

2026 Year in Review

A sweet season of sharing bees, honey, and know-how across Frederick County.



\$9,861

in member honey & honey sticks sold at the Great Frederick Fair

~700

Frederick County students reached by FCBA school outreach

84

swarm & cut-out requests received through our new SMS Bee Removal Alert System

4

colonies monitored for the UMD Sentinel Apiary Program, May-Oct



A Note from the President

What a year for our hive! Our members filled the Fair booth with local honey, carried bees and beekeeping into classrooms from Walkersville to Oakdale, launched a text-message system that gets swarms to beekeepers faster, and put one of our own on the front lines of honey bee health research. None of it happens without the volunteers who sign up for shifts, loan gear, host field days, and keep the books. Thank you for everything you give to this club.

Timothy White

President, Frederick County Beekeeping Association



The Great Frederick Fair

\$9,861.25

total honey sold by FCBA members at our Fair booth

\$8,372

honey jar sales

5,957

honey sticks sold (≈\$1,489)

\$7,204

returned to member sellers

The booth netted **\$2,657** for the club (before \$76 in fees). It also got a fresh look: a refreshed Bee Booth with member photos, a new honey sales display, updated seller rules, and a volunteer sign-up that staffed the booth through Fair week.

Kudos to every seller and every volunteer who worked a shift. You made our biggest outreach event of the year a sweet success.



Sentinel Apiary Program

Club and state, working together. FCBA joined forces with the **Maryland State Beekeepers Association (MSBA)** to sponsor member **Art MacLarty** in the University of Maryland Bee Lab's **Maryland Sentinel Apiary Program**, a six-month honey bee health monitoring effort running May through October 2026.

FCBA	+	MSBA
\$500 member stipend		10% kit cost-share + full 6X molecular testing

With both organizations backing him, Art is monitoring **4 colonies** with **monthly (6X) molecular testing** rather than the standard spring/fall sampling, putting Frederick County data into statewide bee health research. We're proud to have Art representing FCBA.



★ SIGNATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF 2026

Bee Removal Alerts

This spring FCBA launched its **SMS Bee Removal Alert System** (our “swarm app”), a **first-of-its-kind tool for our club** and an innovation **few, if any, bee clubs can match**. Homeowners tap **Ask For Help** at frederickbees.org/beeremoval; registered members get an instant text, and the first to claim it is connected straight to the homeowner.

- **Live in mid-April 2026**, replacing manual Google Groups swarm emails
- **39 swarm removal requests**, and members claimed **32** of them
- **45 cut-out requests**, with **14** claimed by members
- **84 homeowner requests** in all for 2026, **46** answered by FCBA beekeepers
- Flyers shared with local organizations the public calls for bee help

**Community & Club Life**

- The **City of Frederick** became a certified **Bee City USA** affiliate (May 2026), with a big assist from member **Mike Turell**
- Our summer **Bee Bash** (July 18, Loew Vineyards in Mt Airy) brought members together, hosted by **Cindy Heivilin**
- **Annual contributions** to FCPS's **Career & Technology Center** and **Earth & Space Science Laboratory**, and to **Fountain Rock Park & Nature Center**
- **Eric & Sam Dvorak** generously donated an **electric honey extractor** to the club. What a gift!
- Members approved **amended Bylaws** and the **2026 budget**

**Outreach with Ray Crough**

Led by Outreach Chairman **Ray Crough**, FCBA partnered with Frederick County Public Schools on a bee & beekeeping presentation that meets FCPS educational standards. About **700 students** saw it over the past year, building hives frame by frame and tasting local honey along the way. We couldn't ask for a better ambassador, Ray.

- **Walkersville STEM Night**, our largest single outreach event, led by first-year beekeeper and FCPS teacher **Angie Flook** (“Dress Like a Beekeeper” was a hit)
- **230 students** across 7 school sessions planned in September alone: Homewood, New Market Middle, Windsor Knolls, Oakdale Middle
- **Lavender Fest**, a two-day event where an observation hive from Kristin & Carl Ostrowski drew crowds
- **AstraZeneca Earth Day** (with Debra & Mike), **Thurmont Library** home-school talk, Homewood residents, and more
- Outreach boxes, banners, tent and “The Bear” available to every member; spring 2027 school requests already arriving

SPOTLIGHT · BEE REMOVAL ALERTS

Hats off to Dave Maloney!

Dave Maloney burned the midnight oil, working **into the wee hours of the morning** to bring our swarm app across the finish line. It's an accomplishment our whole club can **hang its hat on**.

Celebrating Our Leaders & Program Chairs

Every accomplishment in this report started with a volunteer. We're grateful to:

Ray Crough

Outreach Chairman: school & community outreach

Dave Maloney

Asst. Treasurer & Membership Relations Director-at-Large; SMS Bee Removal Alerts, Fair seller rules, website

Cindy Heivilin

Treasurer; Bee Bash & Christmas Party; see spotlight, p. 4

Kim Raide

Immediate Past President; Great Frederick Fair Steering Committee Chair

Mike Raide

Organized the January 2026 Beginner Beekeeping Class; manages our relationship with the MSBA

Lisa Patrican

Program Chair: builds and leads our phenomenal monthly speaker series

Samantha Dvorak

Secretary: agendas & minutes

Kristin Ostrowski

Director (2026–27); hosts the bee class's hands-on Field Day at her farm with Carl, using their own hives

Ashley Atkins

Facebook Director

Marc Meyer

Secretary (early 2026): minutes & Bylaws update

Art MacLarty

Sentinel Apiary Program participant

...and every volunteer

who staffed a shift, loaned gear, or shared a frame of bees



Beginner Beekeeping Class 2026

ORGANIZED BY MIKE RAIDE

Our **2026 Mid-MD Beekeeping Class for Beginners** was organized by **Mike Raide**, who brought together the speakers, volunteers, supplies and raffle, and kept the class on track through January's snowstorm forecasts. We couldn't do it without him!

47 students registered

3 Saturdays: Jan 10, 17 & 24,
Walkersville UMC~10 member volunteers
helping at classApr 18 hands-on Field
Day at the
Ostrowski farm

Day 1 · Sat, Jan 10

- Welcome & introduction of FCBA members — **Mike Raide**
- Overview of the 2026 course — **Mike Raide**
- Biology of the European Honey Bee — **Mike Turell**
- The Langstroth Hive — **Phil Serafinas**
- Tools and Equipment for Beekeeping — **John Gardner**
- How to Choose an Apiary Site — **Kim Raide**
- Getting Bees into Your Hive: nucs and packages — **Mike Raide**
- My First Year as a Beekeeper — **Tony & Brenda Ruopoli**

Day 2 · Sat, Jan 17

- The Beekeeping Year: Winter and Spring — **Dave Maloney**
- The Beekeeping Year: Summer and Fall — **Dave Maloney**
- Other Buzzing Insects — **Lisa Patrican**
- Feeding Bees: Spring, Fall, and Winter — **Kim Raide**
- Frames and Foundation... What Works for You — **Jim Fraser**
- Swarms — **Autumn Bozzo**

Day 3 · Sat, Jan 24

- Harvesting Honey, Wax, and Products of the Hive — **Glen Mayers**
- Pathogens and Pests — **Drew Lenhart**
- "Reading" Brood Frames — **Mike Raide**
- Mentor Map / Field Day — **Mike Raide**
- Hands-on stations:
 - Woodenware — **Glen Mayers**
 - Hive Inspection Basics — **Mike Raide**
 - Lighting a Smoker — **Matt Burns**
 - Installing Packages of Bees — **Kim Raide**
- Raffle & Closing



FIELD DAY · SATURDAY, APRIL 18

Hands-on in the hives with Kristin & Carl Ostrowski

After the class sessions, **Kristin Ostrowski** brings the class out to her farm for a hands-on **Field Day**, giving new beekeepers their very first experience with real bee colonies. She and **Carl** open **their own hives** for the demonstration: lighting a smoker, "reading" the hive, spotting the Queen and brood, Queen cells, mite treatments and more. It's a highlight of the course for every student. We're so grateful to them both!

Hats off to all our volunteer presenters! Kudos as well to **Dave Maloney**, who also served as class registrar, **Kim Raide** for supplies and hospitality, and **Cindy Heivilin** for the student binders. Every student also received Mike's up-to-date **mite treatment guide**.



Our Speaker Series

Monthly meetings, in person and on Zoom:

- Jan** Kaylin Kleckner (UF): wild honey bees in South Africa
- Feb** Louise Petit (UF): pesticide toxicology in beeswax
- Mar** Dr. Kaitlin Deutsch (UF): virus sharing, managed & wild bees
- Apr** Russell Sprangel: Make a New Queen for \$20
- May** Jim Fraser: splits, swarm prevention & foundation
- Jun** Russell Sprangel: tools & gadgets round table
- Aug** Art MacLarty, DVM (Three Spartans Apiary): biosecurity
- Sep** Dr. Elizabeth Walsh (USDA-ARS): "Hangry bees"
- Oct** Dr. Michele Mansfield (Penn State): honey & pollen diagnostics
- Nov** Dr. Dan Aurell (Auburn Univ. Bee Center): organic miticides for new splits & Tropilaelaps mites (Zoom)
- Dec** FCBA Christmas Party (Wed, Dec 2), organized by Cindy Heivilin

SPOTLIGHT · SPEAKER SERIES

Lisa Patrican

Every one of these programs was brought to us by **Lisa Patrican**. She puts together a **phenomenal speaker series** for our club, bringing in high-quality local and **world-renowned experts** in the field, month after month. Lisa is a **mighty force for the FCBA**, and our meetings are richer because of her.



MEMBER REMINDER · SAVE THE DATE

FCBA Christmas Party on **Wednesday, December 2**, our last meeting of the year, organized by **Cindy Heivilin**. Bring your appetite and holiday cheer!



FCBA volunteers at our booth, Great Frederick Fair, September 2026

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Cheers to Cindy Heivilin!

As FCBA Treasurer, Cindy keeps the hive humming behind the scenes:

Fair finances: booth cash, deposits & honey-seller checks

Storage unit: keeps our club gear organized and ready

Fair booth: set-up, tear-down & supplies

Bee Bash & Christmas Party: our summer get-together and the holiday party (Wed, Dec 2)

Ribbon Winners at the Great Frederick Fair

FCBA MEMBERS

Congratulations to the FCBA members who brought home ribbons from the Fair's Honey & Beeswax judging this September. Ribbons were awarded for 1st through 5th place in the open classes and 1st through 3rd for first-time and youth exhibitors.

Extracted Honey

White

1st Sara Gibson **3rd** Eileen Blahut

Extra Light Amber

1st Sara Gibson **2nd** Kristin Ostrowski
3rd John Gardner

Light Amber

2nd Drew Lenhart **3rd** Sara Gibson
5th Matt Burns

Amber

1st Drew Lenhart **2nd** Greg Baldwin
3rd Sara Robins **5th** Marc Meyer

Dark

1st Drew Lenhart **4th** Marc Meyer
5th Rick Lushbaugh

Creamed Honey

2nd Drew Lenhart

Beeswax

Block of Beeswax

1st Eileen Blahut **2nd** Drew Lenhart
3rd Kristin Ostrowski **5th** Scott Edie

Fancy Beeswax

1st Scott Edie **4th** Rick Tappan

Molded Poured Candles

2nd Eileen Blahut **3rd** Kim Brown

Dipped Candles

2nd Eileen Blahut

Rolled Candles

2nd Eileen Blahut

Comb, Exhibits & Photography

Frame of Honey

1st Kristin Ostrowski
Reserve Best of Show Kristin Ostrowski

Propolis

1st Drew Lenhart
Reserve Best of Show Drew Lenhart

Round Section Comb

1st Drew Lenhart

Display / Educational Exhibit

1st Ed Mordan

Honeybee Related Photography

1st Ed Mordan **2nd** Robert Bernier
3rd Emilie Cagliero

Crafts & Gift Packs

Honeybee Art & Crafts

3rd Kim Brown **4th** Rick Lushbaugh

Personal Gift Pack

1st Drew Lenhart **2nd** Rick Tappan

First-Time Exhibitors

Extracted Honey, Light

1st Ashley Atkins
1st David Czarnecki **3rd** Fred Nichols

Extracted Honey, Dark

3rd Scott Edie

Honey Cookery

Cake

3rd Eileen Blahut



Day 1 of the Beginner Beekeeping Class, January 10



A full house at our May 6 meeting for Jim Fraser's swarms & splits talk



Walkersville Elementary STEM Night: Angie Flook and Facebook Director Ashley Atkins represented FCBA