

Dear Howard County Beekeepers!

On Saturday, February 20th, the Maryland State Beekeepers Association will have its Winter 2010 Meeting at the Howard County Fairgrounds (located at 2210 Fairgrounds Road West Friendship, MD 21297). The day's program is attached.

The day is all about beekeeping in Maryland, with the theme "Maryland Beekeeping by Any Means Necessary." The program will welcome Dr. Dewey Caron's successor at the University of Delaware, Dr. Deborah Delaney. Dr. Delaney will present on the genetic viability of today's honeybees, comparing managed to unmanaged populations, trying to determine the impact that threats like varroa represent to genetic loss, and therefore reduced viability. You can see an online article about some of her previous work at <http://newsduke.edu/2009/11/honeybee.html>

Many Maryland beekeepers may not be aware, even as the Langstroth Anniversary year begins, of Lorenzo Langstroth's ties to beekeeping in our state. Nationally recognized Langstroth experts Marc Hoffman (of Montgomery County) and Matt Redman (of the Eastern Shore) will present on this important history.

With honeybees under pressure, many of us have questions about the role other pollinators may play in our natural landscape. Master Beekeeper Nancy Troup of Washington County will give a presentation on *Osmia*, in time for those interested in beginning to work with them this spring.

And as many of our clubs launch their short courses, we also confront the growing interest, particularly among new beekeepers, in Top Bar Hives. Many long time beekeepers have little experience using this gear, and have relatively limited guidance to offer on everything from equipment to pest control to winter prep. Steve Collings of Frederick County will give a reasoned and experienced outline for the non-TBH beekeeper.

Finally, we will close the day with a panel of real Maryland and Delaware beekeepers who will discuss their own, practical local queen rearing efforts and goals. Maryland beekeepers all over the state are trying to raise local, hygienic and survivor stocks, and can provide you with some insight about how we can make local beekeeping more adaptable and sustainable.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Cheers,

Toni