

# Potomac Watershed Partnership

Trees for Bees

Information exchange 9 Dec 2014

# The fascinating world of the honey bee

- 1 trillion dollars annually to US agriculture
- 66 pounds of pollen gathered per hive annually
- By products include honey, beeswax, royal jelly
- 60,000 – 80,000 bees per hive during the summer
- Queen bees live 3-5 years and lay 2,000 eggs/day



# The problem with bees

- Colony Collapse Disorder



1. Insecticides – Nicotine derived Imidacloprids or “neonics”
  2. Parasites
  3. Cold winters
- Loss of Habitat – Plant bee friendly trees/shrubs

# WVEPBA – WV Eastern Panhandle Beekeepers Association

- New partnership between WVEPBA and WV Division of Forestry
- Members can order 10-100 trees for planting in approved areas.
- Must pay \$4.00 per tree for deer protection.
- Receive 1 free shrub for every 10 trees ordered.
- Planting in Fall 14.

# First planting season

- Everything coordinated by one member
- 19 orders received by Aug 14 for 504 trees/shrubs
- \$1,300 collected for the purchase of supplies
- Trees delivered Oct 1.
- 6 public plantings on larger orders of 50 or more. 130 volunteer hours.

# Trees for Bees Planting, 25 Oct 14



# Trees for Bees, 15 Nov 14

## Double planting



# Trees for Bees Planting, 22 Nov 14



## Quick fact

- In West Virginia, income received from registered honey bees, counts towards an Agriculture tax break. This is good for planting trees instead of making hay.

# Good Tree species for bees

- Maples
- Tag Alder
- River birch
- Hackberry
- Dogwoods
- American holly
- Tulip poplar
- Blackgum
- Sycamore
- Black cherry
- Staghorn sumac
- Black willow
- Linden

# Hydrangeas



# Elderberry



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They are beautiful in their peace, they are wise in their silence.  
They will stand after we are dust. They teach us and we tend them.  
-Galeain ip Altiem MacDunelmor