program has become critical.

California agriculture produces almonds, alfalfa, sunflowers, tree fruit and many other crops that rely on bees for pollination each spring.

"The honey-bee industry plays a key role in the success of California agriculture, and it is imperative that UC Davis provide the research necessary to help solve some of the pressing problems related to bee health, breeding and pollination," said Neal Van Alfen, dean of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. "During the coming years we will be adding new staff and faculty to our bee biology program and renovating the Harry Laidlaw Jr. Honey Bee Research Facility here on campus."

One of the first steps toward rebuilding the research program is the hiring of accomplished bee breeder and geneticist Susan Cobey, who has been at The Ohio State University. Cobey arrives this week as full-time manager of the Laidlaw bee biology facility and plans to begin offering specialized classes to bee breeders in May and June.

"It is a huge honor to help revive UC Davis' bee biology laboratory," said Cobey, who worked in the Laidlaw

lab during the late 1970s and early 1980s. She was mentored by its namesake, the late Professor Harry Laidlaw, who inspired her career choice. She has gone on to become a leading expert in instrumental insemination of bees and practical bee breeding.

"California is the center for the bee industry and home to some of the nation's best beekeepers," Cobey said. "I look forward to working with them, with an emphasis on stock improvement."

In addition to hiring Cobey, the bee biology program will be further bolstered by:

- The addition of a new professor in UC Davis' entomology department who will specialize in the biology of bee pollination. That position is expected to be filled by late fall, according to Walter Leal, who chairs the entomology department.
- A $500,000 renovation of the 8,200 square foot Laidlaw bee biology facility, which is home to laboratories, offices, an apiarium with glass-walled observation hives, a honey-bee food processing room and shop. The building is being remodeled to include a larger multipurpose room, a walk-in freezer and other facility improvements.
- The establishment of a $1 million endowment fund that will directly support research efforts in the areas of honey-bee genetics and pollination biology. Through the generous support of the estate of Harry and Ruth Laidlaw and contributions from the beekeeping industry, the endowment has already surpassed the $400,000 mark. All of the earnings from this endowment will support graduate students and research projects directly related to honey bees.

For her part, Cobey will focus on strengthening ties between the university research community and the honey-bee industry. She maintains a breeding line of bees known as New World Carniolans, which she developed during the early 1980s, when she was a professional bee breeder and co-owner of Vaca Valley Apiaries in Northern California.

She will collaborate with Cooperative Extension apiculturist Eric Mussen, who has anchored the bee biology program's research and industry education efforts during the lean years. His bee industry leadership and research in the areas of colony management, pollination, mite control and insecticide damage, were recently recognized by the American Association of Professional Apiculturists, which awarded Mussen its Apicultural Excellence Award. Mussen was also the first noncommercial bee producer to receive the prestigious Beekeeper of the Year Award at the 2006 California State Beekeepers Association Conference.

CCD UPDATE

News from the day-and-a-half workshop held in Beltsville, covered by Bee Culture Magazine.

One of the first things to come out of the meeting was additional information on the status of frames from colonies that had experienced a CCD event. Initial observations indicated that if these frames were reused, the colonies they were added to also experienced CCD symptoms.

Jerry Hayes, State Apiarist for Florida, and Dennis vanEngelsdorp, of Penn State pointed out that it may be a very bad idea to attempt to reuse comb from CCD dead-outs until some on-going tests are completed.

At the moment, the most prudent choice may be to set this woodenware aside, and treat them for wax moth and small hive beetle as if storing supers after harvest.

In an exclusive interview with James Fischer of Bee Culture magazine at the USDA Working Group Meeting on Colony Collapse Disorder held April 23-24 in Beltsville MD, work in progress was discussed, and while results are still very tentative, they seem to show a pattern.

Preliminary results of informal tests and the experience of individual commercial beekeepers affected by CCD have shown that:

1) Taking brood boxes and supers from hives lost to CCD and placing them atop healthy hives in an attempt to "protect" the hives from wax moth or small hive beetle infestation may have been a very bad idea. In some cases, the hives that had boxes of comb from CCD dead-outs added soon began showing the symptoms of CCD themselves, and collapsed. This same scenario has been reported by several larger beekeepers, and has been witnessed in one operation firsthand by Florida State Apiarist staff.

2) In response to the problems described above, woodenware from CCD-dead-outs are being tested by placing packages on four groups of combs:

2a) One group of combs was Irradiated brood comb from dead-outs (a service available in Florida that may not be available elsewhere)

2b) Another group was brood combs fumigated with acetic acid

2c) A third group was untreated combs from honey supers only, excluding all brood comb.

2d)A fourth (control) group was untreated CCD dead-out brood comb

Preliminary results appear to show that packages placed into both irradiation and acetic acid fumigation treated brood comb and honey comb are "doing well", while the packages placed on untreated comb appear to be declining. To check further, we did a follow-up interview with David Hackenberg, whose combs and hives were used in the experiment, and his initial observation was that the differences between treated and untreated colonies was day and night, but he cautioned that the bees had not been on the comb long long enough to say for certain. Packages placed upon honey super comb are doing better than one would expect from the general experience with placing dead-out woodenware on healthy hives.

Check the MAAREC website http://maarec.cas.psu.edu for updates on this issue, as specific comb treatment recommendations should be posted within the week. Also, if you have, or thing you have experienced a CCD loss in your bees (see symptoms below), go to the CCD Survey and add your information to the growing list of beekeepers who are contributing information to this data base. You can find it at www.beesurvey.com

It is as yet still unclear which, if any, hives might start showing symptoms of CCD, but the initial impression is that the irradiated hives are not showing short-term symptoms.

Just to repeat, the primary indicator of CCD is "lots of brood, but few bees, and no dead bees in the hive". If you have a dead-out with "dead bees but no brood", you can't blame CCD.

While the experience with comb may lead one to conclude that the causative agent of CCD is a pathogen that can live on comb even after the bees die, no one wants to rule out other factors, including pesticides in the external environment as we still have many questions and still lack hard data to answer them. These investigations are ongoing.

Funding Request to Study CCD, Pollinators

“Washington, DC - U.S. Representative Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) this week introduced H.R. 1709, the Pollinator Protection Act, legislation authorizing over $75 million in funding for sustained research of the accelerated mysterious loss of honey bee colonies throughout the nation. The Pollinator Protection Act aims to combat the phenomenon known as Colony Collapse Disorder, which currently threatens more than one-third of all crops grown in the United States.

“‘This is a problem that not many people know about, but we all need to be concerned about,’ said Representative Hastings today. "If we want our grandchildren to have food to eat that was grown in this nation, then something needs to be done about Colony Collapse Disorder. Otherwise, most citizens won't be able to afford the scarce agricultural products that will be produced in our nation without honey bee pollination."

“Honey bees contribute well over $15 billion in added value to American agriculture. Researchers and farmers warn that if Colony Collapse Disorder continues, then its current impact on honey bee colony numbers and America's food security could be significantly destabilized.

“The Pollinator Protection Act authorizes $5.25 million over three years for Colony Collapse Disorder research; $50 million over five years for U.S. Department of Agriculture research grants to investigate specific causes of Colony Collapse Disorder and develop other research on the factors contributing to the general decline of pollinators in North America; and $20 million to ensure that USDA has the necessary staff and facilities to conduct this essential research.

"Bees are critical players in our ecosystem. They enhance our way of life, whether we realize it or not," Representative Hastings noted. "If we do not act now, Colony Collapse Disorder will have a stinging impact on America's agriculture industry and our standard of living."

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This CATCH THE BUZZ Message Sponsored by Bee Culture, The Magazine Of American Beekeeping
www.BeeCulture.com

Local news:

Eastern Shore Bee Association will be meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 310 S Hanson St. Easton.
Contact: cuphoff@goeaston.net
PaB192@aol.com
or call Paul Dill (302)249-1866

BUMBA CALENDAR:

Our regular meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of the even months (except December) at the Watkins Park Nature Center, 301 Watkins Park Drive in Largo

June 7, 7:30 PM; Regular Meeting

June 16, 9:30 AM, MSBA Harford CC, Belair

August 2, 7:30 p.m.; Regular Meeting

August 6-10, EAS Delaware

Sept 22, Mentoring visits

Oct 5, 7:30 PM; Regular Meeting

June 13 meeting place change for *Montgomery County Beekeepers*

Due to a scheduling conflict at the Nature Center (our normal meeting place), the June 13th MCBA meeting will be at the Holiday Park Senior Center in Wheaton. The address is:

3950 Ferrara Drive
Wheaton, MD 20906

About the E version of the BEELINE:

The Beeline encourages news and articles submitted for publication that would be of interest to the general membership of MSBA.

Articles submitted from members and from local clubs may be included in the Beeline Electronic version, if there is not enough space in our 12p. mailed version. MSBA members may submit small classified adds for personal beekeeping items to be placed on a space available basis. Members submitting ads for their businesses must submit WORD formatted ads, 1 page or less. Business ads will be placed in the electronic version of the Beeline. Submissions to the Beeline are made to the Editor.

MSBA members may receive the electronic version of the Beeline by providing their email address to the MSBA Treasurer. The electronic version of the Beeline will be posted to a 'blind address' on the web-site and the membership will be sent an email announcing the link to the newsletter. The on-line newsletter is in PDF format which can be read on-line / downloaded as desired.

Links to recent past editions of the Beeline are posted to the website.

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FAQ's
Colony Collapse Disorder

What is CCD? Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) is the name that has been given to the latest, and what seems to be the most serious, die-off of honey bee colonies across the country. It is characterized by, sudden colony death with a lack of adult bees in/in front of the dead-outs. Honey and bee bread are usually present and there is often evidence of recent brood rearing. In some cases, the queen and a small number of survivor bees may be present in the brood nest. It is also characterized by delayed robbing and slower than normal invasion by common pests such as wax moth and small hive beetles.

What causes CCD? Although there is much attention being given to this situation, it is not yet clear what is causing the die-off. From two intensive surveys of many of the beekeepers involved, some potential causes have been eliminated (see below) and others have been identified as important to investigate (see below). However, at this point it does seem likely that a number of factors may be involved.

Who is being impacted? As of February 2007, many of the beekeepers reporting heavy losses associated with CCD are large commercial migratory beekeepers, some of who have lost 50-90% of their colonies. Surviving colonies are often so weak that they are not viable pollinating or honey producing units. Losses have been reported in migratory operations wintering in CA, FL, OKand TX. However, late in February some larger non-migratory beekeepers, particularly from the mid-Atlantic region and the Pacific Northeast have reported significant losses of >50%.

When was it first discovered and how long has it been going on? The first "report" of CCD was made in mid-November 2006 by a Pennsylvania beekeeper overwintering in Florida. Soon after the initial report, other migratory beekeepers reported heavy losses of colonies under similar circumstances. In subsequent conversations with beekeepers from across the country, it appears that a number of large beekeepers have been discovering higher than normal losses compared to the past few years (although heavy overwintering losses were reported in 2003-2004 for many northern beekeepers). These losses may or may not be related to CCD, but it is likely that there may be some relationship.

Is honey from CCD colonies safe to eat? To date there is no evidence that CCD affects honey. The impact of CCD appears to be limited to adult bees.

The beekeeping industry has experienced heavy losses of colonies in the past. Is this something new? Symptoms similar to CCD have been described in the past, and heavy losses have been documented. The condition has received many different names over the years including autumn collapse, May disease, spring dwindle, disappearing disease, and fall dwindle disease. Whether or not the current die-off is being caused by the same factors that caused heavy losses in the past or if new factors are involved is not yet clear.

Why is it called Colony Collapse Disorder rather than disappearing or spring/fall dwindling/disease? References to the season are inappropriate as there are increasing reports that the condition manifests itself throughout the year. "Dwindle" implies a gradual decline of colony population whereas we are seeing a rapid collapse. While the actual rate of adult bee loss in populations have not been recorded, it is clear that otherwise strong colonies can quickly lose their entire workforce in a matter of a few weeks or even a few days. "Disappearing" has been used to refer to a host of other conditions that do not necessarily share the same symptoms as those presently being described. The term "disease" is commonly associated with a pathogenic agent. While the definition of disease does have a broader meaning (i.e. coronary disease), until (or if) such an agent is found the use of the word "disease" would be misleading. Should a biological or other agent(s) be isolated as the cause, the name of this condition will likely be reconsidered.

How do I know if a colony has CCD? Colonies impacted by CCD have the following characteristics:

• The complete absence of adult bees in the hive, (in some cases the queen and a small number of survi

vor bees are present in the brood nest) with no or little build-up of dead bees in the hive or at the hive entrances.
• The presence of capped brood.
• The presence of food stores, both honey and bee bread, which is not immediately robbed by other bees. Invasion of common hive pests such as wax moth and small hive beetle is noticeably delayed in dead-out equipment left in the field.

What are the early signs of CCD? In cases where the colony appears to be actively collapsing:
• There is an insufficient workforce to maintain the brood that is present.
• The workforce seems to be made up of young adult bees.
• The queen is present, appears healthy and is usually still laying eggs.
• The cluster is reluctant to consume feed provided by the beekeeper, such as sugar syrup and protein supplement.
• Foraging populations are greatly reduced/non-existent.

What should a beekeeper do if he or she has CCD? See the CCD information on recommendation (separate document).

What can I do to reduce the likelihood of getting CCD?
• Keep colonies strong by practicing best management practices.
• Don't stack dead or weak colonies on strong colonies.
• Feed colonies fumigillin in the spring.

Is it safe to reuse the equipment from colonies that have been lost during the winter? If it can be determined that bees starved or died due to other reasons associated with typical winter loss, it does appear safe to reuse equipment, including honey stores and pollen, but caution is advised and equipment probably needs to be aired thoroughly. Also you should seriously consider replacing old comb with new foundation on a regular
basis**.** However if your colonies died from what appears to be CCD (see description above), reusing equipment is not advised since we do not yet know the cause of this condition. Members of the CCD working group have initiated experiments that will look at various comb sterilization techniques for suggestions in the future.

Who is working on this problem? A group of researchers, apiculture extension specialists and government officials from a number of different institutions across the country have come together to work on this problem and share information with beekeeper and the public. This group is called the CCD Working Group. For a complete list of the institutions and individuals involved please visit the CCD page on the Website: MAAREC.org.

What has been eliminated as a potential cause of CCD? These results are based on in-depth interviews with beekeepers impacted by CCD and surveys of beekeepers responding to our request for information. While these items have been removed from our list of "causes" they may increase the risk of developing CCD. For instance, wearing wet clothes will not give you a cold, but it does increase your chances of catching a cold.

Feeding: The practice of feeding was common to most of the beekeepers interviewed and surveyed who experienced CCD. Some feed HFCS, others sucrose however, some did not feed. Most beekeepers interviewed did not feed protein but some used pre-made protein supplement.

Chemical use: While most used antibiotics, the type, frequency of application, and method varied. Most beekeepers had applied a miticide treatment during 2006. The products used and method of application varied.

Use of bees: Some beekeepers reported that their bees were used primarily for the production of honey, while others received most of their income from pollination contracts. Some produced honey and used their colonies for pollination.

Queen Source: All beekeepers purchased at least some queens throughout the year. Some beekeeper reared the majority of their own cells, but most bought either mated queens or queen cells. Queens

were bought from at least 5 different states (Florida, California, Texas, Georgia, Hawaii) and 2 foreign countries (Canada and Australia).

What potential causes of CCD is the Working Group investigating? The current research priorities under investigation by various members of the CCD working group, as well as other cooperators include, but is not limited to:

- Chemical residue/contamination in the wax, food stores and bees
- Known and unknown pathogens in the bees and brood
- Parasite load in the bees and brood
- Nutritional fitness of the adult bees
- Level of stress in adult bees as indicated by stress induced proteins
- Lack of genetic diversity and lineage of bees

For a more complete description of the research priorities, please visit CCD page found on the MAAREC.org website.

What are examples of topics that the CCD working group is not currently investigating? GMO crops: Some GMO crops, specifically Bt Corn have been suggested as a potential cause of CCD. While this possibility has not been ruled out, CCD symptoms do not fit what would be expected in Bt affected organisms. For this reason GMO crops are not a "top" priority at the moment.

Radiation transmitted by cell towers: The distribution of both affected and non-affected CCD apiaries does not make this a likely cause. Also cell phone service is not available in some areas where affected commercial apiaries are located in the west. For this reason, it is currently not a top priority.

What can beekeepers/beekeeper groups do to help with discovering the cause of CCD?

- Please fill out an online survey at: www.beesurvey.com
- Consider giving to one of the foundations collecting monies to help fund research in these activities:

The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc.
Troy Fore - Executive Director
PO Box 1337 – Jesup, Georgia 31598-1337
PH. 912-427-4233 – Fax 912-427-8447
E-mail: beefoundation@bellsouth.net

Project Apis m (PAms)
Christi M. Heintz - Project Director
1750 Dayton Rd
Chico, CA 95928
PH. 520-829-6754
E-mail: Christih@cox.net

In the "Memo" line, write "CCD" if you wish to donate to the overall group effort, or "CCD-Bee Alert", if they wish to donate to the work being done by Bee Alert Technologies Inc.

Or give directly to a university or research institution:

A special fund has been set up at Penn State University for individuals or beekeeping organizations that want to contribute to the research effort on CCD at this institution. Checks can be made out to Penn State University and need to be accompanied by a letter that states that the funds are a gift given to the Department of Entomology in support of the work on CCD. These can be sent:

Department of Entomology
Penn State University
501 ASI Building
University Park, PA 16802.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture cannot directly receive donations, however they should be

submitted to Penn State.

Gifts to the University of North Carolina in support of the work Dr. Dave Tarpy is conducting on CCD can be sent to:
Dr. Dave Tarpy
NCU Apiculture Program
Campus Box 7613
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, NC 27695-7613
And should be accompanied by a letter stating the following:
We are pleased to donate $$$$ as an unrestricted gift in support of the NC State Apiculture Program. The check is enclosed and endorsed to the NC Agricultural Foundation. Please deposit the monies into the Entomology Enhancement Fund of the North Carolina Agricultural Foundation, Inc. so that you may continue your work on honey bee biology and apicultural science.

Prepared by M. Frazier, D. vanEngelsdor, and D. Caron, Edited by the CCD working group. From article published on the MAAREC website.

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