

# Scout Bee Newsletter



## Maryland State Beekeepers Association 100th Anniversary and Honey Harvest Celebration, October 11, 2008

Come celebrate the Centennial of the Maryland State Beekeepers Association on October 11, 2008, from 10 AM to 4 PM at [Brookside Gardens](#) in Wheaton Maryland!

Fly on over and hear what all of the buzz is about at this FREE event and learn about the wonder of honeybees, the joy of beekeeping, and why people and honeybees have been partners in Maryland for over 100 years.

There will be live beekeeping demonstrations in a screened tent every hour, a mock apiary, demonstrations of honey extraction and candle making; pollinator face painting, the sale of honey, and Haagen-Dazs ice cream will be given out while supplies last as part of their national "Save the Honeybees" Campaign.

In addition, The American Beekeeping Federation's Honey Princess will be here, as well as leaders in honeybee research, with information on the challenges facing bees. Be sure to see the beekeeper rodeo, where competing beekeepers will showcase

their skills in return for fun and prizes.

Member beekeepers will be on hand to answer questions, and share the wonders of the amazing honeybee. A children's program will feature a honeybee story and craft as well.

Are you a beekeeper? Please feel free to stop by and get a free "I'm a Maryland Beekeeper" pin! See letter on page 3 for more information on how to help out.



American Beekeeping Federation  
Honey Princess  
Free ice cream  
from Haagen-Daz's

"Save the Honeybees" Campaign  
Live Beekeeping Demonstrations  
Mock apiary

Bees up close: see an observation hive  
Bee-friendly gardening  
Pollinator face painting

Local honey and hive products for sale  
Talk to real beekeepers

Candle Making Demonstrations  
Honey extraction demonstrations  
Learn about Bee-pollinated crops  
Find a local beekeeping club  
Beekeeper "Rodeo"

### Newsletter Submissions wanted!

Do you have an interesting beekeeping story or a how to article on beekeeping? Do you have photos of past field days or Boonsboro days? Do you have any bee or bloom related photos? Are you trying to sell any beekeeping supplies? Please send submissions via email to [john@britts.biz](mailto:john@britts.biz).

The Scoutbee Newsletter is the bi-monthly newsletter of the Hagerstown Valley Apian Society

Sept - Oct 2008

Hagerstown Valley Apian Society

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## Boonsboro Days 2008, The Weather Took its Toll, Part 1

First, if I miss anyone's name, I give you my sincere apology. I would like to thank everyone who was willing to contribute their valuable time to help our club at this years Boonsboro Days. This was the first time in the past 8 years, since I have been involved, that it actually rained on the festival weekend. To everyone who was willing to work on Saturday, thank you, due to the rain and my truck accident we were unable to set up. I believe Jim Baker, Melissa Molineaux, Kathy Edwards and Able Gallegos were volunteering that day. Your willingness to help is a gift to the club. Thanks to Emily Leffel and Carl Kahkonen, John Britt and his two sons John and Jesse for helping to set up Sunday morning and supplying the observation hive, Tim Smith, Blake Roberts, Bill McGiffin for stopping by, Marie and Danny Geisinger, Karen and Dave Benfield for stopping by, Sara and Mark Gibson, and my wife Erika and our boys Tyson and Liam. Thanks for your long standing support to HVAS. To Bill and Nancy Troup for lending us their observation hive which we ended up not using because of my carelessness. We came close to breaking even this year which was great considering we only had one day of great weather to make up for our normal two. Thank you everyone for your help and the community of friends I have through our club.

## Leading up to Boonsboro Days, "Death by Honey", Part 2

I have said this before, if you keep bees and don't have any good stories, you don't keep bees like me. I get in the most absurd situations, and what's the point of having a good story if you don't share it. It was Friday night leading up to Boonsboro Days. About 10:30 at night. I had just left Bill and Nancy Troup's house after picking up some bee equipment and traveling home going towards Devil's Backbone Park on Route 68. It had just started raining from Hurricane Hana. I never saw this coming, the back of my truck started to slide and turned me completely backwards. Seeing quickly out my driver side window I was never going to recover before sliding off the road into an approaching ditch. I just gave up and thought I would just ride this out. It happened so quick, a big bounce and a thud. I was dazed but seemed ok, but I also felt like I was upside down. I was very disoriented and having had a panic attack once in a plane, I was anxious to get out. My lights were still on and I could see my drivers window was broken out and there was a ravine below me. So quick thinking and panicked to get out, I had this great idea to slide out the window into the ravine and crawl out. Also, I had 80 some pounds of honey in 4 boxes in the front seat with me. So as I slid out, so did the boxes of honey. They wedged around my waist and trapped me halfway out the window. I was stuck, upside down with my feet somewhere up in the air and my head face down. Ok, lets say the next thing I said was I have got to remain calm. Calm, what rhetoric. Trying to convince myself I was not scared and I might spend the night here with no I idea how far off the road I was. By the way can a person live upside down all night? The weight of the honey was pressing against my stomach which was making it hard to breath. My knee could hit the horn of my truck, so I used it. Lucky, within ten minutes a passing driver, Phil Wagner, stopped to help me. I was saved. He called 911 and than I asked him to call my wife Erika, he was great, He says something like, your husband has been in an accident, his truck is rolled over and he is pinned under it. He appears to be ok. By the way, were you getting ready to can tomatoes? Because they are all over the road. Phil, thanks for the humor. (Next time break the dam window please and get the honey off of me). I don't know Phil, but if you do, tell him I love him. The fire department showed quickly and used their toys to break the windows and get the honey off of me, finally I could breath normally. Then they cut the roof off my truck. The tow truck rolled my truck a little and I was able to crawl out. My wife called Bill and Nancy to let them know I had just been in an accident so they came out to see me as I was driven off to the hospital. They salvaged almost all of the honey I had jarred for Saturdays sales at Boonsboro Days and dropped it off at Carl's house probably past 1am that Friday night. I must say it was good to see their friendly faces sitting in the back of the ambulance. My neighbor said, this could have been death by honey. Several friends asked about the timing of me learning about my wife and I expecting another child and the accident. Everyone is funny. One more thing, thanks to everyone who stopped by Boonsboro Days Sunday morning to see how I was. Donna the paramedic that assisted me in the back of the ambulance stopped by also and asked how I was, thanks Donna. Tim Smith was there and being a fire fighter and beekeeper he says, wait to you get the bill from Donna and the Rescue Squad. Thank you anyway. This is just another part of my bee-keeping story. Who would think several boxes of honey could kill you. - Don Wheeler Treasurer HVAS



# 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Maryland State Beekeepers

Dear Hagerstown Valley Beekeepers!

Did you know that the state beekeeping organization, the Maryland State Beekeeping Association, was founded in 1908, one hundred years ago (come December)? I'm in charge of a festival celebrating the Centennial of Maryland Beekeeping, and I'd like to invite you to stop by and to volunteer, if possible.

The MSBA will stage a day-long Festival at Brookside Gardens in Wheaton on October 11 from 10 AM to 4 PM. We need beekeepers about the place as volunteers, demonstrators, ambassadors to the public, and attendees in order to make this event a success! It's a chance to demonstrate your knowledge, perhaps sell some honey, and have a good time with fellow beeks from around the state.

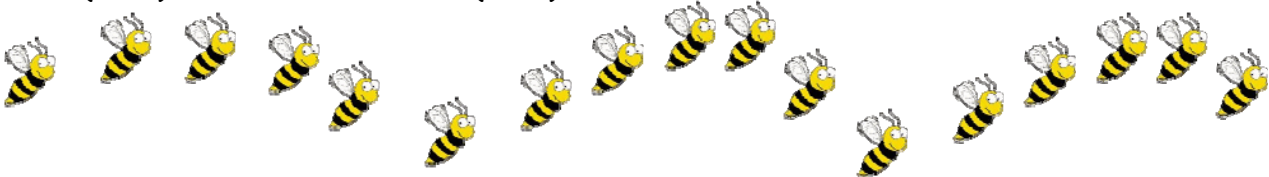
The day will include activities for children, the general public, and beekeepers, including demonstrations of beekeeping activities and crafts, sales of hive products, a children's story hour, bee related talks, and special visits from the Haagen-Daz "Save the Honeybee" program (yes, they have offered free ice cream) and the American Beekeeping Federation's Honey Princess! We are planning a "Beekeeper Rodeo" where you can show off your skills in return for modest prizes and fleeting fame! Finally, because Brookside Gardens has been so generous in their offerings of space to us, we are open to some additional activities, and would love to hear from you if you would like to participate.

Our hope is that non-beekeepers will spend an hour or two with our special community, and come away as advocates for bees and beekeeping in their local areas, and across Maryland as a whole. It's also an opportunity for clubs across the state to publicize themselves and their short courses! Finally, we'll all have a chance to socialize and touch base, with several offerings of special interest to beekeepers in particular. Please contact me with your questions, suggestions, and expressions of interest!

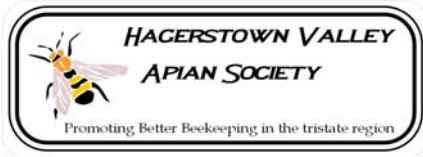
Cheers, Toni



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**PROMOTING BETTER BEEKEEPING  
IN THE TRI-STATE REGION .**



**HVAS ELECTIONS** at next meeting on Tuesday, October 14, 2008 7:30 pm @ the Washington County Extension Office

## FREDERICK FAIR

At the Frederick County Fair HVAS member Sara Gibson won the reserve champion ribbon for a piece of jewelry she made that is a bee pendant, made from encasing a dead bee in silver. As well as three blue ribbons and a red ribbon. Twelve year old Jesse Britt won a blue ribbon for his frame of honey as well as other ribbons for his extracted honey.



**Sept - Oct 2008**

**Hagerstown Valley Apian Society  
6136 Rohrsersville rd  
Boonsboro, MD 21713**

