



The Beeline

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



President's Message

by Wayne Esaias

Membership in the Maryland State Beekeepers Association is at an all time high, just shy of 700 as of last week, reflecting the concern and interest of the public and excellent short courses offered by local beekeeping associations throughout the state. The general public continues to be concerned about the fate of honeybees and beekeeping, and they are more interested than ever in giving beekeeping a try and learning more about what we and the bees do. You are doing a great job of reaching out: Please keep it up, folks.

Reports from around the State, and from my own yards, indicate probably the worst winter losses in the past several decades. Our State Apiarist, Jerry Fischer, said that losses average well over 50% this year. Several folks lost all bees, and I don't know of anyone who came thru unscathed. Again, there appear to be a variety of causes—all the usual suspects: mites, viruses, starvation, winter weather patterns, and pesticides. Maryland appears to have comparable or greater losses than the national average, although final tallies are not in. Several package suppliers have had serious delays in delivery due to poor condition of bees in the South. Coupled with reduced funding for bee research in general as a result of sequestration, this presents a rather gloomy picture. We can only hope that definitive work will identify the cause and suggest remedies. We will be hearing more about the pesticide connection at our June meeting.

On the brighter side, many surviving colonies have built up sufficiently well to make very substantial gains during the Black Locust nectar flow. Due to the cold spring, nectar started later than usual this year by 2-3 weeks. Several Howard and Frederick County scale hive volunteers recorded several days of gains greater than 13 lbs. per day in mid-May. We will have a bulletin board where folks can post their location, highest gain, and date for comparison.

We plan to have some good discussions on bee forage improvement, and other potential legislative proposals at the June meeting, as indicated in the February *Beeline*. Please come with ideas, comments, and a willingness to contribute to the discussion.

Finally, planning is well underway for the Honey Harvest Festival at the Patuxent Research Refuge National Wildlife Visitor Center in Laurel (see flyer, Page 9), MSBA's only public outreach event and an opportunity for members to sell honey and other products. There are many ways to help and some fun volunteer slots that could use a bit of your time! Please watch for a letter with more details soon.

News from the Apiary Inspection Office

From Jerry Fischer, State Apiary Inspector, MDA
Phone: 410-841-5920, Fax: 841-5835, Cell: 410-562-3464, Jerry.Fischer@Maryland.Gov

Roundup of news on chemical controls:

- *Hopguard* has received Section 18 approval for 2013
- *ApiLife VAR* has received Section 3 approval until December 2013 This approval has to be sought each year by the Maryland Department of Agriculture
- *Apivar* has Section 3 approved for use in Maryland as of March 11, 2013.

Reminder: ALWAYS USE CONTROLS AS PER DIRECTIONS OR LABEL! Overuse will not result in better results, and failure to obey application and removal instructions may result in varroa mite resistance.

MDA will participate again in the **USDA Honey Bee Pests and Diseases Survey Project** for 2014. This national survey will allow us to identify honey bee pests, to inform and guide the direction of honey bee parasite, disease, and pest research, and to help provide mitigation recommendations.

MDA has also approved a **job opening for a Regional Bee Inspector** for Southern Maryland Counties (St. Mary's/Charles/Calvert). The Plant Protection section is recruiting for an Apiary Inspector (Field Aide) at \$10 per hour to work in the southern MD region: Job # 13-999999-230. Interested applicants can apply at the MD Online Employment Center at www.jobaps.com/MD

What is "Section 18" and "Section 3?"

Section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) authorizes EPA to allow an unregistered use of a pesticide for a limited time if an emergency condition exists. The regulations governing Section 18 of FIFRA define "Emergency Condition" as an urgent, non-routine situation that requires the use of a pesticide(s). Such uses are often referred to as "emergency exemptions," "Section 18s," or simply "exemptions."

Section 3 of FIFRA allows EPA to register pesticides geographically: it allows more limited use in certain states, which request this exemption. In addition, states can place further restrictions on these products used or sold within their jurisdictions.

EPA registrations of these (and other) kinds are not an endorsement of a product nor a claim of effectiveness. Monitor pest levels carefully to determine effectiveness of any product you use. Keep records and review them to determine how well these products are working for you.

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

Top Bar Hives with Wyatt Mangum, June 3, Loudon Beekeepers Assoc., Leesburg, VA, www.loudounbee.org

VA State Beekeepers Assoc. Spring Conference, June 21-22, Greenbrier Middle School, Chesapeake, VA, www.virginiabeekeepers.org

Maryland State Beekeepers Association Summer Meeting, June 15, 2013, 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM, University of Maryland/College Park.

Introductory Beekeeping at Delaware Valley College, July 12-14, \$170 non-credit, Doylestown, PA, www.delval.edu

WV Beekeepers Assoc. Fall Meeting, September 21, Jackson's Mill – Weston, WV, www.wvbeekeepers.org

MSBA Annual Honey Harvest Festival, September 21, Patuxent Research Refuge National Wildlife Visitor Center, Laurel (see flyer page 9). *Please volunteer!*

MSBA Fall Board Meeting, Friday, October 11th, 7pm, Location TBA, teleconferencing available. Please email msba@mdbeekeepers.org for details.

Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Annual Conference, November 8-9, at the Best Western Inn/Country Cupboard, Lewisburg, www.pastatebeekeepers.org

Maryland State Beekeepers Association Fall Meeting, Annual Elections and Honey Show, November 9, 2013, 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S Truman Parkway

VA State Beekeepers Assoc. Fall Conference, November, Blue Ridge Community College, Weyers Cave, Va, www.virginiabeekeepers.org

Other Upcoming Events:

Pollinator Partnership Pollinator Week, June 17-23, local and national events, pollinator.org/pollinator_week_2013.htm

Heartland Apicultural Society Annual Conference, July 11-13, Tennessee Tech University, Cookeville, TN, This group goes out of their way to keep costs low! www.heartlandbees.com/2013

Northeast Treatment Free Beekeeping Conference, July 16-21, Leominster, MA, www.beeuntoothers.com

Eastern Apicultural Society Conference and Short Course, August 5-9, at West Chester University, West Chester, PA, www.easternapiculture.org

Apimondia 2013, Kiev, Ukraine, September 29-October 4, apimondia2013.org.ua

American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) Conference Baton Rouge, Louisiana, January 7-11, 2014.

**Maryland State Beekeepers' Association Winter Meeting
June 15, 2013**

Plant Sciences Building Auditorium, University of Maryland/College Park

8:30 am	Refreshments, Coffee, Donuts, etc.	
9:30 am	Opening and Welcome	Dr. Wayne Esaias, President
9:45 am	Maryland Apiary Inspector's Report	TBD
10:00 am	The Pursuit of the Perfect Hive: Why and How Beekeepers Innovate New Solutions	Dr. Gene Kritsky College of Mount St. Joseph
11:00 am	Defending Managed Pollinators Using Advocacy, Advice, and the Law	Michele Colopy Program Director, National Pollinator Defense Fund
11:30 am	Lunch	Linda Thompson, Director, MSBA BUMBA
1:00 pm	Local Research Project: Efficacy of splitting and swarming of hives to increase overall survival	Katy Ciola Evans, Graduate Researcher, University of Delaware
1:30 pm	Hive Development throughout History and Around The World	Dr. Gene Kritsky College of Mount St. Joseph
2:30 pm	Panel/Group Discussion: Should MSBA Adopt A Position on the Banning or Regulation of Neonictinoids? What strategy is best for the bees?	Dr. Wayne Esaias, Steve McDaniel, Beth Passavant, Dr. Galen Dively (UMD), Michele Colopy
3:30 pm	Adjourn	Dr. Wayne Esaias, President

Directions to the University of Maryland

If you are using GPS, please enter the address 7950 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, MD 20742 and follow directions (below) to Plant Sciences Building. More info at <http://www.cvs.umd.edu/visitors/maps.html>

UMD/College Park is located on U.S. Route 1 south of the Capital Beltway (I-495). Take exit 25B from I-495.

Proceed about two miles south, and follow signs to turn right into Main Entrance (at intersection of Campus Drive with Paint Branch Parkway).

To Plant Sciences Building: Once inside the gate, keep left on Campus Drive until the rotary with the large "ME" logo. Take first exit right. Proceed to first intersection; make a left and then immediate right into Regents Parking Garage. You may park in one of the UNNUMBERED spaces on the 1st floor; parking is free in unnumbered spaces only! The Plant Sciences Building is directly across the street from the Garage Entrance.



Photo: The "M" Rotary at UMD/College Park

MSBA Spring Meeting 2013 Speakers



Dr. Gene Kritsky is Professor and Chair of Biology at the College of Mount St. Joseph, Adjunct Curator at the Cincinnati Museum Center, and Editor-in-Chief of *American Entomologist*.

He received his PhD

in Entomology from the University of Illinois in 1977, his Masters in Entomology from the University of Illinois in 1976, and his Bachelors in Biology from Indiana University in 1974.

In his recent book, *The Quest for the Perfect Hive*, Dr. Kritsky offers a concise, beautifully illustrated history of beekeeping, tracing the evolution of hive design from ancient Egypt to the present.

The mission of the **National Pollinator Defense Fund (NPDF)** is to defend managed and native pollinators vital to a sustainable and affordable food supply from the adverse impacts of pesticides. They accomplish this mission by ensuring that states and the EPA enforce regulations to protect pollinators from pesticides, and other strategies, including litigation, petitions, and technical support for those who have suffered damages to their beekeeping operations. NPDF provides advocacy, guidance and tools for beekeepers, and raises awareness about the adverse impacts of pesticides on pollinators.

Michele Colopy, Program Director of the NPDF, has more than 17 years of experience in a variety of nonprofit organizations, including the performing arts, housing and homelessness, foreclosure prevention, community development, and health and wellness areas. Her father raised bee for his small apple orchard in Ohio.



Katy Ciola Evans is a native Floridian with a Bachelor's degree from the University of Florida and several years experience working as an African Honey Bee lab technician with

the FL State Apiary Department. She has just finished her second semester as a Master's student at the Univer-

sity of Delaware Apiculture program. For her Master's project she is developing an 'Integrated Pest Management' (IPM) program for beekeepers in the mid-Atlantic region with the goal of reducing varroa populations.

Dr. Galen Dively is Professor Emeritus and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Consultant at the University of Maryland/College Park.

Prior to his retirement in 2006, he worked in extension and research, specializing in integrated pest management, non-target risk assessment, and pesticide resistance management. His extension work involved the development and implementation of IPM projects to reduce pesticide use in crops.

Dr. Dively works part-time and is involved with in-state and national training activities to meet the continuing educational needs of agri-chemical personnel, crop advisors, county extension educators, and producers. He has been a favorite contributor to past MSBA meetings and it is a pleasure to welcome him again this Spring!



Dateline: Hershey, Pennsylvania

Bee Conference Held at the Sweetest Place on Earth

By Allen Hayes

The fabulous Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA hosted the 70th annual North American Beekeeping Conference and Tradeshow on January 9-12, 2013. One of the largest beekeepers gatherings in the US, the event is presented by The American Beekeeping Federation (ABF), held in January when commercial beekeepers have a break in their schedules from moving bees around the country for pollination and other chores. Many of the country's largest beekeepers were there as were a lot of Marylanders. I talked to old friends and made some new ones. There were 670 people registered but few crowds and little congestion even in the vendor area or during breaks. (when one typically can hardly move at a bee conference!)

One thing that can confuse first timers is the three programs running at the same time. One was the *American Bee Research Conference* organized by the American Association of Professional Apiculturists. Then there was the *Serious Sideliner Symposium* (SSS) and finally the *ABF General Conference*. You can move from one to another. The SSS is mainly for beekeepers with 100-250 colonies., though many with fewer were there. In fact the SSS was clearly the most attended session. ABF said that their membership has grown the most in the area of backyard beekeepers, with only 750-1000 commercial beekeepers in the US. Many well-known researchers, writers and contributors presented and mingled. There were talks about Making Nucs, Beeswax, Russian Bees, Drones, Pesticides and almost every other bee topic. The Honey Queen is crowned here each year and there's a honey show. There's an evening banquet and another evening of entertainment for an extra fee.

The tradeshow featured all of the US' biggest beekeeping supply houses: Dadant, Mann Lake, Brushy Mountain, Walter T. Kelley and Betterbee all had booths. All three of the new owners of Betterbee staffed the booth to help put a face on who now runs the company. There was also a smattering of grossly overpriced and equally under needed gizmos. One vendor was selling a product that he guaranteed to prevent CCD! I find this particularly interesting since the cause is still unknown. It seems that if you are trying to sell something to beekeepers don't let the facts stand in your way.

Dutch Gold Honey and Gamber Container, owned by the Gamber family from nearby Lancaster, provided a free breakfast one day for all registered, a catered affair with anything you could want for breakfast and held in the fancy eating room. Every table had two different flavors of Dutch Gold Honey on it to sweeten your

pancakes or toast. When there is free food, beekeepers of all shapes and sizes come out of the wooden ware. Mr. Gamber invented the plastic squeeze honey bear, an iconic symbol known all over the world.

So when you hear the word "Hershey" what do you think of? Yeah, me too and we were not disappointed. Chocolate was everywhere: Kisses, Krackle Bars, Mr. Good Bars, Hershey Bars and even more Kisses. Big bowls of Hershey Kisses were in each meeting room. I swear there were more kisses to be had than at Grandma's house!

The Hershey Lodge is a great place for such a convention. There are lots of spacious meeting halls and smaller meeting rooms. ABF was not the only group holding meetings there that week and there were still meeting rooms available. There are several eating establishments where you can have your favorite dish or even an adult beverage and no, I don't mean prune juice.

Do I have you interested in attending a bee conference yet? The next American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) conference and trade show will be held at the Baton Rouge River Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana on January 7-11, 2014 Please also have a look at the events always listed on page 2 of this newsletter!

As we all strive to become better beekeepers, attending bee conferences will help put you on the fast track.



Dadant clearly makes smokers for the country's largest beekeepers (Check out the normal sized gear bottom right!)

The Travelling Beekeeper:

It's Not All Sunshine For Florida Beekeeping

By Allison Abernathy

This winter, my husband and I spent several weeks in lovely Crystal River, Florida. This small town is adjacent to King's Bay (famous as a winter home for manatees) and mostly surrounded by parkland, wildlife preserves, and forests.

Despite the nature-oriented atmosphere, I learned from Crystal River officials that they do not allow beekeeping within city limits. Coming from Maryland, where beekeeping is not only legal, but a very popular hobby in major urban areas such as Washington and Baltimore, this was quite a surprise to me. I later found, there were indeed plenty of honey bees within the city limits, albeit unbeknownst to Crystal River officials.

Although there were several freeze warnings at night, the days were in the 60's and 70's and every neighborhood had copious blooming plants along with citrus trees conveniently loaded with fruit for the snow birds. Honey bees were busy everywhere. Across the street from our house, I noticed a cloud of honey bees around an orange tree and was puzzled because it was fruiting, and so had no flowers. A close look revealed a bee log below the tree (see photograph).

I made a point of visiting road-side farmer's stands to check out the local honey. This eventually led me to a well-known local beekeeper. From farmer's markets to pottery studios, when asked about local honey, every person directed me to "the beekeeper's stand just outside of town."

There I met the beekeeper, Oksana Foti, matriarch of a commercial beekeeping family with over 10,000 hives.



Bee log in Crystal River Florida. That's Spanish moss in the foreground. You can see bees on the comb inside the log Photo by Allison Abernathy

We compared notes on Florida and Maryland beekeeping, starting with nectar flow. She said that in Florida, they have strong nectar flow from March through September.

I told her that, in Maryland, we have a dearth of nectar from July and we get a small flow in the fall. Oksana said, "that sounds like hard country to be a beekeeper, I am glad I am in Florida." Oksana went on to explain that, as far as she is concerned, "all Florida honey bees are Africanized. We cannot control the mating. But I don't care because they make a lot of honey". We talked about pests -- regarding varroa mites, she declined to tell me what she used.

I had been told that Florida beekeepers use a cattle acaricide off-label and so I asked her about that rumor but received only a smile as answer. She said that, other than varroa mites, fire ants are the biggest pest problem. The invasive red fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta*), a native to South America, arrived via cargo ships. The ant foragers seek protein and will go into a bee hive and eat all the eggs and larvae. Oksana said they will clean out a hive completely in hours, uncapping cells to get at the brood, and the adult bees will flee after a fire ant invasion. In addition to ants, beekeepers in this rural area have a problem with black bears. She protects her hives in the forest with electric fences

Regarding regulation by the State, Oksana wryly noted that all beekeepers must be registered and if one is not, "there is a big fine." The registration fee structure is variable, from \$10 to \$100 -- based on the number of hives. Additionally, each hive must have the beekeeper's registration number permanently imprinted on it.

I checked the Florida regulations regarding fines, and learned that a fine of up to \$5,000 can be imposed. Yep, that's a big fine for not registering a hive, alright. So next time our Maryland Apiary Inspector, Jerry Fischer, reminds us to register our hives, we should just say "thanks!" As Jerry always tells us, in Maryland, hive registration is mandatory, but free.

In Florida, a public list of every registered beekeeper is available on the internet courtesy of the Florida Department of Plant and Apiary Inspection. I doubt that independent-minded Maryland beekeepers would like having their addresses, phone numbers and apiary information listed on the internet-- especially those of us keeping hives in our backyards.

All in all, being a Florida beekeeper sounds challenging. After comparing notes with Oksana, I am glad I am a Maryland beekeeper!

University of Delaware Researcher (and June Meeting Speaker) Seeks Survey Input!

Dear Members of the MSBA:

I'm Katy Evans, a graduate student at the University of Delaware under Dr. Deborah Delaney. I am working on a Master's degree and my project focuses on helping the local beekeeping community to reduce and better manage mite populations and varroa vectored viruses in a non-chemical fashion. Specifically, I will be testing the efficacy of splitting and swarming of hives to keep mites below harmful levels while increasing overall colony survivorship. If effective, this strategy will be developed into an IPM practice for beekeepers in the mid-Atlantic region and will greatly benefit the beekeeping community by reducing the time and costs spent on varroa control treatments, and alleviating the need for additional controls. I will be hosting field days, training sessions, and creating web-based and printed material to share my data and IPM practices with the community. To better design the IPM practices it is important to know how many beekeepers currently treat for mites and I have composed a survey to find out the strategies you use.

I have uploaded a survey to the UDEL sponsored survey website Qualtrics, https://delaware.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_6Sxa0ON8nGm80Lj, and would greatly appreciate it if you could extend my message to members of your beekeeping organization.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me (kciola@udel.edu) and I will be happy to answer them. I appreciate your help!

Montgomery County Beekeeper Wins International Mead Award

By Allison Abernathy

Montgomery County Beekeeper Yancy Bodenstein, a Master Mead Maker, continued his winning streak of Mazer Cup awards for his honey wine. The Mazer Cup International Mead Competition is held each March in Boulder Colorado. Yancy has won Mazer Cup medals in each of the past four years. Most recently, in March of this year, Yancy was awarded a silver medal for his semi-sweet fruit melomel, "Hey That Is My Cherry!"

Melomels are meads that have had fruit added to them. The fruit can be either fresh, dried, pureed, or juice. For this award winning mead, Yancy said, "I used Montmorency cherries from Homestead Farms in Poolesville. The cherries were frozen, thawed, then added after fermentation was complete at about 1lb per gallon including the pits. The pits contribute an almond/nutty character to the mead."

Congratulations to our friend and colleague!

AMBA Youth Essay Contest Results

By Ben Cooper

The Allegheny Mountain Beekeepers Association (AMBA) held its second Annual Youth Essay Contest and had many great essays to read and judge. Entries came in from Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, which make up the region that covers our local club. It is amazing to see how many young kids are interested in beekeeping and how much they know already about honeybees. This year's winner was 16 year old McKenzie Lindeman of Frostburg, MD. McKenzie read her winning essay at our last AMBA meeting. She won a hive of bees, protection gear, AMBA club membership, free admission to our June 8th Beekeeper workshop at Camp Hickory and was provided a mentor to help her with her hive throughout the year. In her essay, she spoke of how her grandfather was once a beekeeper and now she is placing her hive on his property and they both can benefit from the new colony of bees.

AMBA is dedicated to reaching out to today's young people to encourage them to become the beekeepers of the future. Congratulations McKenzie!

Basic Beekeeping Class for Fall at Allegany College of Maryland

By Ben Cooper

The Continuing Education Department of Allegany College of Maryland will be having another short course on Basic Beekeeping. The spring class was a hit and saw 19 people enrolled. The classes will be held on Monday evenings at the Cumberland campus from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The course will run from September 23rd through October 28th. The cost is \$55 and includes a book and a field trip to a local apiary. For more information, contact the Continuing Ed Department of Allegany College at <http://www.allegany.edu/x179.xml>!



Mazer Cups that Yancy has won for the past four years. Photo by Yancy Bodenstein

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MSBA HOME PAGE:

www.mdbeekeepers.org, webmaster@mdbeekeepers.org

If your dues are not current, please pay them at the next meeting or mail to: MSBA Treasurer, Robert Crouse, 1606 Dogwood Lane, Bel Air, MD, 21015. Note: we will only accept dues payments for a single year.

THE BEELINE

c/o A. Burnham
318 12th Street NE
Washington, DC 20002



Address corrections requested

**Using email saves MSBA more
than \$2,000 per year.
Can we have your address?**

6th Annual
Maryland Honey Harvest Festival

Saturday September 21, 2013 9 AM - 3 PM

National Wildlife Visitor Center at the Patuxent Research Refuge

10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708* 301-497-5763 <http://Patuxent/fws.gov>



Tram tours of the refuge
Interactive exhibits
Gift shop

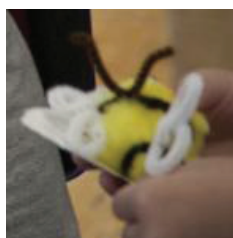


Watch beekeepers:

- inspect a hive
- extract & bottle honey
- make beeswax candles
- compete in smoker-lighting
& bee-catching contests



Live bees in a glass-enclosed hive
Beekeeping equipment
Presentations in the auditorium
Honeybee films



Face painting
Kids arts & crafts
Door prizes
Local honey, hive products,
& light lunch for sale



Sponsors: Maryland State Beekeepers Association (founded 1908), *Friends of Patuxent*, Patuxent Research Refuge, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service*. Proceeds of sales benefit wildlife research & education, beekeeping education, & pollinator protection.

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING

*just off Powder Mill Road between the Baltimore-Washington Pkwy/MD 295 & MD 197. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Dadant & Sons, Inc. 150th Anniversary Celebration

By Allen Hayes

On March 15 & 16, 2013 Dadant & Sons, Inc. of Hamilton Illinois, the world's largest supplier of beekeeping equipment, held a celebration to honor their company's 150th Anniversary. This totally free event was advertised in their magazine, *The American Bee Journal* and brought out 785 beekeepers mostly from the Tri State area of Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri. The company was founded in 1863 by Charles Dadant, an immigrant from France who came to America to grow grapes and keep bees. The grape business didn't work out so well for him but the bee business flourished. Today the company is still owned and run by 5th and 6th generation Dadants with several members of the 7th generation waiting in the wings (though they are preoccupied with elementary school at present). The two day event began with Friday visits to three of their plants in and around Hamilton. The metal plant in Dallas City, Illinois is where all of the smokers, extractors, and other metal items are made. The candle factory is in Kahoka, Missouri, and the home office and plant is in Hamilton, Illinois. Their wood products are made in Montana and not on the tour. Photography was not allowed. On Saturday we were treated to an all-day bee meeting.

The Metal Plant: Dallas City, Illinois

My first stop on plant tour day was their metal facility, where 19 employees take 16 to 24 gauge stainless steel sheet metal and cut, shear, stamp, punch, roll, bead, seam and weld it into anything we beekeepers could want.

They were fabricating a batch of 50 small wax melters, inventory which will last 1-2 years. It is more efficient to build a group all at once then warehouse them until they are sold. We were able to watch them assemble smokers and learned that they use an actual tapered coil bed spring to make the bellows work. They also make smokers for the Walter T. Kelley Company. In addition to beekeeping equipment, processing equipment for a chocolate company is also made here.

The Candle Plant: Kahoka, Missouri

My next stop was the candle plant about one hour's drive across the Mississippi River in Kahoka, Missouri. At this location 45 employees turn out the prettiest and fanciest candles you can imagine. Their carved and painted religious candles are the nicest you'll find. OK, I admit that you either have to get married or die to get me in a church but these candles are the nicest I have ever seen. The Catholic Church requires all of their religious candles to be at least 51% beeswax and are thus Dadant's biggest customer, a very stable base! The plant uses 3 million lbs of paraffin per year in addition to a boatload

of beeswax. The largest candle they make is 4" diameter x 58" long and sells for \$675.00. They also make many paraffin-only candles for the consumer market.

The Home Office & Plant: Hamilton Illinois

My last stop was the home office on the east bank of the Mississippi. It has been in this location since it was moved from the family farm in 1924. Next to the parking lot they maintain a small apiary used for research and development. The bees were flying the day we were there and nobody worries about them finding a water source.

This day was like being on a road rally where you drive your car from place to place and stop at predetermined check points. It occurred to me that for some unknown reason I was seeing the same faces at every stop. Somebody might think they were being followed. Not me, thank goodness, but somebody might.

On the guided tour we were shown some of the wax foundation machines where a sheet is embossed with the familiar hex cell shapes and wires are embedded. We were taken to a room where 250,000 pounds of wax was stored awaiting processing into candles and foundation. We were also shown a machine that automatically assembles 7000 wooden frames per day. They run two 12 hour shifts on this machine and they operate another one just like it in Montana. At one point we were turned over to Joe Gramm, editor of *The American Bee Journal* for a tour of their library. Here we could see arguably the largest and most complete collection of historical beekeeping books in existence. The library is also home to a large collection of smokers including many over 100 years old. Among this collection they have every edition of *The Hive and the Honey Bee* (originally published by Rev. L. L. Langstroth in 1853) and every edition of *The ABC and XYZ of Bee Culture* (originally published as *The ABC of Bee Culture* by A. I. Root in 1877).

People who called in orders ahead of time like I did were directed to a Semi loaded with boxes that were just for pick up at this event. A single path down the center provided access. All of the orders were well organized and handed to waiting customers promptly.

Sullivan Auction Site: Hamilton, Illinois

That evening we were invited to dinner at a spacious auction house in Hamilton, the food was quite good and with 6 serving lines the large crowd was served in relatively short order. Dinner was followed with a talk by the ever popular Dr. Jim Tew. Nobody can keep a group of beekeepers laughing like he can.

Saturday Morning began with coffee and a huge stack of doughnuts. The program included first class talks by,

Dadant Anniversary, continued

Randy Oliver, Jerry Hayes, and Jim Tew. Other presentations covered marketing hive products, outfitting a honey house, raising queens and making nucs. They gave a lot of door prizes away throughout the day and an outstanding lunch was provided too. At one point Tim Dadant asked the crowd, "How many of you were here for the 100th?" ...no small feat considering that was 1963. The gentleman on my left raised his hand as did several others.

He is Leroy Roberts and he has worked for Dadant since 1951. He told me that he has done every job in the plant and has trained scores of employees. Today, at 80, he works a 5 hour shift every day. I had been wondering about something so I asked Leroy this question: In 1971, when I began keeping bees, I would order bee equip-

ment from the Montgomery Ward catalog. But like most things there were no manufactures labels on the items to identify who made them. Did Dadant provide bee equipment there? His response was yes, not only Montgomery Ward but also Sears & Roebuck.

The event ended when they gave away a Dadant Ranger Extractor to a lucky participant. The Dadant family was very grateful that so many beekeepers came. They thanked us repeatedly for coming and for supporting their company over the years. It was as well organized a bee event as I have ever attended. Just in case you are wondering which part of this very unique celebration was my personal favorite, it was without question being allowed to see the Dadant Library.



Left: Beekeepers could order anything Dadant sells at this booth and pick it up following the meeting.

Photo by Allen Hayes

Right: Just a few of the lovely candles made by Dadant and Sons, Inc.

Photo by Allen Hayes



Left: C. P. Dadant, Just one of the 7th Generation Dadants who came to the meeting.

Photo by Allen Hayes

Maryland State Beekeepers Association

Technical Tip Sheet #2: December 1995

At the MSBA Fall meeting, 1995, Dr. George Ayers, Michigan State University, spoke on his work identifying plants that hold the best potential for improving bee forage. He recommended the following list of plants to be planted for increasing local bee forage.

Dr. Ayers' List of Best Potential Honey Plants

Shade Tolerant						
Family	Species	Common Name	Shade	Bloom Date	Honey Potential.	
Labiatae	Ajuga sp.	bugleweed	Almost any	May, June	hp5	Herbaceous Perennials
Malvaceae	Malva moschata	Mallow	half	July-Aug.	--	Herbaceous Perennials
Clethraceae	Clethra alnifolia	Pink Spires, Summersweet	dense	July-Aug.	68-77 kg/c	Deciduous shrubs
Caprifoliaceae	Diervilla lonicera	Bush Honeysuckle	half	June	bees eager	Deciduous shrubs
Caprifoliaceae	Symphoricarpos albus	Snowberry, Honeysuckle	half	July	hp3/5	Deciduous shrubs
Saxifragaceae	Hydrangea arorens	Hydrangea	half	June-July	--	Deciduous shrubs
Aquafoliaceae	Ilex verticillata	Winterberry	half	June-July	--	Deciduous shrubs
Ericaceae	Oxydendron arboreum	Sourwood, Sorrel	half	July-Aug.	>100 kg/c	Deciduous shrubs
Aquafoliaceae	Ilex glabra	Gallberry, Inkberry	light	June-July	135 kg/c	Evergreen bush
Ranunculaceae	Clematis virginiana	Virgin's Bower, Old Man's Beard	--	Aug-Sept	abundant nectar	Vine
Saxifragaceae	Hydrangea petiolaris	Hydrangea	light to half	June-July	--	Vine

The following plants are from Dr. Ayers list of slides shown at the Fall meeting, 1995:

Family	Species	Common Name	Family	Species	Common Name
<i>Some Shade Tolerant bushes:</i>					
Clethraceae	Clethra alnifolia	Pepperbush, Summersweet	Scrophulariaceae	Scrophularia marilandica	Simpson's honey plant, Figwort
Ranunculaceae	Clematis	Clematis Vine	Scrophulariaceae	Scrophularia nodosa L.	Wood Figwort
<i>Some Bushes:</i>					
Verbenaceae	Vitex negundo heterophylla	Vitex	Family	Species	Common Name
Labiatae	Elsholtzia stauntonii	Heathermint, Mintshrub	Ericaceae	Oxydendron arboreum	Sourwood, Sorrel
<i>Exceptional Herbaceous bee forage:</i>					
Asclepiadaceae	Asclepias incarnata L.	Swamp Milkweed	Fabaceae	Robinia pseudoacacia	black locust
Compositae	Echinops sphaerocephalus	Chapman's Honey plant, Globe Thistle	Leguminosae	Laburnum x watererii (also L. vossii)	Golden Rain Tree
			Leguminosae	Sophora japonica	Japanese pagoda tree
			Rutaceae	Evodia hupehensis or daniellii	Korean Bebe (Bee-Bee) Tree
<i>Basswoods (also called Linden)</i>					
			Tiliaceae	Tilia --	Hungarian accession
Fabaceae	Onobrychis viciifolia Scop.	Sain Foin	Tiliaceae	Tilia henryana	Henry's Linden
Lamiaceae	Agastache spp.	Anise hyssop	Tiliaceae	Tilia japonica	Japanese Linden
Labiatae	Pycnanthemem pilosum Nutt.	Mountain mint	Tiliaceae	Tilia mongolica	Mongolian Linden
Labiatae	Origanum vulgare L.	Oregano	Tiliaceae	Tilia platyphyllos	Big Leaf Linden
Loganiaceae	Buddleia sp.	Butterfly plant			

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Dr. Ayers recommended the following articles, books and plant & seed catalogues. His comments follow each reference.

RECENT ARTICLES in Am. Bee. Journal. September, 1992 -- How much honey from an acre March, May, July, Sept. 1993 -- Reconsidering the Basswoods May, July, and Sept. 1994 -- Anise hyssop November '94, Jan & March '95 Tree spacing model May and July 1995 -- Basswoods November 1995 -- Experience with Basswoods at Morton Arboretum and thoughts on weed control in small plantings	"Probably the best overall plant propagation book on the market. Has good descriptions of Grafting and Budding (better than Dirr). Good on useful theory." M. A. Dirr and C. W. Heuser, Jr. "The Reference Manual of Woody Plant Propagation: From Seed to Tissue Culture." Varsity Press, Athens, GA. "A good book on general plant propagation. It goes species by species." G. S. Ayers and J. R. Harman. "Inventory and relative importance of nectar and pollen plants of North America." In "The Hive and the Honey Bee." J. Graham, ed. Dadant & Sons, Hamilton, IL. 1992. "I tried to put a lot of useful information in the chapter on bee forage."	"A 'must-have' for anyone interested in Bee forage." J. H. Lovell. "Honey Plants of North America." A. I. Root Co. Medina, OH. 1926. "Old but worth looking at." R. T. Isaacson. The Andersen Horticultural Library's "SOURCE LIST OF PLANTS AND SEEDS" A completely Revised Listing of 1990-1992 Catalogues. Andersen Hort. Library, Univ. Minnesota. Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. "The Title says it all. This is one of horticulture's best kept secrets"
CATALOGUES: Dyas Roberts Cost - \$1.00 Box 145, LaGrange, MO 63448-0145 "Has a lot of Bee forage species at good prices. Mainly seeds." Forest Farm Cost - \$3.00 Ray and Peg Prag 990 Tetherow Road, Williams, OR 97544-9599 "An exceptional, small nursery. Has most of the material I talked about at good prices. Thousands of plants. Small company that will help you on the telephone."	F. C. Pellett. American Honey Plants. ed. Dadant & Sons, Hamilton, IL "This is probably the best U. S. Bee forage book ever printed. Too bad it is out of print." F. N. Howes. Plants and Beekeeping. Faber and Faber, London and Boston. "A good 'inexpensive' book." (Paperback, still in print. U. K. Focus) E. Crane, P. Walker, and R. Day. "Directory of Important World Honey Sources." IBRA, London, 1984.	J. Ramsay. "Plants for Beekeeping in Canada and the northern USA: A directory of Nectar and Pollen Sources Found in Canada and the northern USA". IBRA, London, 1987. "If I had a limited budget and would purchase only one book for selecting plants for a bee forage planting, it would be this one." (covers Maryland) H. K. Morse. "Gardening in the Shade: planting the shaded garden with shrubs and herbaceous perennials." Scribner's Sons, New York. 1939. "This is one of the best books on shade loving plants I can find."

MSBA TECHNICAL TIP #2 DEC 1995

EU Adopts Pesticide Restrictions to Protect Honeybees

from www.foodproductdesign.com/

The European Commission has adopted restrictions on the use of three pesticides belonging to the neonicotinoid family—clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam—that have been identified as being harmful to Europe's honeybee population. The restriction, which becomes effective Dec. 1, 2013, targets pesticides used in the treatment of plants and cereals that are attractive to bees and pollinators.

The Commission's action is a response to the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) scientific report that identified "high acute risks" for bees as regard exposure to dust in several crops such as maize, cereals and sunflower, to residue in pollen and nectar in crops like oilseed rape and sunflower and to guttation in maize.

"Last month, I pledged that, based on the number of risks identified by the European Food Safety Authority's scientific opinion, I would do my utmost to ensure that our honeybee population is protected. Today's adoption delivers on that pledge and marks another milestone towards ensuring a healthier future for our honeybees, as bees have two important roles to play: not only that of producing honey but primarily to be a pollinator. About

80 % of all pollination is due to the activity of bees—this is natural and free of costs" said Tonio Borg, commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy.

The measure forms part of the Commission's overall strategy to tackle the decline of Europe's bee population. Since 2010, several actions have been taken or are underway, including designating a EU Reference Laboratory for bee health; increasing EU co-financing for national apiculture programs, co-financing to carry out surveillance studies in 17 voluntary Member States and EU research programs such as BeeDoc and STEP that look into the multifactorial aspects that could be attributed to Europe's bee decline.

National authorities are responsible for ensuring that the restrictions are correctly applied. The Commission will review this restriction to take into account relevant scientific and technical developments within two years.



The NPDF: Defending managed and native pollinators

By Michele Colopy

The National Pollinator Defense Fund (NPDF) was developed by the American Honey Producers Association at the end of 2012 to take the lead in the national pesticide policy discussion. The mission of the NPDF is to defend managed pollinators vital to a sustainable and affordable food supply from the adverse impacts of pesticides. The NPDF believes in the judicious use of crop protection products. When a crop protection product states clearly on the label that it is not to be used on blooming crops or when bees or other pollinators are present and foraging the NPDF believes that label directive should be followed.

Bees hold the third highest value to U.S. agriculture, contributing \$15-\$20 billion to the economy. The human diet, and our standard of advanced civilization is a direct and dependent result of pollinators. Over the past six years beekeepers have lost an estimated 1.5 to 2 million colonies. Scientists warn of the collapse of the U.S. food system if the decline of pollinators is not addressed. The governmental response to the annual loss of 30% of bee colonies is "totally inadequate" at \$20 million. Pollinator toxic pesticides are being applied 24/7 across the U.S.,

often against the label directions, including mixing a number of different pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides together.

The NPDF is reaching out to policy makers, media, agricultural and beekeeping industry, and the public to address the concerns of pollinator decline, such as our encouragement of the actions defined by the recent report on honey bee health, "The National Stakeholders Conference on Honey Bee Health," released in early May 2013. The National Pollinator Defense Fund encourages support of the actions defined in the report: provide funding for EPA to enforce pesticide label application guidelines; put on hold any new pesticide applications until tier 2 and tier 3 research can be completed on pesticides currently in use; support beekeepers when bee kills are reported, and reimburse them for their losses of colonies; provide funding at public universities for pollinator research; and provide funding to support the development of natural forage areas for pollinators (on farmland and on public lands).

For more information about the nonprofit, National Pollinator Defense Fund, and to support our work visit our website www.pollinatordefense.org.