

Frederick County Beekeepers Association



Vol. 1, Issue 3

www.frederickbees.org

September 2015

CALENDAR

Organic Beekeeping Class

September 5, 2015

Fox Haven Farm

[http://www.mdbee.com/
organicbeekeeping.html](http://www.mdbee.com/organicbeekeeping.html)

Maryland State Fair

August 28- September 7,
2015

Timonium Maryland

The Great Frederick Fair

September 18-26, 2015

Frederick Maryland

Honey Harvest Festival

September 19

11:00 am - 4 pm

Brookside Gardens

FCBA Bee Presentation to
Middletown Library

October 1, 2015

Details to come

Fondant Making Party

Details to come. . .

Committee News

Auditing Committee

No updates.

Bylaws 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.

Public Outreach Committee

We were contacted by Waneta Gagne, Middletown Library to do a presentation on October 1st at 6:30 pm. Liz will be there and is looking for volunteers to assist! Please contact Liz: lizbaker99@hotmail.com if you can help out. Details to follow . . .

Arlene Karidis of the Frederick News Post contacted Liz, Rose & Laura and is writing a story about Frederick beekeepers going into the schools to educate the kids about honeybees. She's unclear on when the article will be out but will send Liz a link once published.

Science Committee

No updates.

Next Meeting

Please note the new location...
69 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?

*Place a beehive on my grave
and let the honey soak through.*

*When I'm dead and gone,
that's what I want from you.*

*The streets of heaven are gold and sunny,
but I'll stick with my plot and a pot of honey.*

*Place a beehive on my grave
and let the honey soak through.*

~ May's Honey Song, from The Secret Life of Bees, by Sue Monk Kidd

Maryland Has Lost Long-time Master Beekeeper — Ernie Miner



Mr. Ernest (Ernie) H. Miner, Jr., 81, of Mount Pleasant passed away Wednesday, August 12, 2015. After retiring as a Science Writer for the Heart Institute at NIH in 1977, Ernie spent almost 30 years as a full-time beekeeper. A legend among local beekeepers, Ernie was one of the first people in Maryland to be certified as a Master Beekeeper. He operated Ernie's Apiaries out of his home on Kelly Road and was a Maryland State Bee Inspector. He was active in the Maryland State Beekeeper Association. He was also a fixture at Bee meetings in Frederick and Carroll Counties as well as The MSBA. Ernie taught beekeeping locally and as far away as Egypt and Azerbaijan through the Farmer-to-Farmer Project. Bees were his passion and he never tired of his hobby-turned-career.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/fredericknews/post/obituary.aspx?pid=175520785>

FCBA at Fountain Rock Nature Center

Fountain Rock Observation Hive is Back!

Dave Maloney

Thanks to John Klapac who provided the queen and Tim Hasenei for his assistance, the Fountain Rock Nature Center observation hive is back up and running. As Tim and I carried the observation hive inside on Friday kids were shouting, "The bees are back! The bees are back!" and "I hope I can see the queen!" as they ran up to us. Even the adults were excited.

Tim and I had a novel way of getting the bees into the hive. Tim formed a funnel from roofing paper and held it in a feeding port that Ed Mordan had designed. After carefully placing the blue-dotted queen on a brood frame, we shut the front door and simply poured the bees into the funnel!



Once installed, we were concerned that the colony might not settle in. The added bees mostly clustered at the top, and we could not find the queen. The following day, Tim visited the hive and could not find the queen either, even though she was well marked with a blue dot.

Today I visited and was pleased to hear from the staff that the queen had been sighted, though at first I could not find her. What is more, the workers were all over the brood comb and taking good care of it. In addition, the bees had even drawn five lobes of comb down from the starter strip in the top, center frame! But before I left this afternoon, the queen made her appearance right in the middle and began laying eggs on the center lobe!



Member Happenings

Liz and Harry Baker Catch a Swarm!

Just wanted to share our experience at catching our first swarm. Wow, what a rush of excitement! A friend of ours contacted me to say she had a swarm of honeybees in her bamboo bush/tree. I contacted Joe O'Connell who was kind enough to provide the equipment needed for us. Unfortunately, he was unable to accompany us on this adventure but gave us some very useful and helpful tips on how to successfully catch them. Thanks Joe!!

True to their word .. they were very calm! We did as Joe instructed and picked them up yesterday morning. They are resting comfortably in their new apiary.

If ever anyone hesitates to try this, I highly encourage you not to! As "rookies", we worked calmly, effectively and patiently with them. End result .. free bees and most of all, the feeling of accomplishment as beekeepers!



Member Happenings (continued)

FCBA Members try their skills at the August 5, 2015 Drone Rodeo



Glen gives Cash Ritchie at hand!

Glen Mayers looks on in awe as Katie Jacob wins the Drone Rodeo!

Parting Shots of Spring/Summer -- FCBA Member Photos



*Photos Left to Right:
Richard (Jack) Shackelford; Allen Winpigler; Deb Turnell*

Member Happenings (continued)

FCBA Member Allen Winpigler's Beeswax Goes to Smithsonian to Give "Henry" the Elephant a Face Lift!

Allen Winpigler was contacted by someone wanting to purchase 16 lbs of his wax. Turns out the wax is being used to repair Henry the Elephant located at the Smithsonian in Downtown Washington, DC. A buddy of Joe O'Connell is an expert taxidermist and is a part of the crew working on repairing the elephant at the Smithsonian. His mentor is Paul Rhymer who is heading up the team. Check link below to read article about what they are doing.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/apps/g/page/mobile/local/how-a-museum-gives-an-elephant-a-facelift/1799/>



HOW DOES YOUR LANDSCAPE MEASURE UP?

Submitted by Mary Riesch, FCBA Member and Frederick County Master Gardener

As beekeepers we are concerned about the health of our honeybees and their habitat. For many of us that same concern extends to all pollinators and wildlife and the environment.

The Frederick County Master Gardeners are offering Bay-Wise Landscape Certifications to any Frederick County residents.

The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure and a vital part of the state of Maryland. Yet, the health of the Bay is in trouble due to increased development, resulting in pollution and sediment runoff entering local waterways. Most Maryland residents live within a half-mile of a drainage ditch, storm drain, stream or river. These local waterways eventually drain into the Chesapeake Bay. What we do to maintain our own landscapes can affect the health of our local waterways, the Chesapeake Bay and our environment.

The Bay-Wise program wants to encourage you to use sustainable management practices in your yard and garden which will help improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Through this program you are encouraged to:

- Control Stormwater Runoff
- Encourage Wildlife
- Protect the Waterfront
- Mow Properly and Water Efficiently
- Manage Yard Pests with Integrated Pest Management
- Mulch Appropriately and Recycle Yard Waste
- Fertilize Wisely
- Plant Wisely

Within each of these categories there are specific activities which you are asked to practice and implement. As a measure of your progress you get credits for each action that you complete which are equal to “inches” on the Bay-Wise Yardstick. There are 90+ possible inches. Your goal is to achieve at least 36 inches on the yardstick, at which point you can request a site certification. Bay-Wise Certified Master Gardeners will come to your property to review your progress,

answer questions, and if needed, give you some ideas. See the links below for the program information and the Yardstick checklist. If you are interested in applying for certification for your property, please follow the instructions below.

How Do I Get My Landscape Bay-Wise Certified?

1. Download and complete the appropriate Maryland Bay-Wise Yardstick for Landscapes with Lawns. http://extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/_docs/programs/bay-wise/Baywise_5pager_06_17_14_FINAL.pdf
1. Download and complete the Maryland Bay-Wise Application. https://extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/_docs/programs/bay-wise/Baywise_Application_06_17_2014_FINAL.pdf
2. Send both the Yardstick and Application to the Frederick County Extension Office
1. Email: strice@umd.edu or
2. Mail: UME Master Gardeners, Bay-Wise Team, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD 21702
3. A Bay-Wise Master Gardener will contact you to set up a site visit.

Once the Master Gardeners certify your home landscape you may receive a small sign to display in your landscape and a certificate.

Even if you do not have your landscape certified, you can still do plenty to reduce pollutants going into the Chesapeake Bay by following the suggestions in the MD Yardstick.



Recipes using Honey . . .



Carrots Cooked in Honey (Serves 4)

3/4 lb carrots cut diagonally in
1/4 in slices


1/2 cup veg broth

1 Tbl butter

1/3 cup honey

fresh thyme sprig for garnish

In a medium saucepan, combine carrots, broth and butter. Cover and cook over med-high heat for 5 minutes. Add honey and stir well. Continue cooking, uncovered, until carrots are tender, about 10 minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Garnish with thyme



Note: Grease patties provide minerals for your bees and may help reduce the number of Varroa mites in the hive. If you cannot find a source of mineral salt—or you don't want to buy a 50-pound sack of it—go to your local pet store and buy a “bunny wheel.” A bunny wheel is nothing more than a mineral salt lick for rabbits and the bees don't object to this addition of rabbit food to their diet.

Large doses of wintergreen oil (methyl salicylate) can be toxic to humans. Since it can be absorbed through the skin, protective gloves are a good idea.

www.honeybeesuite.com

Recipes for Bees . . .

Wintergreen Grease Patties

Serves:
240,000-300,000

Ingredients

4.4 lb granulated

3 fl oz corn oil

1.5 lb vegetable shortening (this should be solid at room temperature, such as crisco or coconut oil)

1 lb honey (you can also use sugar syrup)

0.5 lb mineral salt (this is usually pink or gray)

2.2 oz wintergreen oil

Directions

Step 1 Pulverize the salt so it will mix evenly throughout the patties. This also prevents water droplets from forming around large salt crystals.

Step 2 Mix all the ingredients thoroughly using protective gloves. Do not get wintergreen oil on your skin.

Step 3 Make patties the size of small hamburgers.

Step 4 Press the patties between pieces of wax paper and store in the freezer until you need them.

Step 5 Before serving, cut excess wax paper from the edges of the patty, but leave the rest in place. The bees will eat from the sides of the patty while the wax paper prevents the rest from drying out.



<http://www.tonitoni.org>

Winter 2015-2016 Outlook

Farmer's Almanac Debuts 2015-2016 Winter Outlook

The 2015-2016 winter outlook from the Farmer's Almanac has been released and that means we are one step closer to winter. It looks like the East Coast will once again be hit with a heavy winter. The West Coast is sure to be disappointing in the forecast for a "mild" winter after disappointing snowfall last season. Although the Farmer's Almanac has been fairly accurate during its nearly 200 years, the forecast is simply a forecast.



<http://business.transworld.net/news/farmers-almanac-winter-forecast-2015-2016/#jh6wRyygSHlr4cGh.97>

Looking for some good beekeeping reading this Winter and for many winters to come?

Go here: http://www.survivorlibrary.com/?page_id=1014

There are four beekeeping related libraries, many date back to the mid to late 1800s.

~Dave Maloney

Did You Know? . .

Interesting Facts about September..

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



- September starts on the same day of the week as December each year, but does not end on the same day of the week as any other month in the year.
- Band-Aids were invented in the month of September.
- The 4th week of September is National Dog Week.
- In the USA, September is Apple Month, Sewing Month, Honey Month, and Coupon Month!

Buckwheat Trivia:

Buckwheat is not related to wheat, it is not a cereal grain nor a grass. It is a relative of rhubarb and sorrel and its 'grain' is actually the dried fruit of the plant. However when ground it behaves much like wheat and other cereal grains.



photo by Abe Olsson

<http://www.foodreference.com/html/f-buckwheat.html>



"There is one masterpiece, the hexagonal cell, that touches perfection.

No living creature, not even man, has achieved, in the centre of his sphere, what the bee has achieved in her own: and were some one from another world to descend and ask of the earth the most perfect creation of the logic of life, we should needs have to offer the humble comb of honey."

~ Maurice Maeterlinck, The Life Of The Bee, 1924

<http://www.buzzaboutbees.net/bee-quotes.html>

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