



Southeastern PA Honey Bee Symposium

Presentation Synopses

Introduction to Honey Bees:

Jim Bobb, former president of the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association, provides an introduction into these amazing social animals. Although, no individual honey bee can exist on its own, bees work in concert to keep their colony thriving throughout the year. The role of the queen, worker and drone bees, how colonies reproduce, and why bees collect nectar and pollen will be discussed.

Native Pollinators:

Mike McGrath, host of "You Bet Your Garden", heard locally Saturday mornings at 11 on WHYY-FM, will give equal time to all those *other* bees--"Native Americans" like mason, blue faced, bumble, squash, etc.--that do so much important pollination work. Their habits and lifestyles are just as interesting as that of the imported honeybees, and their survival is also key to a healthy food supply.

Honey Bees and Pesticides:

Beekeepers and growers of bee pollinated crops have long been concerned about exposing pollinators to pesticides. Maryann Frazier, Senior Extension Associate in the Department of Entomology at Penn State, will present recent data showing that insecticides, miticides, fungicides and herbicides are present in surprising combinations and levels in our honey bee colonies. Are pesticides a key factor in declining pollinator populations and/or CCD? Researchers are working to answer these questions.

No Pesticide Gardening:

Homeowners often find themselves trapped on a "toxic treadmill," simply because they don't realize how easy it is to have a lovely landscape *without* using the chemical fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides that endanger people, pets, and especially honeybees, whose recent decline has been linked to chemical pesticide use and misuse. Organic garden guru Mike McGrath will reveal money-and-time-saving tips in a fun, fast-paced workshop that will help you achieve a lush, green lawn and landscape without risking your life. Whether your biggest foes are weeds, bugs or disease, Mike will explain how to defeat them quickly, easily, and without toxins.

Plants Important to Honey Bees:

Interested in planting flowers for helping out honey bees? Jim Bobb, Montgomery County Master Gardener, explains exactly what traits pollinators look for in a flower and shows some of his favorite bee plants.

Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD):

The disappearance of honey bees from thousands of colonies, first reported by a Pennsylvania beekeeper a few years ago, was followed by similar reports worldwide. Suggested causes range from cell phones to pesticides. Maryann Frazier explains the phenomena and the latest research results.