



# The Beeline

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## Highlights:

<b>Apiary Inspectors Office</b>	
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	Page 2
<b>Fall Meeting Agenda</b>	Page 3
<b>Fall Meeting Speakers</b>	Page 4
<b>Prince Georges County Beekeeping Fights Zoning Threat</b>	Page 5
<b>Report from EAS 2017 Manage Your Membership Online</b>	Page 6
<b>EAS 2018 to Take Place in Hampton, VA!</b>	Page 7
<b>Campaign to Save Bees on Puerto Rico and USVI</b>	Page 8
<b>Tenth Annual Honey Harvest Festival Buzzes</b>	Page 9
<b>MSBA Officers &amp; Local Associations</b>	Page 10
<b>Only In the Electronic Edition:</b>	
<b>Summer-Fall Honey Bee News Notes</b>	Page 11
<b>Honey Show Entry Form</b>	Page 12-13
<b>Honey Show Rules</b>	Page 14-16
<b>MSBA Membership Form</b>	Page 17

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



## President's Message

*by Allen Hayes*

My term as MSBA President will end on December 31, so this is my last President's message. I have stated previously and it bears repeating: I have benefited enormously from what I have learned at MSBA meetings, so I felt it my duty to hold this office and keep our organization moving forward. I thank you for your support, especially those who serve on the BOD with me. I couldn't have done this without you.

Thanks to Marc Hoffman and the Montgomery County Beekeepers Association, this year's Honey Harvest Festival was very successful. We were able to spread the word about bees and beekeeping to hundreds of visitors at the Brookside Nature Center and Gardens.

It is possible that the Brookside folks will not host this event in 2018; if that is true there is an opportunity for one of the local Maryland beekeeping clubs to partner with MSBA and hold the event at a venue in their county. One of the many things accomplished by the Honey Harvest Festival is that it brings in a lot of new, prospective beekeepers from the immediate area that may be looking for a local club to join. Let us know if your club has an interest in doing this.

A group of MSBA members also staffed the bee booth for one day at the Maryland State Fair this year. For our efforts we have received \$584.48. The weather was just about perfect, not hot and humid as we have experienced in the past and I think that brought more people to the fair. It is a fun event: the constant flow of visitors with great questions and a real desire to support our beekeeping activities is a real encouragement for both individuals and beekeeping clubs! Many thanks to those who volunteered!

August also saw the Eastern Apicultural Society conference come to the University of Delaware in Newark, as it has every 10 years. Since Delaware is next door to us, 101 Maryland Beekeepers attended the event. It was a great week and we are looking forward to EAS in Hampton, VA next year, also next door.

The Prince Georges county government is rethinking its zoning regulations and is possibly going to put the squeeze on beekeepers in certain residential zoned areas! It is still early in the process so please don't panic. The BUMBA folks are preparing a strategy to fight any such zoning that would be negative for backyard beekeeping. There is much more to come on this so stay tuned and let's all be ready to help BUMBA if and when they request our assistance.

## News from the Apiary Inspectors

Cybil Preston, State Apiary Inspector, MDA

Phone 410-841-5920, Fax 841-5835, Cell 410-562-3464

- Apiary Enhancement Fund for Calendar Year 2017: \$5,909.59
- Registered beekeepers: 2178
- Apiaries: 2745
- 2017 Human inspections: 294
- 2017 Inspections done by Mack: 7
- Colonies Mack inspected: 591
- Colonies in MD 2017: 15,609

This year we have been receiving excessive complaints of Yellow Jackets and European hornets plaguing beekeepers hives and more than a handful of calls from non-beekeepers also! Make sure to reduce your entrances especially if you are feeding.

Unfortunately, we are also seeing a large number of "Fall Crash" or "Fall Dwindling." Without opening the beehive, one would think it is a fairly strong colony because the activity of robbing bees can make the hive look industrious.

Some symptoms to look for are more than a handful of dead bees in front of the hive with normal activity inside, and upon inspection no bees at all—meaning no brood no nothing—some of these hives were treated for mites some were not. My best assumption is that this is mite and/or viral load related.

If you are treating for varroa mites please do a mite count prior to and after use of your varroa control! There have been questions floating about in MD and other states on the efficacy of some of the varroa controls.

You do not have a basis for understanding whether or not varroa control worked if you had no clue what your numbers were before and after use. Also please check the best use dates on your products make sure your product has not expired. *It is also critical that you use it make sure you use it properly.* Misuse of a varroa control is part of this problem, also.

MDA has two newly hired inspectors:

- Robert Greenwell for Southern Central Maryland, including Anne Arundel, St. Mary's, Calvert, and Charles counties
- Daniel Smith for Western Maryland, covering Washington, Alleghany and Garrett Counties.

If you are in one of those counties please introduce yourself to your new inspector.

With cooler weather on the horizon Mack the AFB Dog will be back into his inspection routine. We will work on commercial beekeepers moving to California first.

Training of our second AFB dog, Clark, is coming along. He is still young so we are holding back. We hope to have him in the field by next fall.

If you are purchasing bees from another state *please* make

sure they are inspected from the state of origin before shipping. The Maryland Department of Agriculture MUST receive the Inspection report and permit from the state of origin before the bees are shipped into Maryland.

This applies to both Nucleus colonies and packaged bees. Packaged bees usually have a general blanket inspection permit in order to know where imported bees are coming from.

If you are planning to sell nucleus colonies in the spring, it's your job to have them inspected for out of state sale and to know whether the hive will be crossing state lines. Don't wait until the last minute notify your inspector!

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### UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

**Maryland State Beekeepers Association Fall Meeting and Honey Show**, November 4, 2017, Bee Researcher and large scale beekeeper Jessica Louque of Bee Culture, keynote. 8 AM to 4 PM.

**PA State Beekeepers Annual Conf.**, Nov. 3-4, Randy Oliver, keynote. Ramada State College Hotel, \$55 for both days, [www.pastatebeekeepers.org](http://www.pastatebeekeepers.org)

**Virginia State Beekeepers Association Fall Meeting**, November 4, 2017, Weyers Cove, VA, Erin MacGregor-Forbes, Mike Embrey. Non members \$41, [www.virginia-beekeepers.org](http://www.virginia-beekeepers.org)

**Philly Beekeepers Guild 8th Annual Natural Beekeeping Symposium**, February 10, 2018, Dr. Tom Seeley, Dr. Leo Sharashkin, Franklin Institute, non-member price for all activities \$110, more at <http://phillybeekeepers.org/>

**Maryland State Beekeepers Association Winter Meeting**, February 17, 2018, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Harford Community College, Chesapeake Hall, Bel Air, MD.

### More Upcoming Events:

**American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) Conference**, (75th Annual), Reno, NV, Jan. 9-13, \$310 for non-members, <http://nabeekeepingconference.com/>

**11th Annual Treatment-free Beekeeping Conference**, Oracle, Arizona, March 2-4, 2018. Topics: chemical free beekeeping, breeding, field management, and apitherapy. \$225. To register, email [decalusby1@aol.com](mailto:decalusby1@aol.com) or call 520 748 0542. , [www.treatmentfreebeekeeping.org](http://www.treatmentfreebeekeeping.org)

**Heartland Apicultural Society Conference**, July 11-13, 2018, Washington University/St. Louis, M. Spivak, D, vanEngelsdorp, J. Berry, K., Delaplane, [www.heartland-bees.org](http://www.heartland-bees.org).

**Eastern Apicultural Society Conference and Short Course**, August 13-17, 2018, Hampton Roads CONvention Center, Hampton VA. [www.easternapiculture.org/conferences/eas-2018.html](http://www.easternapiculture.org/conferences/eas-2018.html).

**Maryland State Beekeepers' Association Fall Meeting  
November 4, 2017**

**Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis**

8:30 am	Refreshments, Coffee, Donuts, etc.	
9:00 am	Opening and Welcome	Allen Hayes, President
9:15 am	Maryland Apiary Inspector's Report	Cybil Preston, Maryland State Inspector
9:30 am	Pollinator Plots	Lane Heimer, Weed Control Program Supervisor Maryland Department of Agriculture
10:00 am	Keeping Bees and Doing Research at Scale: Overview of a Large Apiary Operation	Jessica Louque, Checkmate Apiary/Bee Culture Magazine
11:15 am	EAS Report: Delaware 2017, Virginia 2018	Tim McMahon, Master Beekeeper MSBA EAS Director
11:30 am	Lunch	
1:00 pm	Pesticide Economics: Testing for Honey Bee Health	Jessica Louque, Checkmate Apiary/Bee Culture Magazine
2:00 pm	MSBA Annual Business Meeting and Elections  George Imirie Education & Freestate Beekeeper Citizenship Awards Presentations, MSBA Honey Show Results	Nominations Committee Allen Hayes, President Honey Show Superintendent
2:45 pm	Roadside Pollinators	Lisa Kuder, BeeInformed Partnership/UMD,
3:30 pm	Ask the Experts Your Anonymous Beekeeping Questions	Panel
4:00 pm	Adjourn	

**Directions to the Maryland Department of Agriculture**

Take Route 50 towards Annapolis. Take Exit 22 (Route 665) to Riva Road. Follow the exit in the direction of Riva Road South.

Continue 4/10 miles to Harry S Truman Parkway and turn right at the light.

Go straight 1.2 miles to 50 Harry S Truman Parkway; the Maryland Department of Agriculture building is on the right. Look for yellow "BEE MTG" signs and the cows at the entrance to the drive. Take the second entrance. You may park in the lot. Enter at the front of the building: meeting is one floor down in the auditorium.

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**Maryland Department of Agriculture  
Headquarters Building  
50 Harry S Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401**





## Fall 2017 Meeting to Feature Jessica Louque of Bee Culture, Honey Show, More!

Jessica Louque is a *BeeCulture* magazine columnist and Senior Study Director for Smithers Viscient, working in the Pollinator and Non-Target Organisms Division.

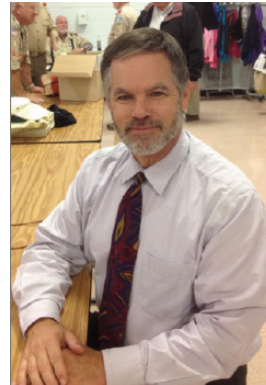
Jessica is a talented speaker, and has deep roots in both research and training researchers. Her entomology background extends into the world of “urban” species such as bedbugs, fleas, ticks, roaches, ants, and pantry pests!

Louque has been working as a honey bee researcher for 6 years, but is a fourth generation beekeeper through her family. She holds an MS in Entomology from North Carolina State University, where she took a double Bachelor of Science degree in Botany and Spanish. Jessie married Bobby, who is also a honey bee researcher, and his four kids in 2013 in a bee themed wedding, including a black and yellow wedding dress. They live in North Carolina with their pit bull Atlantis, cats Harvey and Black Jack, and multiple chickens...with plans for expansion to goats in the future.



her contributions will help broaden the group’s research on improving pollinator health. She has a Masters in Environmental Biology from Hood College (MD) and a B.S. in Chemistry from George Mason University (VA). Presently she is studying the successful establishment and biology of *Anthophora plumipes* in the Mid-Atlantic Region, in addition to exploring its interactions with native ecosystems. Why the vanEngelsdorp lab? “It’s a high energy environment comprised of supportive, intelligent and inspiring people who are dedicated to understanding and addressing factors that threaten bees.”

Lisa has also taken a leading role in the “Pollinaterps,” the student beekeeping and pollinator health group at UMD/College Park!



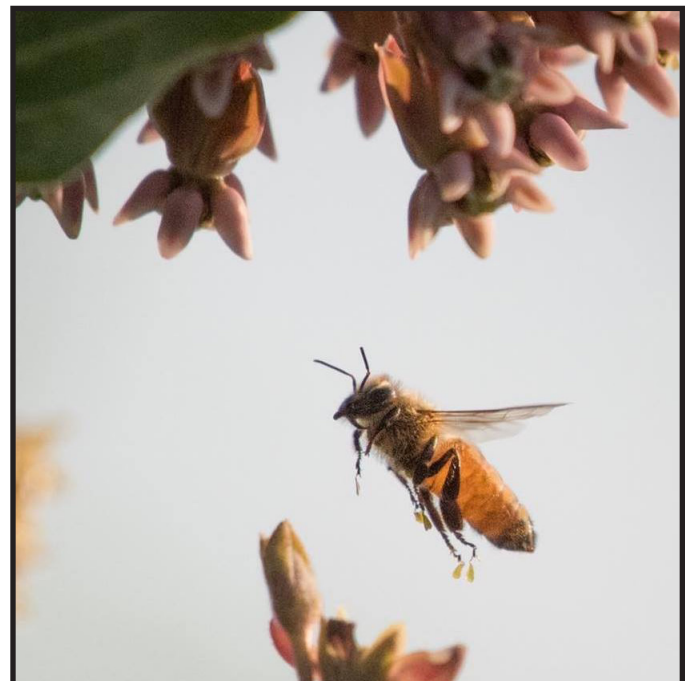
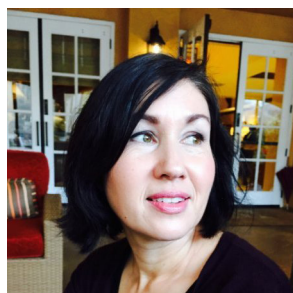
Tim McMahon is MSBA’s Eastern Apicultural Society Director (our representative at EAS). Tim is an avid beekeeper and student of native and non-managed pollinators, including those in Latin America. Tim was the 2015 recipient of MSBA’s George Imirie Award for Beekeeper Education.



Lane Heimer is the Supervisor of the Maryland Department of Agriculture’s Plant Protection and Weed Management Section, a group which also has responsibility for portions of the Maryland Pollinator Protection Plan (MP3). Heimer will introduce and discuss how the

Pollinator Plot project from MDA can create additional forage for native and managed pollinators, including your bees! Lane received his Bachelor of Science in Agronomy and Agricultural Economics from University of Maryland College Park in 1982, and has been with MDA since 1985.

Lisa Kuder is a PhD student who recently joined the vanEngelsdorp’s Honey Bee Lab, a part of University of Maryland’s Entomology Department. With a focus on solitary bees,



Though associated with Monarch Butterfly forage, milkweed attracts honey bees, too. But note: the “pollinia” of milkweed are sticky, and may attach to the bees’ feet! (special to the BeeLine from Focal Flame Photography/Clint Thayer)

## Prince Georges County Beekeeping Under Threat! Beekeepers Face Zoning Changes

*By the Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Board*

Prince Georges County is undertaking a major re-write of its zoning regulations. This re-write is being done by a large corporation that specializes in writing zoning regulations. The proposed zoning regulations will place severe limitations on beekeeping. Three “listening sessions” will allow the public to speak to county officials about the zoning. Comments via email, phone calls, letters, web page comments, etc., will be accepted until December 15. We need to fight to prevent the creating unwarranted and unreasonable restrictions on beekeeping at a time when municipal governments such as New York and Washington, D.C., are recognizing beekeeping as a safe activity. Please share this article with beekeepers you know who either live in the county or keep hives in the county.

During 2016, an early draft of the zoning laws defined beekeeping as an agricultural activity permitted only on agricultural lands. Beekeeping on residential lots was not going to be permitted. Members of the Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association (BUMBA) engaged the re-zoning process by attending open sessions and contacting their county officials. Members tracked changes in the drafts as they were released. Jeff Forbes has been taking the lead on much of the effort and other BUMBA members also made their case to their County Council members that beekeeping was not dangerous and was safely enjoyed by many, responsible, county residents (and voters). As a result, in November, 2016, the County Council unanimously adopted legislation that permitted beekeeping in most residential areas, generally in single family detached, semi-attached and triple attached homes having 2,000 sq. ft. or more, without any special requirements or limitations.

The final draft was recently released. To the shock of the BUMBA Board and members, special limitations have been added, which run counter to the will of the Council as expressed last November. These limitations include: must have a minimum of 15,000 sq. ft. to keep bees and then no more than 2 hives per 15,000 sq. ft. of land; hives must be re-queened following swarming or signs of aggressive behavior; hives must be maintained in movable frame hives and managed to prevent overcrowding (no tenement bee housing); must have a 25 foot set back from the property line and have a 6 foot flyway barrier 10 feet from the property line.

Several requirements are vague, subjective and undefined, such as “aggressive” and “overcrowded” and appear to be based on unfounded fears. The limitations on hive

numbers and yard requirements would hamper many member’s enjoyment of their property. The requirement for movable hives is already a Maryland state law and thus is unnecessary. The 25 foot set back seems designed to keep hives out of small lots (or rooftops), such as are now allowed in Howard County and the District of Columbia. Even more nonsensical are prohibitions against keeping bees in industrial zones (but not junk yard dogs).

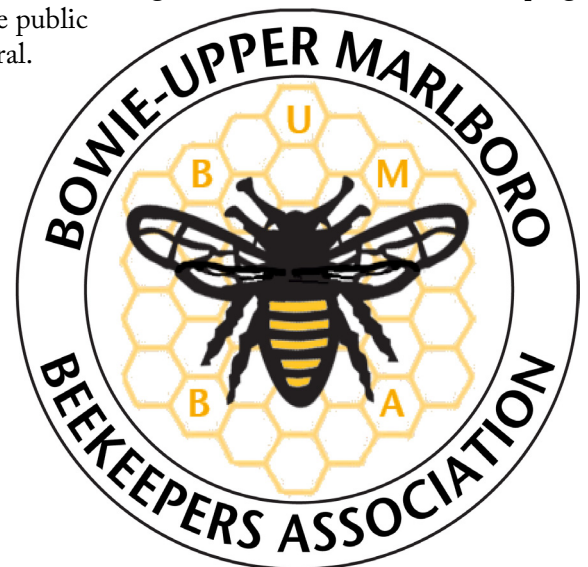
Review the Draft at <http://zoningpgc.pgplanning.com/?p=2251> and search for “hives” or “beekeeping”.

*Comments may be made via phone, letter, email, or in-person and must be submitted by December 15.*

You also can submit “real-time” feedback at <https://pgplanning.civiccomment.org/>. Select “Sub-Title 27 – Zoning Ordinance, Comprehensive Review Draft”. Email comments to [zoningpgc@ppd.mnccppc.org](mailto:zoningpgc@ppd.mnccppc.org). Whether or not you cannot attend one of the sessions below, the BUMBA Board urges you to submit a comment about the new zoning as it affects beekeeping.

By newsletter time, there will have been three final “Listening Sessions” for final comments. BUMBA has urged any beekeeper to attend one of these sessions, or to pass the word if you know a beekeeper who either lives in Prince Georges County or maintains an apiary in the county, urge them to attend these sessions and become involved in the process.

The BUMBA Board and members appreciate the support of the Maryland State Beekeepers Association, its Officers and members. We hope that, with your support, we will prevent any onerous regulations from severely limiting our enjoyment in beekeeping and sharing our knowledge and excitement about beekeeping with the public in general.





## EAS 2017 in Delaware: Thank You Maryland Beekeepers!

by Dr. Dewey Caron

THANK you Maryland Beekeepers. All 101 of you who attended and participated in the EAS 2017 Annual Short Course and Conference at the University of Delaware.

We registered a total of 667 and Maryland was the state/province with the greatest number represented.

The Program was full of Maryland bee experts – Jay Evans of USDA, Sam Droege of USGS, Cybil Preston of MDA, Bart Smith (retired USDA), Mike Embrey (retired UMD, Wye Institute), students of the vanEngelsdorp Bee Lab at UMD (Kelly Kulhanek and Natalie Steinhauer) and MD beekeeping stalwarts Dean Burroughs, David Smith, Allen Hayes, Meghan McConnell (who DE “stole” from the UMD bee lab to become DE State Apiarist) and past president Paul Dill (who invited EAS to come back to DE in 2017).

Special thanks go to Tim McMahon, your MD EAS Board representative who really made a special effort to get the word out about our conference and Oliver Collins who supplied the bees for our EAS apiary.) It is time to put on your calendar the 2018 EAS conference which will once again be in driving distance in Tidewater VA, August 13-17, 2018, Hampton Roads Convention Center. The VA people are hard at work putting together another great conference.

If I got one “complaint” it was ‘too many’. Too many good speakers all giving workshops at the same time, too many food choice in the cafeteria, too many things happening all at once to try to attend them all, too many good bargains offered by the 35 vendors present, too many good honey choices to choose from in the honey exchange or see in the honey show and so many friends to see and stop to chat with and still try to catch the talks and activities. I liked those “complaints”.

Sure we had a few wrinkles, most I hope those attending didn’t see. We “ruined” Cybil’s flash drive, didn’t give enough time to view Peter Lindtner’s great bee plant

photos in the lobby, didn’t have enough time to see Oliver’s bees and several complained they wanted to both drink mead and bee dance with Cliff Sunflower, but why were they at the same time? If you enjoyed one of the field trips to a flower (Mt Cuba and the Dupont Mansion and Gardens at Nemours or if you elected to do bee talks at the same time, plan to come back this fall or next spring to see these gardens at their flowering best.

There are always so many highlights – Allen Hayes did his best to move ALL of his bee gadgets to Newark and then discuss them all in an hour. It is obvious that Bart Smith has not lost a step as he talked about disease and disease diagnosis, Jay Evans got us up to speed on bee viruses and disease as a bee stressor (boy what a complicated story). Tom Seeley fascinated us with the Darwinian beekeeping and then showed hands-on how to do “bee-hunting”. Michael Smith, Tom’s PhD student and our student award winner, provided real insight into how bees “know” when it is time to rear drones and perform other hive duties. Our Planting Hope project of setting up service volunteers as beekeepers was highlighted by Faith Kuehn and featured our newest vets involved. Mike Palmer laid it out how he keeps bees healthy and productive then did a “queen fighting” demo. We honored Mike as our very first winner of a new award to recognize a distinguished conference speaker. Rachael Bonoan talked about dirty water and bee microbes – and so many more.

I sincerely appreciate those who came to support EAS at Delaware. Trust you are now applying some of what you learned and you continue those discussions with speakers and friends that didn’t get concluded. And if other things got in the way and you couldn’t attend - there is always next year. Dewey Caron, 50 year “survivor” of EAS (my first was the EAS business meeting during Apimondia at UMD in 1967 – yes for those counting 50 years ago) –still learning and still getting a kick from beekeeping. See you around the beehive/club meeting (most recently CMBA Tuesday Oct 24th).

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### MSBA Web Site Changes, NEW Online Membership Management System!

With thanks for the capable hands of Phil Frank and Martin Posse, MSBA has created an online membership sign-up that will save hundreds of volunteer hours which can be put toward beekeeping instead of bookkeeping! It’ll also save you time, postage and effort. If you cannot access the website for your membership, we definitely still want you to join, but reducing use of paper also lowers cost and reduces errors: helping us keep your information current, or letting you do it! If possible, consider

joining or renewing your membership online at [www.mdbeekeepers.org](http://www.mdbeekeepers.org)

We will also be changing the website to have additional, powerful functions for you and for the club, and will be sharing them with you in the months ahead!



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

# The 2018 EAS Conference and Short Course: Hampton, VA

*The premier beekeeping event is once again in our back yard*

by Pam Fisher, President, Eastern Apicultural Society, and Karla Eisen, VA EAS State Director

The Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS) is the largest non-commercial beekeeping organization in the country, and we Maryland beekeepers will have a front row seat to the many events there for two years in a row! EAS 2018 will be hosted by our neighbor State, Virginia. The lineup of speakers covers everything from practical beekeeping to the latest from leading honey bee researchers. The Short Course will offer beginning, intermediate and advanced tracks featuring specific areas of interest such as the latest in electronic hive monitoring, queen rearing, and excellence in honey and hive products. Rumor has it the Russian Bee Breeders may even sponsor an entire track. An apiary on site will provide the opportunity for hands-on experiences.

The conference will consist of morning presentations from award winners and keynote speakers as well as afternoon workshops. Confirmed speakers (in alphabetical order) include:

- Celia Davis, NDB (National Diploma in Beekeeping from the UK), and author;
- Dr. Jamie Ellis, University of Florida;
- Dr. Wyatt Mangum, University of Maryland;
- Bonnie Morse, Bonnie Bee & Company, Bee Audacious;
- Randy Oliver, Scientific Beekeeping;
- Mike Palmer, French Hill Apiaries, Vermont;
- German Perilla, George Mason University;
- Freddy Proni, Proni Bees, North Carolina Grown;
- Sammy Ramsey, University of Maryland;
- Dr. Juliana Rangel, Texas A & M;
- Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda, Clemson University; and
- Michael Young, MBe, Institute of Northern Ireland Beekeepers

as well as many more!

Planned social events are the Wednesday evening Beekeepers' Beach Bash with Bee Olympics, the Thursday evening Auction and the Friday evening Awards Banquet. A field trip to Jamestown, where honey bees were first introduced into the New World, is in the works as is a visit to a local brewery

with an apiary on site to provide honey for craft brews. A free evening screening of *Queen of the Sun* will be held at the convention center for beekeepers and the public. Maryland beekeepers have always had a strong presence at Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS). We hope that they will assist as volunteers to what we hope will be 600 or more EAS attendees from across the nation. Volunteer tasks range from worker bees to lead positions. Please consider volunteering a few hours out of your week and we'll make it worth your time. If you volunteer for four hours, we'll compensate you with the remaining four hours that day. Inquiries about volunteer opportunities should be directed to Pam Fisher at [EAS2018Virginia@gmail.com](mailto:EAS2018Virginia@gmail.com). Thank you for your consideration and support; We hope to see you in Hampton at EAS 2018 "Where It All Began"!

For more information see: <http://www.easternapiculture.org/conferences/eas-2018.html>

**August 13 - 17, 2018**

**EAS 2018**  
Hampton Roads Convention Center, Hampton, Virginia

**Conference (Aug 15-17) Speakers Include:**  
*Subject to change*

- Celia Davis, NDB (National Diploma in Beekeeping, UK)
- Dr. Jamie Ellis, University of Florida
- Randy Oliver, Scientific Beekeeping
- Mike Palmer, French Hill Apiaries, Vermont
- Freddy Proni, North Carolina Grown
- Sammy Ramsey, University of Maryland
- Dr. Juliana Rangel, Texas A & M
- Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda, Clemson University
- Dr. Kirsten Traynor, American Bee Journal
- Michael Young, MBe, Institute of Northern Ireland Beekeepers and MANY others

**Information:**  
[www.easternapiculture.org/](http://www.easternapiculture.org/)

**Volunteers:**  
[EAS2018Virginia@gmail.com](mailto:EAS2018Virginia@gmail.com)

**Short Course (Aug 13 & 14) Topics Include:**

- Beginners Track
- Intermediate Track
- Apiary Track
- Electronic Hive Monitoring
- Excellence in Honey & Hive Products
- Queen Rearing

**Special Events:**

- Beekeepers Beach Bash
- Tea with Celia Davis
- *Queen of the Sun* Film Screening
- Honey Show and Awards Banquet
- Silent Auction and Dinner
- Trip to historic Jamestown, entry point for honey bees into North America
- Trip to St. George's Brewery and Apiary

**VIRGINIA 2018**  
"Where it all began"  
**EAS**

**Help save the bees of the Caribbean:**

## **Puerto Rico & US Virgin Islands Bee Rescue Campaign**

*From Val Dolcini, President, Pollinator Partnership*

Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, crippling infrastructure, along with access to electricity, water, and other basic necessities. Agriculture was decimated, too. Cropland, family farms, and food systems were largely destroyed, and nearly \$780 million in crop losses have been recorded so far.

But Puerto Rico's bees have been hit just as hard. The island's beekeepers are essential to local agriculture and specialty crops grown on Puerto Rico. In Puerto Rico, fewer than 150 beekeepers provide 7% of the honey consumed on the island, and these men and women maintain an estimated 4,000 domestic hives. Pollination services are critical to the fields of south and southwest Puerto Rico. From pineapples to coffee to countless fruits and vegetables, honeybees and other pollinators are the key to the recovery of Puerto Rican agriculture.

Surviving bees are in danger of starving. The hurricane stripped the islands of their floral resources, effectively denying that critical nutritional resource to these "natural farmers." Beekeepers are trying to keep them alive in the short term by providing sugar water; but without a floral resource to provide essential proteins through pollen, surviving colonies are at risk of collapsing.

Here, we have access to commercially produced powdered and patty pollen substitutes. These commercial sources have been critical to the recovery of beekeepers in Florida and Texas so far. However, these sources are unavailable in Puerto Rico and elsewhere in the Caribbean. Maria also destroyed much of the woodenware used by these beekeepers. Many bees that survived the

destruction of their hives have swarmed or absconded, taking up residence in people's homes and other structures. Beekeepers in the U.S. Virgin Islands are facing similar challenges, and we are working to learn more about their situation.

Beekeepers in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are in desperate need of help to secure supplemental protein sources and replacement Langstroth gear to house their bees.

Unless we take immediate action to help them recover, both honey bees and production agriculture in Puerto Rico will remain at risk.

This campaign seeks to:

1. Provide immediate relief and support for PR and USVI beekeepers.
2. Raise funds and deliver supplemental protein and replacement hives over the next six months (while assistance may be needed in other areas beyond that point, it is hoped the floral resources in Puerto Rico will rebound and begin to recover sufficiently beyond that point to provide natural nutrition to honey bees and other pollinators).
3. Help to strengthen beekeeping and pollination services in Puerto Rico.
4. Assess the impacts of Hurricane Maria on Puerto Rico's other pollinating species to determine how help can be provided.
5. Assess the impacts of Hurricane Maria on honey bees and other pollinating species on the U.S. Virgin Islands to determine how help can be provided.



**GoFundMe link to Fund for Puerto Rico's Pollinators**

<https://www.gofundme.com/fund-for-puerto-rico039s-pollinators>

Help is critically needed. Please help the pollinators of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands today.



Honey Festival Report 2017:

# Tenth Annual Honey Festival at Brookside Gardens

By Marc Hoffman

The annual MSBA Honey Harvest Festival was held at Brookside Gardens/Nature Center on September 16, 2017. *Thousands* of people came on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. This annual MSBA event is held in conjunction with the Brookside Gardens' Children's Festival.

MSBA provided a variety of hands on and demonstration activities, including:

- An artificial swarm
- Open hive demo in a screen tent
- Info tent with posters, observation hive, and beekeeping objects
- Mead making demo
- Honey extracting demo
- Tours of the apiary at the Nature Center

**Below:** Volunteers in the Bee Tent gave visitors some of the most exciting memories of the day

**Right:** Past MSBA President Wayne Esaias demonstrates an artificial swarm. First, get a package of bees and remove the queen cage; Second, Place the queen cage on a nearby post; Third, shake out the bees; and Fourth, Watch them fly peacefully to the new "swarm" location!

**Bottom:** Marc Hoffman was the colorful Master of Ceremonies for the Festival! (Photos: David Roe)

- Vendors selling hive products
- Talks about bees and beekeeping

In general, the positives for us during the event were the strength that our bee displays deliver during years of experienced member beekeepers doing them. The open hive demo, extracting, and artificial swarm were big crowd pleasers! (see images below for the swarm demo).

The vendors, Hope Honey Farm, Guremy, Montgomery County Beekeepers, Steve McDaniels all had inviting displays. The four talks, by Steve McDaniel, Tim McMahon, Allen Hayes, and Toni Burnham, were all well done.

We always welcome new volunteers to help organize the Eleventh Annual Honey Harvest Festival in 2018, and invite you to write [msba@mdbeekeepers.org](mailto:msba@mdbeekeepers.org) with your interest and ideas.



### MSBA OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:

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#### Past Presidents:

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UPPER EASTERN SHORE BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION  
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WASHINGTON COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
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**MSBA HOME PAGE:**  
[www.mdbeekeepers.org](http://www.mdbeekeepers.org), email: [webmaster@mdbeekeepers.org](mailto: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 can 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?



## Beekeeping News Notes: Summer-Fall 2017

### Local PhD Candidate Samuel Ramsey in “Three Minute Thesis” Competition

By the time many of you read this newsletter, the results of the international Three Minute Thesis Competition (<http://www.u213mt.com>) created by the University of Queensland in Australia will be announced! The contest challenges research students to communicate the significance of their projects to a non-specialist audience in just three minutes, and many Maryland and local beekeepers banded together to make sure that the world listens to Samuel Ramsey! Samuel’s research on the biology of the varroa mite, done in consultation and collaboration with other leading scientists, may turn our understanding of the interaction of this parasite with our bees, and may bring more effective controls and a better future for bees and beekeeping.

No pressure, Sammy!



### Luring “Hornets from Hell” with a “Honey Pot?”



Many beekeepers are familiar with the predatory Asian Hornet (*Vespa velutina*) from the frightening National Geographic film, “[Hornets from](#)

[Hell](#).” You might not know that they have made their way to Korea and parts of Europe. A single hornet can bite and kill hundreds of honey bees in its quest to obtain honey bee larvae. European honey bees have not evolved with this deadly predator and have poor defenses. As a result, “the European economic impact is high,” said Nieh, and “major colony losses have led some beekeepers to abandon apiculture.”

In response to this threat, University of California San Diego’s James Nieh and researchers at the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Yunnan Agricultural University have deciphered the sex pheromone of *Vespa velutina*. Further, they developed a method of controlling Asian hornets by luring males into traps baited with synthesized versions of the pheromones. The new research demonstrates a simple, reliable way to monitor and potentially reduce the populations of these invading insects. [\[more\]](#)

### Stone Age fishers used beeswax to make a point

Late Stone Age people got a grip thanks to honeybees. Northern Europeans attached a barbed bone point to a handle of some kind with a beeswax adhesive around 13,000 years ago, scientists say. Though common in Africa 30,000 years earlier, this spear is the first evidence of its use in cold parts of Europe at a time toward the end of the Stone Age say archaeologist Michael Baales of LWL-Archaeologie für Westfalen in Olpe, Germany, and his colleagues. Honeybees may have pushed north into Europe from warmer, Mediterranean locales several thousand years earlier than previously thought, the researchers propose in the October *Antiquity*.



### Michigan State Researchers May Have Discovered “Holes in the Armor” of Varroa Genetics

Research led by Dr. Zachary Huang of Michigan State University may create new avenues to address this threat to honey bee health. The team has identified genes critical for mite survival and two that directly affect reproduction. Controlling pests like *Varroa* succeeds by either eliminating them or reducing their ability to reproduce. The team used RNA interference to identify key genes which could achieve this. They injected the mites with double-stranded RNA, or dsRNA, then identified two genes that caused high mortality. They also identified four genes that control reproduction. Earlier research has shown that a combination of dsRNAs can be fed to bees at the colony level. *Varroa* mites absorb the “genetic cocktail” and their population was reduced. Future research will explore whether a single-gene approach can be scaled up and achieve the same effect at a colony-wide setting. Using a single gene with a known mechanism will be more cost effective and safe to the honeybees.

### Montana State Researcher Applies dsRNA to the Viral Side of Varroa Damage

Dr. Laura Brutscher, of MSU’s College of Agriculture has published a study on the mechanisms honey bees use to fight off viruses, many of the latter transmitted by varroa infestation. While Michigan State’s research looked at means to turn off varroa’s defense, this study determined means to “turn up” bee response to infection. The hope is to use tools like gene expression for breeding future, more resistant strains of honey bees.



Exhibitor # \_\_\_\_\_

Maryland State Beekeeper's Association

80th Annual Honey and Honey Cookery Show, Nov. 4, 2017

Honey Show Entry Form

Name (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Local Club Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Are you attending this show? \_\_\_YES \_\_\_NO      Are you a current MSBA member? \_\_\_YES \_\_\_NO

Your exhibitor number is shown at the top of this form. Put an exhibitor number sticker on each entry. For bottled honey, put one sticker on the face of the jar and one sticker on the lid. Put a PINK class number sticker on each entry. For bottled honey, put the sticker on the lid of jar.

**Please circle the Class number below for each class you are entering.**

**Division I HIVE PRODUCTS**

**PREMIUMS**

**Beekeepers entering for the first time**

**1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th**

Class 1 Extracted Honey      \$12 9 6 4 2 NP

**Extracted Honey - Beekeepers with 10 colonies or fewer**

Class 2 Extracted Honey - Water White thru Extra Lt.      \$12 9 6 4 2 NP

Class 3 Extracted Honey - Lt. Amber thru Amber      \$12 9 6 4 2 NP

Class 4 Extracted Honey - Dark Amber      \$12 9 6 4 2 NP

Class 5 Extracted Honey - Dark      \$12 9 6 4 2 NP

**Extracted Honey - Beekeepers with 11 colonies or more**

Class 6 Extracted Honey - Water White thru Extra Lt.      \$12 9 6 4 2 NP

Class 7 Extracted Honey - Lt. Amber thru Amber      \$12 9 6 4 2 NP

Class 8 Extracted Honey - Dark Amber      \$12 9 6 4 2 NP

Class 9 Extracted Honey - Dark      \$12 9 6 4 2 NP

**Open to all**

Class 10 Comb Honey - Square Section      \$12 9 6 4 2 NP

Class 11 Comb Honey - Round Section      \$12 9 6 4 2 NP

Class 12 Cut Comb Honey in clear plastic box      \$12 9 6 4 2 NP

Class 13 Chunk Honey in wide mouth 1 lb. jar      \$12 9 6 4 2 NP

Class 14 Finely Granulated Honey      \$12 9 6 4 2 NP

Class 15 One Frame of Honey (shallow, medium, or deep)      \$12 9 6 4 2 NP

Class 16 Beeswax Block 2 lbs. minimum      \$12 9 6 4 2 NP

Class 17 Dry Pollen Pellets in 1 lb. honey jar      \$12 9 6 4 2 NP

Division Champion: Ribbon      \$15

**Division II ARTS AND CRAFTS** **PREMIUMS**

Class 18 Four Molded Beeswax Candles	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Class 19 Four Dipped Beeswax Candles	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Class 20 Four Rolled Candles	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Class 21 Artistic Beeswax	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Class 22 Label for Honey Container	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Class 23 President's Prize	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Class 24 Photography	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Class 25 Equipment or Gadget	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Class 26 Honey Wine - Sweet Mead	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Class 27 Honey Wine - Dry Mead	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Class 28 Honey Wine - Augmented Mead	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Class 29 Personal Gift Arrangement	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Class 30 Mailable Gift Pack	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Division Champion: Ribbon	\$15					

**Division III YOUTH DIVISION age 18 or under** **PREMIUMS**

Class 31 Extracted Honey (As in Div. I)	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Class 32 Bee craft (As in Div. II)	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Class 33 Honey Cookery (As in Div. IV)	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP

**Division IV HONEY COOKERY** **PREMIUMS**

Class 34 Cake	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Class 35 Cookies - 12 drop, refrigerator, rolled, or filled	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Class 36 Cookies - 12 bar or sheet cookies	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Class 37 Pie	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Class 38 Candy - 12 pieces	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Class 39 Yeast Bread - Non Sweet	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Class 40 Yeast Bread - Sweet	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Class 41 Quick Bread - Sweet	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Class 42 Quick Bread - Other	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Class 43 Jellies, Jams, Preserves or Conserves	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Class 44 Condiments, Salad Dressings, Barbecue Sauces	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Class 45 Any other entry, honey cookery	\$12	9	6	4	2	NP
Division Champion: Ribbon	\$15					

Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Premiums to be paid \_\_\_\_\_

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Score Card	Entries Released	Premiums Received
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# Maryland State Beekeeper's Association

## 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Honey and Honey Cookery Show Rules and Premium List

### November 4, 2017

#### General Rules

- 1) Entries will be accepted from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. on the day of the show. Entries must remain in place until released by the show chairman at the end of the show.
- 2) Entries will be accepted from anyone attending the MSBA meeting (MSBA members and non-members). Entries from exhibitors not present at the MSBA meeting (entries brought to the show by someone else) will only be accepted if the exhibitor is a MSBA member. Please see the Treasurer and the President for same-day membership approval at their discretion.
- 3) Only one entry will be allowed in each class from any household, partnership or beekeeping establishment.
- 4) The exhibitor will select the class for his/her entry. (Assistance will be provided in selecting the correct class when making entries). The chairman of the show reserves the right to make a final determination and change, if necessary, entry classes. Classification of sweet and dry mead may be changed by judges (correct classification may be determined by chemical tests after the bottles of mead are opened).
- 5) No exhibitor's name or label will be allowed on any entry except in designated classes.
- 6) The decisions of judges are final. Judges may withhold prizes for insufficient merit or award a lower prize at their discretion. Entries that do not comply with the rules or class description may be disqualified.
- 7) The show chairman reserves the right to adjust any class and/or premiums offered. (For example: if sufficient entries are made for one stated color class for extracted honey to create two color classes, then two separate classes would be created with appropriate ribbons and cash awards).
- 8) Competition between local bee clubs is encouraged. An award will be presented to the local bee association whose members earn the highest number of points based on the number of quality products entered in the show. The following point system will be used: 1st prize - 3 points, 2nd prize - 2 points, 3rd prize - 1 point. If clubs are tied, the 1st place winner will be the club with the most 1st place awards in the show. If a tie still exists, the club with the most exhibits in the show will win.

#### Premium list

Individual Classes:	Ribbon and Cash Award
Division Champion:	Ribbon and Cash Award
Best in Show:	John V. Lindner Award
Best Club Showing:	Plaque
Prize Premiums	1 <sup>st</sup> \$12; 2 <sup>nd</sup> \$9; 3 <sup>rd</sup> \$6; 4 <sup>th</sup> \$4; 5 <sup>th</sup> \$2

#### Division I

#### HIVE PRODUCTS

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

#### Extracted Honey - Beekeepers entering for the first time

CLASS 1    Extracted Honey

#### Extracted Honey - Beekeepers with 10 colonies or less

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



Extracted Honey - Beekeepers with 11 colonies or more

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

Open to all

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

**Division Champion: Ribbon                    \$15.00**

**Division I Total:                    \$576.00**

Division II

ARTS AND CRAFTS

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

- CLASS 18 Four Molded Beeswax Candles
- CLASS 19 Four Dipped Beeswax Candles
- CLASS 20 Four Rolled Beeswax Candles
- CLASS 21 Artistic Beeswax - candles, figurines or other forms, at least 1 1/2 lbs.
- CLASS 22 Label for Honey Container
- CLASS 23 President's Prize
- CLASS 24 Photography
- CLASS 25 Equipment or Gadget
- CLASS 26 Honey Wine - Sweet Mead, one bottle
- CLASS 27 Honey Wine - Dry Mead, one bottle
- CLASS 28 Honey Wine - Augmented Mead, one bottle

- CLASS 29 Personal Gift Arrangement of honey bee products
- CLASS 30 Mailable Gift Pack of Honey Bee Products

**Division II Champion: Ribbon      15.00**

**Division II Total:      \$444.00**

Division III YOUTH DIVISION

Exhibitors age 18 or under

- CLASS 31 Extracted Honey (As in Div. I)
- CLASS 32 Bee Crafts (As in Div. II)
- CLASS 33 Honey Cookery (As in Div. IV)

**Division III Total:      \$99.00**

Division IV HONEY COOKERY

- 20) Entries in all classes must use honey for 50% or more of the sweetening with the following exceptions: frostings, fillings, glazes, dusts and meringue may contain up to 100% sugar. Honey used in entries does NOT need to have been produced by the exhibitor. Non-beekeepers are encouraged to enter honey cookery.
- 21) Mixes and packaged prepared foods are not permitted.
- 22) Each honey cookery entry must be accompanied by TWO copies of the recipe for the entry. The ingredients in the entry must match the recipe. Recipes must not contain the exhibitor's name or other personal identification. Please identify the origin of the recipe (e.g. "personal", "National Honey Board"). Plates and protective covers must be supplied by the exhibitor.
- CLASS 34 Cake - One unsliced cake that may be unfrosted, frosted, filled, glazed or dusted.
- CLASS 35 Cookies - 12 drop, refrigerator, rolled or filled cookies that may be unfrosted, frosted, glazed or dusted.
- CLASS 36 Cookies - 12 bar or sheet cookies (brownies, date bars, baked granola, etc.). May be unfrosted, frosted, glazed or dusted.
- CLASS 37 Pie - One unsliced pie.
- CLASS 38 Candy - 12 pieces. May be cooked, uncooked, or may be candied peels and candied fruits.
- CLASS 39 Yeast Bread (Non Sweet) - One unsliced loaf or 9 rolls.
- CLASS 40 Yeast Bread (Sweet) - One unsliced loaf, coffee cake, tea ring, or 6 Danish or sweet rolls.
- CLASS 41 Quick Bread (Sweet) - One unsliced loaf. Examples are: banana bread, nut bread, etc.
- CLASS 42 Quick Bread (Other) - One unsliced coffee cake, tea ring, 6 doughnuts or 6 muffins.
- CLASS 43 Jellies, Jams, Preserves or Conserves - One half-pint or one pint in glass jar, sealed with lid or paraffin.
- CLASS 44 Condiments, Salad Dressings, Barbecue Sauces - One half-pint or one pint in glass jar. Examples are: catsup, pickles or relishes.
- CLASS 45 Any other entry - honey cookery

**Division Champion: Ribbon      \$15.00**

**Division IV Total:      \$411.00**

**Honey Show Grand Total:      \$1,530.00**

## 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		
Gr. Lifetime Membership	\$200		
<b>Deductions:</b>			
To MDA's Apiary Inspection Fund**			
To MSBA, general donation			
To MSBA, for George Innie Education Fund			
To MSBA, donation for Vehicle Plates (Plus MVA Fee )	\$15		
			<b>Grand Total:</b>

\*\* 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.?

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

Please make check payable to 'MSBA'

Or pay online at [www.mdbeekers.org/membership.html](http://www.mdbeekers.org/membership.html)

Mail check and form to:

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1606 Dogwood Lane,  
Bel Air MD 21015

Phone: (410) 638-0105  
email: [RLCROUSE@QIS.NET](mailto:RLCROUSE@QIS.NET)

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

Check our web site, [www.mdbeekers.org](http://www.mdbeekers.org), for any changes, updates and program details.