

Susquehanna Beekeeper's Association

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President's Message

A few final thoughts and ramblings for 2015:

When preparing my first President's Message I reviewed what the purpose of the SBA is. I think it is worth repeating.

"The goal of the SBA is to educate association members and the public about honeybees, beekeeping and related arts, to provide a resource for established beekeepers and to aid new beekeepers in bee management techniques, to inform the public about the value of honeybees, and to promote beekeeping in general!"

There are many, many ways to meet our goals but, it takes the help and support of our club members. Please think about what you have to offer.

Have you checked out our hive scale date on the Bee Informed website? <https://beeinformed.org/hive-scale-program/>

To view our data, click on the map marker that is east of Bel Air. Data for Hive "Susquehanna Beekeepers Asso - Sentinel Apiary Hive #S15-1" will be displayed. The data period can be adjusted by selecting the "Last 3 Months" you can view the significant fall nectar flow we had.

Between 7 August and 22 September this hive gained over 50 lbs. of honey!



Joe Lewis and I have completed the 2015 sampling program for The Sentinel Apiary Project. Be sure to attend the March 2016 meeting with our speaker, Dr. Dennis van Engelsdorp, for project

results.

Several of our meeting speakers have stressed the importance of varroa management for sustainable beekeeping. Honeybee researchers are advising frequent monitoring and taking appropriate action for maintaining healthy hives. Also, our bee hives are not on an island but, are in contact with other bees in your area. Problems in your neighbor's hives become your problem. There are many resources available to educate and inform on testing and treatment options. One such resource is the TOOLS FOR VARROA MANAGEMENT authored by the Honeybee Health Coalition <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/> (link and guide on SBA website).

I announced at the October meeting that the SBA was setting up a lend-

President's Message (continued)



“Consider swarming with other beekeepers to the Eastern Apicultural Society 2016 conference.”

ing library. It will be one more resource available for increasing your knowledge of beekeeping. We plan to have a mixture of both old and new titles. I hope everyone takes advantage of what the library has to offer.

I think we have had some excellent speakers this past year at our monthly meetings. They have been both informative and entertaining. There are other opportunities available to learn from national bee researchers and experts. Consider swarming with other beekeepers to EAS (Eastern Apicultural Society) 2016. The week long

annual conference and short course is being held a few hour's drive from Bel Air in July at Stockton University, Galloway, NJ. For information on EAS go to <http://www.easternapiculture.org/>

As a reminder, if you had previously taken the Beekeeping Short Course through Harford Community College and are a current SBA member you can attend session(s) as a refresher without charge. The next 6 week course is scheduled for spring 2016.

See you at the meetings.

-Harry

Redner's "Save a Tape" Program

I have a request to all of you that shop at the Redner's Warehouse Markets. If you use a Pump Perks card at Redner's please send to me all of your register tapes from your shopping. Redner's will rebate 1 % for the taped total to qualified non-profit organizations. I am going to submit the tapes to get a rebate sent in for MSBA, and who knows someday SBA may also qualify. Just give them to me at one of the general meetings or mail them to me.

Thanks,
Robert Crouse
1606 Dogwood Lane
Bel Air, MD 21015

Notes from the Apiary

I restarted feeding, now with 2:1 syrup, and expect the bees will fill the cells as soon as the brood emerges. Before I start feeding, I go through the hive to clean out burr comb and excess propolis. However, I have learned to leave some burr comb boxes to help the bees to move up during cold weather. I will put all brood into the bottom boxes with honey stores and empty frames on top. Now when I feed the bees all of the syrup will be above the bees when they move up during the winter.

I like to use hive top feeders at this time of year to prevent robbing and keep the yellow jackets away from the hive entrances. I keep track of the amount of syrup each hive gets as I want about 60 pounds of stores for each hive. After I install hive entrance reducers I will be done for this year.

For some reason I have lost the queens in two of my hives, one a standard size and the other a nuc that had a new Varroa Sensitive Hygienic queen. There were queen cells in each hive on Sept. 22. I rechecked and could not find either eggs or the queens on Oct. 6. I received a problem bee phone

call, also **BY ROBERT CROUSE** on Oct.

6, and found a hive on comb in a holly tree exposed on a limb. I was surprised that those bees had made it through the wet rainy weather that we had over the previous five days. I collected the hive and combined it into my standard size hive with the nuc bees; with plenty of feed they should be good for the winter.



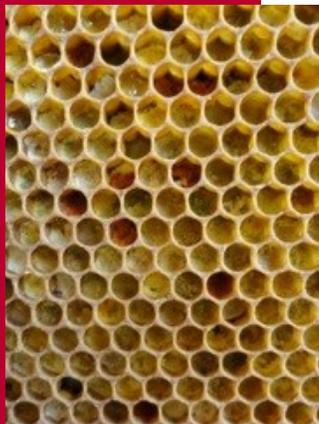
While some may view this month as the end of the beekeeping year, in fact it is the beginning of the 2016 season. If you don't prepare and treat your bees properly now for the winter months, you won't have bees next spring capable of a good harvest.

Don't forget to properly store your empty frames. You don't want to let wax moths ruin the hard work your bees did in drawing that wax.

Reminders, Odds and Ends

- Mark your calendars for the SBA Holiday Party on 9 Dec. The party starts at 630 pm at the Fallston United Methodist Church. The room will be open at 530 pm for set-up and socializing. Please come early if you can. The club will be providing a hot entree and side, salad, breadsticks, drinks, and utensils. Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert. See you at the party!
- Keith Jardine's presentation at the SBA October meeting has been posted to YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1hQ3nE2aZII> Thanks to Todd Cichonowicz.
- SBA Lending Library is here! To reserve a book for pick-up at the meeting email Amelia Viars amelia.viars@gmail.com. If you would like to donate beekeeping books, DVDs, or recent bee journals to the library please bring them to the meeting.

Why I Keep Hive Notes



“You may not plan on selling honey now, but if your hives produce the Maryland average of 45 pounds per year what will you do with all that honey?”

I would like to encourage all beekeepers to keep some kind of record of activities and expenses for their apiary, especially for the 'New Bees'. When I started beekeeping back in 1990, I kept notes in a 5 X 8" note pad. I recorded all hive activity, dates and times that I entered the hive, and what I saw. This, along with my additional reading in bee books, helped me understand the life cycle of the bee. The small size of the pad allowed me to carry the pad with me to the apiary and make notes right away before other distractions intervened.

You will learn that to get the bees to do what you want, you must first create an environment that the bees will respond to in the direction that you want them to go. Keeping notes on what you have done and how the bees reacted is a very good learning tool. I also found it pleasing to go through the note book several years later, remembering the mistakes and the good results of my early beekeeping experiences.

By 1995, I had begun selling surplus honey, as well as purchasing

BY ROBERT CROUSE

extra to sell after my stock was depleted. I purchased Quicken "Home and Business" that year and using that software followed the instructions and filed for a Business tax ID number. Using my old notes I was able to reconstruct almost all of my expenses and I filed my taxes as if I had just started the honey business that year. My business hobby was formed with a seven-year depreciation schedule on equipment. And by showing that my expenses far exceeded my current income, there was no tax liability for that income for several years.

You may not plan on selling honey now, but if your hives produce the Maryland average of 45 pounds of surplus honey per year what will you do with that honey? Keep records and you should be able to show a loss or break even operation for several years. By purchasing a building and extraction equipment—not to mention the sugar

Board Election Results

Congratulations to the new and continuing members of the SBA Board! Harry Dutcher and Rita Kryglik were re-elected as continuing president and secretary, respectively. SBA welcomes Charles Thomas as our new vice-president, and Pat En-

dres as our new treasurer! Thanks so much to Pam Kryglik and John Kovac (retiring vice-president and treasurer, respectively).

Thanks to all of SBA's past, present, and future board members for making our club so successful!

Planting for the Bees

BY JANE KUHL AND DREW DENTON

Now is the time to plan for your 2016 vegetable and flowers gardens. Consider adding flowers and herbs to your gardens and the bees will love it, particularly after the main nectar flow has finished. From late summer up until the recent frost we have observed the most activity at our farm on the following plants: Vitex or Chaste tree (*Vitex agnus castus*), wild and creeping lemon thymes (*Thymus serpyllum*, *Thymus pulegioides*), basil of all sorts (lemon, lime, holy, Italian, Thai), garlic chives (*Alium tuberosum*), “Blue Fortune” *Agastache*, “Longwood Blue” *Caryopteris*, and “Black and Blue” salvia (*Salvia guarantica*) which, as a bonus, is a hummingbird favorite.

Fall is also the time to plant and/or cold-stratify some other bee-important plants. We currently have bee-bee (*Korean Evodia*) tree seeds and common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) seeds that have been collected by members and are available to any member free of charge. Both bee-bee tree seeds and common milkweed seeds require cold stratification for proper germination; that is, seeds must have an extended moist cold environment in order to germinate next spring. This can be done by fall planting or by storing the seeds in a moist medium (sand, peat moss, seed starting mixture or moist paper towels) in a plastic bag in your refrigerator over the winter. We will be distributing these free seeds in baggies with accompanying planting instructions at upcoming club meetings. See the volunteer seed coordinators Jane Kuhl, Drew Denton or Suzi Walsh during meeting breaks if you are interested.

If there is a particular plant for which you are interested in obtaining seeds, let us know through email (dentons@verizon.net) or in person at a club

meeting and we will put your name on a wish list. If you have seeds to share, let us know and we can package and distribute to interested club members. In addition to the bee-bee tree and common milkweed seeds we currently have tropical milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*) and borage (*Borago officinalis*), as well as vegetables (Amish squash (*Curcubita moschata*), and loofah (*Luffa aegyptiaca*)) for spring planting.



To-do list for fall and winter:

- Include some nectar and pollen producing flowers and herbs interspersed with your vegetables in your 2016 garden plan
- Pick up some bee-bee tree and milkweed seeds at the club meetings and either plant them this fall or cold-stratify in your refrigerator over the winter
- Choose an area for bee pasture for planting in early spring. Remove sod and existing weeds if possible. Let Jane, Drew or Suzi know the size of the garden or plot (square feet to acreage) you plan to plant and we will obtain wholesale price quotes for the best bee mixture for our area.

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Newsletter