



# Susquehanna Beekeepers



<http://susquehannabeekeepers.com>

May-June, 2014, Volume 49

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**President's Ramblings:** Can you identify the plant pictured in the upper left? A number of years back, SBA member, Ted Moran gave me a Black Willow stalk to root. Not only did this shoot develop roots but it has grown to an approximate height of 8 feet with honeybees visiting daily for early April pollen!

Our May and June SBA general meetings will again be at the Bel Air Odd Fellows "Triumph" Lodge. However, if you have connections with organizations with larger facilities, please inquire about usage parameters and let a Board member know. The recent membership expansion is very positive but we may also need to "grow" some additional space for future meetings.

I'd like to think that our sizable attendance is also reflective of the excellent presentations by recent speakers! Many thanks to David Papke, as well as other "Open Forum" panelists, Roger Williams, Ed Yoder and Joe Lewis, for sharing their knowledge at the March and April meetings!

Jeff Meanner will be presenting a simple step-by-step outline beekeeping hobbyists can use to induce honeybees into rearing new queens within a controlled setting. Since this technique requires no egg-grafting, it is my hope that many of our club members will experiment with this process and grow some new queens to make nucs. *See you on May 14!* - Dennis

## Susquehanna Beekeepers Association



C/O Md Co-op Extension Office  
PO BOX 663, Forest Hill, MD 21050

- [Dennis Hertzog](#) - President
- \*\*[newsletter/website inclusions](#)
- [Harry Dutcher](#) - Vice President
- [Claudia Hertzog](#) - Secretary
- [John Kovac](#) - Treasurer
- [Pam Kryglik](#) - Officer Intern

### **May General Meeting:**

**Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at 7:00 pm**  
**at the Bel Air Odd Fellows Lodge**

**[21 East Pennsylvania Ave, Bel Air, MD 21014](#)**

**Speaker: Jeff Maenner - Raising Our Own Queens Without Grafting, a Practical Outline**



**NOTES From The Apiary**  
**April-May 2014**  
**by Robert Crouse**

**April:** I had a pleasant surprise a few weeks back as the CC Pollen Co. sent me a \$74.80 check for the 3.4 lbs. of propolis I sent them last summer. Propolis now sells for \$22 a pound!!

A reminder to folks who stored drawn comb over the winter: Frames that were stored over moth crystals should be aired out for 2 or 3 weeks before putting them back on a beehive. The odor of the crystals probably won't harm your bees but the bees will certainly be slow about getting to work in those frames.

If anyone is planning to do chunk or round section comb honey this year, I'll be glad to share some inside suggestions on what works. Believe me, not everything is always explained in the bee books.

In April, brood-rearing is underway, honey stores are being rapidly used, dandelion nectar is about to appear, pollen is available, winter bees are dying, and young bees are becoming numerous. Yet in spite of all this activity, the queen may run out of egg-laying space if you have not reversed boxes. The bees may *refuse* to work downward during chilly months which is a setup for early swarming.

How often or when do you reverse? Reversing is dependent on colony strength, location, fecundity of the queen, race of bees, average temperature, and maybe some more variables. When you inspect your bees and you find the upper brood box well filled with brood, bees, queen, and food, and the lower brood box mostly empty or only old capped brood, it's time to reverse!

When reversing, BE CAREFUL not to split the brood into two separate sections. Sometimes you may need to reverse more than once as it is possible that this procedure

may be started as early as late January. Another alternative is to place an empty brood box on top of the existing brood boxes for the bees to work upward. But now the bees will have to travel through that empty box on the bottom and at some point, you will have to remove it.

**May:** There is not much new in my bee yard since writing my April "Notes". The brood area is expanding, the bees are consuming the leftover stores, and I have removed the 1:1 syrup feeders.

For you "New-Bees" just starting out, a few thoughts: Feed your new hive as long as the bees will take 1:1 sugar syrup. When the nectar flow begins, the bees will likely stop taking syrup, but start feeding them again when the nectar flow has stopped, usually after the Tulip Popular bloom.

If you are lucky enough for the bees to draw foundation out in both brood boxes plus an additional super (using syrup), that is not a bad thing. But to get "real" honey, set that super out and away from the hive so the bees can rob out any stored syrup from the comb. When another nectar flow starts, return the super to the hive with the queen excluder under it (to keep Her Majesty out). If you need beekeeping equipment, contact Rose Miller/ Mike DeWald at 410-679-9235 or [www.PristineValleyFarms.com](http://www.PristineValleyFarms.com).



**New SBA member, "Bob Barker" is on his way to check the beehives :)**

### SBA-Related Meetings and Events:

- May 14 - General SBA Meeting - *Jeff Meanner*: "Making Our Own Queens w/o Grafting"
- June 11 - General SBA Meeting - SBA Summer Activities: Fairs, Parade, Summer Picnic etc.
- July 7-12 - Mason Dixon Fair
- July 31 through Aug 3 - Harford County Farm Fair
- Aug 13 - SBA Summer Potluck Picnic (details to follow)
- Aug 22 through Sep 1 - Maryland State Fair
- Sep 10 - General SBA Meeting (details to follow)
- Oct 8 - General SBA Meeting (details to follow)
- Nov 12 - General SBA Meeting (details to follow)
- Dec 10 - SBA Holiday Party (details to follow)



### *Claudia's Corner*

*"A poor old Widow in her weeds  
Sowed her garden with wild-flower seeds;  
Not too shallow, and not too deep,  
And down came April -- drip -- drip -- drip.  
Up shone May, like gold, and soon  
Green as an arbour grew leafy June.  
And now all summer she sits and sews  
Where willow herb, comfrey, bugloss blows,  
Tease and pansy, meadowsweet,  
Campion, toadflax, and rough hawksbit;  
Brown bee orchis, and Peals of Bells;  
Clover, burnet, and thyme she smells;  
Like Oberon's meadows her garden is  
Drowsy from dawn to dusk with bees.  
Weeps she never, but sometimes sighs,  
And peeps at her garden with bright brown eyes;  
And all she has is all she needs --  
A poor Old Widow in her weeds."  
- Walter de la Marie, Peacock Pie*



**The SBA's late March  
Swap Meet**



**SBA members helping with  
a late winter hive move.  
Of course It snowed the  
following day!!**

## Caring for Young Bee Bee Trees - Joe Lewis

The Korean Evodia, *evodia danielli*, or any of the sub-species of Bee Bee trees *have the potential to become an abundant pollen and nectar source* here in our Atlantic coastal, broadleaf forest region, blooming in late July when no other major nectar source is available. Raising Bee Bee trees is a great thing to do. *In fact, planting Evodia is the one thing that every beekeeper should do!*

If you got seeds this year from Dennis Hertzog or Dave Papke and wintered them outside, they should be nearly ready to sprout. The little black seeds should germinate after a few days at about 71 degrees Fahrenheit. Be very careful, however, to protect these seeds as birds and squirrels love to dig and once they find yours, the seeds will be gone in short order! Placing a wire mesh or hardware cloth over the seeds until they sprout is a good idea.

When they do sprout, protect shoots from slugs as these gastropods will readily find the delicious new leaves and devour them! I speak from experience!! But you can easily bait slugs with a saucer of beer left out overnight. The slugs will crawl in and drown.



In five or so years, your trees should be ready to bloom for the first time (at about 12 – 15 ft in height). If you want to make sure you have viable seeds to share in the future, make sure you have three or more trees, as they are male or female in nature. I take the following citation from Wikipedia concerning plant reproductive biology: *A "unisexual" flower is one in which either the stamens or the carpels are missing, vestigial or otherwise non-functional. Each flower is either "staminate" (having only functional stamens) and thus "male", or "carpellate" (having only functional carpels) and thus "female". If separate staminate and carpellate flowers are always found on the same plant, the species is called "monoecious". If separate staminate and carpellate flowers are always found on different plants, the species is called "dioecious".* Bee Bee trees (Evodia) are dioecious!

And Bee Bee tree honey is quite delicious --- I will bring some to the next meeting for tasting. Dennis and I still have seeds to share, so it's not too late!

## New SBA Newsletter Editor!!



Hello everyone! I'm Aileen Richards and I'll be taking over the much-coveted position of newsletter editor in the coming months. I'm a chemical engineer with a growing obsession with beekeeping--I read "Beekeeping for Dummies" three times, ended up taking the short course, and now am looking forward to hiding a hive in my backyard this summer (and hopefully many more summers to come). Thanks to everyone in the SBA for my warm welcome so far, and the opportunity to combine my interests in beekeeping and writing!



## How and Why Beekeeping - Rita Kryglik

Every beekeeper has their own story about how and why they started keeping bees. I always find that each story is unique and special for the teller, making me want to find out how each beekeeper I meet got started. With that being said, I would like to share ours.

Growing up I was exposed to all types of wildlife as my father's family had been farmers. As a very young child, I stayed with Dad's great uncle and aunt near Loch Raven Dam. Uncle George would share many facts about nature with me as I was in the "Why" stage of growing up. He was always truthful and as scientific as possible with his answers.



After I had my own child, Pam, I always followed Uncle George's example. When Pam was about 2 ½ we were sitting on the steps of our Baltimore City home when a honeybee visited our flower garden. Pam was in the "Why" stage and naturally wanted to know what was "that", and "why" is it on our flowers. We had a very lengthy discussion (for a two and a half year old) about honeybees. I explained what the bee was doing as we observed the pollen sacks on her legs. In hindsight, I believe that event made an impression on Pam as she is the person responsible for our family becoming involved in beekeeping.



**Pam and Thor**



About 6 or 7 years ago, Pam was visiting friends in Carroll County. As they were on an errand to the local library, Pam noticed a flyer for the Carroll County Beekeepers Association Short Course. The three friends decided to attend and eventually purchased two hives which they maintained in Eldersburg, MD. Our friends decided to move around the same time we had planned to move to Harford County. Thus Paul and I attended the next available Short Course at CCBA. We moved the hives to our new home after Paul prepared a site on our property. Pam tended to the hives and I became more and more involved due to the fascinating lives of these little creatures. We joined the Susquehanna Beekeepers and found camaraderie and a wealth of knowledge shared by all its members. This has become a positive addition to our lives. As my involvement increased to an almost obsession, Paul's interest grew. I can truly state it has now become a family affair/obsession/passion that we all share.

### **“ODDS and ENDS”**

- [Bees vs Beetles: Beekeeper Saving Hives with New Invention](#)
- [USDA to Spend 3 Million to Save Honeybees](#)
- [The Real Burt's Bees Guy](#)
- [University of Florida Honeybee Research and Extension Lab](#)
- **Thank You to those who gave Bob Crouse "Redners Pump Perks" register tapes. Redners sent MSBA a check for \$50.10. Bob will start another collection cycle now so please send him more tapes.**

*Many thanks to all who contribute to our newsletter!!*

### **HIVE EQUIPMENT - Choosing New or Used**

**by Robert Crouse**

This is a topic that comes up with each new class of beginning beekeepers. Can I get a good deal on used equipment? What are the possible disadvantages? Well, the worst disadvantage is that you don't know the history of the bees that have lived in that equipment, sort of similar to purchasing an older home that has had multiple owners. When I buy used equipment, I will contact the local bee inspector to find out if the apiary the equipment is coming from has had any disease problems. If there is a history of foulbrood or virus then you may want to reevaluate the purchase.

Most successful beekeepers will have clean equipment but still things happen. The only hive items that I would even consider purchasing would be the hive boxes and other external equipment. I would stay away from frames with comb, especially if the comb has been used for more than 2 seasons or came from a beekeeper that moved their bees for pollination or into farming areas where pesticide contamination could occur.

When purchasing a nuc, the frames should be newly made with the woodenware and comb still bright. Of course the nuc apiary should have been inspected prior to purchase with the inspection certification available upon request.

Whether getting new or used equipment make sure that all of the parts that came from the same manufacturer are kept together. You will find that even though the size of the equipment seems to be the same, the internal structure may be different. The rabbit cut for the frames may be cut at different depths or the ends of the wood frames will be different thicknesses. If you mix up the equipment, the bee space might be violated and problems will present themselves. I have some equipment that if mixed, the bottom bars of the top box will touch the top bars of the bottom box. The bees will propolize the bars together making it very difficult to pry apart. When these boxes are reversed there will be excess burr comb between the frames of the top and bottom boxes. Also, the inner cover will be stuck to the top bars of the top box making it difficult to open with out disturbing the frames.

Way back when I was a “new bee”, I started with a couple of old hives from a family that was getting rid of the bees as the family beekeeper had passed away. But by the next year, I had to purchase new equipment because all the woodenware had dry rotted and the comb was very old. I did get some good bees and other external equipment but would not recommend doing this again unless I had an experienced beekeeper along for advice.

**Needed: Overhaul of**

**<http://susquehannabeekeepers.com>**

*Yes, the SBA's website remains quite functional and is being kept up to date. But the overall layout has not changed in the past four years and could use a facelift. If you have skills and would like to give the site a fresh look, add an improved perspective, put on your personal stamp, display your talent and make this site sparkle??*

*Well ya'll know what I'm saying...  
Contact Dennis at: [dhzq@verizon.net](mailto:dhzq@verizon.net)*

**NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS**

- **Bob Crouse:**  
*Notes From The Apiary,  
Hive Equipment - Choosing New or Used*
- **Rita Kryglik:**  
*How and Why Beekeeping*
- **Joe Lewis:**  
*BeeBee Tree Seedling Care*
- **Claudia Hertzog:**  
*Claudia's Corner, Colorist*
- **Aileen Richards:**  
*New Newsletter Editor... :-)*
- **Dennis Hertzog:**  
*Old Newsletter Editor... :-)*



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