



## NEWSLETTER

### Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association

February 2013

Volume 33 No.16

*Published Bi-Monthly since 1980*

[www.BUMBAbees.com](http://www.BUMBAbees.com) <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/BUMBABEE/>

## Meetings

*Next BUMBA Meeting*

*Winter Remedies – Spring Emergencies!*

*Thursday, February 7, 7:30 PM!*

*Watkins Park Nature Center*

At our next meeting we will try to answer questions about Winter Beekeeping and “What can I do for and with my bees?” Traditional advice has always been to keep out of the hives and do nothing. We’ve seen daytime temperatures reaching 60-70 degrees, bees flying and foraging (for what?), and brood rearing starting. Beekeepers have to be prepared to take advantage of these warm days. Find out what you can do and need to do. Plan ahead; be prepared; act.

The transition from the end of Winter to early Spring is the most precarious period for honey bee hives. With stores in short supply (especially from fruitless winter foraging attempts) brood demands for food before reliable nectar flows begin, or a period of cool, rainy weather, can cause a hive to starve. Or the hive may be super strong and ready to swarm on the first warm day. What are the signs of each, can you recognize them? What should you do? What equipment do you have on hand and what else do you need? These are spring emergencies. Miss a day and the swarm is gone. Miss a weekend inspection and the hive starves to death. Leave a mediocre hive alone, and have a mediocre (at best) honey harvest.

**Bob Greenwell** will start off the meeting with an overview of what to expect until April, then a panel of experienced beekeepers will talk about their practices and answer questions.

The *marvelous* **BUMBA Beekeeping Class** (see details in the Club Happenings department) begins **February 14**. Expect to hear a few words about this as well.

See you at the meeting!

## The President's Smoker

It is interesting to note that 2010 and 2012 were the two warmest years for North America in recorded history. One would think that with the early spring warmth and long summers that our bees as a rule would be increasing, producing heavily, and just generally thriving...however that hasn't been the case for a great many colonies. Beekeepers all over the country have been reporting losses all winter since early fall. There doesn't seem to be any discrimination between large commercial outfits, smaller sideliners, or hobbyists. Still some have had very low losses, while those that have been hit with losses are among both the non-treatment/natural faction, and those that treat chemically. Among the commercials, those who have suffered the least seem to be the ones who treated for *Varroa* twice this year, or used split treatments this past fall, and applied pollen substitute protein during the fall. I've seen reported losses as high as 13,000 hives from one commercial and 80-100% losses for some hobbyists. All this is to say...if it has happened to you, take heart, don't get discouraged...like any form of agriculture, there will be losses and crop failures from time to time. Sometimes it is drought, flooding, wind, hail, heat, cold, pests, disease, or human

error. But now it is a new year and time to reflect, study, experiment, and try again.

Let me tell you about my loss experiences for this past season, what I think happened, and why I think it played out this way. It is rather complicated, in that I believe it is a sequence of connected events, while at the same time I believe it is rather simple and the root results stem from parasitic mite syndrome (PMS) or simply put...colonies stressed by the *Varroa destructor* mite. Bear in mind that I am only expressing my opinion in what I detail here. I am going to sorta outline a chain of events.

The winter of 2011/2012 was all but non-existent. There were starvations in early spring among colonies. Trees and floral bloom dates were all over the place, and nectar flows were not experienced here in their usual patterns. In fact, according to my observations of my scale hive, the curve was a long flat line without the traditional intense peaking. I had several peaks that lasted a day or two but that was it. We had both a derecho storm and a hurricane come through and they did have some effect on both spring and fall blooms; this following a long hot summer.

I am not a scientist, and certainly not qualified to measure either the effectiveness of the floral nectar flows, nor the nutritional value of the natural pollens available to the bees this past year, but I have read theories from some who are qualified and who think perhaps climate changes did perhaps effect pollen. Who knows? Sometimes we grasp at straws when we don't know where else to place our blame. I had not treated my bees for either *Varroa* or Tracheal Mites since 2008, other than a small trial of MAQS in one out yard. It killed all the brood and 3 of 4 queens but that is another story.

I had 54 strong hives and about 20 strong 5 frame double-deeps and double-deep nucs just prior to my surgery date of 8/30/12, and they were all still strong when I was able, with assistance, to make inspections about 9/20/12. We put some syrup on some, maybe half of the hives, because they were so packed with bees I was in fear of them consuming too much of their winter stores before winter arrived. I noted all hives as heavy with honey, loaded with pollen,

and busting with bees.

Somewhere between 10/01/12 and 11/15/12 I lost 30 of those textbook strong, ready for anything hives and a few of the nucs. To date I have lost 15 more for an 80% loss. I have lost about a third of the nucs also. Here are the symptoms, or conditions found in the empty hives. No piles of dead bees inside or outside of the hives. Most cases, no bees at all in the hives dead or alive. Those few cases where I found a queen and a small cluster of bees were reduced into nuc boxes, but none of those made it through. In those where there was a queen, there would be a 3-4 inch patch of brood, no more than that. In the deadouts, there would be a hive that looked like it had a thriving colony in it merely a day or two before, but now no bees except for frames of lots of capped brood, partially emerged brood and dead larvae. Sporadic perforated cappings, but convex, not concave, no ropiness or foulbrood type odor, nor any twisted or discolored larvae. A few hives had about a half cup or so of dead bees on the bottom screen. The losses were in all 5 of my yards, and the 80% loss rate holds pretty tight to each individual yard. No sign of *Nosema* or dysentery was evident to the eye. Another beek I know sent a sample to the Beltsville Bee Lab from a colony described exactly as mine and it showed no high *Nosema* spore counts or pesticides present. It doesn't really mean anything without my having sent in a sample as well, but interesting none the less. All the deadouts had loads of capped honey and numerous frames of bee bread in them. Looking at the drone comb, I could distinguish mite feces in the cells. It looks like, well, bee eggs, white but smaller, kinda like a *bacillus* bacteria would look if it were white.

Due to the timing of my cancer surgery, I did not get my alcohol washes done and so have no idea of just how heavy the mite counts were, but I suspect they were very heavy indeed, considering the climatic conditions of the 2011/2012 year and a half, coupled with the extreme strength of the colonies. Some were in triple deep bodies, with two mediums of honey as well. There were SHB in every hive all year, and a few of the deadouts had a slimed frame or two in them, but I suspect that happened post mortem.

I didn't check mites when I was able to start inspecting hives again, partly because they were so strong, partly because I had a helper doing the heavy work for me and I didn't want him to see how really weak and tired I was, but mostly because my ego was telling me I was this great queen breeder with these great mite resistant bees I had been developing. In my defense, a lot of other breeders' mite resistant bees have had trouble this year too. Anyway, all said and done, I believe it is ultimately mite crash that did them in, whether it was stress absconding, or a *Varroa* vectored virus, and yes there was evidence of virus present during those early fall inspections, such as crawlers and DFW (deformed wing virus). It is of interest to note that the queens that seem to be surviving express the trait...well maybe I'll save that and expand on the topic at the upcoming meeting.

At the meeting I would like to spend some time hearing other's wintering experiences and survival rates so we can compare notes. The good news is that the guy monitoring the 50 hives I have wintering down south to pull early nucs, emailed me today to say that all 50 are robust and expanding, so perhaps all is not lost. He said he put protein and syrup on them yesterday and expects to pull 50 nucs on 2/16/13 for me and that by the time I go back down and get them in early April they should be ready to pull 50 more. Hope he's right.

*Bob Greenwell*

## *MSBA Winter Meeting*

*February 16, 9:30AM -3:15PM*

Howard County Fair Grounds, West Friendship, MD

Queens - Bee Research Results - Farmer-to-Farmer  
program

MSBA will have several interesting speakers at the Winter Meeting. Maryland queen breeder, **Adam Finkelstein**, will

speaking about his observations on different honey bee strains. **Meghan Olivier**, Dep. Director of Partners of America, Farmer-to-Farmer Program will talk about opportunities for beekeepers to participate in this international volunteer program. **Dr. Steven Cook** from the **USDA Beltsville Bee Lab** will talk about preliminary results from research conducted at the **Weslaco Bee Lab** (now closed). The schedule also will include a panel discussion; come stump the experts.

**Directions:** Located at 2210 Howard County Fair Rd, West Friendship, MD., just off Md. Rt. 144, Frederick Rd. Either take Rt 32 North and turn Left onto Rt 144 at the stoplight just before I-70; or, take I-70 West to Exit 80, Rt 32 South, and turn Right at the stoplight. Travel about a half-mile or so, to the top of the hill, and turn Right onto Howard Country Fair Rd. Turn Left at the second gate. The meeting is in the Dining Hall.

*FREE STATE Bee Supply*

*Your local bee supply dealer*

Free State Bees, 2420 Mill Hill Rd, Waldorf, MD 20603-3752

Please email or call if you have any questions.

*Please be sure to call ahead to set up a time to visit!*

*Contact Dave or Laura Polk at 301-580-9313.*

*As always, thanks for your continued support!*

*Dave and Laura Polk*

## Club Happenings

### 2013 BUMBA Spring Course

There are still spaces available in our Spring Course. Registration is still open and available on the **BUMBA** web page [www.BUMBAbees.com](http://www.BUMBAbees.com). Class starts on Valentine's Day (guys - that's Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>) and includes 6 Thursday night classes this year. Class dates are **Feb. 14, 21, 28, and March 7, 14, and 21**. The **Field Day is Saturday, March 23** (due to Easter the rain date is April/6). This year the class fee is \$40 for the first family member and \$25 for each additional family member. Help spread the word.

### Field Day Lunch Plans, March 23

Since we had such a great Field Day at **Scott Seccomb's** house last year, we are going to do it again this year. Now, we can't promise that the weather will be as fabulous and the swarms as plentiful; but, with the weather's cooperation we should have a wonderful time once again. Scott has graciously allowed us the use of his apiary for our gathering at the end of the course. We plan on having lunch catered once again (the feedback was great on the delicious BBQ). The cost will be **\$10 per adult** and we will need an advance count of those planning to purchase lunch that day. Of course, anyone wishing to bring our own lunch may certainly do so.

### 2013 Schedule of Outreach Events

*Linda Thompson, Outreach Coordinator*

*[lmtpublic@comcast.net](mailto:lmtpublic@comcast.net), 301-352-3663 (h), 301-943-4368 (c)*

**BUMBA** is committed to attend a number of exciting public events this year. As always, we will need your help to make our participation successful. The bees need your help, too. A big part of our **BUMBA** mission is to share with the public why we love

beekeeping; why bees are in decline; why that is a threat to our food supply; and, what non-beekeepers can do to help. We can teach children about bees and adults that they *can* live with their neighbor's bees. In addition, these events give us a forum for selling your products, recruiting new beekeepers, and promoting club membership.

Please sign up, pick a date and time, put it on your calendar, and come join the fun! You will meet some interesting people, share what you know, learn something new, and be amazed at what you do know.

#### March 23 **Behnke Nursery Spring Open House**

11300 Baltimore Avenue Beltsville, 10AM - 4PM

#### 4/27 **University of Maryland - Maryland Day**

College Park campus, Regents & Farm Drives, 10AM -

4PM

#### 5/4 **Alice Ferguson Foundation Spring Farm Festival**

Hard Bargain Farm, 2001 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek,

11AM - 4PM

#### 5/5 **Bostwick Spring Festival**

Bostwick House, 48th Street, Bladensburg, 1 - 4PM

#### 5/19 **A-MAY-zing Animal Festival**

Bladensburg Waterfront Park, 4601 Annapolis Rd,

Bladensburg, Noon - 4PM

#### 8/28 **Maryland State Fair**

State Fair Grounds, 2200 York Road, Lutherville-

Timonium, Noon - 10PM

#### 10/6 **Bostwick Harvest Festival**

Bostwick House, 48th Street, Bladensburg, 1 - 4PM

#### 11/9 **Trash To Treasure Green Craft Fair**

Watkins Nature Center, Upper Marlboro, 10AM - 4PM

There are still additional events offering more opportunities throughout the year which we can support, if there is interest. If you have a favorite event or venue that is not listed above which you would like to support, let me know and we'll make it happen! Some events that we have done (or discussed) in the past are:

- Bowie Lions Club - Bowie Green Expo in April
- Mt. Rainier Day in May
- Maryland Pollinator Week in June
- Croom Farmers Market in August
- Maryland Honey Harvest Festival in September
- Bowie-Crofton Garden Club Fall Plant Sale in September
- P.A. Bowen Farmstead - Annual Pasture Party for Land Conservation in October
- Avalon Farms in October

### Ob Hives: Where's the Queen?

Observation hives are truly amazing things. Constructed of wood and glass, holding one frame or two, they put bees on display for people. Tony and I got into beekeeping because at the **Renaissance Festival** one day we stood in front of **The Bee Folks'** observation hive for over an hour gawking at the bees and asking lots of questions. We walked away with **Jerry Fischer's** contact information and here we are.

We can work outreach events without them, but an observation hive draws people to a table like nothing else. We have spent many a lovely day at an event watching adult bees emerge from their cells, worker bees attending the queen, and even the queen laying eggs. Eggs can be seen, larva at all stages, capped brood, pollen, nectar, and honey. There is not much in beekeeping more rewarding than spending a few hours watching a live hive at work.

I want to take this opportunity to give special thanks to our **BUMBA** members who so graciously "make" observation hives for our events. **BUMBA** owns an observation hive, but it takes a dedicated beekeeper to get up early on the day of an event, go through one of their hives to find the queen, load the frame she is on (and a second one) into the observation hive, steal the queen from the colony for a day, tote the hive to the event, and then put everything back together at the end of the day. It is at least a little stressful to the bees!

**Gerry Jones** most frequently brings the observation hive to our events (and he volunteers at nearly every one!). Leigh Walton has done it many times. **Debby Heyes, Tony Drake, and Toni Burnham** have all stepped up. I'm sure there are others I am missing, and I don't mean to leave you out – Thank you, THANK YOU!

Ten minutes at an observation hive with a beekeeper pointing out all the fascinating things going on can really influence a child, and even many adults. It is an invaluable teaching tool. "Where's the queen?" – we hear it all day long. So if you are reticent to volunteer at an outreach event, let the observation hive draw you in. We can put you in charge of pointing out the queen (sometimes she is even marked!)

### 2013 Outreach Displays and Materials: Call for Photos and Worker Bees

**BUMBA** owns lots of display material and we set up a lovely table at our events, but we would like to include some new items this year. If you are creative, artistic, or even just interested, we could use your ideas and help. We would like 2 new displays on the following topics:

- Pollination: why it is important to our food supply; honeybees are vital pollinators
- Honey: what it is; why it comes in different flavors and colors; how it is produced; and, Maryland honeys

We would like to create a color, glossy bookmark to promote the planting of honeybee forage. We are thinking the front will display 5 or 6 excellent forage plants that are easy to grow and maybe devote the back to popular plants that don't feed our bees. If you have had particular success with something (and if you have a photo of it in bloom, even better!), please let me know.

We would like to create a new larger **BUMBA** banner. If you have an eye-catching photo that you think would advertise our club activities, please email it to me. We will consider all submissions.

## Bees in the News

*News shorts and excerpts about bees*

### Florida apiary permitting is now solely a state level responsibility

*By Wayne Esaias, MSBA President*

**Malcolm Sanford** is the former Florida Apiary Extension Officer. I had the opportunity at the American Beekeeping Federation annual convention to talk to **Dr. Sanford** about city and local government bee regulations in Florida. **Dr. Sanford** said Florida has enacted a new law that reserves all responsibility to the State for honey bee regulation, in order to preclude (preempt) continual attempts to impose restrictions at the local level.

The Florida statute, which can be found at <http://www.flsenate.gov/laws/statutes/2012/0586.10>, was enacted in 2012 and signed August 16, 2012 (see <http://beeactor.vze.com/>).

This bill gives the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) exclusive authority to regulate beekeeping, apiaries and their locations, and was called The State Preemption/Apiiculture Bill 1197 a.k.a. "Beekeeper Protection Bill". Our counterpart to the FDACS is the Maryland Dept. of Agriculture.

### Weslaco, TX, Honey Bee lab Closes

*By David Morris*

The Kika de la Garza Subtropical Agricultural Research Center in Weslaco, Texas, has been closed by the USDA. The center housed one of only four USDA Honey Bee labs. The labs in Beltsville, Baton Rouge and Tucson remain open; the Ogden, Utah, facility is devoted to non-honeybee pollinators. Lab closure is proceeding, with the scientists and their program funding being transferred to the remaining three ARS labs, per the November, 2012, American Beekeeping Federation newsletter. The USDA hopes to save \$10

million per year with the closing.

## News from "Catch the Buzz" at BeeCulture.com

### Early Blooming Goes With Early Leaf Buds. Hurry Up.

*By Alan Harman*

Exceptionally warm spring weather in 2010 and 2012 resulted in the earliest flowering times known in 161 years of recorded history at two sites in the eastern United States.

But Boston University researcher **Elizabeth Ellwood** says this blooming is occurring earlier than before due to warmer springs caused by climate change.

It's still not known what affects this will have on plant productivity, pollinators such as bees and ecosystems in general.

Ellwood and her team from Harvard University and the University of Wisconsin report in the journal *PLOS ONE* that they compared flowering times now with those recorded near Walden Pond in Massachusetts by **Henry David Thoreau** beginning in 1852 and **Aldo Leopold's** records of spring flowering in Wisconsin beginning in 1935.

They found many plants flower up to 4.1 days earlier for every degree Celsius rise in mean spring temperatures, but this relationship is linear from Thoreau's time to the present day.

Read the full article at:

<http://home.ezazine.com/1636/1636-2013.01.30.09.20.archive.html>

### Spring may come earlier to North American forests

Trees in the continental U.S. could send out new spring leaves up to 17 days earlier in the coming century than they did before global temperatures started to rise, according to a new study by Princeton University researchers. These climate-driven changes could lead to changes in the composition of northeastern forests and give a boost to their ability to take up carbon dioxide.

Trees play an important role in taking up carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, so researchers led by **David Medvigy**, assistant

professor in Princeton's department of geosciences, wanted to evaluate predictions of spring budburst — when deciduous trees push out new growth after months of winter dormancy — from models that predict how carbon emissions will impact global temperatures.

The team estimated that, compared to the late 20th century, red maple budburst will occur 8 to 40 days earlier, depending on the part of the country, by the year 2100. They found that the northern parts of the United States will have more pronounced changes than the southern parts, with the largest changes occurring in Maine, New York, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

Read the full article at:

<http://home.ezine.com/1636/1636-2013.01.30.09.06.archive.html>

## EU Proposal to Protect Bees Stirs Hornets' Nest

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

January 31, 2013

BRUSSELS (AP) — An attempt to protect Europe's bee population has kicked up a hornets' nest.

On Thursday, the EU's commissioner for health and consumer policy, Tonio Borg, proposed to restrict the use of three pesticides — called neonicotinoids — to crops to which bees are not attracted.

The three pesticides were clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiametoxam; the crops from which they would be banned include sunflowers, rapeseed, cotton and maize. The policy would take effect July 1 for the EU's 27 nations and be reviewed after two years.

Read the full article at

[http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2013/01/31/world/europe/ap-eu-europe-bee-population.html?ref=news&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2013/01/31/world/europe/ap-eu-europe-bee-population.html?ref=news&_r=0)

### New in Books

**Understanding Bee Anatomy: a full colour guide**

*Ian Stell, MD, London, author*

This book aims to do two things: firstly, to explain the structure of this fascinating insect; and, secondly, through stunning images, to reveal the insect's intricate detail.

Dr. Stell has applied his knowledge of the human body in describing the honeybee, system by system.

The book starts with a chapter on the developmental stages, showing the internal changes taking place from the egg to the larva, and then the pupa.

It includes chapters on all body parts, wings and flight structures, the circulatory, respiratory and digestive systems and finishes with chapters on the queen and the drone.

The anatomy is explained in clear color diagrams and illustrated with over six hundred high-quality photographs. These include electron micrographs, close-up images, high-power stained sections (histology) and other techniques.

This concise but readable book is perfect for the British exams in bee biology and training for master beekeeper programs in the United States. It is also a valuable resource for any beekeeper wanting to understand his insects better, or any student or scientist working in this area.

Dr. Ian Stell, has been a beekeeper in an urban area in South-East London since 1998, keeping about fifteen colonies. His day job is as a doctor in Emergency Medicine. Keeping bees has involved facing many disease challenges, much as Emergency Medicine does. This has led Ian into an interest in the microscopic examination of bees, and he has applied his knowledge of the human body in describing the honeybee, system by system. Ian became a Master Beekeeper in 2010, and was awarded the prestigious Wax Chandlers award, from one of the ancient City Livery companies with an historical link to beekeeping.

Approx. 6.75 inches wide and 9.75 tall, softcover, 203 pages, Catford Press. COLOR THROUGHOUT! Available from [www.Wicwas.com](http://www.Wicwas.com) for \$60 priority mail postpaid, via *Paypal*, in the United States (if you order it on Amazon, shipping is extra)

## Club Programs

BUMBA has initiated several programs over the years *and we are always looking for members to get involved* not only for assistance, but to better your knowledge as well. Please get in touch with a club officer if you would like more information about a program. Participation always makes you a better beekeeper. They are like additional classes for free and serve the beekeeping community in so many important ways.

### BUMBA Extractor for members' use

BUMBA now has two honey extractors for members to use. This has necessitated the establishment of club policy governing their use. The extractor agreement, rules, and cleaning instructions have been completed and uploaded to the Yahoo **BUMBA** page files section. Click on this [Link](#) to view the Extractor Agreement. The extractor managers are **Chuck Mewshaw** (ctmmaw@aol.com, 301-249-3229) and **Gerry Jones** (gejones486@verizon.net, 301-577-1365). Each has a complete set of equipment and are pretty centrally located for the convenience of the majority of members. Anyone scheduled to use the extractor will need to bring a \$50.00 deposit, cash or check, when you pick up the equipment and sign the use agreement and inventory form. Please be sure to read what you are signing ☺.

### BUMBA Web Site!

Check out the club web site maintained by **Toni Burnham**, [www.bumbabees.com](http://www.bumbabees.com). You will find meeting schedules, newsletters, and now have a membership short course application forms and information (payments are still by mail or at a meeting.) We need content, pictures, ideas, suggestions and help with administration. If you have any interesting photos to add to the photo gallery, send them with a short description or story to Toni at [phang@tonitoni.org](mailto:phang@tonitoni.org). Please be mindful of the file size and resize

any large files before you send them.

### YAHOO News Group

<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/BUMBABEE/>

Sign up, check it out and see how much help it can really be. Make it better. Add materials. Post questions, photos, links to web pages or files you would like to share with your fellow beekeepers. **Members receive automatic email notices of meeting and the BUMBA newsletter.**

### Electronic Newsletter

As with all organizations cost cutting is always on the table. One way we reduce our expenses is by eliminating the printed newsletter mailed 6 times a year at a cost of roughly \$1 per newsletter. I am sure some of us use it as a reminder to come to the meetings. People who don't have email, of course, continue to receive it. If you are willing to depend on email delivery, please inform our editor, **David Morris**, via email. Help keep club \$\$'s in the bank for club activities.

### Newsletter changes

Every once in a while I get dissatisfied with how I provide the newsletter and so I try to make it better. Last year was great because I had more people contributing articles. I hope we can continue this year. On my part, I hope to better organize the newsletter with obvious sections, or Departments. Thus, we begin with "**Meetings**", followed by "**Club Happenings**" for things going on in BUMBA, "**Bees in the News**" to highlight interesting or important bee related news, "**Club Programs**" and "**Member's Corner**" for member contributions. Finally, I will begin sending the electronic newsletter in PDF format instead of Word. If anyone has problems with the PDF format, please let me know. And, I am always open to suggestions for improving the newsletter.

## The Members' Corner

### Photos from BUMBA Events

*Supplied by Linda Thompson*



**Figure 1.** Scott Seccomb, Debbie Heyes and Linda Thompson at Maryland Day, 2010



**Figure 2.** Gerry Jones explains uncapping at Patuxant Visitor Center



**Figure 3.** Equipment display at Patuxant Visitor Center

## A Story I Had To Tell

*Bob LoMedico*

*BUMBA member since 1985*

A few years ago, as I was taking the honey off of my hives, something unusual happened. The story has been begging to be told. So, here it is.

The method I've always used to rob my hives is to remove the supers from one hive at a time, and replace the cover. I then stand a super on its end on top of the hive cover and blow the bees out with a leaf blower. I've used this method for many years, and what I'm about to tell you has never happened to me before.

I had just blown the bees out of the first super of the first hive, and carried it to the back of my truck. I looked down between the frames and something didn't look quite right. When I pulled the

middle frame, there it was. Brood, capped and uncapped. I reached for my reading glasses and looked again. There were also eggs. A sinking feeling came over me as I realized that I had probably just blown the queen out into the grass in front of the hive. How did the queen get above the excluder? A careful look thru the remaining super, confirmed my fear. I searched the grass and all around the hive, looking for her, with no success.

As I took the honey off the remaining hives, I kept looking around that first hive, hoping to see a small ball of bees in the grass or under the hive. That never happened. All I could hope for now is that somehow the lost queen had crawled back into the hive.

Two days later, I was back for a complete inspection of all hives and to slide sticky boards under the screened bottom boards. While inspecting that first hive, I did not find the lost queen. My plan now was to give this hive a frame of eggs from the hive next to it, and let them raise a new queen. I moved on to the second hive, five feet away, only to find that there were no eggs and no queen in that hive. It was in the middle of requeening itself and had several ripe queen cells to offer. This provided a better solution. I took a frame with a queen cell attached, moved it next

door, and closed up both hives.

It was now time for the sticky board. As I slid the board under the second hive, I felt a resistance. Down on my hands and knees looking at the bottom side of the screened bottom board, I found a pint size ball of bees. I quickly broke down the hive and turned the bottom board over. There she was, in all her glory, my lost queen. She was under the hive next door. Since that second hive had been queenless, and since the lost queen had been up against the bottom screen for the past two days, I thought it would be best to leave her there. So, I removed the remaining queen cells and shook the queen and her several hundred attendants into the second hive. Everything seemed quiet, so I closed the hive.

Later inspections found the second hive happy with its blown out, lost, visiting queen from next door. And the first hive was happy with its newly hatched, mated, and laying queen.

I learned a lot from this experience, and its always fun to tell a good story. I know I'll spend a lot of time this winter, as I look out at my hives, wondering how that queen found a way thru the queen excluder, and how she made her way to the hive next door.

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Please be sure to send your membership renewal to **BUMBA** Treasurer, Jutta Dunaway.

**Notice of your dues will either be on your label or in your email message**

Every club needs a little money to keep it going. Although **BUMBA** is solvent, dues are needed to cover meeting room rental, speakers, refreshments and the newsletter. **BUMBA** has raised its annual dues to **\$15**. So we hope you'll remember to bring your cash or check to the next meeting. Jutta loves to find checks in the mailbox. Send your dues check to:

Mail \$15 to Jutta Dunaway, **BUMBA** Treas., 11814 GALAXY LANE, BOWIE, MD 20715

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

- Check if you are willing to help out with a club activity or program
- Check if you do not want your name and address published in a **BUMBA** member directory.

## BUMBA Meeting Location – Watkins Park Nature Center

**BUMBA** annual dues are \$15. Our regular meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the even months (except December) at the Watkins Park Nature Center, 301 Watkins Park Drive in Largo. From Route 301 or I-495 take Central Ave. (Rte 214) to the intersection with Enterprise Rd. (Rte 193). Turn south onto Watkins Park Dr. and go ½ mile to the park. Follow the road all the way to the back to the Nature Center. We thank the Nature Center Staff for their assistance. For information about the Nature Center, please call **301-218-6702**

Put these dates on your **2013 BUMBA** Calendar:

December 11, 2012, 6:00 PM, Holiday Party  
 Feb. 7, 7:30 PM, BUMBA Meeting  
 Feb. 14, 21 & 28, Beginning Beekeeping Class  
 March 7, 14 & 21, Beginning Beekeeping Class  
 March 23, 10AM, Behnke Nursery, Rt1, Beltsville  
 April 4, 7:30 PM BUMBA Meeting & Elections  
 April 27, 10AM, Maryland Day!, UMd, College Park  
 May 4, 11AM, Alice Ferguson Spring Farm Festival, Accokeek  
 May 4, 1PM, Bostwick Spring Festival, Bladensburg

May 19, Noon, A-MAY-zing Animal Festival, Bladensburg  
 June 6, 7:30 PM BUMBA Meeting  
 August 1, 7:30 PM, BUMBA Meeting  
 August 28, Wed., Md. State Fair, Timonium  
 October 3, 7:30 PM, BUMBA Meeting  
 October 6, Bostwick Harvest Festival, Bladensburg  
 November 9, 10AM, Trash-to-Treasure Green Craft Fair, Watkins Park Nature Center  
 December 10, Tuesday, 6:00 PM, Holiday Party

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