# What's the Buzz?

Hello friends and fellow keepers!

#### How I Found My Way to Beekeeping

My beekeeping journey began in an unexpected way...with illness. Years ago, while caring for our horses, I contracted Lyme disease. Suddenly, the outdoor life I loved of fresh air, sunshine, and being in the yard was replaced with endless doctor visits, IV therapy, and far too many days of feeling unwell. After a long stretch of trying to heal, I knew I needed something more natural to support my body. My doctor suggested local honey due to its beneficial properties that can naturally boost the immune system. The only problem? It wasn't easy to find. Bees have been in decline, which means fewer backyard beekeepers and less local honey available. That's when a lightbulb went off. I could become a beekeeper myself! Not only would I have access to my own honey, but I could also play a small role in supporting the environment. And so, a new chapter began. Beekeeping became more than just a hobby. It was my Zen. After years of being stuck indoors, stepping outside into the hum of the bees felt like pure heaven.

### Where the Bees Have Brought Me

It was a breakthrough moment that I am forever grateful.

These days, my beekeeping journey has grown into something far bigger than I ever imagined. I now teach beekeeping classes, mentor new beekeepers, and serve as President of the Association Southern Maryland Beekeepers (ASMB). What started as a way to support my own health has blossomed into a passion for helping others discover the joy of working with bees. I also run a small business selling honey and hive-based products, something I love sharing with the community. My body doesn't always cooperate the way I'd like, but I'm feeling so much better than I once was, and I'm truly blessed to be surrounded by friends and apprentices who lend a hand when I need it.

Beekeeping has given me purpose, healing, and community and I couldn't be more grateful.

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## STUFF YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO KNOW



MedStar St. Mary's Hospital Farmer's Market

September 5, 10am-2pm



Charles County Fair September 11-14th

Entries due Sept 10th



St. Mary's County Fair September 18-21st

Entries due Sept 17th
St. Mary's Catalog



Calvert County Fair

September 24-28th Entries due Sept 22nd

#### Seasonal Beekeeper's Reminder

This time of year is especially important for colony health. Be sure to take a close look at your hives and check for:

- Wax moth pressure
- · Small hive beetles
- European hornet activity
- Signs of Nosema

Catching these issues early can make all the difference as your colonies prepare for the cooler months ahead.



Strategies Against Invaders

**Defending the Castle** 

Happy Leeping!



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