

Susquehanna Beekeeper's Association

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President's Ramblings



What a pleasant summer! With timely rain and few uncomfortably hot days, this has been a pretty good year for our bees. My total honey harvest turned out to be quite a bit lower than previous years. Almost 80% of this year's crop came from two hives. Each of these hives averaged about 62 lbs of nice, light-colored honey. No complaints there. My other three mature hives, each having swarmed in May, predictably produced significantly lower amounts. It is also interesting that the swarm hives' honey has a darker color, possibly from a later nectar source.

Beginning with our September 10 meeting, our general SBA meeting location will be the Fallston United Methodist Church on route 152 (next to the Fallston Public Library). We

will be using this facility for the coming year. Check the "Meetings and Events listings" for dates, times, speakers and topics.

A huge Thank You!! is extended to those who have volunteered at the various fairs and events this summer. Your time is greatly appreciated!

Both Claudia and I will be stepping down from our current SBA Board membership posts at the end of 2014. If you have an interest in influencing the SBA's future direction, please contact one of our current Board members. Nominations will be accepted at our October general meeting and elections for open positions will take place in November.

Best,

Dennis



Susquehanna Beekeeper's Association
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<u>Dennis Hertzog</u>	President
<u>Harry Dutcher</u>	Vice President
<u>Claudia Hertzog</u>	Secretary
<u>John Kovac</u>	Treasurer
<u>Pam Kryglik</u>	Officer Intern
<u>Aileen Richards</u>	Newsletter

Claudia's Corner

"No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world."

-Robin Williams

"I don't feel very much like Pooh today," said Pooh.
"There, there," said Piglet. "I'll bring you tea and honey until you do."

Notes from the Apiary

BY ROBERT CROUSE



“I added two frames of empty, drawn comb and then placed the box on top of the nucs needing help.”

I started feeding sugar syrup to my bees in July to get more new comb drawn for my continuing comb replacement project. What I did not see until the damage was done is that the bees had decided that they were going to do a queen replacement cycle in all of my large hive boxes. By the time they had their new queens, there was little space for her to lay in as almost all cell space now had syrup in it. One hive was 3 deeps high and had a nice new queen, so I decided to do a split: I removed the top deep and added two frames of brood and bees along with frames of stores and pollen. Well, the bees did not cooperate as they returned home and left those nice full frames of brood to die. This is the first time I have done a split that did not work. Perhaps I should have used one of my nuc boxes instead of the large standard box. Of my four standard hives, I now have three that are queenright and one that I am not sure of yet.

I had started 5 nucs for next spring's sales; however, one just would not produce a queen and became a laying worker hive. After several attempts at correcting this problem, I gave up and combined the bees with a strong hive and I will use the comb in one of the surviving nucs. The four nucs just did not have enough bees and as the season is getting short, I decided to add bees from my over-populated large hive boxes. I took three frames of bees from my large hives and placed them into nuc boxes that I had prepared by taping newspaper to the bottom. I added two frames of empty, drawn comb and then placed the box on top of the nucs needing help. I even added brood for one nuc that was

really short on population. I went back a week later and the nuc queens had responded to the added bee population by increasing the brood area. That is just what I wanted to see.

Next thing I need to do is go into the standard hive boxes and rearrange frames, if needed, so that the queen and brood are all together in the bottom box with stores and empty frames located in the top box. This will also let me know how much stores are available and which hives need feeding the most. If I find that the one hive that may be queenless, I will use those bees and frames to combine more bees into either the nucs or other hives.

I will start feeding in earnest starting in late September with 2:1 syrup. I want the top box of each hive and a good part of the bottom box full of stores. You don't want to feed too much too early or you might crowd the queen out of brood space. She needs to be able to produce young bees through early November to have young stock to get through January and February. I will have to keep checking on hive stores to be sure the queen has room.

You should have already gotten your feeders cleaned and ready. If there is mold or mildew, you can use a vinegar and water mix to clean them up. If using soap, be careful to make sure there is nothing left behind that will harm the bees. You do have extra supers with comb for winter stores, don't you? If not, you may be able to get the bees to draw comb by feeding heavily now with foundation in the super, but you risk the bees placing the sugar water in the bottom box, thereby displacing the brood area, so keep a sharp eye out!

See you at the September general meeting.

Maryland Honey Harvest Festival

The Maryland Harvest Honey Festival, sponsored by the Maryland State Beekeepers Association, will be held on Saturday, September 20th 2014, from 9 am to 3:30 pm at the National Wildlife



Visitor Center at the Patuxent Research Refuge. There will be tram tours of the refuge, interactive exhibits, beekeeping

displays, competitions for smoker lighting and bee-catching, and kid's arts and crafts. Local honey, hive products, and a light lunch will be for sale. Admission and parking are free.

Refuge Address and phone #: 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708, 301 497 5763

Refuge Website: <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent>

MSBA website: mdbeekeepers.org

Volunteers are needed to support this event. If you're interested in sharing your beekeeping experiences with the public, please contact

Steven McDaniel (mail@mcdanielphotography.com) or Linda Thompson (lmtpublic@comcast.net).

“The USDA is soliciting comments on how a Federal standard of identity for honey would be in the interest of consumers...”

US Standard Identity for Honey

The Agricultural Marketing Service of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) is soliciting comments on how a Federal standard of identity for honey would be in the interest of consumers, the honey industry, and U.S. agriculture. Comments must be received by September 19, 2014. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments via the Internet at [http://](http://www.regulations.gov)

www.regulations.gov or to Brian E. Griffin, Standardization Branch, Specialty Crops Inspection Division, Fruit and Vegetable Program, Agricultural Marketing U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 0709- South Building; STOP 0247, Washington, DC 20250; telephone (202) 720-5021; fax (202) 690-1527, email: brian.griffin@ams.usda.gov.

From: Notices Federal Register 49279, Vol. 79, No. 161

Notes:

- Congratulations to the Maryland Bake with Honey Contest Winners!
 - 1st place: Kelly Vaughan
 - 2nd place: Margaret Scaff
 - 3rd place: Claudia Hertzog
- September's general meeting will be held at Fallston United Methodist Church, 1509 Fallston Road, Fallston, MD 21047.
- Robert Crouse needs your “Redners” register tapes if you use a Redners store card. He will turn them in for their “Save-a-Tape” reward program—just give them to him at any SBA general meeting.



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Association**

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<http://susquehannabeekeepers.com>

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Sep 10 - (Wednesday) - General SBA Meeting, 7 pm at Fallston United Methodist Church on MD 152 – Agenda: Town Hall Forum

Sep 20 – (Saturday) – MSBA-sponsored Maryland Honey harvest Festival in Laurel, MD, <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent/> (click Public Events)

Sep 27-28 (Sat-Sun) – Steppingstone Fall Harvest Festival: Volunteers needed! Contact Harry Dutcher

Oct 8 (Wednesday) - General SBA Meeting, 7 pm at Fallston United Methodist Church - 2015 SBA Officer Nominations - Speaker: Lloyd Snyder, “More on Raising Queens”

Nov 12 (Wednesday) - General SBA Meeting, 7 pm at Fallston United Methodist Church - 2015 SBA Officer Elections - Speaker: Bonnie Raindrop - “Bee-Friendly Legislation”