

What's the Buzz?

with Deez L'Town Beez

Hello friends and fellow keepers!

Insights from Apimondia 2025: Strengthening Our Hives at Home

This September, several members of the ASMB, myself included, had the honor of representing Southern Maryland beekeepers at the 48th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress in Copenhagen, Denmark. More than 8,000 beekeepers, researchers, and educators from 124 countries came together to exchange ideas and share the latest developments in pollinator health and management.

One of the most impactful talks came from Jennifer Bryan-Goforth of the Pollinator Stewardship Council, who highlighted national efforts to reduce pesticide risks through beekeeper and community education. Her data showed that informed outreach truly makes a difference and participants not only gained knowledge but also adopted more pollinator-friendly practices in their own operations.

Throughout the conference, a clear global consensus emerged: chronic, sublethal pesticide exposure is one of the most persistent and damaging stressors facing honeybees. Rather than debating whether harm exists, researchers focused on understanding how these exposures disrupt behavior, foraging, and colony longevity. One study showed that larvae exposed to only 5 ppb of imidacloprid developed into "precocious foragers" who worked less efficiently and died younger evidence of how subtle chemical exposure can destabilize colony dynamics.

In the "Beekeeping in the Americas" session, ABF Vice President Debbie Seib addressed staggering U.S. colony losses up to 70% for commercial operations this year and called for stronger data coordination to pinpoint causes and drive solutions. Her presentation underscored the importance of beekeeper collaboration and advocacy for better research and protection efforts nationwide.

Beyond the science, Apimondia was an incredible opportunity to connect with fellow beekeepers from around the world, share stories, and sample unique honeys at the World Honey Bar including stingless bee varieties and floral sources few of us had ever tasted.

It was inspiring to see how beekeepers everywhere, no matter the region, share the same challenges and determination to protect our pollinators. I look forward to keeping these conversations going at the North American Honeybee Expo in Louisville, Kentucky this January and bringing home more ideas to strengthen our local beekeeping community.

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STUFF YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO KNOW



Daytime Holiday Market

Annmarie Gardens

December 6th, 9am - 2pm



Kris Kringle Christmas Market

Charles County Fairgrounds

December 12-14th



7th Annual Suttler Post Farm Holiday Open House Benefit for Hospice of St. Mary's

December 13 & 14th, 11am - 4pm



Recycle & Reuse

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

Seasonal Beekeeper's Reminder



Winter Prep Tip



As colonies settle in for winter, remember the rule of thumb: one frame of honey for every frame of bees.

Now's also the perfect time for a mite treatment. With little to no brood present, treatments are most effective. With cold temperatures setting in, it's time to wrap or insulate your hives to help conserve heat.

Don't forget to add candy boards or dry sugar for emergency feed and button up your hives to keep the bees cozy through winter.

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Happy Keeping!