

What's the Buzz?

with Deez L'Town Beez

Hello friends and fellow keepers!

Apimondia 2025

Every so often, opportunities arise in life that nudge us beyond our comfort zones. When we take them, we discover growth we never could have anticipated. For me, attending the World Honeybee Congress in Copenhagen was exactly one of those experiences. To say I was "out of my comfort zone" is an understatement. Traveling to a new country, immersing myself in an event of this scale, and pushing past my own fears was both intimidating and exhilarating. But stepping forward anyway proved to be such an adventure. This year's congress brought together more than 7,000 participants from around the world, including several hundred of us from the USA. For a week, Copenhagen buzzed with lectures, honey tastings, new products, and groundbreaking ideas. Everywhere I turned, there was learning: pest management strategies, hive configurations, feeding systems, and supplements. Researchers shared discoveries and experiments, challenging and rethinking old assumptions all in the name of improving honeybee health and supporting the work of beekeepers everywhere.

By the end of the week, my head was overflowing with knowledge, inspiration, and products to try. I left with a deeper sense of connection to the global beekeeping community, and with a renewed excitement for the work we all do to support our bees. If you ever get the opportunity to attend the World Honeybee Congress, I can only encourage you: make the time and say yes. It's an experience that will stay with you.

A heartfelt thank-you to my mom Olivia and my little brother Andrew, who joined me on this journey, as well as to Robin Luxenburg and her daughter Willow. Their companionship and encouragement meant the world and without them, I would have been completely lost. As for me, the adventure isn't quite over. I'm still traveling, visiting five European countries on this trip, each one unique and beautiful in its own way. I'll be heading home in a few weeks, carrying with me not just souvenirs, but stories, friendships, and memories to last a lifetime.

Volunteerism: Building Community Together

volunteerism/ *vālən'ti rīzəm/* Volunteerism is the practice of giving time and skills to support a cause without expecting payment, driven by a desire to strengthen communities and make a positive impact. It can take many forms; formal volunteering with structured roles in non-profits, or informal volunteering like lending a hand to a neighbor. Beyond helping others, volunteering brings personal rewards: a sense of purpose, new friendships, and even better mental and physical health.

Last month, the Association of Southern Maryland Beekeepers (ASMB) was buzzing with volunteer spirit! We participated in the Sunflower Festival, the State Fair, and the Charles County Fair. Each event gave us the chance to share knowledge about bees, connect with the public, and enjoy the camaraderie that comes with working together.

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STUFF YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO KNOW



ASMB Meeting, Social & Awards

October 26th, 5-9pm
Mechanicsville Fire House



A Festival of Bones Vendor Show

November 1st, 9am-4pm, at Lions
Camp Merrick, Nanjemoy



Recycle & Reuse

Bring back your glass honey jars
and get \$1 off your next jar.

Seasonal Beekeeper's Reminder

As the season changes, make sure to check your hives regularly:



Food stores: Ensure bees are still bringing in enough food. If not, provide supplemental feed.



Brood health: The goal is to maintain strong brood growth so colonies head into winter healthy.



Mite management: Check varroa levels and treat if needed. At the very least, confirm mite counts are as low as possible.

A little attention now helps your colonies stay strong through the winter.

If you're feeling bored or lonely, volunteering is one of the best ways to meet new people and try something new. Whether it's through a beekeeping association, a soup kitchen, a church, a hospital, or even a veterinary clinic. The opportunities are endless! Many organizations would benefit from having your time, energy, and hands-on help.

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Happy Keeping!