

# Frederick County Beekeepers Association



Vol. 2, Issue 2

[www.frederickbees.org](http://www.frederickbees.org)

June 2016

## CALENDAR

**Ed & Dorothea Mordan  
Benefit Concert!**  
(see pg 3 for more info!)

June 4 - 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

**Maryland State  
Beekeepers Assoc.  
(MSBA) Summer Meeting,**  
June 18, 8 am-3 pm,  
UMD/College Park. FREE

Keynote speaker: **Phil  
Craft, who writes the  
"Ask Phil" Section in Bee  
Culture Magazine.** Meeting  
held in the Plant & Science  
building.

**Pollinator Week 2016,**  
June 20-26, events around  
the country, details  
<http://pollinator.org>

**VA State Beekeepers  
Assoc. Spring Conf.,**  
June 17-18, Smithfield  
Center, Smithfield VA,  
[www.virginiabeekeepers.org](http://www.virginiabeekeepers.org)

**EAS 2016 - Galloway NJ in  
July!**

Short Course July 25-27;

Conference July 27-29

## Field Day 2016!

Thank you for all who attended April 30th Field Day. We had about 50 folks show up in weather that didn't seem to be too promising. However, the weather gods played nice and temps rose to around 55-60 degrees by the time we decided to head down to the hives.

A huge thank you goes out to Allen Winpigler for allowing us to delve into his hives, and Dean Fitzgerald of Fitzgerald's Heavy Timber Construction for being gracious enough to allow us to 'swarm' onto his farm every year without complaint.

Conditions turned favorable enough for us to go deep into some hives. We saw brood, larvae, queens, drones, workers, baby bees being born (emerging), and some were able to see some eggs. We saw capped honey, as well as uncapped nectar, and all different colors of pollen to boot. We were treated to seeing how Allen splits a hive as a swarm he caught last week was teaming with bees, and quite a few swarm cells were visible. Allen quickly asked for a new box from his truck and started moving frames around. Allen had about 15 queens banked in a hive ready for new homes as soon as the weather breaks and we talked a little about those.

Thank you all for sharing your delicious recipe. There was plenty of food and great questions to be answered. We hope that this experience, the class and field day alike, were well worth your time. We wish you all the very best in your endeavors to become full blown beekeepers and wish you all have a very successful year ahead. Please don't let this be the last we hear from you. Ask any questions you have through email or on Facebook. We'd love to hear from you, and see how you're doing. We would love to see some pictures posted to the Facebook page, as well.

**Happy Keeping!**  
**Glen**

## Next Meeting

*Please note the new location...  
69 Thomas Johnson Drive!*

**June 1st**

**Speaker:**

**Prof. Justin  
Tarnow "Flying  
Dog" University**

## Our State Apiary

**Inspector: Cybil Preston**

Please register your hives! And consider donating what you can to the **Apiary Inspectors Fund.**

Office of Apiary Inspector  
Md. Dept. of Agriculture  
50 Harry S Truman  
Annapolis, Md. 21401  
(410) 562 3434

**Click here** to download registration application

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## Scenes from 2016 FCBA Field Day!



## Benefit Concert for Our Own Ed Mordan!

*Friends of Ed & Dorothea Mordan Presents*

### A benefit concert:

Featuring

**Private Story**



**Lisa Jones & Bill  
Bromfield**

With special guests

**Zoe & Zephyr**

Sat, June 4, 7:30 - 9:30 pm, doors open at 7

Ed & Dorothea need our help. Ed is battling a disease that makes work almost impossible & requires travel and expensive treatment. Your presence will help financially and make them smile as well © AND you get a fabulous concert to boot!

**Great music at the UU church in Frederick**

**Enjoy music & magic / baked goods / and Ed's honey products at 4880 Elmer Derr Rd., Frederick, MD, 21703**

Suggested Donation \$20

#### The Performers:

*"Jones & Bromfield are sort of free-verse roots-pop, a mix of relaxed folk, natural gospel and jazz delivered with passionate conviction for a holistic, artistic virtue."* - *The Washington Post*

*"Private Story is a Frederick based acoustic duo. Their styles and backgrounds intertwine as seamlessly as their harmonies. Fans of every age are sure to appreciate their versions of favorites from yesterday and today."*

*Zoe & Zephyr (mother and son) have appeared in numerous musical theater productions in the DC area. They bring energy, talent and personality to wonderful songs!*

FCBA member, Ed Mordan, has been diagnosed with a life-altering illness. His ability to work is diminished and he will face a lifetime of extensive medical bills.

Though there's a slim possibility that each of you have not met him, he is an integral part of FCBA. Ed presents at the short course, does many outreach events, is our liaison to the Fair Board, responds to cut out calls and is all around a good guy!

A benefit concert is being held at UUCF on Saturday June 4th.

Come out and enjoy great music, food and Ed the Tinker's products of the hive!

Come on out to support Ed!

**Note:** If you would like to make a contribution but are unable to attend the concert you may write a check out to Ed & Dorothea Mordan and mail it to Liz Thompson who will deposit it in their account. Liz will provide Ed & Dorothea a list of contributors names only, so that they may know who to thank. You are also welcome to send a check directly to the Mordans.

Liz Thompson  
14 Flanagan Road  
Thurmont, MD 21788

## Committee News

### Ad Hoc Auditing Committee

No updates.

### Bylaws Committee

Bylaws currently under review / revision.

### Newsletter Committee

FCBA Newsletter will be published 4 times a year electronically. (March, June, September, December)

Submissions will be asked for prior to publication and all submissions are welcome, as are any suggestions or requests for content.

For June: Would like to do some stories on “Newbees” experiences (challenging or not) installing nucs/packages. Maybe some photos of your set up, how you painted your hive....anything you care to share.

### Ad Hoc Nominating Committee

No updates.

### Public Outreach Committee

No updates.

### Science Committee

June speaker: Justin Tarnow, prof. Flying Dog University

July speaker: Michael Suggs, Society for Creative Anachronism and Mead Brewer

## Maryland Pollinator Protection Act Becomes Law

(Beyond Pesticides, May 27, 2016) – Thanks to the hard work and efforts of beekeepers, environmental groups, scientists, legislators and activists, Maryland is the first state to pass legislation through its General Assembly that restricts consumers from using neonicotinoids, a pollinator-toxic pesticide. Earlier this month, the state of Connecticut also passed far-reaching legislation aimed at protecting pollinator populations from these toxic chemicals.

The Maryland Pollinator Protection Act (Senate Bill 198/House Bill 211) will become law without the Governor’s signature. Supporters had feared a veto from the executive office, but as a result of overwhelming pressure from beekeepers and activists, Governor Larry Hogan (R) allowed the bill to come into law. Under the Act, consumers will not be permitted to buy pesticides that contain neonicotinoids starting in 2018. Certified pesticide applicators, farmers and veterinarians will be still be allowed to use neonicotinoids.

<http://beyondpesticides.org/dailynewsblog/2016/05/maryland-pollinator-protection-act-becomes-law/>



## Upcoming Speakers for FCBA Meetings

### June Speaker:

#### Justin Tarnow



#### Flying Dog University Professor

The Professor wasn't always The Professor. Back in 1999, a young Justin Tarnow entered the business of beer in the same way many others have, as a bartender. At the time, there were less than half the number of current breweries in America and the landscape was drastically

different. The scope and range of styles of beer were narrower and Justin would argue that the average palate was far less receptive to the selection that fills tap menus today.

Justin was drawn to beer by the people who love craft beer. Their openness to try new things, their respect for supporting the little guys and their genuine admiration for good beer. His passion led him to home brewing and a number of other positions in the world of beer. Side note, he once brewed a cider-ale hybrid with cinnamon which he dubbed "Apple Jack Ale".

In 2013, Justin joined the Flying Dog team as a tour guide. After a short time, it became clear his passion was not just for the beverage, but for educating anyone and everyone he came across about the rich history of the beer, its styles and its role in American culture. By 2014, the Flying Dog University seed had been planted and through the rest of the year, a core curriculum was developed for the launch of Flying Dog University (FDU) in February of 2015.

To date, the course offerings include Beer 101: Craft Beer Basics, Beer 201: Advanced Brewing Techniques, Beer 301: Beer and Food. In addition to the core classes, Justin also team-teaches a number of FDU electives such as Cooking with Beer, Beer and Cheese, Beer and Chocolate, Beer and Oysters, Belgian Beer Styles, and Beer and Woodworking (don't worry OSHA, no power tools were used). One of the most recent additions to Justin's course load is the Beer Geek Tours, an in depth look into the behind-the-scenes action at Flying Dog that includes the tapping of firkins and sampling of rare and specialty beers.

You could argue that any class you attend which also serves beer is a great experience, but we know it's not just the content, but the person who delivers it that ties the learning experience together.

### July Speaker:

#### Michael Suggs

#### Society for Creative Anachronism and Mead Brewer

Michael Suggs is a first-year beekeeper (2016), but a long-time brewer (1995). He has over two hundred batches of brew under his belt, to include dozens of meads and wines. He is a member of the Society for Creative Anachronism, a non-profit educational organization which researches and recreates the best parts of the Middle Ages, from the years 600 to 1600 AD. Within the mid-Atlantic chapter, which ranges from Maryland through South Carolina, he served as Guild Master of the Brewers' Guild for three years, and ranks as a Master Brewer. He is retired from the U.S. Navy, and currently contracts to the Department of Defense as a veteran Russian language analyst.

## FCBA At Fountain Rock!

By Dave Maloney

The center frame on the door side of the observation hive at Fountain Rock Nature Center was full of newly-drawn comb with brood, but 2/3 of it was drone brood. Too many drones. If infested with mites, that many drone brood emerging would have discharged many, many mites into the colony, so that drone brood had to go. Today Monica helped me remove that frame and replace it with a frame of wet extracted worker size drawn comb (below image).



Below is the frame we removed along with adhering bees. I smoked the entrance of a weak queenright swarm hive. Then I spritzed the entrance with sugar water. All this to confuse the bees with various smells. Then I set up a ramp at a slight upward angle (bees love climb UP) and covered it with a white sheet. On a white sheet the dark

entrance becomes very obvious to the bees and bees love dark places in which to crawl. Once set up, I shook the bees from the frame shown. They are already marching into their new hive and with no fighting!

You can see that 2/3 of the comb is drone comb. But 1/3 is nice newly capped worker brood. In the below photo I rubber banded the worker brood in preparation for cutting away the drone brood:



In image above (circle) the drone brood has been cut away but the worker brood remains. I inserted the frame as-is into the swarm hive in place of a frame of foundation they were working on to draw out. I am curious to see what kind of comb they now draw from the newly-exposed length of starter strip - will it be drone cells or worker?

Notice the bees in the background. They are nearly finished walking into the hive.

I used the uncapping tool to check the drone pupae (right) for the many feared mites. But there were none at all! Wish I had some chickens to feed this to. *[Dave City Chicken Law has passed!]*



## EAS 2016 at the Stockton State University, in Galloway, New Jersey

by Timothy McMahon

Have you ever considered taking a “Beekeeping Vacation?” Well now is the time to make your plans as EAS 2016 will be taking place at Stockton State University outside of Atlantic City, NJ . EAS (Eastern Apiculture Society) is one of the largest noncommercial beekeeping organizations in the United States and one of the largest in the world. Every summer EAS conducts its week long Annual Conference of lectures and workshops in one the 26 member states or Canadian provinces. This year’s EAS conference will be held at Stockton State University in Galloway, NJ, from July 25 - July 29. The conference usually brings in about 600–800 beekeepers from around the world.



The conference is made up of the Short Course, running from Monday to Wednesday, and the conference proper, running from Wednesday to Friday, with Wednesday the overlap day. Normally about half of the attendees stay the whole week with the other half coming just for the conference. The Short Course will contain classes for beekeepers of all levels and special events such as an open apiary with Langstroth, Warre’ and Top Bar Hives, a microscope workshop on bee anatomy, a Honey Show for you to enter your bee products, and classes on all aspects of beekeeping. The conference proper will consist of over 100 different talks about all aspects of beekeeping including classes on Queen rearing, Mead and Beer brewing and on IPM (Integrated Pest Management).

I first attended EAS several years ago in Boone NC, and the experience was so great that I became a life time member. I’ve not missed an EAS conference since. Every year I go with a set of questions in mind that I then try to find the answers to from the best minds in Beekeeping. You can’t get much better than that. Maybe the best thing about the week-long EAS was that I get to talk “bees” all week long and no one says that they had heard enough (normally my family asks me to shut-up after the first 2 minutes or so). You can find out all about the specific topic covered and how to sign up at the EAS webpage here <http://www.easternapiculture.org/>.

I hope to see you there. EAS 2017 is scheduled for Delaware, 2018 in Virginia. Come and join the fun!

## FCBA at Catoctin Nature Fest

Kit May, Rick Stevens and Deb Turnell represented FCBA at the Catoctin Nature Fest on April 23. Fun was had by all!

Thanks to Ed Mordan for bringing by the observation hive and honey straw after the Middletown Festival ended. Can’t speak for the rest but I think the FCBA exhibit was by far the most popular!



## Member Happenings. . .

### Queen Starting Experiment

*Bill Conyers (4/18./16)*

This winter I modified a deep brood box into a 2 frame wide, 4 chambered queen castle. My plan was to take a frame with fresh eggs, nurse bees and add along with a frame of capped honey and pollen and place into one of the chambers of the queen castle. To this I planned to feed syrup and pollen patty with the expectation/hope raise a queen along with bees to start a new hive. I assumed my healthy hive could contribute a frame or so per week and thereby expand my hives significantly this summer. Today I jumped the gun. On inspected, I found four frames with one are more charges queen cups in my overwintered hive. Believing that no potential queen should go to waste, I loaded all four chambers of the queen castle, each having charged queen cups, eggs, lava, bees along with a frame of capped honey. The plan going forward is to frequently monitor syrup and patty supply. Next Monday, I'll check to see if the queen cups have been fully developed and capped. Assuming all is well, I'll delay further frame inspection until after the queen has had sufficient time to hatch, mate and begin laying. If by some remote chance one or more chambers should fail to produce, I'll return the bees to their original hive. See attached picture. Please excuse the poor photography, between the bright sun, syrup covered cell phone, the pictures are a little fuzzy.



### Update - 5/22/16

I think the weather has played a role. During inspections I did find two queens in the four chambers. I was able to mark one but have not found the other a second time. While the calendar says it's past mating time I have not seen evidence of eggs or larva. I have since reconfigured my queen castle in to two chambers, one chamber with four frames and one purchased mated queen, and 2nd chamber with the home-grown mated/unmated queen. I hope to see some in eggs & larva in one or both next week.





## Member Happenings. . .



Left, Mauricio Piza & Jessica Hatcher did an interesting and entertaining presentation on their experiences with their hives of Killer Bees and other native bees while in Brazil.

Below, Dave Maloney shown with a student from Gov. Thomas Johnson Highschool. Students will get a chance to study bees and beekeeping at the Frederick County Career and Tech Center



Above, another beautiful picture from Abe!

### Bee business



Amanda Farmer, left, a Gov. Thomas Johnson High School student who is spending her senior year studying at the Frederick County Career and Technology Center, watches as beekeeper Dave Maloney points out the eggs in one of the frames they are transferring on Monday from a nucleus hive to a Langstroth hive at CTC.

Staff photos by Dan Grass

## Trivia and Such . . .

### Interesting facts about March. . .

<http://www.ten-facts.com>

- In 2009 June was the 662 most popular name for girls in the USA
- June is the month with the longest daylight hours of the year in the Northern Hemisphere; and the shortest daylight hours in the Southern Hemisphere
- In both common and leap years, no other month begins on the same day of the week as June

## Did you know....

When cooking with honey, if you coat the inside of your measuring cup with a thin layer of oil, all the honey will slide right out!

*Submitted by Allen Winpigler*



photo by Abe Olsson

*Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.*

*~ Chief Seattle*



*Bee Humor provided by Jens Andersen*

## OFFICERS

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## NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE (ARTICLES/ SUGGESTIONS)

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