Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

Bee America Honey

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Retail
Member since March 2017

Management and Leadership

☑ **Environmental Policy Statement**

We are passionate about doing what we can to preserve the future of honeybees and their place in our world. Small, local apiaries, like Bee America, can offer their customers the confidence of knowing exactly how the bees are treated, what sustainable land-management practices are utilized, the nutritional quality of the honey, and how it was harvested. By buying honey and honey products from these apiaries, consumers are making an environmentally critical decision to support sources of natural ingredients.

The importance of honeybees to our way of live cannot be overstated. Bees pollinate 71 out of the 100 or so crops that we humans rely upon for 90% of our food. Bee America believes that every person can have a positive impact on the health and very survival of honeybees. Our apiary implements the following practices and encourages our customers, neighbors and friends to do the same:

- *Plant native plants to grown in your ecoregion. These plants will provide important pollinator forage and protection. Enriching your garden with native plants means you are landscaping with flowers, shrubs and trees that are naturally suited to the environment in which you live. Native plants require less water and aren't dependent on pesticides in order to thrive.*

- *Avoid the use of insecticides and use natural pest control instead (i.e., prevention, beneficial insects and nontoxic remedies). Astonishingly, homeowners use about three times the quantity of pesticides as do farmers, which amounts to approximately 136 million pounds of pesticides a year for*

residential use alone in North America. In fact, residential use of pesticides is primarily responsible for most surface water contamination and the majority of animal poisonings.

- *Consider letting certain parts of your yard "go wild" and return to their natural state as they can support more ecosystem diversity.*
- *Keep your garden well-watered so its flowers produce more nectar (provided you are not under drought restrictions).*
- *Cut your grass less frequently so that pollinator-friendly plants like daisies, clover and other wildflowers can grow up and bloom.*
- *Shelter pollinators in your yard by installing bat houses and bee nests.*
- *If feasible, leave dead tree trunks alone as homes for wood-nesting bees.*
- *Insure a fresh water supply—leave out a shallow bowl filled with water and floating wine corks or river stones for pollinators to safely land on to drink.*

Waste

☑ **Recycling**

Our honey is sold in glass jars and with the cooperation of loyal customers, we can recycle the honey jars and repurpose them.

As we use natural beeswax for the honeycombs in the hives (instead of plastic), the honeybees in our apiary can recycle it after the honey is harvested. They are able to clean and reuse the wax to build new comb.

Energy

☑ **Renewable Energy**

Bee America installed a solar panel array on the roof in late 2013 and since then has generated 22,279 kWh of power. This renewable energy output allowed us to conserve 16.5 tons of CO_2, which is equivalent to not driving a car for 39, 139 miles or avoiding the use of 8,918 gallons of water. Our total estimated savings thus far is $691.

Water

☑ **Water Conservation**

We have two small water features (200 and 500 gallons) in our apiary where the honeybees can drink clean water. Waterfalls aerate these ponds and because they are closed systems, the water is conserved. Trees shade each water feature to minimize evaporation by the sun.

☑ **Stormwater Management and Site Design**

As the apiary is located on a hill, extensive stormwater run-off mitigation was implemented with several collection sites positioned strategically around the property to channel water effectively and prevent erosion. This mitigation includes drains that collect the water and direct it via underground pipes to a natural spring-fed stream on the property. We also have two 1,000-gallon underground tanks that collect rainwater, which is then used to irrigate the property. Furthermore, most of the trees, bushes and plants are native to this area and the landscaping helps to manage the flow of water efficiently.