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# MSBA Winter Meeting 2011 Speakers

The Maryland State Beekeepers are pleased to welcome **Dr. Elizabeth Capaldi-Evans** of Bucknell University as our keynote speaker this month. Dr. Evans is Director of the University's highly acclaimed animal behavior program. An expert in invertebrate behavior, she has shown through her research that even though bees' brains are tiny, they can learn by doing, and can process and store complex information. Dr. Evans has also undertaken research on native pollinators, and is one of the few scientific researchers who are equally adept in explaining her area of expertise to practitioners and the general public. In 2010, Rutgers University Press published her book, *Why Do Bees Buzz? Fascinating Answers to Questions About Bees*. As we find ourselves more and more likely to reach out to our neighbors to protect our right to keep bees, Dr. Evans can offer us some strategies for making honeybees better understood and less feared.



**Dr. Humberto Boncristiani** is a visiting Research Molecular Biologist at the Beltsville Bee Lab, USDA/ARS, and he will share with us news from the world of collaborative international honeybee research, including a look at the brand new Brazilian Bee Lab, "Collaboration Center for Agriculture Defense." Dr. Boncristiani's research at Beltsville has included in depth analysis of honeybee pathogens such as *Varroa destructor*, Israeli acute paralysis virus, Deformed Wing Virus and their potential relationship to Colony Collapse Disorder.

**Dr. Wayne Esaias** of the Howard County Beekeepers will give us an update on the status of ongoing efforts to establish zoning protections for over half of the county's apiaries in the aftermath of another round of hearings.

We once again request that you bring old bee gear to donate for a **lunchtime auction**, which supports our meetings, member communications, and educational activities. Please contact Toni Burnham (see back cover) if you have a large item which you would like to discuss.

The day will end with a **new panel format**: before lunch, we'll request your anonymous questions, which will then be assigned to one of several senior beekeepers, after which the others will comment. This is an opportunity for beginners to be heard along with long timers, and to ensure that a variety of perspectives are shared.

We look forward to seeing you on February 19, 2011 at the Howard County Fairgrounds!

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## MSBA WINTER MEETING WEATHER POLICY

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