BeeKeepers

The BeeKeepers is one component of the IWLA Fredericksburg-Rappahannock Chapter. We currently have 5 colonies in our apiary, located in the back left hand corner of the pond.

We play an active role in beekeeping and healthy hive management.   This coming summer, hopefully we will be harvesting honey from our apiary. The honey will be "sold" to chapter members and profits will be put back in the beekeeping fund for new or ongoing projects. If you are looking for a way to make a difference with the IWLA Fred-Rapp Chapter, come out and join our group. Bring your children or grandchildren. This definitely can be a family affair! For new IWLA members, this is an excellent way to donate your time and energy back to the Chapter and knock out those 20 hours!

The male bees (drones) have only two functions in the bee world. To mate with the queen and to eat the honey resources in the hive. Late fall, the female bees (worker bees) forced out the now useless drone bees from the hive, letting them starve. It's a harsh sentence, but one that's necessary for the colony's survival. But not to worry, the queen will lay more eggs late this winter that will become drones. It's cold outside and as you notice the bees are wrapped up for the winter. The worker bees have formed a "winter cluster" around the Queen inside the hive.   A healthy colony can maintain inside temperatures of 92-96 degrees by flapping their wings, even if the outside temperature drops into the teens.   On days when the outside temperature is 50 degrees or higher, you may see the bees flying around. Guess what they are doing? Since bees do not defecate in their hives, they are taking a cleansing flight.

Anyone who thinks they're too small to make a difference, has never met the honey bee.

If you want to learn more about the honey bees, come on over to the apiary and join us! No experience required!

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