



The Beeline

Founded 1908 • Volume XXXIII, No. 153 • February 2018

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beeline@mdbeekeepers.org
with your address!*



President's Message

by Jim Fraser

Well, here we are in 2018, the beginning of a new bee year. I am looking forward to learning some new ways to keep a higher percentage of my own bees alive. Will it be better queens (“Mite Maulers,” “Ankle Biters,” or “Saskatraz”); better mite control methods (chemical, IPM, or natural); or will the mites just go away? Since the last option is very unlikely, I hope that our speakers at the February meeting of MSBA will have some good news.

To introduce myself: I'm Jim Fraser and your new MSBA President. The first time I saw the inside of a hive, I was about five years old and at my father's side. I thought they were pretty-cool, but I knew they could sting and I wasn't really that interested. After a few years I started to wonder how something with that many individual parts could possibly work together and produce such a wonderful product. Skip ahead a few years, and now I sell beekeeping equipment and bees, and am a Master Beekeeper. I couldn't have made it this far without the people who have educated me in beekeeping. Most important was my dad, who shared his knowledge and enthusiasm for bees with me for many years. There are too many others to list here who have shared their time and knowledge with me over the years.

I must mention, as a group, the EAS Master Beekeepers and how they impressed me with their knowledge and commitment to educating people about honey bees. It was a challenge to prepare myself for the exams to become a Master Beekeeper, and what I learned was how little I knew/know about beekeeping. There is no end to the learning involved with the keeping of honey bees. Many of the lessons learned so far don't apply as the environment we live in changes. Changing weather patterns, world traveling pests and diseases offer more challenges we have to meet.

The purpose of the MSBA since 1908 is “the advancement of beekeeping and the improvement of beekeeping skills in Maryland.” My hope is that as a group we can continue to do the same. The only way to accomplish this is through education. Every time I attend a monthly bee club meeting, a beginning beekeeping class, a conference or a bull session with some other beekeepers, I learn something new or see something from another perspective. Our most important goal should be to help our fellow beekeepers learn to manage and maintain their bees so they survive for more than one season, and we can only do that through education. Reaching out to and helping our local clubs, promoting advanced beekeeping skills at our state meetings, and increasing public awareness about honey bees and beekeeping will help us all.

Along with the other officers, board members and the MSBA membership, I look forward to continuing the work of the association in 2018. We are modernizing some of the ways we operate, including member registration, dues collection, website updates, etc. All of these will make the jobs of our Secretary, Treasurer, and webmaster less time consuming. Please be patient as we work through the process.

News from the Apiary Inspectors

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

End-January 2018 Statistics: 1,177 beekeepers have registered so far, of those 340 registered by returning the form digitally. MDA sent out 3200 registration packages, so less than half have returned their registration forms. MDA will send out a second mailing by the middle of February.

With the really cold weather we have had, we are receiving a large number of reports of bees starving with honey on. Temperatures can be too cold for the bees to move to the food stores. They might also be too weak or have a cluster too small to survive sustained low temperatures. I fear that there will be a very high winter loss rate this year.

Please remember that if you are purchasing nucleus colonies from out of state you will need to have them inspected prior to them entering the State of Maryland.

Also for nuc suppliers please contact your county apiary inspector prior to making the nucs or splits, so the parent colonies can be inspected. If not they must at least be inspected before sale to out of state beekeepers.

Top Bar Hive Class with Dr. Wyatt Mangum, March 10th in DC

There will be a one-day intensive *Top Bar Hive Beekeeping Class* taught by Dr. Wyatt Mangum on Saturday, March 10, 8:30 AM-3:00 PM at the National Geographic Headquarters in DC. The fee is \$50, not including textbook or lunch. Light refreshments will be available. The National Geographic Society is hosting this event sponsored by MSBA, the DC Beekeepers, and the Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association.

Dr. Mangum is an international authority with over 40 years of experience, and is a columnist for *The American Bee Journal*. He is the author of *Top Bar Hive Beekeeping: Wisdom & Pleasure Combined*, and runs 200+ TBHs!

The class is for beekeepers who have studied basic bee biology (like a shortcourse) and/or with a year or more of beekeeping experience. This full day will not cover introductory beekeeping information.

Please register for the class at www.dcbeekeepers.org. The text can be ordered at www.tbhsbywam.com. Email dcbees@dcbeekeepers.org for questions.



UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

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.

Delaware Beekeepers Association Annual Meeting, March 3, 2018. www.delawarebeekeepers.com

West Virginia State Beekeepers Association Spring Conference, March 23-24, 2018, Tamarack Conference Center, Beckley, WV. Dr. Debbie Delaney, Dr. Parry Kietzman, Dr. James Wilson. \$40 members, \$45 non-members, www.wvbeekeepers.org

Virginia State Beekeepers Association 100th Anniversary Meeting, Jun 15-16, Roanoke College in Roanoke, VA. Tom Seeley, Kirsten Traynor, Dewey Caron, more! www.virginiabeekeepers.org/

Maryland State Beekeepers Association Spring Meeting, June 22 (tent), 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, University of Maryland/College Park.

Maryland State Beekeepers Association Fall Meeting and Honey Show, November 17, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis.

Other Upcoming Events:

11th Treatment-free Beekeeping Conference, Oracle, AZ, March 2-4, 2018. Topics: chemical free, breeding, field management, and apitherapy. \$225. To register, deeralusby1@aol.com, www.treatmentfreebeekeeping.org

World Bee Day, events nationwide, May 20, 2018. UN initiative sponsored by 15 countries including the US, [World Bee Day Info](http://WorldBeeDayInfo).

National Pollinator Week, events nationwide, June 18-24, 2018. Map of events and resources for planning your own at <http://pollinator.org/pollinator-week>.

Heartland Apicultural Society Conference, July 11-13, 2018, Washington University/St. Louis, M. Spivak, D. vanEngelsdorp, J. Berry, K., Delaplane, 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.

American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) Conference, (76th Annual), Myrtle Beach, SC, Jan. 2019, <http://na-beekeepingconference.com/>

Maryland State Beekeepers' Association Winter Meeting
February 17, 2018
Harford Community College, Darlington Hall

8:30 am	Refreshments, Coffee, Donuts, etc.	
9:00 am	Opening and Welcome	Jim Fraser, President
9:15 am	Maryland Apiary Inspector's Report	Cybil Preston, Maryland State Inspector
9:30 am	Special Recognition	Allen Hayes, EAS Master Beekeeper
9:45 am	What's killing bees in Maryland?	Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp, UMD/ BeeInformed
10:30 am	Pollinator Nutritional Ecology	Dr. Christina Grozinger, Pennsylvania State University
11:15 am	APHIS Survey 2018: Seeking MSBA Participants	Rachel Fahey, Researcher BeeInformed Partnership
11:30 am	Lunch (on your own, or Subway order)	
1:00 pm	Tools for Adapting Beekeeping to Diverse Landscapes	
1:45 pm	Management practices that help keep colonies alive	Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp, UMD/ BeeInformed
2:30 pm	"The Good of the Hive," raising awareness and Celebrating Bees Nationwide	Dr. Christina Grozinger, Pennsylvania State University
3:00 pm	Ask Expert Beekeepers Your Anonymous Questions	Panel Discussion
4:00 pm	Adjourn	Jim Fraser, President

PLEASE NOTE NEW MEETING LOCATION

Darlington Hall, Harford Community College
401 Thomas Run Road, Bel Air, MD 21015



HARFORD
Community College

Our meeting is in **Darlington Hall**, on the corner of Thomas Run Road and Alumni Lane, Across Alumni Lane from Parking C. A campus map is included on the meetings page of www.mdbeekeepers.org, in the e-edition of this newsletter, and can be downloaded from www.harford.edu.

From the South (Baltimore/Washington): Take Interstate 95-North to Exit 80 Churchville (Rte 543). Travel North toward Churchville for approximately 6 miles to the traffic light at the intersection of Rte 543 and Rte 22. Turn right on Rte 22 to the light at Thomas Run Road. Turn left on Thomas Run Road. Campus is on the right.

From the North (Elkton/Wilmington/New York): Take Interstate 95 South to Exit 85 Aberdeen (Hwy 22 West). Travel Rte 22 West to the light at Thomas Run Road. Turn right onto Thomas Run Road. Campus is on the right.

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.

MSBA WINTER MEETING WEATHER POLICY

In the event of a major winter storm, please listen to WBAL (AM 1090) or WHFC (FM 91.1) for announcements or visit www.harford.edu. If a closing is announced for Harford County Community College, the meeting is cancelled.

Winter 2018 Meeting Features Dr. Christina Grozinger and Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp

MSBA is honored to present two renowned figures in apicultural research: Dr. Christina Grozinger and Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp!

Dr. Christina Grozinger visits us from Penn State University and the Grozinger Lab. Her research focuses

on the genomic mechanisms that regulate social behavior and health in social insects, including honey bees, bumble bees, fire ants, and wasps. Her work is highly interdisciplinary, spanning behavioral ecology, chemical ecology, physiology, neurobiology, and genomics. Grozinger received her bachelor's degree in chemistry and biology at McGill University in 1997.



She received a National Science Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship for her graduate work in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Harvard, where she received her master's and doctoral degrees in 1999 and 2001, respectively. Grozinger was awarded a Beckman Institute Fellowship for her post-doctoral studies with Gene Robinson at the University of Illinois. In 2008, she joined the Department of Entomology at Penn State and was named the Director for the Center for Pollinator Research in 2009.

Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp is a major resource for Maryland and worldwide beekeeping, based at the University of Maryland and BeeInformed Partnership

Dennis received his MS in apiculture at Guelph and has since worked for the Canadian Government as a

consultant to the Antigua Beekeepers Cooperative. He returned north to work at Cornell University as an extensionist then moved to the University of Maryland in 2012 and is now an Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland after working as the Acting State Apiarist for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, through a contract with Penn State University, where he also earned his PhD. He has served as the President of the Apiary Inspectors of America, and is a founding member of the Colony Collapse Working Group.

Rachel Fahey is a research assistant at UMD, analyzing samples from the BeeInformed Partnership and the APHIS National Honey Bee Survey. She specializes in Nosema spore counts, but also enjoys field work in the USDA BRL bee yards. She received her bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from Wesley College and wants to continue her education in Entomology and beekeeping. Before coming to BIP, she worked on a variety of projects at UMD including scouting corn fields for brown marmorated stink bug, testing the effectiveness of SHB traps and assisting with horticulture research at the UMD Wye Research Center.



The Good of the Hive is an artistic initiative founded by **Matthew Willey** to hand-paint 50,000 honeybees in murals around the world. The Good of the Hive raises awareness about the importance of honeybees and other pollinators while celebrating the beauty and power of human connection. Throughout his 25-year painting career, Matthew has brought original, one-of-a-kind beauty to walls of homes and businesses throughout the US. He has just finished murals in Nebraska and DC.



Russian Honeybee Breeders Association (RHBA) Offers All-Day Program at EAS 2018

One of several exciting short course tracks

Members of the Russian Honeybee Breeders Association (RHBA) will present a series of presentations and workshops at this year's Eastern Apiculture Society (EAS) annual summer conference in Virginia.

EAS 2018 is taking place August 13-17, 2018 at the Hampton Convention Center in Hampton, VA. This is a rare opportunity to hear leaders in this and other exciting areas of honeybee research and practice within driving distance of your bee yard!

RHBA has, since its incorporation on November 1, 2007, worked to improve Varroa mite tolerance of the Russian honeybee, while maintaining our breeding stock through propagation and selective breeding. RHBA participants have been successful in achieving their mission goals and continue to use a queen breeding model first set up by the Baton Rouge ARS-USDA Bee Lab.

Their breeding program is working, and continues to see improvement as members refine the RHBA queen breeding procedures. *They have learned a great deal in ten years and will be sharing many of these techniques and observations with EAS members.*

RHBA members will provide specific information regarding the history, breeding program, and management of the Russian honeybee. We will also be presenting general information to help participants rear queens. Although our focus will be on smaller apiaries, RHBA members represent operations of several hundred to more than *ten thousand* colonies. RHBA members also represent diverse demographics including states with long winters and extremely hot summers. In other words, they represent a wide variety of management, environ-

mental, and beekeeping scenarios. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions regarding Russian bees and queen rearing from beekeepers with years of practical experience.

Topics include:

- History & Structure of the RHBA Breeding Program
- Selecting for Improvement
- Mating Yards
- The Queen Rearing Process
- Management of Russian Bees
- Comparison of Russian and Italian bees.
- Several members will also be available in the bee yard to talk about and demonstrate grafting, and starter / finisher colonies.

Presenters include:

- Tom Rinderer PhD, USDA ARS
- Lilia De Guzman PhD, Research Entomologist, USDA ARS
- Bob Brachman, Cold Country Queens
- Dan Conlon, Warm Colors Apiary
- Steven Coy, Coy Bee Company
- Harry Fulton, Big Valley Bees
- Chris Hewitt, Richland Bees
- Austin Smith, Smith Honey Farm

Register for the Eastern Apiculture Society Conference 2018 in Hampton, VA at www.easternapiculture.org/conferences/eas-2018.html



Recognition: Karen Rennich & Ben Cooper Receive Free State Citizenship Award, and Mike Embrey Receives George S. Imirie Education Award

Each year the MSBA has the opportunity to present two special awards in beekeeping education and citizenship to noteworthy members of our community. At the November 2017 General Membership Meeting in Annapolis, the MSBA awarded the *George S. Imirie Award for Beekeeper Education* to Mike Embrey. As an instructor with UMD Extension and in classrooms, especially in the Eastern part of Maryland. Mike has been a sought-after instructor to hundreds of new and experienced beekeepers over decades. Mike is also a member of the Maryland Honeybee Working Group. He does outreach around Maryland and elsewhere, including to MSBA! The Imirie Award has been presented since 2003 to en-

courage continuing education for active beekeepers, the general public, and for young people.

The Free State Beekeeper Citizenship Award was given to Karen Rennich and Ben Cooper. This award recognizes beekeepers who boost and protect the role of beekeeping in our communities. Ben led the successful effort to pass legislation that allows beekeepers to shoot bears that attack beehives, the same protections from bear damage as other livestock. Karen Rennich has been instrumental in helping MSBA connect and collaborate with the BeeInformed Partnership and UMD, from speakers to surveys to meeting space. Maryland's bees are fortunate to have such wonderful beekeepers and allies!

A Top Bee Harming Pesticide Could Be Stopped by Maryland General Assembly

By Bonnie Raindrop, CMBA

Chlorpyrifos is identified among the top 5 pesticides of highest risk to bees and found to be third most prevalent pesticide detected in the hive. In the 2018 Maryland General Assembly session, Delegate Dana Stein, vice chair of Maryland's environment committee, has introduced HB 116—Pesticides-Use of Chlorpyrifos-Prohibition, which will ban all uses of chlorpyrifos in the state; a companion bill, SB 500, was introduced by Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam. This legislator-led effort comes after two decades of scientific risk analysis by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), who recommended in 2015 to ban all uses of chlorpyrifos in the U.S. (following Europe's decision). EPA Secretary Pruitt overrode the recommendations of EPA scientists and announced a reversal of this decision after taking office.

Chlorpyrifos (chor-pyr-i-fos) is a toxic nerve agent in the organophosphate class. The insecticide may be sprayed on some Maryland crops—corn, soy, brassicas (broccoli, cabbages family)—and used on golf courses. There are scores of less harmful alternative products available for these uses.

Maryland's bill comes in response to the weight of scientific evidence showing chlorpyrifos exposure to unborn and young children results in serious brain damage: reduced IQ, loss of working memory, autism spectrum disorders, etc., as well as other negative health impacts to humans and wildlife, including bees. The EPA review concluded there are no safe levels for chlorpyrifos, which is found in our food, drinking water, and our bodies.

Central Maryland Beekeepers Association (CMBA) and other bee clubs, who are members of the 80-member Smart on Pesticides state coalition, are supporting this legislation.

The Science of Chlorpyrifos and Bees

CMBA chemist beekeeper Dr. Luke Goembel has compiled the scientific research on chlorpyrifos impacts to pollinators. In summary, the EPA considers it “highly toxic to bees.” At hive residue levels, Chlorpyrifos exposure more than doubled larval mortality. Sublethal effects include: reduced queen emergence, with grave consequences for colony survival; colony threatening brain damage to honeybees at the concentrations found in the majority of fields sprayed as directed by the manufacturer; learning and memory impairment including altered behaviors—less walking, more difficulty righting themselves, and unusual abdominal spasms. A three-year study published this year concluded that the prevalence of chlorpyrifos in pollen is “of great concern for the health status of honey bees and other pollinators.”

Especially troubling is the fact that current EPA risk-assessment and regulation of chlorpyrifos does not address sub-lethal effects. In fact, current regulation does not even address lethal effects (the dose that kills bees immediately, LD50). One study found that exposure to chlorpyrifos-treated foliage induces significant mortality for up to 7 days after chlorpyrifos is applied to a crop. Since chlorpyrifos is illegal to apply only if bees were present at the time of application [EPA approved label, 2018], and its immediate killing effect (LD50) lasts for days, chlorpyrifos likely kills bees with great effectiveness with EPA approval. (Contact Dr. Goembel for references)

Beekeeper Support of HB116 Needed

Central Maryland Beekeepers Association (CMBA) will be sending out action alerts and asks other state beekeeping clubs to forward these action alerts to their members, so beekeepers can respond using the provided email links to easily send emails to their legislators.

Every email and call received is counted and citizen support played a crucial role in Maryland successfully passing two first-in-the-nation pollinator protections in 2016 (Pollinator Protection Act) and 2017 (State Pollinator Habitat amendment). We have an unprecedented opportunity to aid honeybees by supporting this legislator-led effort, so please let's all do our parts. For more information, contact legislate@centralmarylandbees.org or call Bonnie Raindrop, CMBA legislative chair at 410-404-3808.

Are you still seeing neonic-containing products in stores? You shouldn't be.

Some beekeepers report seeing neonic-containing products at their neighborhood hardware stores. As of Jan 1, all such products should have been removed. Please check your store and the label of common products (such as Bayer Rose & Flower Care) for neonic chemical names on ingredient lists: acetamiprid, clothianidin, imidacloprid, thiacloprid, thiamethoxam, nitenpyram, and nithiazine. If you see a product containing any of these chemicals, please take a picture with your phone and send in the store name, location and date to Maryland Dept. of Agriculture Pesticide Regulation Program, Dennis Howard, dennis.howard@maryland.gov.

Please cc: a copy to legislate@centralmarylandbees.org so we can monitor and follow-up.



Report: 102nd Annual Maryland Farm Bureau Convention

Why you should get to know your local Farm Bureau

By Marc Hoffman

I represented the Maryland State Beekeepers Association at the 102nd annual convention of the Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB). MSBA was one of MFB's founding organizations in 1915. I urge anyone in the MSBA to at least look over this report to understand our relationship with the MFB!

There are 12,500 farms in Maryland and agriculture is an \$8.25 billion industry. It benefits MSBA to ally ourselves with MFB, to be considered part of the agriculture community, so that when we need assistance we can avail ourselves of their considerable expertise and influence.

MSBA relationship to the MFB

Individuals and organizations can join MFB. MSBA is one of about 25 affiliate organizational members. We are entitled to attend and speak, though we cannot vote, at MFB board meetings, which are held in Davidsonville, Md. We are also entitled to two voting delegates to the annual convention, which is always held at the same hotel in Ocean City in early December.

MFB is organized through semi-autonomous county farm bureaus (e.g. the Howard County Farm Bureau) in each of the 27 counties of Maryland. MFB is, in turn, an active member of the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) with member farm bureaus from each state.

MFB actively lobbies the Maryland General Assembly. The county farm bureaus are active in influencing county governments. AFBF is active in lobbying the Federal Government. MFB also has a PAC (political action committee) that collects donations and supports candidates for state offices.

MSBA benefits from our membership because we can call on the considerable expertise of the MFB staff at any time, and local Maryland bee clubs can work with the county farm bureaus on local matters. When we have had an interest in legislation, their expertise and clout has made a tremendous difference. Our membership positions us as part of the larger agriculture community rather than a small, isolated interest group. Our participation in activities such as the annual Annapolis and US Congress constituent visits and the annual convention helps keep us informed, identifies us as active members of the agricultural community, educates us about lobbying, and forms bonds of friendship with the most active supporters of agriculture in the state.

This year's meeting

The 2017 meeting involved fewer strident issues than previous years. From both the state and federal government there is less regulatory pressure.

Among others, US Senator Van Hollen and Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Bartenfelder spoke.

Policy Process

The most important activity is the approval of next year's policy statement, which has been important to MSBA in the past. This is a collection, of positions on various issues taken by MFB. The entire document is available on the MFB web page and everyone should give it a glance. It constitutes the marching orders for the MFB staff and officers. In the past MSBA has gotten policy goals into the MFB policy, and this has authorized the well-respected full time staff of MFB to support them. On the other hand, certain MSBA wishes that counter MFB policy haven't had a chance.

Here's how something gets to be policy: The county farm bureaus vote on issues to submit to the MFB headquarters to be considered as part of the state policy. They go through an approval and rewrite process and are submitted to the general body of delegates—about 250 people, including us—at the convention. Approval can be *pro forma* or the subject of lively debate, and is done with strict parliamentary procedure. This year the policy proposals were mostly adopted quickly. MSBA had a couple of old policies removed that were no longer necessary. The new policy document contains many important provisions, but nothing that specifically impacts beekeeping.

I want to mention particularly the camaraderie shown during the convention. There are many old-style formalities—e.g. pledge of allegiance, a prayer—and the use of mostly accurate parliamentary procedure. But there is also a lot of humor and even many humorous put-downs, which liven up the meeting. I have been to conventions under three MFB presidents and each has put a personal stamp on the proceedings. As an example, on Monday President Chuck Fry gave one of the stage poinsettias to Senator Van Hollen as a gift, apparently without planning. The executive director handed him a note that apparently said, "You're fired!" Seeing the Senator carry the huge plant off the stage was pretty funny.

I have no current recommendations other than our continued participation in MFB and the annual convention, and that each Maryland county beekeeping club identify members already associated with their local Farm Bureau or make those connections for the future!

Connect with Your Local Farm Bureau!

There are links to your county Farm Bureau at www.mdfarmbureau.com/county-websites/ contacts at www.mdfarmbureau.com/county-presidents/.

MSBA Web Site and Online Membership Update

Just before last year's Fall Meeting, members Phil Frank and Martin Posse volunteered to bring the MSBA web site at www.mdbeekeepers.org to a new level of service, relevance, and efficiency. This work has included a learning curve for both our officers and our members, but offers a chance for us to do more with less effort than ever in the past, relieving some burdens but also opening up new promise for the future.

Hundreds of beekeepers have joined MSBA using our new online registration! Thank you! This saves MSBA money, and saves us many, many volunteer hours, especially for the Treasurer. More BEEkeeping, less BOOK-keeping!

38-plus Members are using the revamped website to LIST their LOCAL HONEY FOR SALE!

In the spirit of community, 100-plus Members opted to appear in our Members-Only online directory. Now we can find each other, sort for nearby members, and find new friends. You might be surprised at how many beekeepers are within foraging distance.

Attention LIFETIME MEMBERS! Did you know that you already have an online account at www.mdbeekeepers.org? All you have to do is create a password, and you'll be able to access our members only online directory, list your honey for sale, list QUEENS for SALE, and lots more. For directions to help you set up your password, click on the 'Help!' tab of our website

NEED HELP with the WEBSITE? First check out our 'HELP!' tab at the top of our webpages. Still need help? You can email Phil Frank at Volunteer@MDbeekeepers.org.

Join MSBA or Renew Online!

By clicking Join/Renew at www.mdbeekeepers.org, you get information on benefits and instructions on how to sign up for or renew your membership.



MSBA Seeks Treasurer and Meeting Hospitality Volunteer

Before our Spring Meeting this June, the MSBA would like to recruit two important volunteers: a successor to our long term, irreplaceable Treasurer, Bob Crouse, and a volunteer to set up, staff, and pack up the refreshments that make our three annual meetings go smoothly and productively.

Please contact MSBA President Jim Fraser, msba@mdbeekeepers.org, if you are interested or have questions regarding these volunteer positions.

Bob has spent the past several years doing heavy lifting that has made the job of the Treasurer up to date, clear, and complete. He has completed all required audits, and has placed MSBA's healthy treasury in easily accessible, interest bearing accounts. He is available to discuss and help transition the new Treasurer, and can explain the commitment required. Bob has gone to great lengths in recent years to take good care of the MSBA, and this is reflected in the good state in which we are able to pass along these responsibilities. The Treasurer must be an up-to-date member of the MSBA, and has a voting posi-

tion on the Board of Directors, which meets three times a year, a month in advance of the General Membership Meetings.

The Coffee and Refreshment service at MSBA meetings is more than a convenience: it is a vital asset that promotes attendance, attention, and connections made at the main member offering of the association: the thrice yearly talks by scientists, experts, and beekeeping leaders that allow this Association to meet the goals of its educational mission.

MSBA asks this volunteer to purchase, set up, break down, and store equipment used for the refreshment service. MSBA reimburses all costs, and provides all the gear. It is possible to discuss how to structure this process with potential volunteers.

While a driver's license is useful for this role, the meeting hospitality volunteer role is appropriate to meet young peoples' Community Service requirements, and MSBA is able to provide documentation of hours spent both at the meetings and in preparation/clean up.

“The Good of the Hive” and the Good of Us All

Artist Matthew Willey’s Project Links Art, Community, Bees

Beekeepers know how honey bees can change our lives, but there’s an artist who is trying to make that happen to thousands who will never manage a hive.

On November 2, Second Lady Karen Pence attended the ribbon cutting for a new mural at Janney Elementary School in Washington, DC, revealing honey bees 2910 through 2956 of 50,000 that will eventually grace public spaces across the country. Janney second grader had written artist Matthew Willey, asking him to paint the mural as part of his The Good of the Hive Project. Classroom pollinator education, a child’s wish, an artist’s inspiration, and support from the community linked a neighborhood to the world around something all could care for: the beauty and importance of bees.

In 2008, a honey bee landed on Matthew Willey’s studio floor, so he stopped what he was working on and looked closer at a honey bee than he ever had before. Not much later, the bee died, so Matthew started Googling. At the time, colony collapse disorder was in the news. As he researched further, he came across the bee behavior of “altruistic suicide,” when a sick bee exits the colony for the good of the hive. That’s how he named the project he undertook seven years later: The Good of the Hive. Since a honey bee’s immune system is collective, not based on the individual bee, it occurred to him that this was true for humans, too. All of the work is linked to that idea. In 2015, a friend sent Willey a video message showing a large blank wall on a family-owned honey company in LaBelle, Florida. His friend suggested he ask whether they wanted a mural of honey bees. Even as a full time mural painter, and with a growing fascination with honey bees, Matthew had not painted a mural about bees. When he reached out to the company, they said that they would *love* a mural but they were illegal in the town AND there was no money to pay for it. Matthew told them that if they got the law changed, he would come and do the mural anyway.

Two months later, to his surprise, the law was changed, and so he raised \$500 from friends and went to do the mural. When he arrived, a family put him up in their RV for free for 10 weeks. The coffee shop gave him free coffee and breakfast every day. Restaurants gave him free food and people started donating small amounts of money. Other honey companies donated. In the end, the mural was funded and he realized that there was more going on than simply raising awareness about the importance of bees. This mural had illuminated issues surrounding bees, but also shined light on the beauty of

the human spirit.

A conversation on site led to the idea of continuing the mission. Someone asked, “How many bees were in a healthy honey bee colony? 30,000-60,000?” The person followed up, “Do you think you could paint 50,000 bees?” Matthew replied, “I don’t know. Let’s see!” And The Good of the Hive Initiative began.

It took nearly 8 months to find another site. He ran an online campaign that failed, and struggled with whether it was going to be financially possible to shift the focus of his work. Phyllis Stiles of Bee City USA connected him with their members: a turning point. He was overwhelmed with inquiries, but two North Carolina cities sent more emails than anywhere else, and were close enough to his home in Asheville to hop in the car and meet them. After the Carrboro town council meeting where he shared his story, they immediately (and unanimously) agreed to host and fund a mural!

The Good of the Hive with Burt’s Bees, also in NC. Willey’s growing number of murals currently includes the Burt’s Bees HQ in Durham, the Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, the Janney School in DC, the Bee Barn in Lyons, NE, and the Broadway revival of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Visit thegoodofthehive.com to see more of Matt’s incredible work, or to donate to the project. You can contact Matt directly at matt@thegoodofthehive.com.



Mural at Janney Elementary in DC: completed November 2017

Inset: Elementary school student participates in the mural project, which includes Monarch butterflies, a hummingbird, and a bumblebee.

All Photos Courtesy of The Good of the Hive ©2018

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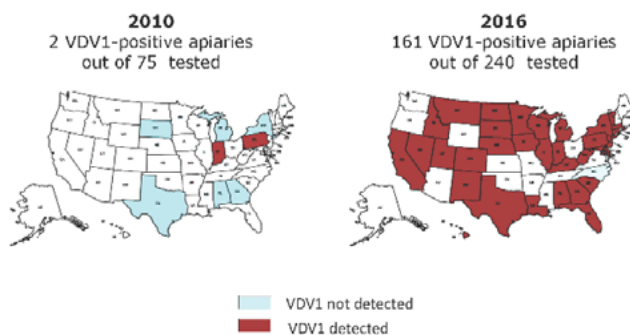
Beekeeping News Notes: Winter 2018

Lithium chloride and Varroa: How much hope?

The battle against *Varroa* has taken so long, and killed so many bees, with occasional glimpses of promise and dashed hopes along the way. But a recent paper may give some reason for optimism again. [Scientists primarily based out of the University of Hohenheim](#) have stumbled upon a simple solution that could deal a blow to honeybees' greatest threat. They've found that a tiny dose of lithium chloride kills *Varroa* mites without harming bees. There have been no field tests of lithium chloride treatment, nor is it clear how it would be applied. The researchers surmise that it might be appropriate for treatment of packages and both natural and artificial swarms.

A New Varroa-Vectored Virus

Scientists have identified another *Varroa*-vectoring RNA virus, Varroa Destructor Virus-1, or VDV1. And it is spreading *fast*. Due to its long-term leadership of the APHIS Honey Bee Pest Survey, The Bee Informed Partnership has a critically important archive of samples. Dr. Eugene Ryabov at USDA-ARS decided to re-process those archived samples for VDV1. After doing a sweep of 2016 samples, he found it in >64% of all samples, making it just less prevalent and second only to Deformed Wing Virus. Going back, he found only 2 colonies were positive from 2010 survey samples. VDV1 is a species of RNA viruses under the genus iflavivirus, which includes iSacbrood virus, Slow Bee Paralysis virus and its closest relative, Deformed Wing virus. The temporal snapshot below shows the spread of this virus in just six years. [\[more\]](#)



Bigger honey bee colonies have quieter combs

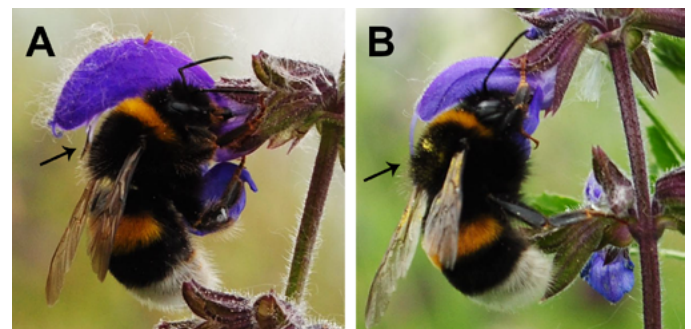
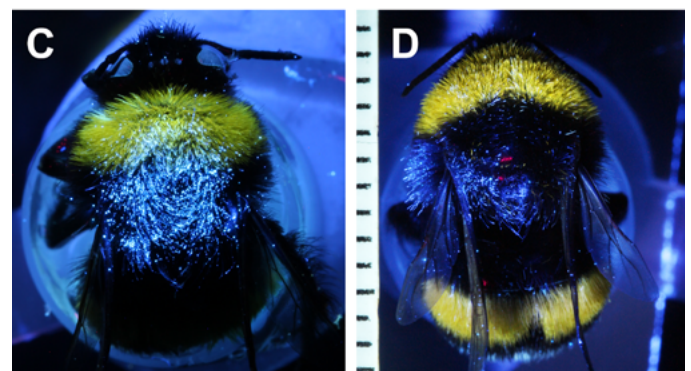
Michael Smith and Po-Cheng Chen of Cornell recently published, "Larger but not louder: bigger honey bee colonies have quieter combs" in the journal *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology*. We know that honey bees modify combs to improve transmission of vibrations for communication, but the researchers asked, "How do large colonies compensate for the noise made by all those bees?" They built a special accelerometer chip to learn.

It appears that, as the number of bees on a comb increases, individuals may change their posture to link their legs with up to six surrounding cells, which damps vibrations. The researchers demonstrated that the increased mass of the bees was not responsible for the reduced vibration by inserting dead bees into cells. The authors write, "These results demonstrate how living systems, including superorganisms, can overcome physical obstacles with curiously simple and elegant solutions."

Bee Pollinated: Bees' ungroomed body parts are safe sites for pollen

It's kind of an oxymoron: we value bees as pollinators, but pollen they collect and bring home is lost to the flower. Or is it? Studies suggested that ungroomed areas on bee bodies may act as "safe sites" for pollen transfer to take place. [Petra Wester at Heinrich-Heine-University](#) decided to test this hypothesis. Her team developed two experiments: one assessed bee grooming patterns, and the other assessed whether plants contact the safe sites on bees. The researchers found that *B. terrestris* and *A. mellifera* had similar safe sites after grooming. In both bee species, the waist had the most pollen, followed by the dorsal parts of the thorax and abdomen. In addition, the fluorescent dye experiment the researchers conducted showed that the flowers contacted these sites.

The spots the bee legs miss...



...are the sites which the flowers touch.

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**



Centrally located along the East Coast, 40% of the US population is within one day's drive (10 hours) of Hampton, Virginia.

Fun and easy day trips to Colonial Williamsburg and the Virginia Beach Boardwalk are less than an hour away!



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

http://www.MDA.MARYLAND.GOV
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 PLANT PROTECTION & WEED MANAGEMENT SECTION
 APIARY INSPECTION

50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 Phone 410-841-5920 Washington Metro Area 301-261-8106 FAX 410-841-5835

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF HONEY BEE COLONIES FOR _____

If blank, print Name and Address Below

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

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

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 ID number _____

***** Please check here if you no longer plan to keep honey bees. _____**

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

Mandatory information - Please fill out

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

Yes _____ No

If yes, 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 Spaces. 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 yellowjacket and hornet nests

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