



The Beeline

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Highlights:

**Apiary Inspector News,
Upcoming Local and National
Events** Page 2

**Summer Meeting 2015
Agenda** Page 3

**Summer Meeting Speaker
Biographies** Page 4

**Yearly Losses Hit Maryland
Hard**

**Pollinator Protection Bill Dies
in Committee** Page 5

Bienenstich Recipe Page 6

**National Strategy to Promote
Health of Honeybees**

**Maryland Pollinator
Protection Plan to be
Developed** Page 7

**MSBA Officers & Local
Associations** Page 8

Only In the Electronic Edition:

**MDA Letter Re: Cutting
Inspection Budget** Pages 9

**MDA Apiary Registration
Form** Page 10-11

Local Bee Discussions Page 12

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rlcrouse@qis.net and tell us your name
and email address!*



President's Message

by Toni Burnham

There has been a lot of news in Maryland beekeeping, though very little of it is good, and the most positive parts don't suit us all. In February, the Department of Agriculture cut funding for the contract apiary inspectors. Currently the Apiary Inspection Service has only one half-time, State Apiary Inspector (Cybil Preston) on staff, who has been supported by regional contract inspectors. In mid-March, funding was found via the Farm Bill, but this does not ensure future support. Read more on Page 2.

Then in May, the 2014-2015 Winter Loss Survey results compiled by BeeInformed based on beekeeper submissions showed that we had among the highest losses in the US, including surprising summer losses. At 60.9%, only three other states did worse. Needless to say, beekeepers are upset and looking for answers. Read more on Page 5. Many Maryland beekeepers cast a suspicious eye on neonicotinoid pesticides as a major culprit, or at least significant contributing factor, in the declining health of our bees. A large and concerned group of beekeepers worked with the Maryland Pesticide Network to seek a ban on consumer use of neonics, House Bill 605/Senate Bill 163, that did not make it out of committee in March. Also on Page 5.

More hopefully, pollinators received a boost, at least in public awareness, through the announcement on May 19 of the *National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators*. The strategy cites three main goals: Reducing honey bee colony losses to economically sustainable levels; increasing monarch butterfly numbers to protect the annual migration; and restoring or enhancing millions of acres of land for pollinators through combined public and private action. Dr. Michael Stebbins of the White House gave our members an exciting heads up about this strategy at the Winter Meeting, and asked for beekeeper feedback. Others seeking firmer legal protections are more skeptical. More on Page 7.

One local step aligned with the *National Strategy* may have resulted in a number of emails you might have received last month: the development of a Managed Pollinator Protection Plan (MP3) for Maryland. States are being tasked by the Federal Government to develop these plans, but Maryland has no funding (see above) to actually carry on the process. An emergency meeting of our Board caused us to vote to support grant funding for this process. Also Page 7.

But the best news for last: we have a terrific program for our Spring Meeting on June 13 (see page 3) featuring an exciting and dynamic scientific and practical beekeeper, Dr. Juliana Rangel! Hope to see you there!

News About the Apiary Inspectors

MDA's State Apiary Inspector is Cybil Preston, Phone (410)841-5920, Fax 841-5835, Cell 410-562-3464, email cybil.preston@maryland.gov

In early February, the Maryland Department of Agriculture eliminated funding for the contract Apiary Inspectors with whom most of us work, citing budget cuts and low numbers of registered beekeepers. Funding for all inspectors was restored by mid-March via the Farm Bill, but we understand that Apiary Inspection is still not funded via the normal Department of Agriculture budget.

A letter sent by Secretary of Agriculture Joe Bartenfelder to the beekeeping community is included in the e-edition of this newsletter, but it reads in part:

"Funding for a permanent State Apiarist was eliminated more than ten years ago. In FY 2009, all remaining general funds were removed in order to meet state budget reduction targets" and goes on to mention that the "Apiary Enhancement Fund...provides an opportunity for voluntary donations to be made."

MSBA's reading letter is that MDA is moving to require the our community to fully fund the apiary inspection services required by state law. While we are grateful that Farm Bill funding was located, this is not a stable, budgeted resource to support Apiary Inspection. Beekeeping in Maryland has evolved to include a greater number of smaller apiaries while the number of inspectors has declined. We therefore encourage Maryland beekeepers to make themselves known by completing the free and mandatory apiary registration process (form included in the e-edition) but also to make your local legislators aware of your concerns on the

future of Apiary Inspection. Finally, increased support for the Apiary Enhancement Fund (information below) also provides greater stability and a strong indicator of the importance of the beekeeping community to Maryland Agriculture.

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

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

VA Beekeepers Assoc. Spring Conference, June 12-13, Shenandoah Univ., Winchester, Drs Dennis vanEnglesdorp, Elizabeth LeGall. www.virginiabeekeepers.org

Maryland State Beekeepers Association Spring Meeting, June 13, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, University of Maryland/College Park, Chemistry Building.

WV Beekeepers Assoc. Fall Meeting, September 25 and 26, Jackson's Mill, Weston, WV, Dr. Thomas D. Seeley, www.wvbeekeepers.org

PSBA Summer Picnic & Queen Swap, August 1, Dundee Farm, 528 Scaife Rd., Sewickley Pa. Hosted by Burgh Bees. Speakers: Marla Spivak, Clare Densely (Buckfast Abbey), Dewey Caron, Maryann Frazier, Erin Forbes and James Neih. www.burghbees.com

PA State Beekeepers Annual Conference, November 13-14, Best Western Inn/Country Cupboard, Lewisburg, www.pastatebeekeepers.org

Maryland State Beekeepers Association Fall Meeting, Elections and Honey Show, November 14, 2015, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM MDA, 50 Harry S Truman Parkway

Other Upcoming Events:

Pollinator Partnership Pollinator Week, June 15-21, online guide to events nationwide at pollinator.org/pollinator_week_2015.htm

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, Ontario, Canada. www.easternapiculture.org

15th Annual NAPPC International Conference, October 20-22, 2015. US Department of the Interior, Washington, DC.

BeeCulture Conference: "The Four Pillars of Honey Bee Management," October 24-25, Medina, OH, \$150 per person. Dr. Jim Tew, Randy Oliver, Dr. Dennis vanEnglesdorp, more. www.beeeculture.com/events/the-four-pillars-of-honey-bee-management/

American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) Conference, Ponte Vedra Beach (Jacksonville), Florida, January 5-9 2016.



Maryland State Beekeepers' Association Winter Meeting June 13, 2015

Plant Sciences Building Auditorium, University of Maryland/College Park

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 Apiary Inspector
9:30 am	Born and Bred in MD: Queen Rearing Basics	Dr. Juliana Rangel Texas A&M University
10:30 am	Beekeeping Regions of Maryland: The Tulip Popular Region	Jim Fraser, EAS Master Beekeeper
11:15 am	National and Maryland-Specific Results of the USDA APHIS National Survey	Shayne Madella, University of Maryland
12:00 Noon	Lunch	
1:15 pm	Factors that influence the Reproductive Quality of Queens and Drones	Dr. Juliana Rangel Texas A&M University
2:15 pm	National and Maryland Pesticide Results	Dr. Kirsten Traynor University of Maryland
3:15 pm	Ask Expert Beekeepers Your Anonymous Questions	Panel Discussion
4:00 pm	Adjourn	Dr. Wayne Esaias, President

Directions to the University of Maryland

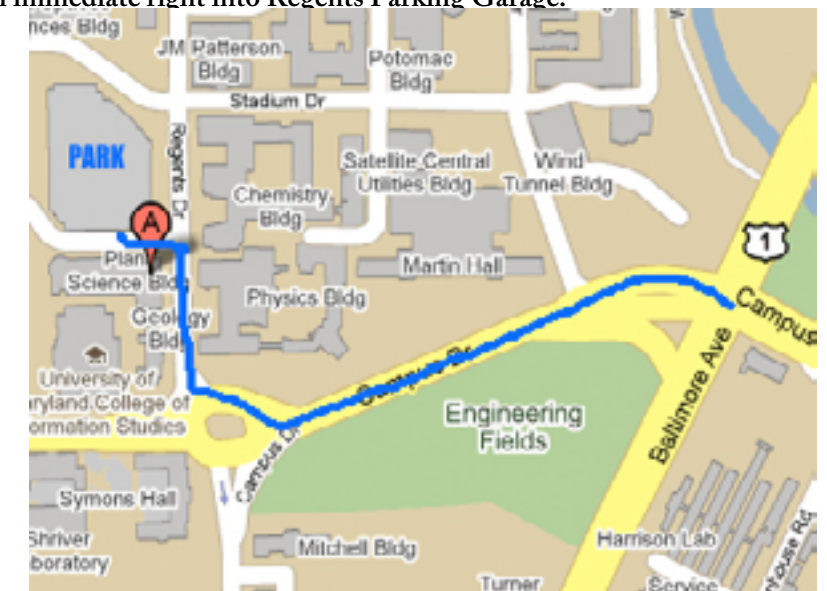
If you are using GPS, please use address 7950 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, MD 20742 and follow directions (below) to Plant Sciences Building. More info at <http://www.cvs.umd.edu/visitors/maps.html>

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).

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.

The "M" Rotary at UMD/College Park



Spring 2015 Meeting to Feature Dr. Juliana Rangel

MSBA welcomes **Dr. Juliana Rangel** as keynote of our Spring meeting. Since January 2013, Dr. Rangel has served as Assistant Professor of Apiculture in the Department of Entomology at Texas A&M University in College Station, TX. Born in Colombia, South America, Juliana moved with her family to the United States in 1998. She graduated in 2004 from the Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution Program at the University of California, San Diego, where she worked with Dr. James Nieh on multi-modal communication in stingless honey bees. Also in 2004, she began doctoral studies in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior at Cornell. Working under Dr. Thomas Seeley, she researched the mechanisms and functional organization of reproductive swarming in *Apis mellifera*. In particular, she led projects that examined the signals that initiate the mass exodus of a honey bee swarm from its nest, the identity of the signalers that initiate swarm departure, the types of agonistic interactions that occur between competing honey bee swarms during their house-hunting process, and the potential for intracolony nepotism during colony fissioning in honey bees. She obtained her Ph. D. in 2009 and in 2010 joined Dr. David R. Tarpy at North Carolina State University as the coordinator of the “Born and Bred in North Carolina: Queen-Rearing and Bee-Breeding Program,” through which she trained over 1,000 beekeepers across several states. In 2010, Juliana was awarded one of 15 National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowships in Biology. As a postdoctoral fellow, Juliana conducted field and laboratory experiments aimed at determining the mechanisms and causes of queen replacement in honey bees, one of the biggest problems facing the beekeeping industry today. Her research program focuses on the biological and environmental factors that influence the reproductive quality of honey bee queens and drones, the health and population genetics of feral honey bees, and the quality and diversity of floral sources collected by honey bees in developed areas across the country. She is also an active member of the Texas Beekeepers Association and has spoken to numerous beekeeping associations in Texas and across the United States and was the 2014 President of the American Association of Professional Apiculturists. As part of her teaching responsibilities, she teaches the undergraduate courses Honey Bee Biology and Introduction to Beekeeping.



She also teaches a graduate-level course on grant writing. She is the co-advisor of the Undergraduate Entomology Student Organization and the coach of Texas A&M University's undergraduate and graduate teams of the Linnaean Games, a quiz bowl style national competition that tests students on their knowledge of entomology. In her spare time, Juliana likes to play the guitar, sing folk Latin American songs, and cook for friends and family..

Shayne Madella is a Faculty Research Assistant at the University of Maryland as part of the Bee Informed Partnership. She specializes in molecular biology lab work and honey bee disease diagnostics for the APHIS National Honey Bee Survey. Shayne earned her bachelor's degree at the University of Maryland in Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics in 2012 and is working on a Master's degree in Biotechnology with a specialization in Bioinformatics.



Dr. Kirsten S. Traynor is Research Associate, University of Maryland, and Editor of *Bee World*. Kirsten won her first honey bee hive in a raffle and has been fascinated by these social insects ever since. As a German Chancellor Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in 2006-2007, she was based at the largest German Institute of Bee Research and traveled over 55,000 miles by car to meet with honey bee scientists and bee breeders throughout Western Europe, publishing 50+ articles in bee journals. Upon return, she earned her PhD in honey bee biology with Dr. Robert Page from Arizona State University. Her research focused on how pheromones influence colony dynamics, pollen foraging and honey bee physiology. Dr. Traynor joined Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp's lab as a post-doc in 2014, where she investigates the impacts of disease and pesticides on honey bee health. Recently she was appointed editor of *Bee World*, the International Bee Research Association's beekeeping magazine. Author of the new book *Simple, Smart Beekeeping*, an illustrated guide that walks you through keeping healthy honey bees and *Two Million Blossoms: Discovering the Medicinal Benefits of Honey*.



Maryland Loses 60.9% of Bee Colonies in 2014-15

Each year, the USDA with the BeeInformed Partnership conducts a survey of beekeepers themselves to uncover both basic survival statistics and also indicators that might point the way to better future results. For the period 2014-2015, Maryland experienced the fourth worst level of hive losses in the country at 60.9%, a distressing and disturbing phenomenon that has engaged both the non-beekeeping press and galvanized many Free State Beekeepers to seek redress for factors that may contribute to declines. The average US rate was 42%, up from 34% the year before.

Summer losses outstripped winter losses for the first time, and many in Maryland have surmised that these losses could actually be even higher, but may not have been included in reports based on beekeeper perceptions of other causes (queen loss, etc.)

According to Dennis vanEngelsdorp at the University of Maryland and project director for the Bee Informed Partnership, “We now know that summer loss rates are significant too. This is especially so for commercial beekeepers, who are now losing more colonies in the

summertime compared to the winter. Years ago, this was unheard of.”

This is the ninth year of the winter loss survey, and the fifth year to include summer and annual losses in addition to winter loss data.



Credit: BeelInformed Partnership. Maryland and the MidAtlantic suffered unsustainable losses.

Consumer Neonicotinoid Ban Dies in Committee

Many MSBA members were part of an effort spearheaded by the Maryland Pesticide Network to support the passage of House Bill 605/Senate Bill 163, the *Pollinator Protection Act of 2015*, which would have established labeling requirements for any seed, plant material or nursery stock that uses neonicotinoid pesticides and limits the selling of these pesticides to only qualified applicators. The full text of the bill is available at <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0605f.pdf>

The bill failed to survive a March hearing in the House Environment and Transportation committee. Beekeepers faced opposition from the Maryland Farm Bureau and Maryland nurserymen, and failed to get support from the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

The April 24 official blog entry for Joe Bartenfelder, Secretary of Agriculture, refers to the bill as “Anti-Agriculture.” Bill supporters have a FAQ at <http://tinyurl.com/pl96rcq>

As a result of this testimony, the committee believed it needs to see more studies linking neonicotinoid pesticides to public health con-

cerns and bee deaths. After publication of the Annual Loss Survey, however, committee chairman Del. Kumar Barve said his panel “intends to investigate the reasons behind the losses.” Though the committee heard conflicting testimony about the status of the state's beekeeping industry, “the majority seems to show it is under real pressure.”

As it stands, the Maryland beekeeping community finds itself both internally divided on the appropriate response to the toxicity of neonics for bees, and (on this specific bill) on the opposing side from our usual allies in promoting and protecting beekeeping.



In March, concerned Maryland beekeepers lobbied in Annapolis in support of the “Pollinator Protection Act of 2015. Credit: The Maryland Reporter

Bienenstich (“Bee Sting Cake”), A Sweet German Specialty

“Beesting cake,” is a traditional treat from Germany. It isn’t quite like an American cake. It’s usually more of a pastry texture filled with cream and topped with honey glazed almonds.

For the topping:

- 7 Tbsp unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup of honey
- 1 Tsp vanilla
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds

Steps:

1. In a small saucepan, melt butter and honey, Bring to a boil, gently simmering 2 minutes..
2. Add vanilla and almonds, remove from heat and set aside to cool while preparing cake batter.

For the cake:

- 1 3/4 cups sifted all-purpose flour, plus 1 Tbsp.
- 1 Tbsp baking powder
- 1/2 Tsp salt
- 1 stick unsalted butter
- 5 Tbsp granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup honey, plus 1 Tbsp
- 2 eggs
- 1 Tsp vanilla
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 cup whipping cream
- 1 Tsp. almond extract

Steps:

1. Preheat oven to 375°F. Grease a 9-inch springform pan, fit the bottom with a circle of parchment, butter the paper, and dust the pan with flour, tapping out the excess.
2. Sift together 1 3/4 cup flour, baking powder, and salt. Set aside.
3. Beat slightly softened butter in an mixer until fluffy,

about 2 minutes. Gradually add sugar, beat about 3 minutes. Pour in 1/4 cup of honey, mix for one minute. Beat in eggs one at a time, beating after each addition. Add vanilla and half of the flour mixture, a bit at a time.

4. Scrape into springform pan, spreading evenly. Sprinkle with remaining 1 Tbsp of flour, then pat top smooth with your hand. Spread topping over the cake.
5. Place on a sheet pan and bake for 35 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean. Cool completely.
6. Prepare filling by whipping cream and the remaining Tbsp of honey and almond extract until stiff
7. Remove cake from springform, slice horizontally in half, spread filling on the bottom half, replace top half, and serve immediately or refrigerate. .

Note: Bienenstich’s glazed almond topping can be difficult to cut through without causing the filling to squeeze out. During the step when you cut the cake into 2 layers, you can also divide the top into serving-sized wedges before placing them neatly on top of the filling layer. .



White House Announces National Strategy to Promote Health of Honeybees

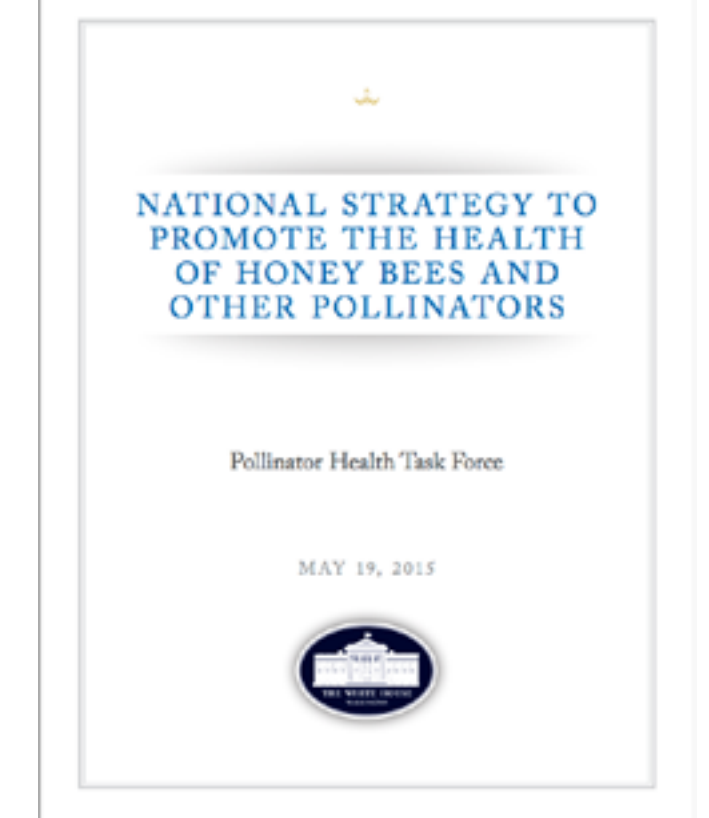
The White House released the *National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators* on May 19, a 79-page document to review and consider. As it stands, every major name connected with either the improvement or the destruction of honey bee health is responding to, and attempting to shape the impact of, this strategy, and our interactions with both local elected representatives and the Feds will have this backdrop for years to come. Check it out at: <http://tinyurl.com/k2dtb9k> The three “overarching” goals of the Strategy are:

1. Reduce honey bee colony losses to economically sustainable levels;
2. Increase monarch butterfly numbers to protect the annual migration; and
3. Restore or enhance millions of acres of land for pollinators through combined public and private action.

According to the *Washington Post*, “The federal government has undertaken two targeted initiatives in the past: a 2007 action plan on honeybee colony collapse disorder and 2008 North American recovery strategy for monarch butterflies. But this one, which has drawn on the work of 14 agencies as well as the private sector, is more ambitious. It aims to reduce honeybee colony losses during winter to no more than 15 percent within a decade, and increase the Eastern population of the monarch butterfly so that 225 million butterflies occupy roughly 15 acres of wintering grounds in Mexico by 2020. The government and private entities will also restore or enhance 7 million acres of land for pollinators over the next five years.” For beekeepers who are looking for new regulations that outlaw certain pesticides or practices, the response has been muted. Beyond Pesticides says it “falls short” and stresses that pollinator protection begins with strong regulatory action and suspension of bee-toxic pesticides.” Maryland’s Sam Droege said, “I have to say that it is

mighty darn lovely having the White House acknowledge the indigenous, unpaid and invisible workforce that somehow has managed to sustain all terrestrial life without health-care subsidies, or a single COLA, for that past 250 million years.” Bayer CropScience congratulates a “multifaceted approach,” and applauds the focus on habitat and forage.

Most agree, however, that in the waning years of a second term, a sustained pollinator health policy requires substantial funding and regulatory changes, at the very least, to build a foundation for reaching these goals.



MSBA Board Supports Grant Funding for Development of Maryland MP3

On May 3, the MSBA Board convened an emergency teleconference that voted to support beekeeper participation in the development of a Managed Pollinator Plan for Maryland. MDA does not have funds budgeted to support the beekeeper outreach effort, and asked for letters to support a grant request. The MSBA Board concluded that beekeeper representation in this process was critical, drafted a letter of support, and encouraged members and county clubs to do the same.

According to the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials, “The primary purpose of a state Managed Pollinator Protection Plan is to establish a framework for open communication and coordination among

key stakeholders, including beekeepers, growers, pesticide applicators, and landowners... It is the intent that such open communication will lead to practices that both mitigate potential pesticide exposure to bees and allow for crop production.” (http://www.aapco.org/documents/att14_mp3_guidance.pdf)

MP3 are not law, however, and some question whether they are the right step to take and whether open discussions will happen in the absence of legal consequences. Through the *National Strategy* (above), however, MP3s are being requested of all states, with an eye to measuring improvements, or the lack thereof, in pollinator health. MSBA will notify members of future outreach events.

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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.



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Agriculture Maryland's Leading Industry

Office of the Secretary

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 Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
 Joe Bartschfelder, Acting Secretary
 Mary Ellen Seering, Deputy Secretary

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February 12, 2015

Maryland Beekeepers and other Interested Parties,

It has come to my attention that you have been hearing conflicting information on the status of funding and staffing for the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Apiary Inspection Program. I understand that there are concerns within the beekeeping community about MDA's ability to inspect migratory colonies moving into and out of the state. I am writing this letter to assure you that MDA remains committed to honeybee health and maintaining our beekeeping industry's ability to move colonies across state lines.

As background, over the past 12 years MDA, along with other state agencies, has experienced reductions in staff and budget. Funding for a permanent State Apiarist was eliminated more than ten years ago. In FY 2009, all remaining general funds were removed in order to meet state budget reduction targets. Despite these setbacks, the apiary program has continued with contractual labor, using limited general funds and some special and federal funds.

You may be aware of an Apiary Enhancement Fund that provides an opportunity for voluntary donations to be made by beekeepers to MDA to help pay for apiary inspection services. This fund was established at MDA in 1998 in cooperation with the Maryland State Beekeepers Association in order to stabilize funding for apiary inspection, in the face of general fund budget reductions, and in lieu of legislation that would have set a fee for the mandatory registration of all colonies in the state. In FY2014 and to date in FY2015, the Apiary Enhancement fund has taken in \$6,892 and \$7,312 respectively. The MDA greatly appreciates these generous donations — all of the fund revenue is used to support apiary inspection staff as it was originally intended. However, with apiary program costs running in excess of \$40,000 annually, we have to live within our means while continuing to support critical services to Maryland beekeepers. In an effort to balance our fiscal year 2015 budget, we have scaled back on apiary inspection activities for the winter months. Although you may have heard rumors that the program is shutting down, this is not at all what is happening and I wanted to emphasize to you that critical inspection activities will still be met.

This administration understands the important pollination services and honey production that honeybees provide to agriculture and Maryland citizens. We also are aware of stresses that pollinators have been under in recent years. We remain committed to continuing the program and supporting our "Wings of Agriculture" now and into the future. Cybil Preston, our current State Apiarist, is working with her dedicated staff and Maryland beekeepers to find solutions that will make our cooperative program more efficient while continuing to provide vital services.

If you have any additional questions or comments, please contact me or Ms. Carol Holko, Assistant Secretary, Office of Plant Industries and Pest Management, toll free: 1-800-492-5390 or at 410.841.5870 or via email: carol.holko@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Joe Bartschfelder
 Joe Bartschfelder
 Secretary

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?**

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PLANT PROTECTION SECTION
 APIARY INSPECTION
 50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF HONEY BEE COLONIES FOR _____

If blank, print Name and Address Below

PHONE NO. (H) _____ (W) _____ IDENTIFICATION NO. _____

By law, all honey bee colonies in the State of Maryland must be registered with the Maryland Department of Agriculture.
 Will you be keeping bees on another persons property this year? Yes _____ No _____

- If yes, at least one colony in apiary must be identified as to ownership with an approved name or number.
 If an ID number has not been assigned, check 1 or 2 below.
1. Assign me an ID number or
 2. Assign me the following name or number ID _____

PLEASE NOTE THE SPECIFIC LOCATION OF EACH APIARY BELOW

YARD	LOCATION (Street address, road name, town, etc.)	COUNTY	NUMBER OF COLONIES
No. 1			
No. 2			
No. 3			
No. 4			
No. 5			
No. 6			

Total colonies _____

SIGNATURE

DATE

SEE BACK

Mandatory information - Please fill out

Have you purchased queens, packaged bees, nucs of colonies form out-of-state during the previous year?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes the MDA may examine your bees for mites. Please answer the following:

_____ Date of Purchase _____ State of Purchase _____ Items Purchased _____

Do you employ one or more persons in beekeeping?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, you must file with the Department a Certificate of Compliance with the State Workmen's Compensation Laws, or you may provide the Department, as evidence of insurance, a workmen's compensation policy number or binder number.
 POLICY NUMBER/BINDER NUMBER, EXPIRATION DATE: _____

Optional information - You are not required to complete this section

Honey For Sale, Collecting Bee Swarms, Stinging Insect Removal

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Offices (CES) receive calls from the public requesting sources of local honey, and reporting honey bee swarms during the spring swarming season. Occasionally a local beekeeper cannot be found that has honey for sale or to collect these bees (usually collected free of charge). Calls are also received regarding honey bee nests in the walls of houses, and yellow jacket and hornet's nests that homeowners would like someone to come and remove (usually removed for a fee).

If you plan on having honey for sale and you would like your name, town and telephone number included on a list that will be distributed to the public, please indicate this below. If you are seriously interested in collection honey bee swarms and/or removing honey bee, yellow jacket or hornet nests, and you would like to have your name included on a list that will be used by the MDA and CES, indicate this below. Your name will be given out to the public when calls that pertain to the categories you have checked are received.

Please note: If you use any insecticides when collecting stinging insects, Maryland Law requires that you be licensed and certified to use pesticides by the MDA or be employed by a licensed pest control company. Collecting stinging insects without using an insecticide does not require any license.

Check Appropriate Boxes. I want to be included on your list and receive calls for:

- 1. Honey for sale
- 2. Removing honey bee swarms
- 3. Removing honey bee nests in walls of buildings, etc.
- 4. Removing yellow jacket and hornet nests

County or counties in which I am interested in collecting/removing stinging insects:

Local Discussions in Beekeeping, Spring 2015

Maryland Bee Health Survey

A researcher at Hood College, April Boulton (boulton@hood.edu), has asked Maryland beekeepers to participate in a survey on colony losses. She will link losses to GIS information and correlate colony deaths with apiary locations and vegetation types, a unique effort. We will hand out and collect survey forms at the meeting on June 13, which should take no more than 20 minutes. There will be a follow-up online to reach beekeepers who did not attend. To participate online, please email Dr. Boulton.

This is an important research project which may help us explain the variations in losses in different areas and help us find safer locations for our bees. The results, specific to our area, will be reported to Maryland beekeepers as soon as the results can be compiled. The survey needs to be completed this month, while memories are fresh and Dr. Boulton has time to compile the results. Please help by completing the survey at the meeting or online, but not both! - *Steve McDaniel*

Carpenter Bees Deserve Respect

In a recent exchange about Carpenter Bees on the Montgomery County Beekeepers Discussion Group, former MSBA President *Dr. Wayne Esaias* shares reasons to show Carpenter bees (genus *Xylocopa*) some respect (and some reasons to smile!) Their numbers appear to have increased locally, and the drones' habit of flying at any and all creatures in their chosen patch makes an impression. "Some responders are needlessly perpetuating fear of bees, and are not helping with education. Carpenter bees are excellent pollinators, and are quite benign when one knows their behavior. The 'damage' is insignificant, but is used by home repair people to extract significant \$\$ from ignorant homeowners in addition to causing [unnecessary] pesticide applications. At a very early age my parents showed me how to recognize drones by the conspicuous white spot between their eyes and to catch them bare-handed. My mom learned from her father.

They've been nesting in the garage for over 75 years, and on a nice spring day there may be a dozen or more males 'guarding' their territory with nothing but bluster. Toss a dark pebble in the air and watch them succeed in 'chasing it away'. Face them head-on while they are hovering to confirm the white head, and make a quick grab."

"The only time I was ever stung was when I grabbed a female (a.k.a. a black head) by mistake from behind. I guess I was getting cocky. In those days I tied a black thread to drones and sold them in school for 50 cents. Back in the mid '50's I got suspended for 3 days after one landed on the music teacher's buxom chest while I was giving a tethered-flight sales demo. It landed on the

point of closest approach, if you remember how mid-century undergarments were shaped, causing audible gasps from my buds and repeated shrieks from Mrs. Lee. With inflation, I bet they are worth \$5 to \$10 today. But from this perspective, that experience was priceless."

"The two-car garage is still structurally very sound (albeit lighter) after 75 years of providing nesting sites. What they do is akin to the 'honeycombing' used extensively in the aircraft and aerospace industry to lighten material. Try telling an aeronautical engineer that honeycombing is 'structural damage.' Carpenters bees simply are not a problem for structural integrity based on my experience." "The female Carpenter bees keep a decent space between tunnels, preserving most of the strength. To this day, there is a ton or more of stuff stored on those cross beams. One reason for their thick gallery walls (3/16" or so) is to prevent parasitic wasps from ovipositing from the outside, and the Carpenter bees don't want to make their nest unsound either. They are not like termites, which eat everything and can cause buildings to collapse. Galleries also get reused." The biggest downside is a bit of sawdust on cars."

"I am pleased to say they are in my shed and my grape arbor, and my grandkids will appreciate them. I know that education cannot cure all apiphobia nor prevent needless application of pesticides, but I felt a need to make an attempt. Fairly benign measures are the badminton racquet (although mostly only hovering drones will be smashed but it does make a rewarding sound) and plastic or aluminum flashing to let worrywarts sleep at night. But even then, erect some bare untreated wood structures (trellis, arbors) to attract them away and to replace nesting sites for a very good pollinator, and enjoy them. They will be gone in a few months."

Carpenter bee drone, with identifying white dotted head. They also have a large, shiny abdomen Credit: Barry Hayman



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.