

# BYLAWS OF THE CENTRAL MARYLAND BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Mission Statement – To educate the public about the importance of the honeybee to agriculture and life in general, to promote the benefits of eating locally produced honey, and to provide current information necessary to manage a colony of honeybees on a continuing basis.

## Article I - Name

Section 1. This organization shall be a non-profit, equal opportunity organization, complying with all local, state and federal regulations.

Section 2. The name of the Association shall be the Central Maryland Beekeepers' Association. Incorporated.

## Article II - Objectives

Section 1. The objectives of this organization shall be as follows:

- (a) to promote the values and pleasures of beekeeping among the public;
- (b) to inform the public and those in the Association of matters of importance in beekeeping;
- (c) to encourage scientific and practical beekeeping, and the improvement of bee culture;
- (d) to educate beekeepers and those interested in bee culture by presenting and discussing new ideas: and exchanging information, goods, and services;
- (e) to support research on bee culture:
- (f) to protect bees and sources of nectar and pollen:
- (g) to cooperate with other organizations concerned with bee culture: and (h) to advance. in general. the interests of its members.

## Article III - Officers

Section 1. The elected officers of the Association shall be: President. Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, all of whom shall be General Members of the Association in good standing.

Section 2. The nomination of officers shall be made by the Committee on Nominations and also from the floor at the annual general meeting by the voting membership.

Section 3. The term of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall begin in January following the annual meeting at which they were elected and shall continue for one year or until their successors are elected and take office.

Section 4. President: The duties of the President shall be:

- (a) to preside at all meetings of the Association, and Board of Directors,
- (b) to appoint. with the approval of the Board of Directors, chairpersons, and the members of the standing committees as herein provided and all special committees unless otherwise determined by resolution,
- (c) to serve as a member, ex-officio, of all standing and special committees.
- (d) to prepare. with the advice and assistance of the Board of Directors and the General Membership, programs for regular meetings,
- (e) to present a stewardship report at the annual meeting of the Association,
- (f) to sign proper orders drawn upon the Treasurer for funds in payment of claims as approved by the Board of Directors.
- (g) to address public groups on Association programs and activities,
- (h) to serve as an official representative at local, state and national meetings,
- (i) to prepare the agendas for the Board of Directors and the General Membership,
- (j) to call special meetings of the Board of Directors, and General Membership as needed,
- (k) to perform such other duties as may be directed by the Board of Directors or the General membership.
- (i) and to perform all other necessary duties incident to the office of President.

Section 5. Vice President: In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall fulfill the duties and assume the responsibilities of the President. The Vice President shall assume other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the President or General Membership.

Section 6. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall receive and keep an accurate account of all funds belonging to the Association and pay by check or cash and/or other means all claims and orders approved by the Board of Directors and signed by the President or Secretary. He/she shall serve as custodian of all certificates of ownership of the real property held by the Association and assist the Secretary in all financial duties assigned to said office. He/she shall prepare and present a financial statement at the annual meeting of the Association. The Treasure shall also provide a list of all dues paying to the secretary and submit a copy for publication in the newsletter.

Section 7. Secretary: The duties of the Secretary shall be as follows:

- (a) to assist in the development and implementation of the program of the Association as directed by the General Membership, the Board of Directors, and the committees of the Association,
- (b) to keep a record of all memberships in the Association,
- (c) to keep records of the proceedings of the Association, including the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Directors, and the Annual Meeting,
- (d) to prepare and distribute all reports as directed by the Board of Directors,
- (e) to maintain record of all publications of the Association,
- (f) to distribute to the members the Treasurer's report at least once a year,
- (g) to have maintain records of the real property owned by the Association, and
- (h) to perform such other duties as may be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors.

#### Article IV - Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the four elected officers, the past President (for one year only) and any active chairperson.

Section 2. The duties of the Board of Directors shall include:

- (a) the responsibility for the fiscal affairs of the Association, including the preparation of the annual budget. This proposed budget shall be presented to General Membership at its annual meeting, for review annually.
- (b) the approval of all committee appointments made by the President.
- (c) assisting the President between meetings of the General Membership on all matters of policy,
- (d) all other activities of the Association not specifically assigned in these bylaws to other bodies or persons.
- (d) approve expenditures over \$100 and any commitment of resources lasting more than one year,

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall serve for one year and meet upon call by the President or according to a pattern determined by the Board. An attendance of three (3) or more members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. However, in case of an emergency. in the judgment of the President, a poll made be made by electronic means; any action there from shall be ratified by the Board at its next meeting.

Section 4. Any executive member of the Board of Directors may be removed from office for due cause, upon a vote of three-fourths of all Board members.

#### Article V - Membership

Section 1. A member may be dropped from the roll for failing to pay dues, at the expiration of 60 days after mailing a second notice to pay dues.

Section 2. Any member may be censured, suspended, or expelled through procedures to be established by the Board of Directors subject to approval and/or amendment by the General Membership. These procedures, if adopted, shall be published annually in an official Central Maryland Beekeepers Association publication. These procedures shall provide for the right of a hearing and appropriate appellate procedure.

#### Article VI - Meetings

Section 1. The Association shall hold regular and other meetings at such time and place as may be determined by the Board of Directors or by vote of the General Membership. Notice of each meeting shall be published in an official Central Maryland Beekeepers Association publication prior to such meeting.

#### Article VII - Amendments

Section 1. The Articles of Incorporation and its bylaws may be amended with the consent of two-thirds of the General Membership present at a regular meeting provided a copy of the proposed amendment shall have been submitted to the Board of Directors for consideration at least six weeks prior to the meeting at which such amendment is to be acted upon, and published in the notice to the General Membership at least 30 days before the meeting at which the amendment is to be acted upon.

#### Article VIII - Rules of Order

Section 1. Unless inconsistent with these bylaws and special Rules of Order, Roberts Rules of Order, latest revision, shall prevail at all meetings of the General Membership, Board of Directors, and committees of the Association.

# THE HIVE TOOL

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THE CENTRAL MARYLAND  
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FOUNDED 1973**

## **President's Frame**

Whenever March rolls around, I always think that winter is over. It may not actually be, but in my mind I think of it as in the past. I get excited by the prospects of the coming warm weather. With this extra bit of energy, I start to get motivated to plan out my year in beekeeping. I'll be preparing the equipment that will be needed for the new bees that will be arriving in April. I'm going to have some extra boxes available in case there are any swarms in the area. Last year seemed to be a busy swarm year, so maybe this year will be the same. If you haven't ordered bees yet, it would be a good idea to place that order soon.

The February meeting was well attended. With more than 60 people in attendance it looks like there's going to be a lot of new beekeepers starting this year. It'll be great to hear about all of the new hives that will be growing in our area. We talked about CMBA a bit, so everyone could get an idea of what we have to offer, and what everyone could offer to the group. The Short Course was introduced, so anyone interested in taking the course would have a better idea of what to expect.

The Short Course will be starting March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 in the Oregon Ridge Nature Center auditorium. It will be held on each Thursday through April 2<sup>nd</sup> with a final outdoor class on April 4<sup>th</sup>. This is when a demonstration will be made of how to install a package of bees into a hive.

The March meeting of CMBA will be held on March 3 from 7PM. The speaker that night will be Jody Johnson. She will be speaking on research that she has gathered on chemicals in the hive. Her research was partially funded by CMBA. In addition to the speaker there will be plenty of opportunity for question and answer.

Just one more month of winter weather, and then we'll be in the clear. Enjoy your bees!

## **CMBA Bylaws**

For the past several months the Board of Directors have been reviewing the association's bylaws. An updated copy has been provided with this newsletter for review and comment by the membership.

## **REPORT FROM THE FEBRUARY CMBA MEETING**

There were many items of interest shared at the February 2, Introduction to Beekeeping meeting of CMBA. Did you know that if you move honeybees out of state, inspection of the hives is required? Give Jerry Fischer, State Bee Inspector, (410-562-3464) two weeks notice, and he will arrange for the inspection, and send the paper work to the agricultural department of the new state.

Bob Crouse pointed out that the main reason a cluster of bees will starve even when there is honey in the hive, is that in January-March, the hive must cover the brood to keep it from being chilled, and frames with honey must be touching the cluster of bees over the brood. When there is a warm day, 50' plus, and your bees are flying, open your hives and see if there is honey touching the area where the majority of the bees are clustered. Move frames if necessary, without overly disturbing the bees. If the hive has little or no honey, you must feed your bees. Lloyd Snyder mentioned feeding bees syrup in an inverted gallon pail with only a few small holes in the lid.

Syrup should not drip freely and get the interior of the hive wet. If it is too cold for bees to move about freely, fondant candy is useful.

Here is a recipe for a small amount of fondant candy that was shared at the February meeting: Bring 2 cups of water to a boil and add 5 pounds of sugar and 1/8 teaspoon of Cream of Tartar. Stir constantly until the temperature of the syrup rises to 242' F. Let the syrup cool to 180' F, then beat until thick. Pour the candy into molds lined with wax paper. In the colony, over the cluster, place the candy block on small strips of wood and put an empty hive body over this to allow the cover to fit. Sandy Wicklein tried this recipe recently and it worked well.

The Short Course (March 5-April 4) curriculum was outlined by Jeff Nelson. Jerry Fischer, the main teacher, will be covering equipment, bee biology, starting with bees, seasonal management, disease, swarms, Africanized Honey Bees, CCD, and honey extraction. The short course which costs only \$20 for an individual and \$25 for a family is a real bargain. A course book is included as well as a one year membership in CMBA. You must register early, so Jerry can order sufficient course books.

When asked how much a new set-up costs for starting with bees, Lloyd Snyder answered that it costs about \$290 for your first hive, and \$180 for each additional hive, since your expenditure for a bee suit, veil, smoker and hive tool only needs to be made once.

A question was asked about restrictions against keeping bees in cities. It was answered that the towns of Bel Air and Sykesville do not allow honeybees to be kept in their city limits. In most cities, if bees are kept closer than 200' of your property line, they must be kept in a locked fenced area. Bees must not become a nuisance, and beekeepers are encouraged to keep bees where their normal flight patterns go above pedestrians, etc.

Does the state of Maryland give grants for starting beekeepers? No, but West Virginia does offer grants to beekeepers having successfully kept bees for two years.

Jon Bealer gave a short presentation on Products of the Hive. Can you name the ten products that you can sell that are direct products of the hive? Liquid honey, comb honey, creamed honey, chunk honey, wax, pollen, propolis, royal jelly, bee venom and bees. There are many derived products including mead, candles, hand cream, lip balm and soap. Jon also mentioned that he is a top bar beekeeper.

At the January meeting, Jill Jonnen mentioned that she is a top bar beekeeper, and that there are at least 8 beekeepers in the Baltimore area with top bar hives. CMBA would like to have Top Bar Hives as one of its working groups and to give a presentation at one of the regular meetings.

## American Foulbrood A Review

By Ross Conrad

Reprinted from Bee Culture February 2009

*With all the noise about the exotic problems we have, DO NOT overlook the fundamentals. Ignore this disease at your peril.*

Few diseases of the honey bee are as deadly and contagious as American foulbrood (*Paenibacillus larvae*). AFB is a challenge to control because in its resting stage, the bacterium forms spores that are reported to remain viable for 50 years or more. The spores simply wait in the honey and wax until the environment within the combs will support their growth (germination) and reproduction. *P. larvae* spores germinate approximately 24 hours after being ingested by larva. As the disease progresses, the larva changes color from pearly white, to a tan color similar to the color of coffee with milk, before finally turning black in its advanced stages.

A honey bee colony is the only natural environment that will support the growth and reproduction of *P. larvae*. As a result, foulbrood infected honey and pollen can be consumed by people without adverse effects. American foulbrood spreads easily from colony to colony primarily by robbing and drifting bees who inadvertently carry the spores back to their hive along with the honey they pick up. However, beekeepers may spread foulbrood by feeding hives honey or pollen from diseased colonies, or by transferring combs between infected and healthy colonies. Thus it is imperative that beekeepers learn to accurately identify the signs and symptoms of American foulbrood.

### Identifying American Foulbrood

The most definitive way for a beekeeper to identify a hive that has been infected with AFB is to conduct a test for stringiness. In its early stages, as the larva turns light brown, a probe such as a piece of straw, small twig, or toothpick, may be inserted into the larval mass and slowly withdrawn. Larva infected with AFB will turn thick and gummy and will stick to the probe as it is removed from the cell forming a rope-like residue that will stretch for typically 1/4- to 1/2 an inch before breaking. Should you encounter brood that exhibits these properties, you can assume that your bees are infected with *P. larvae* as no other condition that I am aware of will create a similar rope-like response within the brood.

Another sign of American foulbrood disease is an irregular brood pattern. Unlike the typical brood pattern of a healthy hive where the brood cells on a frame tends to be filled with young bees that are all about the same age and thus will typically all be capped by workers around the same time, AFB infected frames will feature numerous empty cells among the capped cells. This "shotgun" effect is created when diseased larva fail to hatch, while uninfected larva in adjacent cells successfully emerge, and workers are in the process of uncapping and removing diseased larva that die within their birthing cell. The capped cells on infected combs

will often have a sunken or convex shape, a darker color than healthy brood, and a greasy appearance. The cappings will also often contain small pin-sized holes similar to capped brood from a hive that has died from *Varroa* mite infestation.

In its advanced stages, the larva in combs infected with AFB will dehydrate and change from light brown to black as the larval mass shrinks down and the remains adhere to the lower side of the cell wall. These scales contain millions of spores that stick so tightly to the wax comb that they are difficult even for the bees to remove. The final symptom of *P. larvae* to keep alert for, and the one that became its namesake, is the foul smell that the diseased combs emanate. This smell is somewhat similar to a combination of fish and glue and tends to get stronger as the disease progresses.



*A healthy brood frame.*

### Conventional Controls

Commercial beekeepers tend to have both the experience and the financial incentive to stay on top of the foulbrood situation in their apiaries. Hobby beekeepers, however are notorious for not effectively dealing with *P. larvae* outbreaks in their hives. As a result, timely identification and control of AFB is one of the primary reasons that apiary inspection programs have been established in many states throughout North America. Each state has its own set of laws governing the options for disease prevention and control and consequently, **beekeepers should first establish the legality of any treatment protocol they wish to follow.**

It has been repeatedly demonstrated that destruction of infected colonies by burning the bees, combs, and equipment is a low cost efficient method of keeping AFB in check. Burning a hive infected with *P. larvae* is required by law in some states. The primary objection to this method of control is that it destroys personal property in the form of equipment and bees. Some states allow beekeepers to retain the hive bodies, bottom boards, inner and outer covers and destroy only the bees, honey, pollen, brood, and combs.

When identified early enough, antibiotics are often used to prevent the bacteria spores from germinating and growing. For many years the drug of choice for controlling AFB was sold under the brand name Terramycin" (oxytetracycline). This antibiotic is typically mixed with powdered sugar and

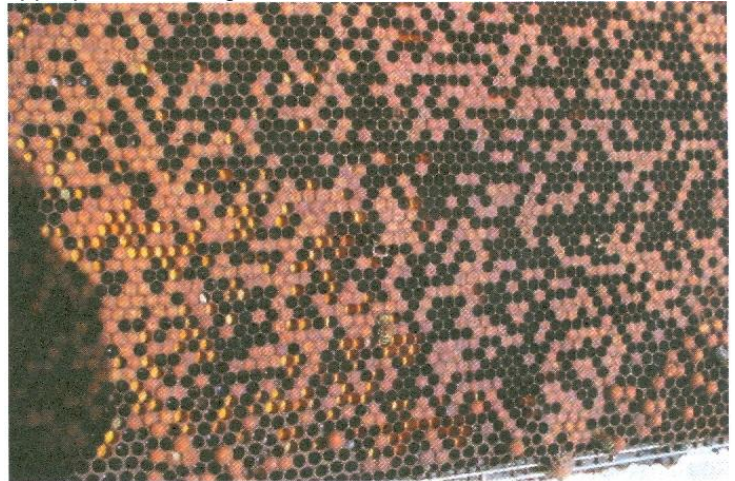
sprinkled over the top bars of the hive, added to sugar or corn syrup during feeding, or blended into a grease patty (a.k.a. extender patty) and fed to the bees in order to control both active American foulbrood outbreaks and as a prophylactic treatment. In recent years however, strains of *P. larvae* that show resistance to Terramycin<sup>®</sup> have emerged. Many believe that this is due to the use of grease patties which are consumed at different rates by hives depending on their population strength. Colonies that do not consume the entire patty in a timely manner provide an opportunity for the bacteria to be exposed to sub-lethal doses of the drug, allowing them to build up resistance. For this reason, applying antibiotics in a grease patty is no longer recommended. In order to effectively deal with the emergence of strains of AFB that show levels of resistance to ocytetracycline, a new more powerful antibiotic, Tylan<sup>®</sup> (tylosin tartrate), has been approved for use in beehives in the United States. Tylan<sup>®</sup> is only approved for use in active cases of *P. larvae* and is not approved for use as a preventative.

Despite its advantages, there are numerous reasons why beekeepers would not want to use antibiotics to treat hives infected with American foulbrood. Foremost among these are the time involved and the care that must be exercised in applying the correct dosage over a specific period of time. Antibiotics do not "cure" a hive of AFB, they simply mask the symptoms by preventing the spores from blooming. Following treatment, the spores are still present in the honey, wax and pollen waiting to reinfect the hive once again when growing conditions are right. Thus, once antibiotic treatments are used to treat AFB, they will need to be maintained on a regular (typically yearly or bi-yearly) basis in order to keep the disease under control. Over the years the expense and time invested in controlling *P. larvae* will grow.

What is not often acknowledged is that antibiotics will undermine the immune systems of the bees within a hive. Honey bees, like humans, have large numbers of beneficial bacteria that live in their digestive systems that are critical for optimum health. In humans these beneficial bacteria (such as acidophilus found in cultured yogurt) have been shown to have a symbiotic relationship with their host. They produce vitamins that are absorbed into the intestinal walls, they assist in the absorption of nutrients during digestion and they can colonize the small and large intestine to such an extent that there is little room for harmful bacteria, such as those that cause food poisoning, to take up residence. Although it has yet to be thoroughly studied, there is reason to believe that similar symbiotic relationships exist between beneficial bacteria and the honey bee. In addition, such bacteria are required for the transformation of pollen into fermented bee bread. Antibiotics are indiscriminate; they will destroy the beneficial bacteria along with the destructive bacteria within a colony thus weakening the overall health of the hive in the process of protecting it from foulbrood.

Equipment that is contaminated with *P. larvae* but is not inhabited by bees can be sterilized via irradiation, high-velocity electron beams, or ethylene oxide. Unfortunately, these methods of ridding equipment of American foulbrood tend to be expensive and not easily accessible to most beekeepers. The state of West Virginia has built a unique mobile steam autoclave (made from second-hand navy pressure tanks hooked up to a steam boiler that runs on diesel fuel) and makes it available at no charge to

beekeepers in their state for use in decontaminating infected equipment. The autoclave reaches a temperature of 230°F at 30 psi as it destroys the foulbrood spores. This unit has a 12 hive capacity and is available at no charge to West Virginia beekeepers. They will even service beekeepers in the neighboring states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and Kentucky who's hives are within five miles of the West Virginia border. Other beekeepers report dunking infected equipment into a lye bath in order to clean it up. Lye however is extremely caustic and the fumes are very dangerous so full protective gear including gloves, respirator, face shield and appropriate clothing are called for.



*Shotgun brood frame.*

### **Controlling American Foulbrood Naturally**

As with *Varroa* control, the ultimate long-term solution to the problem of AFB is the buildup of resistance to foulbrood by the bees themselves. Honey bees that show some degree of resistance to foulbrood can be found. Most notably, hygienic bees are considered to have some degree of resistance to American foulbrood due to their tendency to remove infected larva faster than their non-hygienic cousins. As a result, efforts to breed bees for foulbrood resistance should be incorporated into current efforts that are focused on developing resistance to *Varroa*.

When a feral colony contracts American Foulbrood, its declining population is no longer able to prevent wax moths from gaining a foothold in the hive. Thus nature's clean up crew the wax worm, will destroy the old diseased combs within the doomed hive preventing robber bees from other colonies in the area from picking up AFB spores and bringing them back to their otherwise healthy hive. The naturally inclined beekeeper can mimic the example of the wax worm in destroying the source of AFB infection and yet do so in a way that preserves the life of the bees. This can be accomplished by removing every bit of wax, honey, and pollen from a hive infected with AFB and placing the bees onto frames of foundation. It is best to carry out such a procedure in the early part of the honey season so that the bees will have ample time to draw out the foundation and store honey for times of dearth. However, American foulbrood may rear its ugly head at any time and such ideal timing will not always be possible.



The 'rope' test.

The actual process of eliminating AFB from a hive consists of shaking each frame of bees into a clean hive body filled with foundation. If the queen is spotted during this activity, it is best to transfer her into her new home manually by grabbing her wing and placing her on the top bars of the frames so she can crawl down between them. (To reduce the chance of an injury that could affect her ability to lay eggs, I don't recommend holding a queen by any part of her body other than her wing.) Included in the new hive body of foundation should be one empty frame of drawn comb positioned in the center of the hive body. This frame of comb is left so that the bees have a place to deposit honey they may have engorged themselves with during the process of smoking and shaking them into their new home. The very next day, the frame of drawn comb containing these honey deposits should be removed and destroyed and replaced with a frame of foundation. The colony should then be fed uninfected honey or sugar syrup so that the hive has something to get started on and won't starve should it immediately experience a week of cold, wet weather and not have the opportunity to forage.

This procedure will remove all the beeswax, honey, pollen, and brood that may possibly contain AFB spores from the hive. Once removed, all of the frames and comb from the infected colonies should be destroyed or disinfected, and all hive bodies, supers, inner covers, and bottom boards should be scraped clean of burr comb, which should also be destroyed. Once scraped clean, every square inch of the interior of the wooden ware can be scorched with a propane torch or other device that will heat the surface of the equipment to a high enough temperature to ensure that any remaining AFB spores are destroyed. In this way American foul brood can be permanently removed from a hive without sacrificing the bees and most of the equipment in the process.

One of the keys to maintaining foulbrood-free colonies are regular hive inspections and careful examination of every colony that dies for signs of disease. Once your apiaries are disease free, regularly removing a couple of the old, darkened combs from the colonies each year and replacing them with frames of foundation will serve to reduce the opportunities for disease spores (or chemical residues) to potentially build up within a colony's drawn comb reserves. Current recommendations are to replace all brood combs on either a five year cycle by replacing two frames every year, or on a

three year cycle by replacing three frames every year. Marking the frames with the year they are introduced may help in keeping track of when they are due to be removed. By the same token, one should make it a practice to avoid used frames of comb when purchasing, or inheriting equipment. Unless you know that hard chemicals and antibiotics have not been used on the colony and you have a high level of confidence in the source, accepting used frames is tantamount to inheriting someone else's problems. It is also beneficial to know who has bees in your area, as diseased hives nearby are the most common source of reinfection.

Given the current shortage of honey bees in the U.S., it is my hope that state regulators and apiary inspectors will begin to modify their laws, policies, and procedures to allow beekeepers to use the above method of natural foulbrood control in order to help preserve bees and equipment

### Resource References

*The Hive and The Honey Bee*, Dadant & Sons, Hamilton, IL, Second printing 1993.  
*ABC and XYZ of Bee Culture*, A.J. Root Co., Medina, OH, 40<sup>th</sup> Edition, 1990

It should be noted that for a positive confirmation a State Apiary Inspector should be consulted. If one is not available you can send a sample for diagnosis to the USDA Bee Lab in Beltsville, MD for a free diagnosis. Follow the instructions below to do this.

### Samples of Adult Honey Bees

Send at least 100 bees if possible, select bees that are dying or that died recently. Decayed bees are not satisfactory for examination.

Bees should be placed in a 70% ethyl, methyl or isopropyl alcohol as soon as possible after collection and packed in leak-proof containers.

### Samples of Brood Comb

A comb sample should be at least 2 x 2 inches and contain as much of the dead or discolored brood as possible. NO HONEY SHOULD BE PRESENT IN THE SAMPLE.

The comb can be sent in a paper bag or loosely wrapped in a paper towel, newspaper, etc. and sent in a heavy cardboard box. AVOID wrappings such as plastic, aluminum foil, waxed paper, tin, glass, etc. because they promote decomposition and the growth of mold.

If a comb cannot be sent, the probe used to examine a diseased larva in the cell may contain enough material for tests. The probe can be wrapped in paper and sent to the laboratory in an envelope.

### How to Address Samples

Include a short description of the problem along with your name, address, phone number or email address. There is no charge for the service.

For additional information contact Bart Smith by phone at 301.504.8821 or email [bart.smith@ars.usda.gov](mailto:bart.smith@ars.usda.gov).

Send samples originating from the U.S. to: Bee Disease Diagnosis, Bee Research Laboratory, Bldg. 476 Room 204, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center - East, Beltsville, MD 20705

## MARCH BEEKEEPING IN CENTRAL MARYLAND

Barbara Gruver [abgruver@verizon.net](mailto:abgruver@verizon.net)

On a warm day, 60° plus with no wind (70° is even better), go through your bee hives top to bottom. Do be careful not to chill brood. Look for honey stores, for a queen that is laying well, and enough bees to keep the brood warm. If bees have sufficient stores and sufficient bees flying well, the nectar and pollen that they are bringing in from maple and willow trees, and from low growing plants like red dead nettle, dandelions and other small flowers will stimulate the queen to maximize her egg production. If natural sources are not available, some beekeepers stimulate brood production at this time with a 1:1 sugar to water (by weight) solution (for example. 5 lb. sugar to 10 cups warm water.) If your colonies are too weak, consider combining them. If your colony has died because of starvation or too few bees, clean out the loose dead bees. You can use the equipment for new bees, and they will remove the dead bees that are head first in the comb.

Check that the hive is clean. Scrape the bottom board. Remove mouse nests and replace damaged comb, etc. Some beekeepers clean and transfer brood frames into clean hive bodies. If frames have very black old comb, you might want to replace about 1/5 of the total brood frames each year with new foundation. If the lower brood chamber is empty of bees, you may want to reverse the boxes, since queens usually move upwards. From March 1-March 31, strong hives are expanding rapidly and need room. If it stays cold, keep an entrance reducer in place so that brood won't get chilled from air coming in the entrance.

If you are a brand new beekeeper, waiting to receive your package of bees in early April, use this month wisely. Take a short course on beekeeping. If you cannot fit CMBA's short course into your schedule, contact Steve McDaniels (410-239-7496) about Carroll County's course, or John Knapstein (410-692-9823) about Harford County's course.

Choose and prepare your site for your hive(s) carefully. Hives should face south/south-east to have morning sun to get them out foraging quickly. Be sure you have easy access on all sides of the hives. Hives should be 6-12" off the ground and they should be almost level, slightly tipped forward. Take time to get this right now—it is harder to change later. Use half railroad ties or concrete blocks or another non-rotting support system. If the bees' normal flight pattern will create a nuisance, install a 5' fence to force the bees to fly up. Think about nearby water sources. Bees will not be welcomed in your neighbor's pool. One other bit of information: don't locate next to a fire station. Carol Jordan, a returning member to CMBA, says that when she had bees by the Lutherville fire station, they turned vicious (apparently because of the sirens.)

We welcome your comments on seasonal management or any other ideas for THE HIVE TOOL. Please contact Barbara Gruver, [abgruver@verizon.net](mailto:abgruver@verizon.net)

## FROM OUR BEE YARD

Roger Williams  
[rogerw@nordlink.com](mailto:rogerw@nordlink.com)

"Don't Never Don't DO That!" - Wherein the author has learned something of bees.

Two segments of my life have involved bees. The first segment was as part of the hippie exodus from cities, a migration that in 1973 had me living on a mountain, hunting for my meat to some degree, driving a VW bug – and keeping bees. I knew nothing, and no one who knew anything. I read the books, I read the catalogues, borrowed an old veil to go over a very old moth-eaten wool hat, retrieved a package of bees from a somewhat terrified post office staff, and I was in business. As I soon found out, I was creditor and student; the bees soon let me know that. That is what they do. Get used to it.

The one thing that can get me into a panic is a flying, stinging insect in my face. Learning how to keep the bees out of my veil became something of a priority. Luckily, once they were inside the veil (someplace they seemed most interested in getting, given I had little idea how to use a smoker), they seemed more interested in getting out again. Note: It requires major concentration, when somewhat panicked, to try to squish the marauding bees inside the veil. It occurred to me to spray myself with automotive starting fluid (ether), but decided that might compound my problems, depending on who woke up first.

My Waterloo was an approach to the hive on a cloudy, humid day in late July. With veil in place on the faded red wool wide-brim hat, my greasy, unwashed, blue striped mechanic-type overalls tucked into my socks, I knocked, then entered the hive. Wrong move. Then, I knew nothing of nectar dearth, nothing of bees staying home on cloudy days. Evidently the bees decided I needed to be taught manners and learn a thing or two, and they seemed to have a real purpose in this, real dedication. After I moved quickly about 100 yards away, after the bees finally left me alone 15 minutes later, I carefully took off the veil, allowing the two bees still inside to leave. Sweat dripped, and my heart was still arguing with my arteries about throughput. I counted 43 stingers in my hat. There were many more in the overalls and socks. I gave up, and never visited the hive again.

I started again in 2006. The stars were aligned. We (and that part is also important for the beginner, no matter who your "we" may be) inherited two known, and recently derelict, hives, all the gear, and directions to the CMBA meeting. We took Jerry Fisher's short course, and that went a long way to get our feet on the ground. We were stoked. The bees arrived and we took them home to our prepared hives that had the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval stamp stapled on the bottom super. But bees being bees, we were in for some surprises. They don't read the manuals, they never took the short course, so they had their own ideas. We had watched Jerry, David Papke, Steve McDaniels and other masters deal with the bees at the open hive demonstrations with a Buddhist calm, wearing no veil, no gloves, the bees making obeisance in their direction as the smoke of the censer wafted through the hive, while we novitiates watched carefully and received instruction. The one of us without the previous experience, drawing strength from that teaching, decided to go bare, figuratively, during the installation. Wrong move. Once

sprayed with sugar syrup to calm them, one package went in according to Hoyle. The other package, rather than being thankful for their new home with no mortgage and no down payment, started to defend it as soon as we pried the top off the screened transport box. My distaff half retreated the requisite 100 yards and was still getting the bees out of her hair 15 minutes later. We took the short cut for the day, closed everybody up, and retreated to the Bourbon and lemonade.

The next day, there was peace in the bee yard, the bees acting as though they had lived there all their lives. We have been studying, learning, and most importantly, asking, ever since. It is said that if you ask 10 beekeepers, you will get 12 answers. So be it; I can grok that. More later from our bee yard.

## BEE FORAGE PLANTS

A monthly column by Arthur Gruver  
[abgruver@verizon.net](mailto:abgruver@verizon.net)

During February, here in northern Maryland, we have had, as expected, Winter Aconite bloom with hardy bees finding and searching for pollen. An early variety of Crocus has also started to bloom in protected areas as well as Snow Drops. Skunk Cabbage is breaking the surface, but has not yet produced flowers.

You are encouraged to continue and expand your flower (Bee Forage) walks, noting whatever is blooming as well as what the bees are most interested in your area. The Bee Forage we have found starting its bloom in our area in March is as follows—starting with the herbaceous plants: Crocus species in flower beds; Common Dandelion, that enemy of uniformity in lawns, but which is a nectar and pollen friend of bees and should not be eradicated; Daffodil, which provides bee forage during all stages of bloom from early partial opening and throughout the bloom period; Glory-of-the-Snow, Grape Hyacinth, which provides attractive low bundles of deep purple-blue in ornamental beds; and Red Dead Nettle, a widely spreading weed which gives a lavender reddish- pink color to fields and gardens before tilling has taken place;

The following shrubs and trees- Apricot, the earliest fruit bloomer, often being damaged by frost, but providing nectar and pollen; Cornelian Cherry Dogwood, an Eastern European variety of dogwood which has attractive yellow blooms and bright red fruit that can be used to make delicious jelly—a grove has been planted by Johns Hopkins University on the west side of San Martin Drive near Wyman Park Drive in Baltimore; Peach, which provide early nectar and pollen; one Rhododendron that blooms abundantly in March and always attracts honeybees and bumblebees in great numbers—its common name is Mary Ellen (*R. dauricum?*) and makes a nice addition to a garden's ornamental shrubs; the final entry is for the Willow trees, including the Black Willow, Pussy Willow and Weeping Willow, which all provide pale green pollen and some nectar.

We look forward to hearing of additional plants that start blooming in March in your area.

## HONEY RECIPES

Edited by Jeanne Deignan-Kosmides  
Winter 2009

### CRISPY RICE SNACKS

½ cup of chunky peanut/cashew/almond/sunflower butter  
½ cup of **Honey**  
½ cup chopped nuts  
½ teaspoon vanilla extract  
½ teaspoon cinnamon  
2 cups of Crispy Brown Rice Cereal

Mix together the nut butter, honey, nuts, vanilla and cinnamon together in a bowl.

Add the cereal and stir gently until the cereal is well coated.

Place a dish of water near the bowl and using wet hands, form the mixture into balls and place them on a lightly oiled dish or on waxed paper.

For variety, try rolling the crispy rice snacks in coconut or sesame seeds. Or you can add your favorite dried fruit to the mixture!!

Then are good chilled and kids love them.

### ONE PAN GRANOLA

This is a recipe for granola that you can be very creative with!!

Start with:

6 cups of rolled oats (I use organic rolled oats)

Add a total of 6 cups of any or all of the following:

Sunflower, sesame, flax or pumpkin seeds

Unsalted nuts – almonds, walnuts, pecans, cashews, peanuts, etc.

Shredded coconut

Oat or wheat bran, wheat germ, dry milk powder

Cinnamon, cumin, ginger, nutmeg, cloves, and any spice you like!

1 t. salt

Flours – soy, rice, oat, wheat, quinoa, spelt, etc.

Heat in a large roasting pan:

1 cup of butter or oil or a mixture of both

Up to 1 cup of **Honey**, molasses, maple syrup or a mixture of these

½ cup of water

2 t. of vanilla or almond extract

When the liquid mixture is warm and thinned, add in the dry mixture, stirring them together well with a large wooden spoon.

Roast your granola mixture in the pan setting the oven at 250 degrees for approximately 1hr or 325 degrees for approximately 30-40minutes. Please remember to stir the mixture every 15 -20 minutes.

When the granola is toasted and cooled off, you can mix in up to 2cups of dried fruit – apricots, apple, raisins, prunes, etc. I soak the dried fruit in a bit of water for a while before adding to the mixture.

This granola makes a wonderful gift, snack, breakfast or you can create your own granola bars (which I did for the last beekeeping meeting in February)

This recipe is one that I have adapted from: Whole Foods for the Whole Family La Leche League International Cookbook. I hope you enjoy it!!

Do you like to cook with honey? We invite you to prepare and bring your honey cooking to the March 3, Tuesday evening CMBA meeting. We'll include your recipe in the April HIVE TOOL.

Jeanne Deignan-Kosmides brought her **CRISPY RICE SNACKS** to the February 3 meeting.

## My Born Again Bees

By Beth Passavant  
A Newbie Beekeeper

My bees were dead as doornails and our new bee hive was only four days old. It was Tuesday morning, four days after my friend Bonnie and I completed the Beginning Beekeeping Course at Oregon Ridge, and had installed our graduation packet of 10,000 bees, plus one queen, into our new bee hive. After three dress rehearsals, the installation went well, for the most part, except for the large number of bees that wouldn't leave their travel cage, therein was the source of the problem. Saturday our installation day, seemed a long time ago on that Tuesday morning when I was late for work and I had to do something. Our new apiary was in a neighbor's yard, and I had to clean things up.

When we installed this nucleus into our bee boxes, loosing any bees was the last thing on my mind. Jerry, our bee guru, had told us they would migrate over to the hive. Now those left-behinds made a mound of carcasses on the bottom of their travel cage at the entrance our new hive. We still didn't know if the queen had been liberated into the hive from her little traveling cage, but in the meantime my distress was over the couple hundred clinger bees who had hung on so nobly to the wire side-walls of their travel cage until they were dead. Maybe they had been soaked with too much sugar water, who knows, but we had carefully place their traveling cage as close as possible to the opening of the hive, confident that they would go inside as Jerry forecasted.

We watched every day, several times a day. On Sunday, Day Two, they were clustered in the inside corner of the traveling cage. It was late in the afternoon and getting colder when I decided not to knock them around to force them out. By clustering they keep each other warm so I left them alone. On Monday morning, Day Three, they were started to look pretty dead. Again I left them alone hoping that some vigorous ones would crawl out of that pile of probable carcasses on their own. It didn't seem that cold, but what did I know. Driving to work on Monday I savored my guilt of killing these bees. Loosing two hundred bees out of 10,000 isn't going to harm the hive and it really isn't such a big loss. You just take this in stride and forget that it happened. Maybe I should have knocked the travel cage more vigorously? What could I have done? Maybe I should have helped them out with a stick one at a time like Dixie had done. Maybe I should have forced them out? Maybe.... Maybe.... Maybe.

Tuesday morning, Day Four, before work was grim. Their bodies were curled into themselves, seemingly the same way I curl into myself when I'm one blanket short of being warm, except the cold doesn't kill me. On this second day of no apparent action I had to do something. To keep things neat, I grabbed the travel cage, now a hearse and headed for the car. I was already late for work so I didn't know what to do other than take them with me.

After work when I approached the back of my car I saw the vigorously-out-of-their-travel-cage bees flying around inside my car or sun bathing in the warm back window area. "My bees are alive" I shouted to the empty parking lot. I ran back into my office "My bees are alive, my bees are alive!" I shouted to my boss. He looked bewildered, so I patiently explained, "my bees were dead and now they are alive. It's got to be a miracle." He didn't get the significance of what had happened. I didn't really know what had happened, but this was a much better reality.

Born again right before my very eyes, "it's a miracle". I now know they had been dormant in the cooler weather and the sun-warmed car had activated them. How was it possible, since they were so obviously dead eight hours earlier? I had to get these girls home. Days earlier on Saturday during the installation demonstration, I had gotten as close as possible to the hives to get some good photographs of the process, which put me in their flight path. A few landed on me on the way out to forage. I clinched my teeth, stood as still as possible; held my breath so I wouldn't irritate them; and hoped my thoughts kept them from stinging me. Bees don't sting except when threatened I reminded myself. Since I believe that they perceive emotions, I practiced being peaceful.

Back outside the car I stood studying how many were where, five in the front, more in the back seat area and then more under the back windshield. Well, this was going to be my test. I got into the car quickly so none could escape, believing that a stray couldn't live on its own; started the engine and took off. "Hi girls, how are my travelers today. I bet you're ready to get home." I looked around, some were still flying, two had settled on the driver's door beside me with a few more in the front area, but most were in flight above the back seat or sun bathing on the platform under the rear windshield.

"It won't be long now, surely this isn't as noisy as that truck you rode coming up from Georgia." I spoke in a soft, calm voice saying the first and anything that popped in my head. "I know you're anxious. It won't be long before you've got water, food and home. It won't be long now." They weren't interested in my dialog, but that didn't stop me from telling them about their queen Freya, named after a Norse goddess. At stop lights I looked around the car at the residue of their cleansing flights. Little spots and streaks on the window and seat covers, evidence that they knew they weren't in their hive, where certain bodily functions are prohibited. Concerned passengers of passing cars would point frantically at the bees in the back seat, as if I had not noticing them.

"OK, girls, we're almost home. Now that wasn't so bad." Oooh, what to do? All of the beekeeping equipment was locked in Bonnie's car and she was in Florida. I didn't want to spray the inside of my car with sugar water, as we had done earlier to keep the package of bees occupied and calm during the transfers from the dealer's truck to Bonnie's car, and finally to the hive. My brilliant resolution was to spread Really Raw Honey, a raw and unfiltered honey, onto a piece of paper to entice them. It had flakes of pollen on the top, so I was convinced they'd love it. At home I got the honey and a couple fan-type watercolor brushes and drove to the hive. My thinking now was not about the colony, a coherent entity of thousands of moving units, but the individual bee, which I had to move against her will onto the transfer paper and then to the hive, while I calmly chattered about the nonsense.

Well, the honey functioned as a paste that kept them glued on their back if they were unlucky enough to not land on their feet, which was most of them. They'd be lucky to live through my good intentions. The first trip I carried five somewhat dazed stuck-on-their-backs bees to the front platform of the hive. By the second or third round-trip from car to hive and back again, I realized that those bees were tough little critters, that straw was a better tool for prodding the reluctant ones and that I was totally nuts. I didn't count the trips, but I carried from one to a dozen passengers on my flimsy paper transport time and again, mostly in small numbers per trip. Finally, it was getting late, and it seemed that I had moved as many as I could. I knew that there were a couple hiding. One had burrowed in a small opening between the top of the car and the back seat. So that was the end of Tuesday.

Again it was chilly on Wednesday morning, Day Five, so I didn't see any bees in the car. After work, there were seven buzzing around the car. Driving home I would see an airborne bee in my peripheral vision. At the stop light I would turn back to look at her, but she was gone. This happened several times until I figured out that I must be imagining them airborne or that she was playing hid and seek with me. That evening the transfer of those went smoothly, but I only moved five and had no idea what happened to the others. I must have miscounted.

Thursday, Day Six, I figured that the bee transport project was finished, until after work I found two more in the back space under the back window. By this time I realized that I had fallen in love with my bees, not the colony, but the individual bees. Last summer when we started our small study group on the crisis with the Colony Collapse Disorder, I got hooked on their function and life style. I embraced them intellectually from the bigger picture. Now I was interacted with little fuzzy individuals that felt like velvet when I touched their bodies. They'd fiercely hold tight to pile fabric with what looked like barbed legs. They each looked different from the other, some with dark abdomens and small light strips, others with bright strong strips. I'm not sure what actually was happening, but I'd see two bees nuzzled together and I'd get a strong sensation that one was taking care of the other. Were they friends? Sisters from the same original hive? Was I projected human emotions onto the bees or being perceptive of the most delicate gestures? Earlier I had seen one jumping at another that was lying down, looking dead to me. Was she trying to force to the downed one into action or to give encouragement? I don't have the answers to my questions. Bees have been around the Earth for sixty million years, so they've had time to develop sophisticated communication techniques and social order.

So on that Thursday with two bees left in my car, I delivered one more bee to the hive while the other hid from me. I had seen it in flight, but again when I turned my head to look she was gone. Now I ask you, was she playing games with me. It turns out that the center of the back window space is an alcove protecting the break light, a great hiding place that you can't see unless you look in from over the truck. Well, there she was in perfect health. I have no idea if she was hiding from me or not, but since I've proven that I can't tell the difference between a live or dead bee, I can say pretty much anything I want and it has a 50-50 chance of being correct. I see the hive now as a community of thousands of individual

bees who are programmed to give their all to the community and they do that in part by taking care of each other.

## Political Pollinators

By Grai St. Clair Rice

Reprinted from Bee Culture February 2009

NAPPC has had to step up attention to honey bees because that's where the money is.

In the realm of nature, pollinators go about doing what they do best, whether solitary or social creatures. Their work keeps our world vibrant with an abundance of food and beauty. Pollinators in the human realm have recently taken on an urgent and quite political spin, with the focus of Colony Collapse Disorder putting honey bees in the cross hairs of an impending crisis.

In October 2008, the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) met in Washington, DC. The Pollinator Partnership **(P2)([www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org))** organized the conference, as well as NAPPC generally, by inviting professionals, primarily from government, research and industry. The schedule provided for conference-wide presentations, as well as designated task force breakouts for productive planning. Nine different task forces including "Rights of Way" and "Land Management" all encourage and support a healthier environment for pollinators. Within the task force groups, goals set during the conference are worked on through the year.

NAPPC has made a point of focusing on an entire range of pollinators with their agenda, including native bees, bats and butterflies, at times avoiding the specific subject of honey bees altogether. As national and international attention has shifted to honey bees, NAPPC has had to step up attention to meet the reality that honey bees are where the money and interest is in the current political/ environmental climate.

The 2008 conference saw the first reporting of the Honey Bee Health Improvement Project, (HBHI) which was established the previous year with seed money from Burt's Bees. The first morning was full of rapidfire reports from many of the heavy hitters in CCD research, all but one of whom received some funding from HBHI. The info delivered was intensely encapsulated and dizzying, providing a backdrop for the PR agenda ahead with awards and recognitions. The Honeybee Health Improvement Project continues for a second year, this time with a broad call for research proposals. The goal is to fund targeted, short-term research projects that may" provide tangible results that can improve overall honey bee health.

A Pesticide Task Force was convened for the first time, spinning off from previous years' Agriculture Task Force. This is emblematic of the intensifying concerns about pesticide usage and their implications in failing honey bee health. None of the task forces were open to outsiders, and a designated spokesperson from each group delivered a three-minute update of discussions and goals to the conference at large. The Pesticide Task Force was reported to have been a "difficult discussion". Prying loose any details about these pesticide discussions, and gleaning information about the prospect of agreed upon goals, has been an exercise in persistence.

The Pesticide Task Force participants were comprised of three people from Bayer Crop Science, five people from the EPA, the P2 Ex Dir, with others from Crop Life America, the USDA, the Almond Board, and a number of research faculty,

commercial farmers, and one commercial beekeeper. Emotions ran high during discussions with all sides expressing fervent arguments. Pesticides and pollinators are a dangerous mix, with enormous financial stakes and agricultural productivity at risk. An early discussion about creating clear labels warning of the dangers of pesticides was shelved, and the focus turned to pesticide applicator education.

The main goal set was to complete the Pesticide Applicator Training Exam Questions for the American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators (AAPSE), which had kicked around the Agriculture Task Force for a couple of years, and has now been inherited by the Pesticide Task Force. This doesn't sound difficult, especially when there are only about 10 questions involved, however this goes by way of example that finding balance or consensus on issues of pollinators and pesticide safety are nearly impossible.

As a result of previous conferences, NAPPC participants have developed a wonderful network of public awareness campaigns that reach general consumers, as well as land managers and commercial entities, including the first annual National Pollinator Week in 2007, accompanied by a Native Pollinator Postage Stamp. Look for concrete tools on the P2 website, including an impressive collection of downloadable regional guides to forage friendly plantings, as well as their Useful Resources page, which pulls together a diverse collection of links and info.

There is good work being done by P2 and NAPPC, as well as all the dedicated energy provided by the task force members determined to make a difference in our ever more fragile eco-system. These are big issues in critical times, and the work has to start somewhere. There is however no time to waste in protecting our honey bees put to service in commercial agriculture, as well as pollinators in the general environs. Responsibility for the health of pollinators has become political.

*Grai St. Clair Rice is a freelance writer, beekeeper and is President and Editor of the Ulster County Beekeepers Association in New York.*

## Reporting Pesticide Problems

Reprinted from Bee Culture February 2009

Dr. Eric Mussen, at U.c. Davis, puts out a newsletter that is always full of good information. I've referenced it before here, and will again I'm sure. This time he talks about reporting problems with bees and pesticides ... worth reading for sure. Thanks Eric.

A group of forward-looking commercial beekeepers took it upon themselves to contact administrators from EPA and asked to discuss their concerns about honey bee-pesticide interactions. Given the history of previous, explosive exchanges, both sides had to take a deep breath and approach the concerns cautiously.

One detail that really caught the attention of the beekeepers was the fact that, at their reporting level, EPA lists only two reports of bee kills in 2006 and none between 2003 and 2005. Therefore, it seemed a bit odd to EPA

representatives that the beekeepers felt so strongly about this issue.

In theory, there should be a mechanism by which any person, who believes that an application of pesticide caused a problem, can file an official state document detailing the purported loss. That document should become part of the state's permanent record and should be transmitted to the federal office on an annual basis.

In California, that form is called "Report of Loss, Nonperformance or Damage" (PR-ENF-008). The form can be obtained at the office of any of the county agricultural commissioners or on the Web, if you search long enough. In California, the Reports of Loss are usually taken in to the ag commissioner's office, to become part of the permanent file for that year. The last thing a commissioner wants is a drawer full of loss reports. It suggests that things are not being handled well in the county. It is likely that you will meet resistance to submitting a bunch of loss reports, but this is the ONLY WAY beekeepers can document how much loss actually is being encountered. When asked, I tell anyone that California beekeepers lose, or have severely damaged, an average of 10% of the state's bee colonies. Not everyone suffers losses each year, but some of the losses are very large.

You may have to explain to the ag commissioner that you do not believe that these losses were misuses of the products, but the data is essential to document how much bee loss actually is occurring.

To prove the sincerity of the EPA to collect this data, the following two individuals wish to see copies of the all loss reports as they are being filed in the states:

F. Nicholas Mastrota, USEPA Headquarters, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Mail Code: 7507P, Washington, DC 20460, 703.305.5247, [Mastrota.nicholas@epa.gov](mailto:Mastrota.nicholas@epa.gov); Norman Spurling, USEPA Headquarters, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Mail Code: 7502P, Washington, DC 20460, 703.305.5835, Spurling, [norman@epa.gov](mailto:norman@epa.gov). A third person is interested in keeping track of any possible problems with fungicide applications. If you believe that you have encountered bee problems following a fungicide application next year, report that to your state and to:

Tony Kish, USEPA Headquarters, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Mail Code: 7505P, Washington, DC 20460, 703.308.9443, [Kish.tony@epa.gov](mailto:Kish.tony@epa.gov).

## Snow Cancellation Policy

**In case of snow or ice on the meeting date, listen to WBAL radio before 7:00 PM. If Baltimore County's snow emergency plan is in effect at 6:00 PM, then the meeting is automatically canceled.**

## **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

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David Gill-Boucher, President 410-357-9476  
Jeanne Deignan-Kosmides V. Pres. 410-833-6067  
Alex Flanagan, Secretary 410-472-1702  
John Harmon, Treasurer 410-771-1701  
Jerry Fischer, State Bee Insp. 410-562-3464  
Oregon Ridge Nature Center 410-887-1815  
David Papke, Past Pres. 717-246-2339  
Lloyd Snyder, Editor 410-329-6671  
Editors E-Mail - [Irsnyder@clearviewcatv.net](mailto:Irsnyder@clearviewcatv.net)

Be sure to check out CMBA's web site at [www.cmbeea.org](http://www.cmbeea.org)

Please check the "Dues paid through" line above your name on the mailing label below. If it says "Dues paid through 2008" please fill out the included form and remit your dues for 2009.

Lloyd Snyder – Editor  
4747 Norrisville Road  
White Hall MD 21161

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

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General Meeting – March 3, 2009 – at Oregon Ridge Nature Center. 7:30PM. This month the speaker is Jody Johnson. She will be speaking about the research data that she has gathered on chemicals in the hive. Her research was partially funded by CMBA.

Board Meeting – March 16, 2009 – 7 PM at Oregon Ridge Nature Center.

Beekeeping Short Course – The 2009 Short Course begins on March 9 this year at 7 PM. The classes will be held in the auditorium of the Oregon Ridge Nature Center. For more information, the complete class schedule or an application go to [www.cmbeea.org](http://www.cmbeea.org).