



## NEWSLETTER

### Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association

June 2013

Volume 33 No. 3

*Published Bi-Monthly since 1980*

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

## Meetings

### *Next BUMBA Meeting*

*Thursday, June 6, 7:30 PM!*

*Watkins Park Nature Center*

Our next meeting will have two topics. **Mellie Landon-Whitlow** will give a presentation on medicinal use of honey. **Brien McNamara** asked if we could have a discussion about note-taking and keeping hive records in the field during a hive inspection. So, we will have several members talk about how they keep notes, what is important, how to they summarize, the little tricks they help them remember what they did and what they need to do. I'm sure we will all learn something from these discussions. It is nice to hear from a member who is suggesting input for a meeting.

### The President's Smoker

Well this is certainly a beekeeping spring season for the record book folks. Maybe it will be known as the "Year of No Honeybees" due to the delays of so many of the major package bee suppliers in filling orders for spring packages. The bee losses of the 2012/2013 winter coupled with the cooler spring weather has had an effect on

the entire honeybee industry. The package suppliers say that in order to have a hive strong enough to shake out a package, the hive must have a minimum of 10 full frames of bees or it will not be sustainable. At the end of May, many of those hives dedicated to shaking packages were still only at a level of 7 frames of bees. Many of us have been noting and discussing the "slower" build-up of our hives this year, and apparently this syndrome has been experienced from the hobbyist right on up to the largest of the commercial beekeeping operations. Some locals received earlier packages, some didn't. Some of my hives built up quickly, some didn't. Some beekeepers had dismal losses, some didn't. It is frustrating to have a stand with five seemingly strong hives on it May 1<sup>st</sup>, and then on June 1<sup>st</sup> find that, while three are busting at the seams, two are total deadouts...I hope the scientists will find the answer.

**Miller Bee Supplies** announced that his package shipment will arrive for customer pickup on **June 6**, but I was informed by Mrs. Miller that they will be short of their total with no recourse. They have decided that they will have enough packages to make sure everyone gets some bees by limiting anyone who ordered 2 or more packages to picking up a maximum of 2 packages, and will refund the difference to those who ordered more than 2 packages.

**David Polk** of **Free State Bees** announced yesterday (June 1) that he will not receive his order until after **June 15**, and still doesn't have an exact date for pickup. He was told that he could expect to receive his order in its entirety, but has posted that if customers want to cancel, within certain restrictions and limitations, he may be able to do that.

Some are concerned about having to supplement feeding all

summer to build a package up for wintering, the monetary costs, and the risk of loss. It's a roll of the dice I suppose, but I believe it can be done, and will share knowledge with the newbees over the support forum, as will many of our experienced beeks. Here's where the rubber meets the road to me...ask yourself, how much do you want to get those bees into a hive? After all, there could be another shortage next spring, more of the same, or some new malady. A smart person might just wait for better times, but I for one, climbed on this train because I wanted to try and help make a difference in the plight of the honeybee. Am I? I don't know, but I am not ready to throw in the towel yet. So, I will take whatever bees get allocated to me and continue to try to figure out how to keep them alive and improving. The reduction of my package allotment definitely effects my nuc production for this year, as I was going to use the package bees as bulk bees to start nucs with and draw frames, queening them with survivor daughters. The established hives are just now strong enough to be making splits, so the nucs available will be slim.

To wrap this column up, I want to say, "Well done", to **Scott Seccomb** and **Toni Burnham** for getting our new support forum up and running ([www.bumbabees.com/forums](http://www.bumbabees.com/forums)). I think it is a great tool and it is already getting used by many, and will be more invaluable as the packages and nucs trickle in. If you aren't signed up, you should be. This is a private forum for current members of BUMBA, and, please, we need you to use your actual name when signing up, so that we can use it as if we were gathered at a meeting in our discussions. This helps those who are answering questions to better understand the amount of experience the person posting has, and should help us to understand better the level or format of instructions we need to work in. No one should feel intimidated to ask legitimate questions or share experiences etc. We want to have a searchable set of topics and threads that a person can find on their own, or be directed to, that can serve as a perpetually improving reference of our members' experiences. I, for one, have had a good time with it, though I have been an absent for a couple weeks due to work constraints. Come on board and share.

I also wish to commend and once again lavish "**Thank You**" on **Linda Thompson** for the great leadership in heading up the **BUMBA Outreach Program**. Read her report under **Club Happenings**. Reports come in from some out-of-the-way sources, always favorable and appreciative commentary. We still have some of the best events ahead of us, including our club participation in the **Maryland State Fair** event in August. There always is room for more volunteers...those that have participated in our events will tell you what a fun time it is, so come on out. At the meeting on Thursday, we will need to discuss the State Fair event in more detail and try to finalize schedules, and the club display.

I hope to see you all Thursday night. God save the Queen...

*Bob Greenwell*

## *MSBA Summer Meeting*

*June 15, 2013, 9:30AM – 3:30PM*

**Plant Sciences Building Auditorium, University of  
Maryland/College Park**

The Maryland State Beekeepers Associations will hold their Summer meeting at College Park. Meetings are open to the public for members and non-members, beekeepers and non-beekeepers, alike. This meeting will feature talks on the "perfect hive", hive splitting or swarming to increase survival, pollinator protection, and a Panel and Group Discussion of a proposed MSBA resolution: "Should MSBA Adopt a Position on the Banning or Regulation of Neonictinoids? What strategy is best for the bees?"

Featured speakers for the topics are:

**Dr. Gene Kritsky:** Professor and Chair of Biology at the College of Mount St. Joseph and author of "The Quest for the Perfect Hive", Adjunct Curator at the Cincinnati Museum Center, and Editor-in-Chief of "*American Entomologist*".

**Dr. Galen Dively:** Professor Emeritus and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Consultant at the University of Maryland/College Park.

**Michele Colopy:** Program Director of the National Pollinator Defense Fund.

**Katy Ciola Evan:** Graduate student at the University of Delaware Apiculture program studying IPM with a goal of reducing *Varroa* populations

**Dr Gene Kritsky** received his PhD in Entomology from the University of Illinois in 1977, his Masters in Entomology from the University of Illinois in 1976, and his Bachelors in Biology from Indiana University in 1974.

In his recent book, The Quest for the Perfect Hive, Dr. Kritsky offers a concise, beautifully illustrated history of beekeeping, tracing the evolution of hive design from ancient Egypt to the present.

**Dr. Galen Dively**, prior to his retirement in 2006 worked in extension and research. He specialized in integrated pest management, non-target risk assessment, and pesticide resistance management. His extension work involved the development and implementation of IPM projects to reduce pesticide use in crops.

Dr. Dively works part-time and is involved with in-state and national training activities to meet the continuing educational needs of agrichemical personnel, crop advisors, county extension educators, and producers. He has been a favorite contributor to past MSBA meetings and it is a pleasure to welcome him again this Spring.

As Program Director of the National Pollinator Defense Fund (NPDF), **Michele Colopy** defends managed and native pollinators vital to a sustainable and affordable food supply from the adverse impacts of pesticides.

They accomplish this mission by ensuring that states and the EPA enforce regulations to protect pollinators from pesticides, and other strategies, including litigation, petitions, and technical support for those who have suffered damages to their beekeeping operations. NPDF provides advocacy, guidance and tools for beekeepers, and

raises awareness about the adverse impacts of pesticides on pollinators.

Michele Colopy has more than 17 years of experience in a variety of nonprofit organizations, including the performing arts, housing and homelessness, foreclosure prevention, community development, and health and wellness areas. Her father raised bees for his small apple orchard in Ohio.

**Katy Ciola Evan** is a native Floridian with a Bachelor's degree from the University of Florida and several years' experience working as an African Honey Bee lab technician with the FL State Apiary Department. She has just finished her second semester as a Graduate. For her Master's Degree she is developing an 'Integrated Pest Management' (IPM) program for beekeepers in the mid-Atlantic region with the goal of reducing *Varroa* populations.

Directions to the University of Maryland:

If you are using GPS, please enter the address **7950 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, MD 20742** and follow directions (below) to Plant Sciences Building. More info at <http://www.cvs.umd.edu/visitors/maps.html>

UMD/College Park is located on U.S. Route 1 south of the Capital Beltway (I-495).

Take exit 25B from I-495. Proceed about two miles south and follow signs to turn right into Main Entrance (at intersection of Campus Drive with Paint Branch Parkway).

To Plant Sciences Building: Once inside the gate, keep left on Campus Drive until the rotary with the large "ME" logo. Take first exit right. Proceed to first intersection; make a left and then immediate right into Regents Parking Garage. You may park in one of the UNNUMBERED spaces on the 1st floor; parking is free in unnumbered spaces only! The Plant Sciences Building is directly across the street from the Garage Entrance.

# EAS 2013

West Chester, Pennsylvania

August 5-9, 2013

Swarm to West Chester University for the 2013 Eastern Apicultural Society Conference and Short Course hosted by the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers' Association.

Located 25 miles northwest of Philadelphia International airport, EAS 2013 will feature local, regional and national experts giving lectures and workshops, plus a long list of other beekeeping activities.

During the 2013 program we will focus on our relationship with honey bees and how they connect us with the environment and other people. We engage growers and gardeners, educators, and other beekeepers beekeeping organizations both at home and abroad.

Sun	Registration 3-7pm
Mon	Registration 7am-4:30pm Short Course 8am-5:30pm Beeyard open all day
Tue	Registration 7am-7pm Short Course 8am-4:30pm Beeyard open all day Bee Olympics 4:30-5:30pm Certificate Ceremony 7:30pm
Wed	Registration 7am-4:30pm Short Course 8am-5:30pm Conference 8am-5:30pm Vendor Area open Picnic Social 6:30-9:30pm
Thu	Conference 8am-5:30pm Vendor Area open <a href="#">Apitherapy</a> 8a-5:30pm EAS Social 6:30-9:30pm
Fri	Conference 8:00am-noon Workshops 1:30-5:30 Vendor Area 9:00am-1pm Reception 6-6:30pm Banquet 6:30-9pm

Well-known speakers such as **Tom Seeley, Dave Tarpy, Dewey Caron, Michael Palmer, Dennis vanEngelsdorp, Debbie Delaney, Warren Miller, Mark Winston**, plus a long list of local, regional and national experts highlight EAS 2013.

In addition to the usual program, we've added a special event on Wednesday evening that's geared toward the general public, both adults and children.

Three-day Short Course with Core & Electives, Including:

- o Queen Rearing
- o Top-Bar Hive Management
- o Natural Beekeeping
- o Sideline Sessions
- o Train the Trainers
- o Microscopic Explorations in Beekeeping
- Three-day Conference with Multiple Symposia
- Vendor Booths of Beekeeping Supplies
- Live Auction & Honey, Wax, and Photography Award

Dinner

- Friday Banquet
- Hands-on Bee yard
- Master Beekeeper Certification

Get more information and register at

<http://easternapiculture.org/conferences/eas-2013.html>

# Club Happenings

## 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 has a full outreach schedule & we need *your* help to make it successful. Each event is an opportunity to be ambassadors for the bees, sell our products, recruit beekeepers, & promote club membership. Could you volunteer just 1 hour at 1 event? Choose an event that is near home or sounds like fun, spend an hour at the BUMBA table, and then enjoy the fair.

**6/17 Presentation of Governor's Pollinator Week**

**Proclamation to the Bowie Mayor and City Council**

8 PM Bowie City Hall, 15901 Excalibur Rd, Bowie  
[pgparks.com/Things\\_To\\_Do/Nature/Bladensburg\\_Waterfront\\_Park/Programs\\_and\\_Events.htm](http://pgparks.com/Things_To_Do/Nature/Bladensburg_Waterfront_Park/Programs_and_Events.htm)

**8/28 Maryland State Fair**

12 - 10 State Fair Grounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium  
[marylandstatefair.com/index.cfm?page=info](http://marylandstatefair.com/index.cfm?page=info)  
Thursday, shifts: 10a - 2p, 2 - 6, 6 - 10

**9/21 MSBA Maryland Honey Harvest Festival**

9 - 3 Patuxent Research Refuge National Wildlife Visitor Center  
10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708  
[www.patuxent/fws.gov](http://www.patuxent/fws.gov)

**10/6 Bostwick Harvest Festival**

1 - 4 Bostwick House, 48th Street, Bladensburg  
[battleofbladensburg1812.com/?page\\_id=280](http://battleofbladensburg1812.com/?page_id=280)

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

10 - 4 Watkins Nature Center, Upper Marlboro  
[http://www.pgparks.com/Things\\_To\\_Do/Nature/Watkins\\_Nature\\_Center.htm](http://www.pgparks.com/Things_To_Do/Nature/Watkins_Nature_Center.htm)

## A Busy BUMBA Spring

BUMBA attended the **Bowie Green Expo** on April 13; **Maryland Day** on April 27; **Spring Farm Festival** on May 4; **Bostwick Spring Festival** on May 5; and on May 18, a double-header; **A-May-Zing Animal Fest & Cheverly Day**. The only one we have pictures of is **Maryland Day**. Some are included here and more are posted on the forum.



Figure 1: Debby Heyes, ready to talk turkey about bees at Maryland Day

In addition **Linda Thompson** gave her presentation “*All About Bees*” at **Bowie-Crofton Garden Club** on February 26, **Patuxent Nursery** on April 6, **Owens Science Center** with BUMBA member **Wanda Jones** on May 3, **Tulip Grove Elementary** school on May 20, and the **Bowie Lions Club** on June 3.

## Pollinator Week on June 17

## Bowie City Council Meeting

Please help me kick off **Pollinator Week on June 17**. The Governor has again proclaimed **Maryland Pollinator Week** to coincide with National Pollinator Week. **BUMBA** will join **Bowie Gardens 4 Wildlife Habitat & Mom's Organic Market** at the June Bowie City Council meeting and present the Governor's proclamation to the Mayor and council members. Each organization is given a minute to speak about who they represent and why pollinators are important.

This year the council meeting falls on Monday, June 17 - the first day of Pollinator Week! I will attend to represent BUMBA & MSBA. I can speak again, but am happy to let someone else do the talking if anyone has a desire to do so.

**We want to have as many bees as possible attend the presentation.** During our 3-minute presentation, we would like all the bees to stand in the audience as a show of support to the council. We don't stay for the entire meeting; when our presentation is over we quietly gather our things and leave. Could you give an hour (perhaps less) on a Monday evening to show your support for our bees? Please let me know if you can attend.

The meeting begins at 8 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, and we have always been the first item on the agenda. The meeting is held at: Bowie City Hall, 15901 Excalibur Rd., Bowie, MD 20716

There will be more pollinator-related events during the week & I will post them as I learn about them. If you have an idea for an event that we could host, I'd love to hear it!

## Maryland State Fair Sales Booth

BUMBA has a rather rare opportunity to work a day at the MSBA honey booth at the Maryland State Fair. A flyer about the event is attached to the newsletter. Our BUMBA day is **Thursday August 29** and the table needs to be covered for the entire day. Volunteers are asked to work a 4-hour shift: **10AM - 2PM, 2PM -**

**6PM, or 6PM - 10PM.** I know Timonium is a hike and this is a work day and so will be difficult for most and impossible for some. Gerry and David & Jutta are working 10 - 2. Leigh and Linda will work 6 - 10. Bob will be there during the day and Nikki may be also. We could use more help at every shift. Please contact Linda if you can help (lmtpublic@comcast.net; (h)301-352-3663; (c)301-943-4368

There are still additional events 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 potential events include:

- 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

## 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. We would like to include some new items. 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.

## Cheverly Day Festival Features BUMBA Beekeepers

*By Frank Fennells*

The **BUMBA** educational outreach on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, for the **Cheverly Day** Festival, in Cheverly, MD, was a resounding success! Although it rained some we still had the full production. We got the tent set up for the live hive demo along with two tables of handouts, posters, buttons, booklets, bee products, the observation hive, and an 8 frame hive kit!

Courtesy of the **Cheverly Mayor Mike Callahan** we secured a nice location with a lot of foot traffic and high visibility! The interaction with the community was great; we provided a lot of education to both kids and adults, and a foreign newscaster recorded a segment of the open hive demo for our friends across the pond!

I'm not sure who the audience was most fascinated with; **Scott Seccomb** and his live hive demo - walking around in a tent of bees without veil or gloves, or the queen bee in the observation hive busily laying eggs under the watchful eye of young apiologists in training. We successfully delivered informational brochures to several of the town council members who stopped by and even got the Mayor to go inside the live hive demo tent and handle those 10,000 bees up close and personal!

Awareness was raised in the community about the problems bees are having and how local ordinances in surrounding counties and townships have been changed to allow for bees to be kept in residential areas. This was another outstanding showing by **BUMBA** members for their demonstrated commitment to community outreach

and awareness.

***SPECIAL THANKS*** to **Scott Seccomb**, **Linda Thompson**, **Cheryl Evry** (double thanks for providing the honey given to the council members that was included with their brochures!), **Toni Burnham**, **Felecia Peterson** for working the event. Thanks too, to **David and Adele Morris**, and **MSBA President Wayne Esaias** for



**Figure 2: Cheverly Mayor Mike Callahan gets up close and personal with a few thousand honey bees, with guidance from Scott Seccomb**

meeting with community garden leaders, attending Cheverly Town Council meetings, and providing important communication to the the Council, Mayor and the Ward 4 Civic Association, in support of the

effort to have the Town Council allow bees to be kept in the Cheverly community garden; and someday the residential areas.

Editor's Note: On May 20, Adele and I attended the Ward 4 Civic Assoc meeting at the invitation of Ward 4 Councilman David Thorpe. Councilman Thorpe expressed that as a result of the exhibits and the hive demos he has become an enthusiastic supporter of honey bees and beekeeping. He is looking forward to an opportunity to enter an open hive demo himself. The outcome of the Ward 4 Civic Assoc. meeting is that Civic Assoc. has no position on keeping bees in the nearby Boyd's Community Garden, so the effort to allow bee hives in the garden is still moving forward.



Figure 3: Frank Fennell shows the bees' honeycomb and frames to visitors.

## Bees in the News

News from the MD Apiary Inspection Office

From Jerry Fischer, State Apiary Inspector, MDA  
Phone: 410-841-5920, Fax: 841-5835, Cell: 410-562-3464,  
Jerry.Fischer@Maryland.Gov

### Roundup of news on chemical controls:

- **Hopguard** has received Section 18 approval for 2013
- **ApiLife VAR** has received Section 3 approval until December 2013 This approval has to be sought each year by the Maryland Department of Agriculture
- **Apivar** has Section 3 approved for use in Maryland as of March 11, 2013.

Reminder: ALWAYS USE CONTROLS AS PER DIRECTIONS OR LABEL! Overuse will not result in better results, and failure to obey application and removal instructions may result in varroa mite resistance.

MDA will participate again in the USDA Honey Bee Pests and Diseases Survey Project for 2014. This national survey will allow us to identify honey bee pests, to inform and guide the direction of honey bee parasite, disease, and pest research, and to help provide mitigation recommendations.

MDA has also approved a job opening for a **Regional Bee Inspector** for Southern Maryland Counties (St. Mary's/Charles/Calvert). The Plant Protection section is recruiting for an Apiary Inspector (Field Aide) at \$10 per hour to work in the southern MD region: Job # 13-999999-230. Interested applicants can apply at the MD Online Employment Center at [www.jobaps.com/MD](http://www.jobaps.com/MD)

News from "Catch the Buzz" at [BeeCulture.com](http://BeeCulture.com)

**Same Scam, Different Country - Chinese Honey Smuggled Into France**

By Alan Harman

Chinese honey smugglers, facing a crackdown in the U.S., are turning their attentions to Europe.

French public service radio station RFI reports honey is shipped from China to Eastern Europe where it is relabeled to say “French origin” and then sent to France.

FPI says a recent study released by the laboratories from the French Centre of Technical Beehiving Studies in Moselle (Cetam) found misleading labels, false country of origin, and additional sugar are plaguing 10% of honey marketed in France.

“The majority of the honey we are worried about is that being sold cheaply and sold in big quantities,” says Cetam director Paul Schweitzer, a pollen specialist. “About 10% of samples sent off for analysis were doubtful.

“These honeys that have undergone adulteration and have a dubious quality are essentially coming from Asia, namely China.”

Read the full article at:

<http://home.ezine.com/1636/1636-2013.05.21.10.29.archive.html>

### **Preliminary Results: Honey Bee Colony Losses in the United States, Winter 2012-2013**

*Dennis vanEngelsdorp, Nathalie Steinhauer, Karen Rennich, Jeffery Pettis, Eugene J. Lengerich, David Tarpy, Keith S. Delaplane, Angela M. Spleen, James T. Wilkes, Robyn Rose, Kathleen Lee, Michael Wilson, John Skinner, and Dewey M. Caron, for the Bee Informed Partnership.*

Note: This is a preliminary analysis. A more detailed final report is being prepared for publication at a later date.

The Bee Informed Partnership (<http://beeinformed.org>), in collaboration with the Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA <http://www.apiaryinspectors.org>) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is releasing preliminary results for the seventh annual national survey of honey bee colony losses. For the 2012/2013 winter season, a total of 6,287 U.S. beekeepers provided validated responses. Collectively, responding beekeepers managed 599,610 colonies in October 2012, representing about 22.9% of the

country’s estimated 2.62 million colonies.

Preliminary survey results indicate that 31.1% of managed honey bee colonies in the United States were lost during the 2012/2013 winter. This represents an increase in loss of 9.2 points or 42% over the previous 2011/2012 winter’s total losses that were estimated at 21.9% (Figure 1). This level of loss is on par with the 6 year average total loss of 30.5%.

On average, U.S. beekeepers lost 45.1% of the colonies in their operation during the winter of 2012/2013. This is a 19.8 point or 78.2% increase in the average operational loss compared to the previous winter (2011/2012), which was estimated at 25.3%. The difference between average loss and total loss is explained by the respondent pool: while a majority of the respondents (95%) were backyard beekeepers, they managed a small fraction of the colonies represented in the survey (6%). For this reason total loss (which is more heavily influenced by commercial beekeeper losses) is more representative of national losses.

Survey participants indicated that they considered a loss rate of 15% as “acceptable,” but 70% of them suffered losses greater than this.

Read the full article at:

<http://home.ezine.com/1636/1636-2013.05.08.08.22.archive.html>

### **More Orange Trees for Florida**

AUBURNDALE, Fla. (AP) — The Coca-Cola Co. says it is spending \$2 billion to support the planting of 25,000 acres of new orange groves in Florida, a move officials are lauding as a major investment in the Sunshine State’s citrus industry.

The announcement is being made at a late-morning news conference at Coca-Cola’s juice production plant in Auburndale. Details were released in advance to The Associated Press.

Coca-Cola owns the Minute Maid and Simply juice brands.

“It’s an investment in a market that’s very important to us,” said Steve Cahillane, the president of Coca-Cola Americas.

Some 5 million new trees will be planted in the new groves,

believed to be the largest citrus addition in the state for at least 15 years. The groves will be located in Polk, DeSoto and Hendry counties in central Florida.

## Members' Corner

### **Team Finds Substances in Honey That Increase Honey Bee Detox Gene Expression**

*Supplied by Charles Walter*

New research indicates that the honey bee diet influences the bees' ability to withstand at least some of these assaults. Some components of the nectar and pollen grains bees collect to manufacture food to support the hive increase the expression of detoxification genes that help keep honey bees healthy.

Read more at: <http://bit.ly/12vo7pM>

### **What Is It About Bees And Hexagons?**

*Supplied by Charles Walter*

Solved! A bee-buzzing, honey-licking 2,000-year-old mystery that begins here, with this beehive. Look at the honeycomb in the photo and ask yourself: (I know you've been wondering this all your life, but have been too shy to ask out loud ... ) Why is every cell in this honeycomb a hexagon?

Well, this is a very old question. More than 2,000 years ago, in 36 B.C., a Roman soldier/scholar/writer, proposed an answer, which ever since has been called "The Honeybee Conjecture." Varro thought there might be a deep reason for this bee behavior. Maybe a honeycomb built of hexagons can hold more honey. Maybe hexagons require less building wax. Maybe there's a hidden logic here.

Read more, find the answer, at: <http://n.pr/12DAeRX>

More at [www.sciencenews.org/sn\\_arc99/7\\_24\\_99/bob2.htm](http://www.sciencenews.org/sn_arc99/7_24_99/bob2.htm)

### **Eating Pollen May Help You Fight Allergies**

*Supplied by Charles Walter*

*{apropos our upcoming meeting topic; editor}*

*Clinton Bourgeois, Fox 24, WGXA-TV, Macon GA.*

*Story Created: Apr 8, 2013 at 6:52 PM EDT*

It seems odd that inhaling the pollen that's been floating around central GA can make us miserable, but eating it may help you feel better.

As much as we want to, we can't get rid of it, but beekeeper John Pluta can't get enough of it.. "A five gallon bucket is thirty pounds of pollen," said Pluta as he held up a bucket full of pollen.

Along with his locally grown syrup and honey, Pluta also bottles up bee pollen. He says the bee pollen is high in protein and amino acids, a food source for athletes and vegetarians. For others it's an old medical remedy.

Read more at: <http://bit.ly/16LTnSz>

### **Ultimate Bug Killer, Now With "Free Seeds For Bees"?**

*Supplied by Charles Walter*

*{apropos the upcoming MSBA Panel Discussion; editor}*

*Nick Odoherly/Marty Hanks/CC BY-SA 2.0*

"When I wrote a post about 9 things businesses can do to help save bees, one of the suggestions was to give out free wildflower seeds.

Another suggestion, however, was to stop killing bees.

If this photo (above right) is real and not a slightly early April Fools joke, then it seems Bayer CropScience may not just be promoting its free bee-friendly seeds online anymore, but also on the packaging of a product that has been implicated in the deaths of honeybees.

First posted on British Bees' Facebook page last Saturday, commenters have since verified they've seen similar looking packaging in stores across the UK, including Waitrose and Asda.

You see the beautifully named Provado Ultimate Bug Killer contains thiacloprid, a neonicotinoid pesticide which may increase bees' vulnerability to death from nosema, a deadly parasite that is on the increase in honeybee populations. (Nonlethal exposure to imidacloprid, another neonicotinoid produced by Bayer, has also been shown in tests to increase the risk of bee deaths from *Nosema*.)”

## Club Programs

BUMBA has initiated several programs over the years *and we are always looking for members assistance*. For more information about a program please contact an officer

### BUMBA Extractor for members' use

BUMBA now has two honey extractors for members to 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. Call to reserve,, bring a \$50 refundable deposit (cash or check), sign the use agreement and inventory form. Please be sure to read what you are signing☺. The first 4 days are free!

### [www.BUMBAbees.com](http://www.BUMBAbees.com)

Check out the club web site maintained by **Toni Burnham**, [www.bumbabees.com](http://www.bumbabees.com). You will find meeting schedules, newsletters, information and membership application forms (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).

### [www.BUMBAbees.com/forums](http://www.BUMBAbees.com/forums)

Check out a new feature. Thanks to Scott Seccomb and Toni Burnham, we have a private web forum for members' use.

### 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. 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

*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*

# Maryland State Fair

Maryland State Fairgrounds  
2200 York Road  
Lutherville-Timonium, MD 21093

*starts:* **Friday August 23**

*ends:* **Monday September 2 (Labor Day)**



**BUMBA's day is Thursday August 29**

three 4-hour shifts:

**10 a.m. - 2 p.m.      2 p.m. - 6 p.m.      6 p.m. - 10 p.m.**

- mostly worked by the Central Maryland Beekeepers Association
- each year 3 days are offered up to other clubs; 2013 is BUMBA's turn
- we work the beekeeper's table one day and get 1/11 of all the proceeds
- volunteers sell honey & honey products, stock tables, offer honey tasting; aprons are provided
- volunteers get a discount on purchases
- to sign up, please contact Linda: [lmtpublic@comcast.net](mailto:lmtpublic@comcast.net)



**BUMBA can enter a display and win up to \$100**  
**We won the Blue Ribbon the last time we entered!**

=====

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

**E**very 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

## 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:

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

### Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association Officers

Pres.	Bob Greenwell	410-867-3251	rfgreenwell@aol.com
VP	Leigh Walton	301-577-3088	leival@verizon.net
Treas.	Jutta Dunaway	301-464-1093	davejutta@aol.com
Sec'y	Debby Heyes	301-855-0071	dbheyes@comcast.net
Event Coordinator	Linda Thompson	301-352-3663	lmtpublic@comcast.net
Editor	David Morris	301-725-6185	beefriend@verizon.net
Inspector	Jerry Fischer	301-261-8106 ext. 5920	fischeje@mda.state.md.us
MSBA Pres.	Wayne Esaias	301-854-3180 (H)	wesaias@verizon.net

David Morris  
BUMBA Editor  
9309 Montpelier Drive  
Laurel, MD 20708-2553