

Frederick County Beekeepers Association



Vol. 1, Issue 2

www.frederickbees.org

June 2015

CALENDAR

Maryland State Fair
August 28- September 7,
2015

Timonium Maryland

The Great Frederick Fair
September 18-26, 2015
Frederick Maryland

70th Annual Howard
County Fair
August 8-15, 2015

Next FCBA Club Meeting
July 1st.

June 3 FCBA Meeting

7:15 - *Josie Ritchie's presentation on
"A Honey of a Different Color!"*

7:30 - *Kristien's Varroa management
presentation*

Committee News

Auditing Committee

No updates.

Science Committee

No updates.

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.

Bylaws Committee

No updates.

Public Outreach Committee

Liz Baker shared that the education kit has been put together and is ready for anyone who needs it. She also asked for people to consider working with this committee to support education and outreach efforts. Please let her know if you would like to help! lizbaker99@hotmail.com

Next Meeting

Please note the new location...
92 Thomas Johnson Drive!



Our State Apiary

Inspector: Cybil Preston

Please register your hives!
And please 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

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Did You Know?

May 2nd 2015 Field Day a Hit with New Beekeepers !

Field Day 2015

The FCBA held their annual field day at Allen Winpiger's outyard north of Frederick on May 2, 2015. While organized primarily to help 2015 Beekeeping Course students better understand what goes on inside a bee hive, the event was open to all club members as well.

After a potluck lunch and smoker demo by Glen Mayers, participants headed to the apiary where folks were divided into three groups headed by experienced beekeepers Allen Winpiger, Bill McGiffin and Joe O'Connell (ably assisted by Master Beekeeper Robbie Roeshman) who performed the hive inspections. Afterwards, all gathered around Allen who demonstrated a "powdered sugar roll" test on a jar full of bees to monitor for Varroa mite levels.



Allen demonstrates a "powdered sugar roll" test on a jar full of bees to monitor for Varroa mite levels.



FCBA at Fountain Rock Nature Center



Shown (L to R), Kelly Ketzenberger looks on as visitor Skyler Granofsky learns about the honey bees from beekeeper Dave Maloney.



FCBA member Dave Maloney presenting veil and gloves to Fountain Rock Park Naturalist Kelly Ketzenberger.

FCBA member Dave Maloney recently installed a club-sponsored glass-sided honey bee observation hive at Fountain Rock Park Nature Center in Walkersville. “We are thrilled to have the honey bees back in the Nature Center,” said Kelly Ketzenberger, Park Naturalist. “Children as well as parents were anxious for their return,” she continued.

Recently Dave Maloney donated a pair of gloves along with a child-size veil to the Fountain Rock Park Nature Center in the name of FCBA so visiting kids could dress up like real beekeepers!

Fountain Rock Fence Hives

“This afternoon Darci Eubanks assisted me with the transfer of two of Allen’s nucs into the club’s two 10-frame deeps along the fence line at Fountain Rock Park. The nucs were huge and the queen fat and beautiful!

I returned on the 12th and added a deep to each. I used about 10 frames of my comb along with the undrawn wax foundation from previous fence hive.”

–Dave

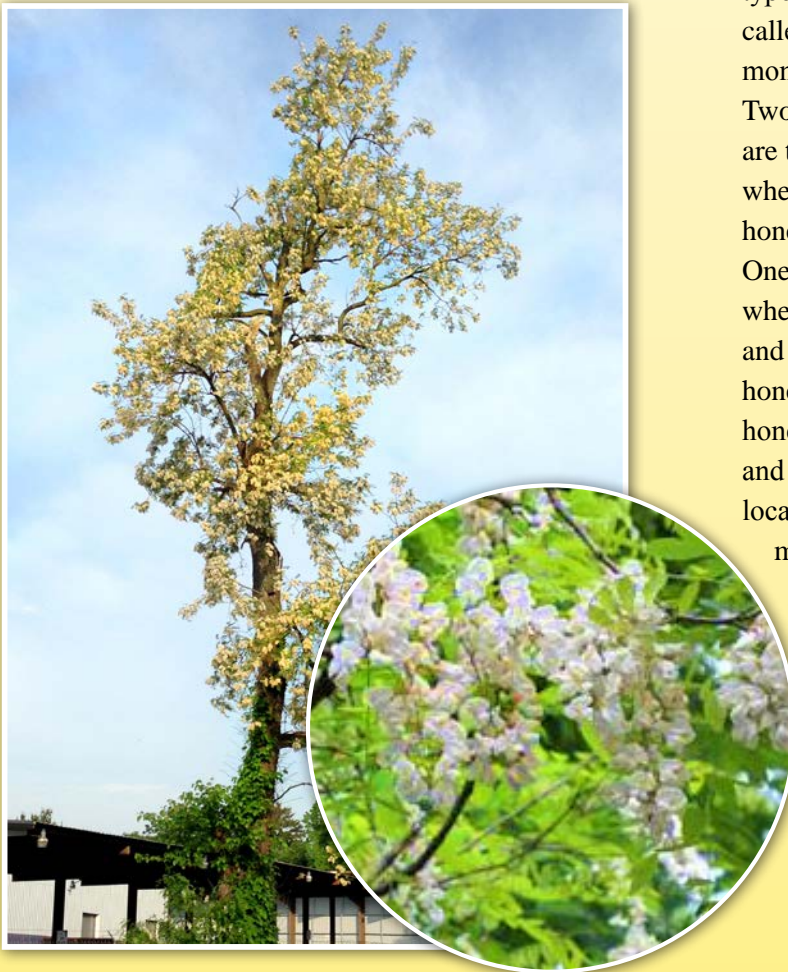


Member Happenings

Black Locust in Bloom

“I drove out to Glen’s home in Monrovia late yesterday and was amazed to see all the black locust trees in full bloom! If you have never seen them in bloom before, make a note of how they look. Allen was kind enough to bring me a sample of what the black locust grape-cluster type white flower looked like. I had never had a reason to pay attention before. But as beekeepers, we need to be prepared to act in advance in anticipation of Mother Nature’s schedule. After your new hives winter over and are going strong next Spring, be sure to have your honey supers on before the black locust bloom.”

–Dave



That’s a honey of a different color!

By Josie Ritchie

Do you know why honey is different colors? I wondered the same thing, so I researched it and found out the answer. The first reason is honey bees collect nectar from different sources. When they collect nectar from one type of flower it is called varietal or monofloral honey. Two more reasons are the weather and where in the world honey comes from.

One fun reason is when honey bees in France found a nearby M+M factory and they drank the sweet dye outside and turned it into honey the color of M+Ms. The most important fact about honey color is the darker the honey the stronger the flavor and the lighter the honey the lighter the flavor. I collected local honey and honey from all over the United States. I made a honey spectrum from light to dark with 40 honey samples that had numbers that matched a map. I tested lots of different honeys and my favorite is carrot honey. Some other kinds of honeys are buckwheat that is dark and clover that is light. What kind do you want to try? To learn more join me June 3rd, 2015 at the FCBA Meeting at 7:15. www.frederickbees.org



Member Happenings (continued)



◀ “FCBA member Bill Conyers stands by his two hives after a recent routine inspection. He also inspected the hives in the background which belong to vacationing club member David Muns.” Note cinnamon in Bill’s right hand for ants no less!

FCBA member Darlene Donaldson inspected her hives and took pictures of these lovely ladies hard at work! ▼



▲ The FCBA maintains an Outreach Kit that members are welcome to borrow for bee-related presentations. The kit consists of a tub containing veils, a smoker, hive tool and bee brush. There are also club brochures, and honey brochures and recipes. Also included in the kit is a deep containing 10 frames into which are fitted very nice, laminated and captioned honey-bee related images. Also available but not pictured is a small observation hive should you wish to display a deep frame of your bees. To borrow the kit, contact Dave Maloney at dave@maloney.com.



Member Happenings (continued)

On May 10th John Klapac and Rick Nestler sponsored a walking tour at Distillery Lane Cider Works in Burkittsville Maryland.

Visitors and members enjoyed a guided tour, lecture on apple production, cider tasting, and were given an opportunity to see bees at work in a local orchard.



The "Bee Vac!"

"My new home-made bee vac worked like a charm Saturday evening when I helped Deb capture a swarm in her yard. A bee vac worked great for this swarm as it was wrapped around the tree trunk instead of hanging from a branch."

– Dave



NewBee Member Hive Inspection

New Member Tim Hasenei May 21st Hive Inspection

On May 21st Tim did an inspection on his 2 month old colony. His plan was to:

- Refill the hivetop feeder;
- Open his entrance reducer further;
- Add a deep super if needed, and
- Check on the ladies along the way!



“The first thing I noticed was the burr comb built in the feeder. I’m removing that. Next I saw that I had some possible queen cells on the bottom of a few frames. However, I did notice some larvae so I’m not going to panic..... yet. (Any input would be helpful). I saw lots of multi colored pollen cells so I know there’s a good variety in my area. I didn’t see as much larvae as I’d like to and I didn’t spot my queen. So I’m going to be keeping a close eye on things. I’m happy to be a part of this.”



-Tim

Recipes using Honey . . .



This recipe is a great way to pair the harvests of the garden and the bees. I use the yellow cherry tomatoes, but the large yellow tomatoes will also work. This butter is great with fish and chicken.

Honeyed Yellow Tomato Butter (Makes about 3- 8 ounce jars)

Ingredients

- 5 lbs yellow tomatoes, quartered
 - 1 1-inch piece of peeled gingerroot
 - 1 T whole allspice
 - 2 cinnamon sticks about 4 inches long broken into pieces
 - 2 cups granulated sugar
 - 1 cup liquid honey
1. In a large stainless steel saucepan, bring tomatoes to a boil over medium heat. Reduce heat and boil gently, stirring occasionally, until tomatoes are soft (about 20 minutes).
 2. Working in batches, press tomatoes through a food mill to separate pulp from skin and seeds. Discard skin and seeds. Measure 8 cups of tomato pulp.
 3. Meanwhile, tie gingerroot, allspice and cinnamon stick pieces in a square of cheesecloth, creating a spice bag.
 4. In a clean large stainless steel saucepan, combine tomato puree, sugar, honey and spice bag. Stir until sugar dissolves. Bring to a boil over medium high heat stirring frequently. Reduce heat and boil gently, stirring frequently, until mixture thickens and mounds on a spoon. Discard spice bag.
 5. Meanwhile, prepare canner, jars and lids.
 6. Ladle hot butter into hot jars, leaving ¼ inch headspace. Remove air bubbles and adjust headspace, by adding hot butter. Wipe rim. Center jar on lid. Screw band down until resistance is met, then increase to fingertip tight.
 7. Place jars in canner, ensuring they are completely covered with water. Bring to a boil and process for 10 minutes. Remove canner lid. Wait 5 minutes, then remove jars, cool and store.

Recipe from the Ball Complete Book of Home Preserving

Recipes for Bees . . .

Sugar Syrup

Ingredients

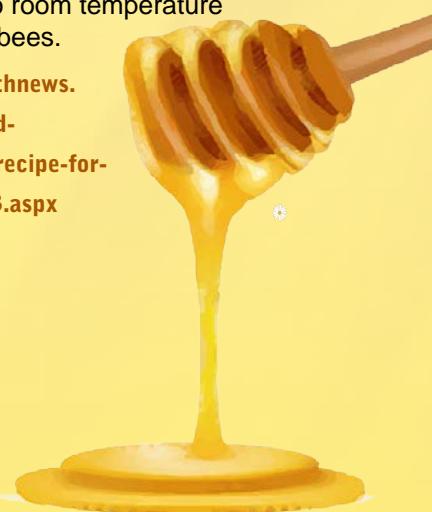
- 2 quarts (8 cups) of white sugar (do not use brown sugar or other substitute)
 - 3 cups of almost boiling water
 - 1 cup of chamomile tea (can use chamomile flowers or tea bags)
 - 2 tablespoons of your own honey
 - ½ teaspoon of fresh squeezed lemon juice
 - a healthy pinch of sea salt
 - 3-4 drops of lemongrass essential oil
 - 1 teaspoon vegetable glycerine
- Mix sugar and water until all sugar is dissolved.

Mix in the chamomile tea, honey, lemon juice and sea salt until well combined.

Mix the lemongrass oil into the glycerine, then add to the syrup.

Cover and let cool to room temperature before feeding your bees.

<http://www.motherearthnews.com/homesteading-and-livestock/sugar-syrup-recipe-for-feeding-bees-zbcz1403.aspx>



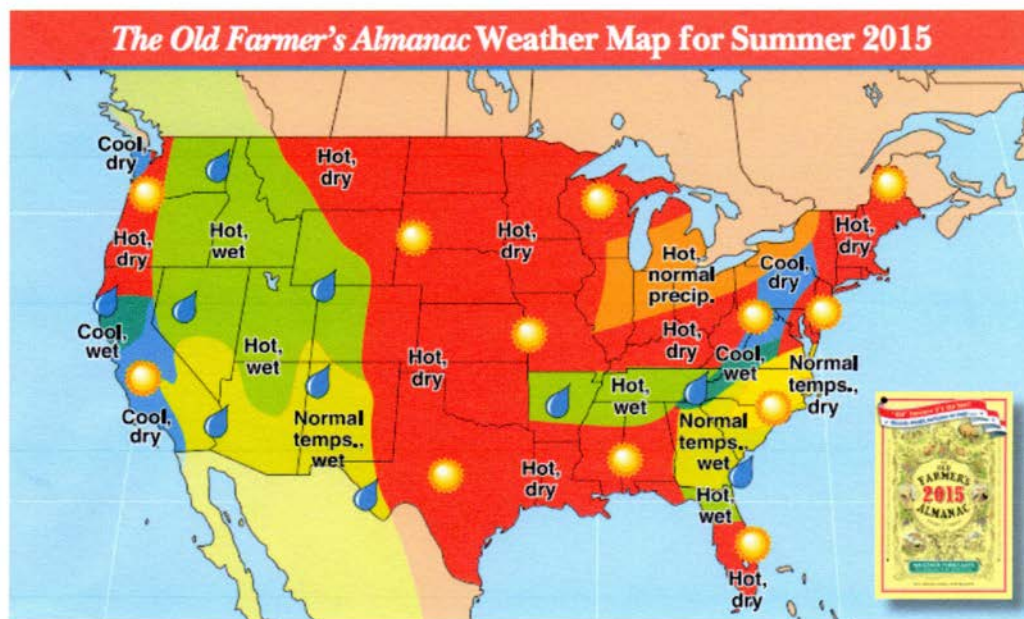
Summer 2015 Forecast

submitted by Bill McGiffin

When we released The 2015 Old Farmer's Almanac last fall, we predicted the T-Rex of winters for most regions. Now get ready for that ice to melt! In this same issue, we've also predicted a sizzling summer.

Across the United States, summer temperatures will be warmer than normal in all regions except parts of the mid-Atlantic and Southwestern United States. Rainfall will be below normal in most of the continent's midsection, which may reduce yields of corn, wheat, soybeans, and other crops grown within this area. The drought in much of California will likely continue as well, putting additional stress on our food supply.

In Canada, temperatures will be warmer than average except for Vancouver Island in Canada. However, rainfall will be above normal from the Maritimes westward through Ontario, slightly above normal in the Prairies, and at or below normal elsewhere.



Regional Highlights

Below are regional U.S. weather highlights for July and August of 2015:

Northeast: Summer will be hotter than normal, with below-normal rainfall. The hottest periods will occur in early June, early July, mid- to late July, and early August.

Atlantic Coast: Summer will be hotter and drier than normal, despite a tropical storm threat in early to mid-August. The hottest periods will occur in early June, mid- to late July, and early to mid-August.

Chart Your Honey Bee Season with Vita's Free Infographic

www.americanbeejournal.com

A customizable infographic for beekeepers to record their honey bee season is now available for download from the website of Vita (Europe) Ltd, the honey bee health specialist.

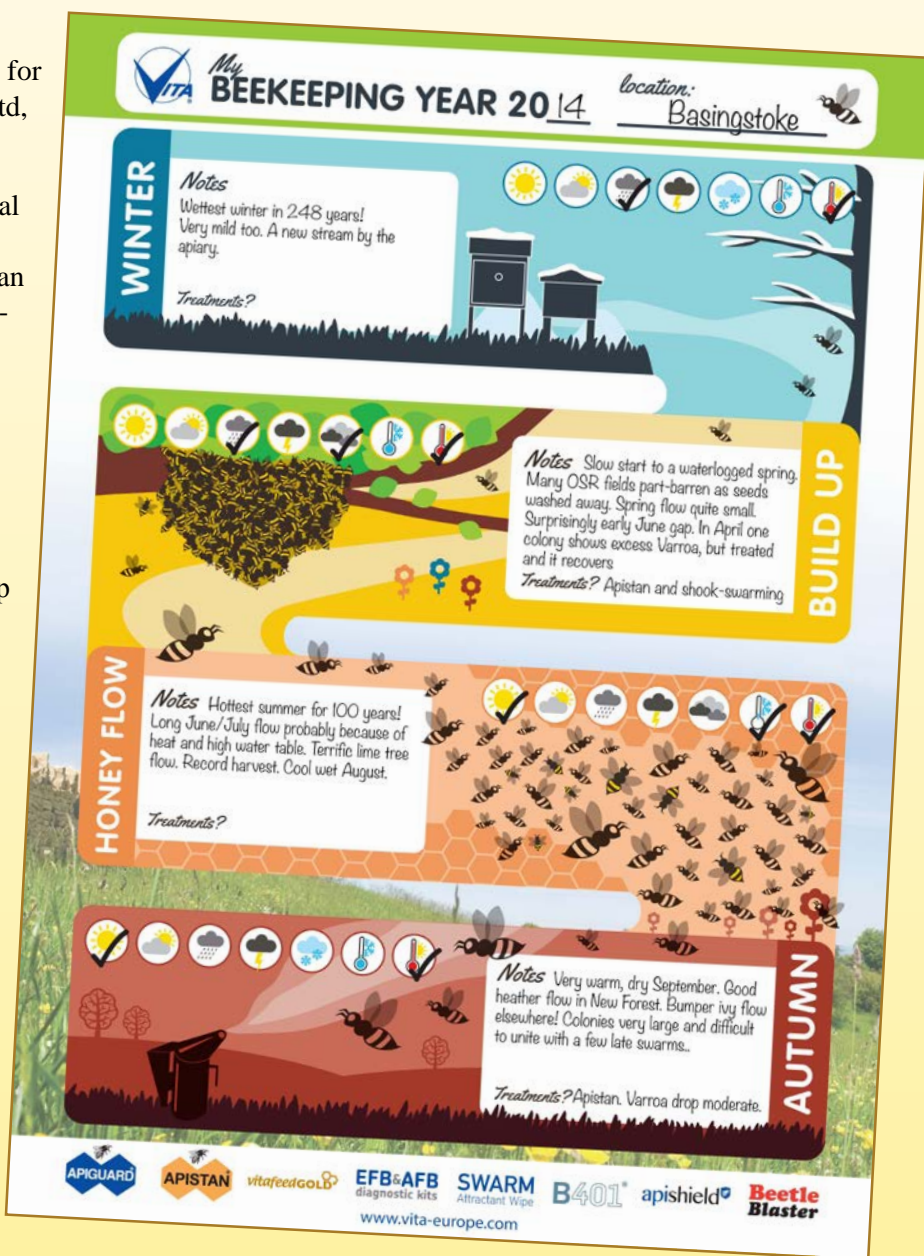
My Beekeeping Year is a fun, A4-sized seasonal chart for beekeepers to note down memorable events during their beekeeping year. Anyone can register for free to download it here: www.vita-europe.com/gallery. (Existing users of the Vita Photo Gallery need not re-register.)

“As we travel around beekeeping countries, we frequently hear beekeepers speak of the strangest season or the biggest or the smallest harvest they’ve ever experienced. But seasons merge into one another and it’s difficult to keep track of what happened when”, said Sebastian Owen, Commercial Development Manager of Vita. “So we are providing a simple, fun way for beekeepers to record each year and look back over the past to recall each season.”

Sebastian Owen continued: “Everyone has their own special season indicators – it may be the date of the flowering of the first nectar-producing plant, the first date they dare open their hives, or when they see the first swarm preparations. The infographic is flexible enough for people to enter whatever they like year by year.”

As seasons in each of the hemispheres come to a close Vita will invite beekeepers to share their infographics on the Vita website, so that beekeepers across the world can get a feel for what the season was like for their neighbors and how beekeeping seasons vary across the world.

The infographic template is available in the Vita Gallery www.vita-europe.com/gallery where registered users can also download the Vita 2015 Calendar as well as hundreds of bee-related photos for use in talks and for general learning.

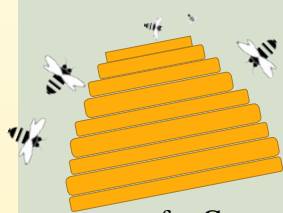


Did You Know . . .

The 80/20 rule applies to honey bees, too!

(Submitted by Bill and Sara Gibson)

http://news.illinois.edu/news/14/0722RFID_GeneRobinson.html



You know how 20% of the people in an organization seem to do 80% of the work? That also applies to honey bee foragers, according to a study by University of Illinois Institute for Genomic Biology Director Gene Robinson and citizen scientist Paul Tenczar. They put RFID tags on honey bees to track the activity of individuals from the colony. Follow the link to read the story:

http://news.illinois.edu/news/14/0722RFID_GeneRobinson.html

Attracting Pollinators: What Bees See

Bees are attracted to the colors blue and yellow, but they don't see the color red. So fill your beds with pollinator-friendly flowers and consider planting red blooms near gate entrances, as well as doors and windows that open onto the garden. <http://extension.umd.edu/frederick-county>

Pollinator Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Interested in IPM within the context of pollinators? The April 2015 IPM Insights publication is a free download.

<http://www.centralmarylandbees.org/newsletter/>

Interesting Facts about June..

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

Birth flower for June is Rose and Honeysuckle

In both common and leap years, no other month begins on the same day of the week as June.

In 2009, June was the 662 most popular name for girls in the USA.

June is international men's month.



photo by Darlene Donaldson

The only consistent thing about bees is their inconsistency.

~ Dr. C.C. Miller

<http://www.carolinabees.com/info/quotes/>

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