



The Beeline

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*Want to get the e-newsletter instead?
Just send an email to Bob Crouse at
rlcrouse@qis.net and tell us your name
and email address!*



President’s Message

by Toni Burnham

Most Maryland beekeeping clubs have one or two major outreach projects each year: the first may be a fair, and the other is the one many of us are engaged in right now: the yearly Beginning Beekeeper Shortcourse. For me, it is always a bit humbling to stand in front of a classroom of enthusiastic newbees, telling them “all they need to know,” all the while wondering just exactly how my own bees will fare by the time class ends. MSBA’s meeting this month will talk about one innovative approach to developing and presenting a short course curriculum state wide: a well timed topic!

The MSBA has four major outreach activities: the Winter, Spring, and Fall meetings, and the Honey Harvest Festival. They are different: meetings are meant to reach fellow beekeepers as a step up from the beginner level, and the Honey Festival is key contact with the general public. We are reworking the Festival and look forward to telling you about a new location and more by Spring. Please consider joining in, once your students have installed their nucs and packages!

Right now, Cybil Preston, our new State Apiary Inspector, highlights starvation in her perspective from around the state, and I concur.

There have been some unexpected losses to dwindling, however, with honey nearby, in my neighborhood: were these bees poorly nourished even so? What about varroa damage, and the viruses they vector?

Last year, temps interfered with getting my treatments (MAQs) on as early as planned. This year, I’ll choose my intervention specifically to match the date when I can treat the bees that raise the winter bees.

In December, MSBA also participated in the Maryland Farm Bureau Conference, which may sound like a great big yawn to most of you, but if we are ever to replace the apiary inspector position we lost last year (after gaining one the year before), or get a cooperative and collaborative communication going with Maryland farmers concerning pesticide application, this is where we have to go. We need beekeepers to talk to their local MFB groups for this to work: please contact me if you have an interest.

Finally, Maryland beekeepers, we are in an unusual “front row seat” for a potentially exciting change in the Federal approach to pollinators. In June, the White House released a Presidential Memorandum on Pollinator Health that included many initiatives that could offer opportunities for your bees or even—for members who are Fed employees—a chance to bring your love for bees to work. We’ve invited a speaker from the White House to tell us more, and we hope you will come to listen!

News from the Apiary Inspectors

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

This is a reminder to re-register your apiary for 2015. Please fill out and send in the form that you received in December or go to the MDA page mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/apiary_inspection.aspx and click on the link in the middle of the page. You can print, fill out, and email back to me if you would like to save the stamp. To go directly to the document click mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Documents/bee-apl.pdf.

Ending statistics for 2014:

- Beekeepers: 1,838
- Colonies: 14,466

Nuc Producers Please Note: Purchasing local nucs has become very popular so please remember you must comply with a few regulations to sell nucleus colonies.

If you are planning to sell nucs within the state contact your local inspector or state office for an inspection. Please call prior to making up nucs so the mother colonies can be inspected. You will then receive stickers for the number of nucs that will be sold.

If you are planning to sell nucs that will be leaving the state (yes, it's the job of the producer to know where the nuc is going) contact your local inspector or state office for an inspection and paperwork can be started for movement of bees across state lines. Please call prior to making up nucs so mother colonies can be inspected. You will then receive stickers for the number of nucs that will be sold.

If you are an out of state nuc producer or are planning to buy a nuc that will enter Maryland (yes it's the job of the nuc producer to know where the nuc is going and also the purchaser) contact your local inspector or state office for an inspection and paperwork can be started for movement of bees across state lines. Out of state vendors must have a request and permit documentation so if you are purchasing from another state please ask the producer for proper documentation.

Local Associations: Please send the contact information for your 2015 president to MDA. We receive calls from the general public requesting this information.

Colony Conditions: This past Fall was unusual to say the least. We saw a very poor nectar flow in most areas due to drought. Honey surplus was zero to half production of the previous season. With low honey stores, much consumed during the summer, the Fall flow was also weak. Late Fall inspections across the state found that colonies were low on winter stores. We hope that many beekeepers were on top of this and fed prior to Winter. I saw too many colonies lethargic from starvation and colonies that had perished from starvation before

Thanksgiving. Having ample amounts of honey on the colony does not mean it will Winter. Long stretches of cold will keep the cluster from being able to use honey stores that are not consolidated directly above the cluster.

Apiary Enhancement Fund: Donations from beekeeping Associations and beekeepers have greatly supported the Apiary Inspection Enhancement Fund Program. These monies are used specifically for contractual apiary inspector salaries. 2014 donations were very much appreciated but I would like to double it for 2015. When you are chatting to coworkers and friends about your awesome beekeeping hobby or your wonderful honey business...mention that if they would like to make a contribution to "Help keep healthy Bees" they can do so by sending a donation to :

APIARY ENHANCEMENT FUND
MARYLAND DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
50 HARRY S. TRUMAN PARKWAY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

Western Pennsylvania Beekeepers Conference, Cranberry, PA. February 13 (7:00-9:00 pm), February 14, (8:00 am-4:30 pm) Jerry Hayes, Larry Connor, Doug Oster, Mehemet Doki, Fred Blosat Registration Deadline: February 8. Contact Janice Hassen at 724-774-3003 or jma2@psu.edu

Philly Beekeepers Guild's 5th Annual Natural Beekeeping Symposium, Feb 8. \$15-30 (early). Details www.eventbrite.com/e/philadelphia-beekeepers-guild-5th-annual-natural-beekeeping-symposium-tickets-10492179391

4th MidAtlantic Organic Honey Bee Convention, March 28, Richmond. \$50/one, \$90/two, info: maohbc.com

VA State Beekeepers Assoc. Spring Conf., June 12-13, Shenandoah U. Winchester, www.virginiabeekeepers.org

Maryland State Beekeepers Assoc. Summer Meeting, June 13, 8 AM to 3 PM, UMD/College Park.

Maryland State Beekeepers Assoc. Fall Meeting, November 13, 8 AM to 3 PM MD Dept of Ag, Annapolis.

Other Upcoming Events:

8th Annual Organic Beekeepers Meeting, February 27-March 1, Oracle AZ. \$200. Call 520-398-2474 or www.groups.yahoo.com/group/organicbeekeepers/

Pollinator Week 2015, June 15-21, events around the country, details <http://pollinator.org>

Heartland Apicultural Society Conference, July 9-11, Albion College, Albion, MI. www.heartlandbees.org.

EAS Conference and Short Course, August 10-15, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada. www.easternapiculture.org

Maryland State Beekeepers' Association Fall Meeting
February 14, 2015
Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD

8:00 am	Refreshments, Coffee, Donuts, etc.	
9:00 am	Opening and Welcome	Toni Burnham, President
9:15 am	Maryland Apiary Inspector's Report	Cybil Preston, Maryland State Inspector
9:30 am	Pesticides and Poisons in the Hive	Dr. Reed Johnson, Ohio State University/OARDC
10:30 am	The Northern VA Beekeeping Teaching Consortium	Billy Davis, EAS Master Beekeeper
11:15 am	Presidential Memorandum on Pollinator Health	Dr. Mike Stebbins, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy
12:00 noon	Lunch	
1:15 pm	Sentinel Apiaries	Karen Rennich, Bee Informed Partnership
1:30 pm	Honey Regions of MD, Cumberland Valley Region	Fred and Daniel Smith
2:15 pm	The Problems with Corn Seed Treatment Dust	Dr. Reed Johnson, Ohio State University/OARDC
3:15 pm	Ask Expert Beekeepers Your Anonymous Questions	Panel Discussion
4:00 pm	Adjourn	Toni Burnham, President

Directions to the Howard County Fairgrounds

Via I-70: Get off I-70 at Exit 80 (Rt. 32 Exit); go south on MD Rt. 32 for 1/8 mile to first traffic light; turn right (west) onto Rt. 144; turn right at crest of hill onto Fairgrounds Road; turn into second entrance; meeting is in the Dining Hall, second building on left

Via Rt. 32: Stay on Rt. 32 to West Friendship; turn west (left, if coming from the south) onto Rt. 144, at the traffic light within sight of I-70; turn right at crest of hill onto Fairgrounds Road; turn into second entrance; meeting is in the Dining Hall, second building on left

From Eastern Shore & Annapolis Area: From Rt. 50, just west of Annapolis, take I-97 North toward Baltimore; exit onto Rt. 32 toward Columbia; follow directions above, via Rt. 32

From NE MD: Proceed to Baltimore Beltway (I- 695); take I-70 west toward Frederick; follow directions above, via I-70 Lunch / Refreshments at the Winter Meeting:

MSBA will provide Coffee and Donuts, Sodas and Water as refreshments during the winter meeting.

There will be an opportunity to order a Subway sandwich on a cash-only basis for those who register before 10:00 AM for this meeting. Members/attendees are welcome to order upon registration or are advised to bring their own lunch or to make plans to dine at a local establishment.

VENDORS: PLEASE RESERVE YOUR TABLES

At our largest event of the year, space is limited. We cannot promise a table unless you reserve, first come first served: email thehayeshouse4@aol.com or call (443) 803-8245. Please note: vendors are asked to contribute a door prize item.

MSBA WINTER MEETING WEATHER POLICY

In the event of a major winter storm, please listen to WBAL (AM 1090) or WTOP (FM 103.5) for announcements. If a Snow Emergency Plan is in effect for Howard County, the meeting is cancelled.

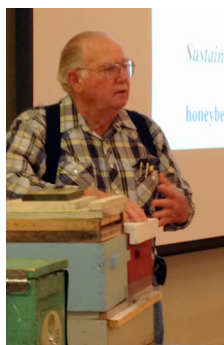
Winter 2015 Meeting to Feature Dr. Reed Johnson



MSBA welcomes **Dr. Reed Johnson** as keynote of our Winter meeting. Dr. Johnson is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Entomology at The Ohio State University – Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster. Dr. Johnson received a BA in Biology from Wabash College, an MS in Biology from Wake Forest University and a

Ph.D. in Entomology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. A native of Missoula, Montana, Dr. Johnson began honey bee research as an undergraduate research assistant at The University of Montana. His interest in the intersection between pesticides and bees led him to write a doctoral dissertation on honey bee toxicology and genomics, for which he received the Eastern Apiculture Society's Student Apiculture Award. He was a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he participated in the USDA-funded Coordinated Agriculture Project on Managed Pollinators, with a focus on interactions between beekeeper-applied pesticides and fungicides. Dr. Johnson has published over 20 peer-review publications and has received research funding from federal agencies, non-profits and beekeeping organizations.

Billy Davis is an EAS Master Beekeeper and one of the founders of The Sustainable Honeybee Program (www.sustainablebees.org). He is also one of the creators of the Northern Virginia Teaching Consortium, a shared curriculum training hundreds of beekeepers a year across Virginia, West Virginia, and DC. Billy was born and raised in Mississippi and graduated from Mississippi State University. He long ago identified beekeeper education as the key to apicultural success, emphasizing a path which is neither "the commercial model" or "natural" without insight into the local and seasonal management needs of healthy bees.



Dr. Mike Stebbins (invited) is the Assistant Director, Biotechnology for the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. He is a geneticist and received his B.S. in biology from the State University

of New York at Stony Brook, and his Ph.D. in genetics while working at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, where he constructed genetic systems to artificially control gene expression in the brain. Stebbins is also the President of the SEA Action Fund, a partner organization to Scientists and Engineers for America. Since August 2005, he has been the Director of Biology Policy for the Federation of American Scientists (FAS), and runs FAS's Biosecurity Project.

Karen Rennich is the Project Manager of the Bee Informed Partnership and the APHIS National Survey, based out of the University of Maryland's Entomology Department. She works closely with all members of the BIP team and other



organizations and gets to tackle tasks from data analysis to field work. She has a B.S. in Ocean Engineering from Purdue University and an M.S. in Ocean Engineering from the Johns Hopkins University. She designed and worked on large, underwater Navy sensor systems while she was employed by the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory for 14 years. She has been a beekeeper for 7 years and manages 12 colonies at home.

Fred and Daniel Smith are owners/operators of F & D Apiaries of Hagerstown, MD. They are 4th and 5th Generation beekeepers. Their main focus is pollination, honey sales and swarm removal. Fred and Daniel have been keeping bees all their lives. Fred's dad C.O. Smith and Brother Tim are also commercial beekeepers. They started F & D about 6 years ago when his father gave them 25 hives. Currently they run about 300 hives. Daniel is a high school junior and Fred works at Kent Nutrition Group. They keep bees in different areas around Washington and Frederick counties and WV for honey production. The Smiths do many events and shows, as well as pollination for apples in Washington County and watermelon pollination in Delaware and the eastern shore. They also pollinate blueberries in New Jersey.



Two Maryland Beekeeping Clubs Help Start a Beekeeping Program in Africa

by Allen Hayes

After college, Anne Schultz joined the Peace Corps and headed off to Lesotho, Africa. While I have never actually met Anne, she is friends with my daughter from their college days. After getting her feet on the ground Anne reported back that among other things she hoped to start a beekeeping activity in her small remote South African village. My daughter passed this information along and I thought a few American Beekeepers might like to help with the donation of some equipment. I approached the members of two local Maryland beekeeping clubs that I am associated with, namely the Carroll County Beekeepers Association and the Howard County Beekeepers Association. Members of both clubs generously made donations for this project.

My plan was to send some veils and gauntlet style gloves. This way the folks tending bees would at least have some decent protection as they learn the craft of keeping bees. Armed with the knowledge that sometimes items sent to faraway places never actually make it to their intended destination, these generous beekeepers reached deep into their pockets. They were willing to help beekeepers they will likely never meet, half way around the world.

Next, I got a large box from the post office and took it over to Jim Frasier at the Maryland Honey Company to see how many pairs of gloves and veils he could stuff in it. Jim was able to squeeze in four pairs of gloves and four veils. By the way, the postage to Lesotho cost about

The women of the Kopanang Basotho Support Group, Anne Schultz is on the far right.

as much as it did to purchase the gloves and veils.

After several weeks I got a reply back from Anne that the box had arrived at the Peace Corps address and our donation was now with her. Then a few months later, she sent this response:

I cannot express how much your gift meant to me, and to the people of the Ha Rankakala community. Thanks to you and your groups' generous contributions, not only were the men and women of the Kopanang Basotho Support Group able to begin their own beekeeping project, but they were also motivated to host a Beekeeping Skills Workshop in their community! The workshop was facilitated by representatives from the Lesotho Ministry of Forestry, and allowed for other support groups and motivated community members to learn about the environmental, health and economical benefits of beekeeping. By giving the groups necessary equipment, you also instigated their sustainable connection to local resources.

Continued Page 6



“Bees on Farms” Apiary Matching Targeted for this Spring

Through the efforts of Apiary Inspector and AABA President Lindsay Barranco, and her cooperative efforts with Future Harvest CASA, the first steps have been taken to link Maryland beekeepers with farm sites that can offer apiary space.

Says Lindsay, “My interest in matching [beekeepers with farmers] came from noticing that beekeepers needed space to keep bees and oftentimes didn’t have land of their own. The idea about connecting with Future Harvest CASA came from being a member of that group and attending farm-visits that they sponsor each season and noticing that organic growers (or sustainable growers) sometimes tried beekeeping, but couldn’t keep it going because of time-constraints. Since many of these growers also grew cover crops on off-season, it seemed like a good fit for beekeepers who needed flowering

plants for their bees in summer and it also seemed a good idea to get beekeepers and growers together, so they could get to know one another and be able to talk about challenges faced by each... Future Harvest seemed a good place to start because most if not all of those growers aren’t using the types of chemicals that beekeepers want to avoid.”

Lindsay has developed two one page flyers (included in the e-edition of the *BeeLine*) one for farmers seeking beekeepers, one for beekeepers seeking apiary sites on farms. Lindsay has already distributed a few of the “farmer” flyers at the Future Harvest Conference; MSBA will provide forms on its web site where beekeepers can sign up and farmers can contact us if looking for beekeepers. Your feedback would be welcome as we fine tune this outreach.

University of Maryland to Offer Beginning Beekeeping Course March 28-29

By Grace Kunkel

If your club short course has sold out, there may be another option for would-bee beekeepers in your area. This is also an opportunity for a couple of members of your local club attend for free!

The honey bee research lab at the University of Maryland is hosting a two day beginning beekeeping course this March. It is going to be an excellent event and we want to reach as many people as possible with registration information.

The description below has details and the registration link. Please share with your club members and anyone else you think would be interested! We are also hoping to have two experienced beekeepers as volunteers from your club attend free and act as Bee Ambassadors for the class. If you have people you would like to nominate as Bee Ambassadors, or for more info, please contact me at gkunkelumd@gmail.com or 301-405-3799

Class Information

Do you want to learn the skills to succeed in beekeeping?

Come join us March 28-29 for the beginning beekeeping course at the University of Maryland, College Park.

You will be learning from honey bee researcher and UMD professor, Dennis vanEngelsdorp. Bee informed partnership Executive Director Karen Rennich, Maryland State Apiarist Cybel Preston, Honey bee writer and researcher Kirsten Traynor, and several other dedicated honey bee researchers.

What you'll get:

An entire weekend of lessons by experienced beekeepers teaching you how to:

- obtain bees;
- what beekeeping equipment is necessary;
- how to install your colony into your equipment; and
- how to bring your bees successfully through the first year.

In addition to meeting local bee researchers and instructors, you will also be introduced to your local bee clubs, and have facilitated discussions and Q&A. Lunch and coffee breaks will be provided both days. Vendors will be on hand to sell and place orders for equipment.

For more information or to register visit our website at: <http://tinyurl.com/m9jrjfn>

Maryland Beekeeping Clubs Help in Africa, con't

As a result of the community-wide Beekeeping Skills Workshop, the Kopanang Mens' Support Group, consisting of all young, single, adult men, stepped forward, trapped their own hive of bees, and have since initiated a so-far successful bee project of their own. This is an especially large achievement in our community as young men in Lesotho are especially vulnerable to contracting HIV, and are difficult to reach in prevention and mitigation efforts. In addition to helping the men's support group provide financial assistance to HIV affected families in the area, this beekeeping project has helped them to build organizational capacity and teamwork among group members. Working together on this project has allowed a safe, positive venue for discussion and intervention. The group has begun to support one another, and other members of the community, in topics such as HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, sexual health, life skills, and even gender equality. When I left my village in August, they were planning an HIV testing event in the community to target other young, single men who may be at higher risk for the disease.

I can safely say, that without the beekeeping uniforms, none of these life-changing events would have taken place. Your gifts had a lasting ripple effect, spreading motivation,

and the desire to pay it forward and help others. Words cannot express our thanks.

The views and opinions expressed are my own. They do not reflect the position or policy of the Peace Corps.

Anne Schultz, Peace Corps Volunteer.

I never dreamed that our small donation would have such a large impact on the lives of people far away. It is likely we will make similar donations in the future. Like watching bees visit flowers on a warm sunny day, this just makes you feel good inside. Anne has completed her Peace Corps tour of duty and is now home.



The Kopanang Mens' Support Group attending a workshop with the Ministry of Forestry..

EAS 2015 at the University of Guelph, in Ontario, Canada

By *Tim McMahon*

Have you ever considered taking a “Beekeeping Vacation”? Well now is the time to go out and get your passport renewed as EAS 2015 will be taking place in Guelph, Ontario (about 1.5 hours north of Niagara Falls, New York, this is 8 to 10 hours away from Maryland, by car, depending upon where you live). EAS (Eastern Apiculture Society) is one of the largest noncommercial beekeeping organizations in the United States and one of the largest in the world. Every summer EAS conducts its week long Annual Conference of lectures and workshops in one the 26 member states or Canadian provinces. This year’s EAS conference will be held at the University Guelph, Ontario, from August 10 through August 14. The conference usually brings in about 600 to 800 beekeepers from around the world to attend.

The conference is made up of the Short Course, running from Monday to Wednesday, and the conference proper, running from Wednesday to Friday, with Wednesday the overlap day. Normally about half of the attendees stay the whole week with the other half coming just for the conference. The Short Course will contain classes for beekeepers of all levels and special events such as an open apiary with Langstroth, Warre’ and Top Bar Hives, a microscope workshop on bee anatomy, a Honey Show for you to enter your bee products, and classes on all aspects of beekeeping. The conference proper will consist of over 100 different talks about all aspects of beekeeping including classes on Queen rearing, Mead and Beer brewing and on IPM (Integrated Pest Management). Along with the workshops there are many social events such as a tour of a large commercial beekeeping operation, a meadery and The Niagara Butterfly Conservatory. In one week’s time, you can learn more about beekeeping than you ever possibly imagine.

I first attended EAS several years ago in Boone NC, and the experience was so great that I became a life time member. I’ve not missed an EAS conference since. Every year I go with a set of questions in mind that I then try to find the answers to from the best minds in Beekeeping. Can’t get much better than that. Maybe the best thing about the week-long EAS was that I get to talk “bees” all week long and no one says that they had heard enough (normally my family asks me to shut-up after the first 2 minutes or so). You can find out all about the specific topic covered and how to sign up at the EAS webpage here: <http://www.easternapiculture.org/>.

I hope to see you there. EAS 2016 is scheduled for New Jersey, 2017 in Delaware and 2018 in Virginia. Come and join the fun!



COME ONE, COME ALL!

EASTERN APICULTURE SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE
UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
ONTARIO, CANADA

CHECK ONTARIOBEE.COM/EAS AND EASTERNAPICULTURE.ORG FOR UPDATES

AUGUST 10–14 2015

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
MARK WINSTON

WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:
MEAD AND BEER MAKING, QUEEN REARING, IPM AND NEWBEE

TOURS:
THE NIAGARA BUTTERFLY CONSERVATORY, A MEADERY, AND A LARGE COMMERCIAL BEEKEEPING OPERATION

EAS ONTARIO 2015



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web: aabees.org

APPALACHIAN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Acting President: Hop Cassidy

ASSOC. OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND BEEKEEPERS

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BALTIMORE BACKYARD BEEKEEPERS NETWORK

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BOWIE-UPPER MARLBORO BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.

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www.bumbabees.com

CARROLL COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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CENTRAL MARYLAND BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.

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www.centralmarylandbees.org

EASTERN SHORE BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.

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FREDERICK COUNTY BEEKEEPING ASSOC.

President: Rose Aurigemma, info@frederickbees.org

www.frederickbees.org

HOWARD COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.

President: Jason Ellis, hocobeekeepersassoc@gmail.com

LOWER EASTERN SHORE BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.

Website: www.lowershorebeekeepers.org

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.

President: Tim McMahon, timcmahonbeekeeper@gmail.com

www.montgomerycountybeekeepers.com

SUSQUEHANNA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

President: Harry Dutcher, bspaboy@comcast.net, website:

susquehannabeekeepers.com

WYE RIVER BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Contact: George Meyer BeeGeorgehoney@hotmail.com

MDA OFFICE OF APIARY INSPECTION

Cybil Preston (410) 562 3434, cybil.preston@maryland.gov

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?

“Bees on Farms” Apiary Matching Draft Flyer for Farmers



BEES ON FARMS

Are you a farmer who wants honeybee hives on your farm?

If you are farming it can be very time consuming to also keep honeybees, yet the presence of honeybees on farms is a great boost to vegetable and fruit crop pollination.

There are many beekeepers looking for sustainably managed or organic crop farmland for their honeybee colonies. Future Harvest CASA is partnering with local and regional beekeepers in order to promote online Bulletin Boards to help farmers and beekeepers find one another.

The Future Harvest CASA website lists regional beekeeping associations for easy access to websites and message/personal boards for Beekeeper and Farmer matching arrangements. Please see the links to regional and local beekeeping associations for information and on their websites look for “Bees on Farms” or “Personals” or “Bulletin Boards” for matching information.



“Bees on Farms” Apiary Matching Draft Flyer for Beekeepers



BEES ON FARMS

Are you a beekeeper who is looking for land for your honeybee hives?

Many beekeepers cannot keep beehives on their own property or wish to expand their apiary to other locations. The Maryland State Beekeepers Association and many local and regional beekeepers associations are partnering with farming associations like Future Harvest CASA (www.futureharvestcasa.org) in order to match organic and sustainable growers looking for honeybee hives with beekeepers who are looking for land.

Organically grown produce on farmland can provide pesticide-free foraging for honeybees, summer nutrition during dearth periods and a boost to pollination for the grower – a mutually beneficial arrangement. The Maryland State Beekeepers Association and many local and regional beekeeping associations are providing message boards on their websites for Beekeeper and Farmer matching arrangements. Please consider a “Bees on Farms” or “Personals” or “Bulletin Board” for your association’s website.



MSBA Flyer for Your Short Course Package?

Linda Thompson of BUMBA and MSBA has taken the initiative to produce easy-to-print flyers for use by county clubs in two versions: one for use with the general public (bottom) about honeybees as well as MSBA and county clubs, the other for distribution to students and members (top) concerning the role of MSBA in beekeeping

statewide and in assisting local beekeepers.

The files are color PDFs that are set up to be printed two sided, two flyers per 5.8"x11" sheet. They are downloadable from www.mdbeekeepers.org on the "Links and Resources" page.



Maryland State Beekeepers Association

MSBA is a non-profit organization that has been dedicated to the advancement of beekeeping and the improvement of beekeeper skills in Maryland since 1908. In addition to supporting beekeepers, we provide educational resources to the public and local leaders. More than 600 members of all ages, backgrounds, and experience look after thousands of hives in cities (yes, cities!), towns, and rural areas all over the state. Every county is represented.

State Apiary Inspection: 301-261-8106 / 410-841-5920

Office of Apiary Inspection, MD Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401

All beehives within the state of Maryland must be registered with the state inspector; there is no registration fee.

All Maryland beekeepers are encouraged to follow the MSBA Recommended Management Practices for Maintaining Honey Bee Colonies in Maryland.

Honeybees are in trouble!

The USDA estimates that every 3rd bite of food we eat depends on pollination. Crops valued at over \$40 million/year require or benefit from honeybee pollination in Maryland. You can help, even if you don't keep bees. Purchase honey & other hive products from your local beekeepers. Plant a pollinator garden. Make a donation to MSBA or your local beekeeping club. Support honeybees in your community & encourage your lawmakers to support them, too.



honeybee



eastern yellow jacket

Unlike a wasp or hornet, a honeybee has a barbed stinger, can sting only once, and dies as a result. She will sting only when threatened. Be calm and still around bees; don't swat or wave at them.

Local Beekeeping Clubs

See MDbeekeepers.org for contact information for our local beekeeping clubs. There is one in your area.

Allegheny Mountain Beekeepers Association (AMBA)
Anne Arundel Beekeepers Association (AABA)
Appalachian Beekeepers Association
Association of Southern Maryland Beekeepers
Baltimore Backyard Beekeepers Network (BBBN)
Bowie/Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association (BUMBA)
Carroll County Beekeepers Association
Central Maryland Beekeepers Association (CMBA)
DC Beekeepers Alliance
Frederick County Beekeepers Association (FCBA)
Hagerstown Valley Apian Society
Howard County Beekeepers Association (HCBA)
Lower Eastern Shore Beekeepers Association (LESBA)
Montgomery County Beekeepers Association (MCBA)
Susquehanna Beekeepers Association (SBA)
Wye River Beekeepers Association

Celebrate honey!



MSBA's Annual Maryland Honey Harvest Festival, which for the past 5 years has been held in September at the National Wildlife Visitor's Center, Patuxent Wildlife Refuge, Laurel is TBD for 2015. Watch the website for information.

MSBA has sponsored a honey show at our fall membership meeting at the Department of Agriculture in Annapolis since 1982. This Annual Honey and Honey Cookery Show is funded in part by a generous grant provided by the Maryland Agricultural Fair Board. November 14

MSBA members' honey and hive products are present at nearly all of the county fairs and the Maryland State Fair. Many also sell their wares at farmer's markets, festivals, and health food stores. Local honey has the lowest carbon footprint of any sweetener. Supporting your local beekeeper supports the honeybees!

MDbeekeepers.org

msba@MDbeekeepers.org

Beginner Beekeeping Classes Allegany College of Maryland Continuing Education

The 2015 Spring Beginner Classes will begin on Monday March 16th and will run through April 20th, 2015. Classes run from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

Cost of the course is \$60 and includes all materials, a field trip to an active bee yard and the text book.

There is a class limit of 15 students. To register or find out more information contact Allegany College of Maryland at 301-784-5341 or visit <http://services.allegany.edu/ce/?course=C/S205>.

Queen Production Workshop Evergreen Heritage Center, Mount Savage, MD

A queen production workshop will be held on Sunday May 3rd from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Master Beekeeper, Steven Repasky from "Burgh Bees" in Pittsburgh will be the main presenter. This day long workshop will help give you the skills needed to raise your own local queens and give sound information to evaluate the productivity of queens to increase hive survival rates.

The workshop facility can only accommodate 40 people. Cost will be \$23 for early registration and \$28 dollars for late registration. Contact Ben Cooper for more information 814-324-4550 or cooperville@atlanticbb.net

Interesting Headlines in Beekeeping, Late Winter 2015

UK: A new study from the University of Exeter has found that viruses carried by commercial bees can jump to wild pollinator populations with potentially devastating effects. The researchers are calling for new measures to be introduced that will prevent the introduction of diseased pollinators into natural environments. "Commercial honey bee keepers have a responsibility to protect ecologically and economically important wild pollinator communities from disease." http://www.exeter.ac.uk/news/featurednews/title_429864_en.html

Presidential Memorandum: "Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators." Includes a multi-agency task force mandated to develop a strategy with measurable goals, including research, education, public-private partnerships, and increasing and improving habitat. First task force report expected shortly. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/06/20/>

Starving honey bees lose self-control: A study in the journal of the Royal Society Biology *Letters* has found that starving bees lose their self-control and act impulsively, choosing small immediate rewards over waiting for larger rewards. Small animals with high metabolic rates need to eat more often than big animals and so are more likely to act impulsively, seeking immediate rewards to avoid starving to death. However, self-control is vital for social groups to function harmoniously. <http://phys.org/news/2015-01-starving-honey-bees-self-control.html>

Wall Street Journal: More Beekeepers Sour on Profession as Winter Die-Offs Continue. Even more than honey bees, beekeepers are on endangered-species list: Increasing numbers of beekeepers, who are generally in their 50s and 60s, are considering early retirement or are being forced out of business as honey bees continue to die at alarming rates. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/more-beekeepers-sour-on-profession-as-winter-die-offs-continue-1422057396>

Ohio State: Pollen DNA Reveals Honey Bee Foraging Habits. The identification of collected pollen provides insight into the flowers exploited by foraging bees. This information could guide floral enrichment

efforts aimed at supporting pollinators, but it has rarely been used because traditional methods are laborious and require expert knowledge. Dr. Reed Johnson's Ohio State team has developed a novel way, molecular method to study the pollen foraging of honey bees in a landscape dominated by field crops, potentially creating a faster, easier, and cheaper way to identify and support forage. <http://entomologytoday.org/2015/01/13/pollen-dna-reveals-honey-bee-foraging-habits/>

Substance from honeybee hives may help with hair loss: Add a new condition that may be treated with some form of apitherapy! Scientists are reporting that propolis encouraged hair growth in mice. Recent research has shown that propolis promotes the growth of certain cells involved in hair growth though no one had yet tested whether that in turn would result in new locks. Ken Kobayashi's team at Hokkaido University wanted to find out. The study appears in ACS' Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry. <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/jf503184s>

Eloptia "MiteNot" New Anti-Varroa Technology? With an apparent endoresement from prominent scientists like Marla Spivak, a new technology currently in the developmental stage may offer another tool in the battle against varroa, this time without introducing chemicals into the colony. The "MiteNot" frame is made up of natural substances like cornstarch and beeswax, and houses a circuit board that manipulates brood temperatures to sterilize mites: it appears to be an application of IPM techniques like drone brood removal in combination with approaches like that of the MiteZapper. <http://www.eloptia.com/mitenot/>



An Urgent Appeal to Maryland Beekeepers

Bonnie Raindrop, Roger Williams & Dixie Mullineaux,
Central Maryland Beekeepers

We have a crucial need for a minimum of 40 beekeepers to visibly show their support for a bill to help honey bees! Please attend this important event:

Maryland Environmental Summit
February 3rd, 4-6 pm
Miller Conference Room, Miller Senate Building
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

An exciting bill, the Pollinator Protection Act, will be introduced this session of the Maryland General Assembly. It will do two things:

1. *Limit consumer access to bee-killing neonic pesticides* which are flooding store shelves (many consumers apply pesticides in concentration up to 120 times greater than recommended and make home landscapes killing fields for bees);
2. *Identify plant stocks being sold which have been treated with neonics* (53% of “bee-friendly” plants sold at Lowes & Home Depot were treated with neonics).

The Environmental Summit brings together legislators and their staff for a reception and presentation on key environmental bills. For this bill to pass, beekeepers must be very visible in their advocacy.

This event will set the tone for the session—if we have less than 40 beekeepers the visual message will be that the bill isn’t important to beekeepers and will likely fail.

The bill has the support of 50 member organizations in the Smart on Pesticides Coalition who will leverage their staff and members to help pass the Pollinators Protection Act. This is our moment to help Maryland bees!

Please give the bees two hours of your time on Tuesday, February 3rd. The event is free but you must register. Register now! Be sure to wear your bee “whites” so we give that visual message that we are here and support the bee bill, en masse. The Smart on Pesticides Coalition will have a table at the reception and a beekeeper will make a presentation to the assembly. Please join us!

For more information, contact
Bonnie Raindrop 410-404-3808
or Roger Williams 443-491-3383. We can help with organizing car-pooling! Stand up for bees!



THE VALUE OF HONEY BEES IN MARYLAND



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
EXTENSION

Solutions in your community



Maryland State Beekeepers Association, Inc.
Dedicated to beekeeping in Maryland since 1908

“Value of Honeybees” Brochure Available

MSBA now has a few hundred copies available free of charge to participating clubs and educators: please email msba@mdbeekeepers.org to request.

Maryland State Beekeepers Association

Name: _____

Returning members – please only detail any *changes* in your contact information.

Email: _____ (home / work)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ County: _____

Phone : _____ (home / cell / work)

Description	Unit Cost	Number	Sub-Total
Annual Membership	\$10		
Or, Lifetime Membership	\$200		
Donations			
To MDA's Apiary Inspection Fund**			
To MSBA, general donation			
To MSBA, for George Imirie Education Fund			
To MSBA, donation for Vehicle Plates (Plus MVA Fee)	\$15		
Grand Total:			

** will be passed on to MDA

Questionnaire

- I am a **new Annual Member**
- I am interested in serving on the MSBA Executive **Board** or a committee
- I am interested in judging or assisting at the MSBA Annual **Honey Show**
- I am interested in giving a **presentation** at a future MSBA event
- I am interested in providing an **article** for the 'Beeline'

Suggestions / Feedback

Do you have any suggestions for the MSBA – topics for future meetings; things you would like to see MSBA doing; improvements to the website etc?

NOTE: Checks Made Out For Early Membership Payment Will Not Be Deposited Until January!!

Please make check payable to '**MSBA**'
or pay online at www.mdbeekeepers.org/membership.html

Mail check and form to:

Bob Crouse, Treasurer
1606 Dogwood Lane,
Bel Air MD 21015

phone: (410) 638-0105
email: RLCROUSE@QIS.NET

MSBA Use Only
Check Date.....:
Check Num.....:
Check Amt.....:
Details updated:

Check our web site, www.mdbeekeepers.org, for any changes, updates and program details.