



NEWSLETTER

Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association

December 2013

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

MEETINGS

Next BUMBA Meeting

Thursday, December 5, 6:00 PM!

Holiday Potluck Dinner Party

Watkins Park Nature Center

Our next meeting, December 5, is our annual holiday party. Set-up is at 6:00 PM, dinner starts at 6:30. Bob Greenwell has identified in his column what the Club is supplying.

Pay Attention! Some special notes: The **Watkins Park Festival of Lights** has begun; **expect heavy traffic and allow extra time.** Tell the attendants you are here for the party at the Nature Center, you should be waved through for free. (Consider bringing a canned food to donate anyway.) When you come to the intersection where we normally turn left to go to the Nature Center, if there is an attendant there, tell the attendant you are here for a party at the Nature Center and could you skip the full light show. You may have to travel around the open circle to get to the parking lot. Try to skip the very long, slow, traffic through all the lights – unless you have children who want to see the lights!

Photos! We will have a digital projector for photo sharing. Bring a thumb drive or CD/DVD. We should be able to show your photos.

Gift Exchange! Bring something to share and exchange.

The President's Smoker

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the pot-luck holiday party coming up Thursday, December 5th. **BUMBA** will provide a ham, plates, drinks, cups, plastic cutlery and napkins. You can bring a main dish, side dish, dessert, chips, or cookies; please bring serving utensils if necessary. You don't need to bring enough to feed the whole group, just something to share. If you have a gift or even a trinket to bring, you will get a ticket and be entitled to participate in the gift exchange. Beekeeping related items are very fitting, but not required.

I hope the word got out to everyone that the date has been changed to the first Thursday in December. Since the other group of folks that had been sharing the holiday party has changed their routine and will no longer be joining in with our club for the festivities, it was thought that it made more sense to revert back to the first Thursday of the 12th month in keeping with all of our BUMBA Thursday night meetings and classes.

That brings to mind that the **2014 Short Course** is scheduled for each Thursday evening beginning **Feb. 20th, and concluding March 27th** (tell your friends), with a Saturday field day to be held tentatively April 5th with the location to be announced. As always, current members of **BUMBA** who have already attended a short course are welcome to attend sessions, subject to room capacity

numbers, with enrolled newbees and short course staff having priority. So as long as there is a seat within the official room capacity limits, some of you that took the course last year and then ended up without bees due to the shortages/delays, might want to sit in on some of the classes to bone up prior to getting started this spring. Certainly, any club member that wants to attend the field day is welcome and encouraged to participate. I am thinking about holding the field day at my Swann Farms yard in Owings, MD this spring, to relieve Scott of some of the labors due to his health. He has strongly supported the club these many years, and his home has been a great place to hold a field day, but I feel that he may appreciate some relief. Might be a tad farther to travel for some, though we have quite a number of members in that area too, and it may be a bit more like roughing it, but it would let some folks see some of the features of having outyards and a semi-commercial setting. Hopefully, I'll winter more hives than last year so we have something to work with.

Going into winter with about 50 hives, some not at peak, but not counting nucs in the numbers. I'll be so happy when and if I can ever retire from construction management and just spend time in the bee yards. I am always telling myself if only I did this, or that...maybe the bees would be doing better. I am trying to face up to the reality of needing to downsize the numbers in order to intensify my available time towards quality. I did a lot of harsh culling this year, while also taking strides to augment my techniques with additional study and training. The problem comes in when working with bees, that to make meaningful impacts genetically, where characteristics can be reliably repeated, it really is a numbers game. We just have to keep plugging away at it and not get discouraged.

At the last several meetings and in the newsletter we asked the membership for some ideas as to what they might like to have in the way of speakers and/or topics at future meetings and a few folks have responded with some ideas that we are working on. We would love to hear from more of you. We will be having **Greg Ferris** from

Southern Maryland speaking at the February meeting on the topic of bee economics, and at our past meeting we had **Mike Embrey** from Wye Research Center fill us in on everything that is currently known about dealing with Small Hive Beetles. Several members have asked me if **Leigh Walton** and I might be willing to do a series on easy small scale queen production methods for the backyard beekeeper, and others have asked if I would consider putting on a class for grafting techniques (commercial methods) but that would be outside of regular meetings. I am thinking about it seriously.

It was also requested that a treasurer's report be offered at regular meetings. I asked our treasurer if she could be prepared to report at meetings, if it is asked for, and she thinks she could normally be prepared to do this. So the report will be offered at regular meetings. A presidential word though...I am not in favor of turning the regular club meetings into "business type" meetings. I have been involved with many clubs where the bulk of the meetings become bogged down in financial discussions, and two things always happen...folks begin bickering about rules and money, and meeting attendance begins to drop way off. That is why we have an elected board of officers to deal with the business of the club outside of the meetings. Certainly those officers are accountable to the club, and the financial standing of the club is always available to any current member, but club business is conducted by the board, and member input and ideas should be presented to board members, preferably in writing for consideration. I'm speaking of matters such as: should we spend more money to attract higher cost speakers; should we donate an amount of money to a particular cause; should we purchase a certain type of equipment offering for the use of club members; should we change the amount of money we charge for annual dues; or, should we change our meeting dates, etc. etc? These topics, I feel are best left to the board to handle, though absolutely...absolutely any member should air his/her views and ideas to a board member, any board member, and preferably in writing so that we may take it up as

your board, on behalf of the best interests of the club. Whoa, I really jumped on that horse.

We have recently added to our equipment offerings, and hopefully been offering interesting and educational meetings and classes. Remember, board members are elected by the membership, and elections are held at the April meeting; so, be thinking about the officer positions and if you would like to nominate candidates. Be sure to give those nominations to **Scott Seccomb**, **Tony Drake**, or myself, timely, so that a candidate can be juried to see if they are able (i.e. willing) to serve as a club officer. You do not have to be an entomologist or a long time beekeeper to serve as an officer. And please do keep the ideas coming in so that we can offer stimulating and educational meetings that everyone will enjoy, provide a delightful and informative newsletter that thrives not only on **David Morris'** hard work but truly on your input (photos are great), support a superior outreach educational program and it's exceptional leader **Linda Thompson**, support the business/administrative efforts of **Leigh Walton**, **Jutta Dunaway**, and **Debby Heyes**, and in doing so each and every member helps keep our club ranked among the very best beekeeping associations to be affiliated with. It's been a tough year, but still a good year in many ways.

I am wishing you all a really great New Year in 2014.

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

Bob Greenwell

MSBA Winter Meeting

February 15, 9:30AM – 4:30PM

Howard County Fair Grounds, W. Friendship, MD

www.mdbeekeepers.org

Featured Speaker: Gary Reuter, Univ. of Minn.

Gary Rueter is a long-time beekeeper and an assistant to Dr. Marla Spivk at the Univ. of Minnesota. He teaches beekeeping and extension courses, is the past president of both the Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Assoc. and the Wisconsin Honey Producers Assoc., is a Director of the American Beekeepers Federation, as well as doing some blacksmithing on the side. He will provide interesting and informative talks on hygienic bees and beekeeping education.

The Maryland State Beekeepers Association holds their Winter meeting at the Howard County Fair Grounds, in West Friendship, MD. The Fair Grounds are on Rt. 144, west of the intersection of I-70 and Rt. 32.

CLUB HAPPENINGS

Tell The Bees

Lula Hughes

There is an old custom with beekeepers, that when a beekeeper dies, you must tell the bees, or else they will leave. We extend that custom to remember our members.

It is with deep sorrow we announce that Lula Hughes, wife of Aaron Hughes, passed away on November 26. Aaron is a long-time BUMBA member and former Treasurer. Lula and Aaron would bring their family to the holiday parties each year. We will miss her warm heart and smile. Visitation will be December 7, 1:00-2:00 PM, at the J.B Jenkins Funeral Home, 7474 Landover Rd. in Hyattsville.

A Successful Outreach Season

David Morris

BUMBA had an incredibly busy schedule this year. It would be hard to count how many people were informed about honey bees by **BUMBA** members at these events, easily many thousands. And the work was effective, as **BUMBA** members were able to convince the town of Cheverly to allow beekeeping in a local community garden. I wish to render some recognition to the members who attended and coordinated these events. I am only able to excerpt the names from previous newsletters, so any omissions are my oversight, and I apologize for that in advance.

We started the year with the **BUMBA** Beginning Beekeeping Class. Many thanks to Maryland State Bee Inspector **Greg Gochnour**, and members **Toni Burnham, Leigh Walton, Bob Greenwell, Debbie Heyes, Tony Drake, Scott Seccomb, and David Morris**. Extra thanks go to **Scott Seccomb** for the use of his home and apiary for the field day.

Many **BUMBA** members participated in club outreach events that required multiple participants: the **Bowie Green Expo** (April 13), **Maryland Day at UMD** (April 27), **Spring Farm Festival** (May 4), **Bostwick Spring Festival** (May 5), and **A-May-Zing Animal Fest & Cheverly Day** (May 18, a double-header), **Maryland State Fair** honey sales table (August 29), and the **Maryland Honey Festival** (September 21). Many of these members volunteered for several of the events.

Brion Burk, Toni Burnham, David Clark, Tony Drake, David & Jutta Dunaway, Cheryl Evry, Frank Fennel, Bob Greenwell, Glenda & Alley Hegarty, Debby Heyes, Gerry Jones, Wanda Jones, Corey Lewis, Kim, Mike, and James Mehalick, David and Adele Morris, Felicia Sallis-Peterson, Martha Schmidt, Scott Seccomb, Toni, Michael and Antonio Sanchez, Linda Thompson,

Lee Travis, Michele Tucker, Leigh Walton, and MSBA President Wayne Esaias,

Individuals also gave presentations at the **Bowie-Crofton Garden Club** (February 26), **Patuxent Nursery** (April 6), **Owens Science Center** (May 3), **Tulip Grove Elementary** (May 20), and the **Bowie Lions Club**.

This is a great club with great members!

MEMBERS' CORNER

An Exciting Weekend with German Wasps

By David Morris

Vespula germanica, aka the German Wasp, resembles the common Yellow Jacket, *Vespula squamosa*. The German Wasp is small, with a black and yellow striped abdomen and (if you look closely) has three black dots on its face.

While doing some work on the outside of the house I discovered a stream of German Wasps coming out from under a trim board, above the window of our utility room. The entrance was only a ¼ wide. The garage attic is above the room. Since I planned to work exactly where the wasps were exiting I knew I had to eliminate them before beginning work. My first “shot” at them was with a can of wasp spray. All that did was kill a few at the entrance, and only if they stood still long enough for me to stick a spray can in their face. Next I tried shooting a foam spray into the entrance. That also had minimal effect. So, I retired from battle to find the sprays had driven about 40 wasps into my utility room. Time for the good old fly swatter.

The next morning I had a new strategy. I took a wet/dry shop vac and put 1-2 gallons of soapy water in it, plugged in an extension cord dragged it outside and began vacuuming down the little buggers. At first I was standing behind a bush, to serve as a screen between the enemy and me. Holding the hose at that angle was awkward. After

about 30 minutes, and I estimate about 150 wasps, I quit for a while. Later, in the late afternoon, I returned to the fray, sucking down, I'm guessing, maybe, another 150 wasps. There were satisfying little 'thunks' against the flex hose as each wasp was sucked down.

The next morning I decided to sit below the window and just hold the vacuum hose near the entrance for as long as foragers appeared. As the Johnny Horton tune goes, "There wasn't nigh as many as there was a while ago"*. I realized that the foragers had to come back to the nest, and, that I could more efficiently dispatch the most foragers by staying there until all had returned. My reasoning was that the foragers could only go out for a limited time and that the foragers inside the nest would eventually attempt to leave. I would get them both coming and going. After nearly an hour-and-a-quarter I began to believe that my capture rate had changed from wasps/per minute to minutes/wasp, so I began to time my captures. I learned that my perception was incorrect, as I was still capturing at least 2/minute. At that rate, for over 90 minutes, I captured 180 wasps, and that was the slow finale. Finally, after 90 minutes I saw the rate of capture had dropped below 1/minute, so I retired from the field.

From time-to-time I would see foragers attempting to leave the nest, but the black hose made them cautious. I found out that if I pushed the nozzle directly against the opening, I not only caught the wasps I could see, but there were many others hidden in the entrance waiting to leave. Here's the conversation I imagined between the wasps at the entrance.

"Betty, go take a look."

"There's a big black monster at the front door."

"Oh, Betty, don't exaggerate. There's no such thing as monsters. Go on, Betty."

"Stop pushing! Aieeeee!"

"Oh, no! The monster got Betty!"

Some observations: It would have been easier if I had taped the hose to a stick of come kind and propped the stick and hose against

the window. That way I could have left the shop-vac in operation and done other chores.

I believe I observed some inexperienced foragers on their first flights. Some wasps would return and appear to look all over the front of the house for the small entrance. They appeared confused and probed many of the dark areas between the wood shingles, flew back and forth, zooming in and out from the house. I believe the inexperienced wasps would normally follow the flights of the experienced foragers who would fly straight to the small entrance. Since I had removed nearly all the foragers, there were no wasps to lead them the entrance, forcing them to search everywhere.

- "The Battle for New Orleans" won the 1959 Grammy's Best Song of the Year (www.songfacts.com).

Bees, Wasps & Flies

by Timothy McMahon

When I first started beekeeping five years ago, I had the idea of making a small display of pinned specimens of a honey bee side-by-side with a yellow jacket to take to Tristen's school (he was only 5 at the time) to show people the difference in these two insects. At some point this was going to get out of control, as things tend to do with me. I had never pinned an insect before, having only been able to poke myself on occasions with pins. At one point I even looked up on-line some short videos on how to pin insects, but I never got around to really committing myself to pinning any insects. In the spring of 2013, I attended the "University of Maryland Native Bee Workshop" put on by the "PollinaTerps" (I love that name) and heard Dr. Sam Droege speak. Sam is the US Geological Survey Native Bee expert. Well after the meeting I talked with Sam about volunteering in his lab in Beltsville Maryland collecting, washing, drying and pinning bees. It wasn't long before I was spending several hours a week in the lab pinning over 500 bees a week. So now I was to the point where I felt that pinning some honey bees and yellow jackets

would be a simple thing to do.

Now to the part of the story on how this got out of control. I have my bees in my back yard and I have 6 more hives at a friend's house in Prince Georges County as he has a two acre lot, my out apiary. I got a call one day in late spring from my friend that he had a bunch of wasps flying around his garden and would I please come and look at them and help him get rid of them. The first thing that came to my mind was that with what Sam Droege had taught me about catching and pinning insects. I could get some of these and add them to the bees and yellow jackets I was planning on putting together. When I got to my friend's house (the out apiary), he had bald-faced hornets, European hornets and cicada killers all visiting a 20-foot tall oak tree stump that he had in his back yard. The wasps were collecting the sap from the large leftover tree stump.

Well, things were well under way to getting out of control. I answered an email on the MCBA listserv from Debbie Pappas asking if someone would come over and remove a bald-faced hornet nest from her back porch and I took her up on that. Now, I started thinking that if I could get some of the more common bees, and the larger and more common wasps, all pinned up that that would be even more fun. So, in the end, I spent most of the summer running around collecting bees and wasps for my display and enough even for multiple displays. I spent many days in my out apiary collecting wasps, honey bee drones and workers.

I drove out to the eastern shore one day to pick up 16 honey bee queens from Bee George (thanks George!) who was requeening most of his hives at the time. I spent one day driving out to Maria Rojas' farmhouse in Poolesville to collect some not-too-happy paper wasps from her barn (thanks Maria). I also picked up some more European hornets there. I spent some time standing over trashcans at Lake Needwood Park and Wheaton Regional Park collecting yellow jackets (that was kind of awkward explaining that to people passing by). I was asked to leave Brookside Gardens in Wheaton one day

when I went in and was collecting some male carpenter bees from their collection of sedum plants (sorry Brookside Gardens). One day in August I caught some "Hover flies" when collecting bees for Sam Droege and thought that they, being bee mimics, would be good to add to the collection.

So, in the end, I had four types of bees (honey, sweat, bumble and carpenter) and five types of wasps (yellow jackets, paper wasps, bald-faced hornets, European hornets and cicada killers) and two types of flies (hover and a parasitic one). I ordered up some insect display boxes and a couple of nice wooden display boxes and I was off to the races. I made up three really nice boxes of specimens, one for me (the best specimens thank you), one for Brookside Nature Center (where MCBA beekeeping group meets, I belong to their group too), and one for Watkins Park Nature Center (where the BUMBA beekeeping group meets). So, now I have 12 of these black cardboard boxes for taking to any talk I do and for letting anyone else who would like to borrow one take to a talk. So, if you are interested in getting one of these display cases for a week or so, just email me at timmcmahonbeekeeper@gmail.com and I will get one of these to you for a while.

I can't tell you how much fun I had getting all these insects together. I did get stung twice by some bumble bees when I was netting them, but that is the price you sometime pay when working with bees and wasps. In the end, I love it when things get out of control!

BEES IN THE NEWS

Killer Hornets Terrorize China

www.livescience.com 26 September, 2013

Planning to visit China anytime soon? You've heard of the "Cicada Killer" wasp, *Sphecius speciosus*, now meet the "Yak Killer"

hornet, *Vespa mandarina*. As a result of a 3 degree temperature increase, attributed by some to global warming, in Shaanxi Province, China, more wasps survive the winter resulting in larger populations of the Yak Killer hornet. What's the worry? Well, 28 people have been killed this summer and hundreds have been injured when swarms of the wasp have attacked people, double the rate from 5-10 years ago. This is the world's largest wasp, is more than 2 inches long and has a stinger that is **6mm (1/4 inch) long!** Ouch! The wasps can fly at speeds up to 25 miles per hour and can travel up to 60 miles in a single day; not much chance of out-running them.

The hornet is not found outside of China, "yet".

Excerpts from "Catch the Buzz" at BeeCulture.com

Health Canada: Neonics On Corn, Soybeans Not Sustainable

by Alan Harman

Agricultural practices related to the use of neonicotinoid-treated corn and soybean seed are affecting the environment due to their impacts on bees and other pollinators, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency says in announcing additional protective measures for the 2014 growing season.

"We have concluded that current agricultural practices related to the use of neonicotinoid-treated corn and soybean seed are not sustainable," the agency says in a statement.

It is proposing requiring the use of safer dust-reducing seed flow lubricants; requiring adherence to safer seed planting practices; requiring new pesticide and seed package labels with enhanced warnings; and requiring updated value information be provided to support the continued need for neonicotinoid treatment on up to 100% of the corn seed and 50% of the soybean seed.

It says it is acting after receiving a significant number of pollinator mortality reports in 2012 mainly from corn growing regions of Ontario and Quebec.

"We concluded that the majority of pollinator mortalities were a result of exposure to neonicotinoid insecticides, likely through exposure to contaminated dust generated during the planting of treated corn seed," the agency says.

Read the full article at:

<http://home.ezezone.com/1636/1636-2013.09.23.16.02.archive.html>

3-D Microscope Makes Life Easier

By Lucy Townsend, Stuff. Co.NZ

A digital microscope first scoffed at for being "unoriginal and unmarketable" is now making waves worldwide.

The 3-D desktop microscope, the Classifynder, was crafted in a Manawatu, New Zealand, workshop.

The invention was named the supreme winner of the 2013 New Zealand Engineering Excellence Awards, which showcase the country's leading-edge technology and engineering designs.

Developed by a team at Massey University, led by Emeritus Professor Bob Hodgson, the Classifynder combines robotics and image processing technology to locate and classify pollen collected on everyday items, like shoes and clothing.

It finds all of the pollen grains on a slide, takes a series of images of each grain at different focal lengths and uses this information for fast-tracked pollen classification.

As well as saving time spent at the eye piece of a microscope, the invention also has potential to classify borne diseases, such as facial eczema, potato blight, parasitic worm eggs and giardia.

Work first started on the microscope when Massey palynologist Emeritus Professor John Flenley, who studies the science of pollen, called for his help to create a computer application to ease the

problem of pollen classification.

"We developed it originally to meet that need, because we saw it as a niche that was not filled, and - with the relatively small resources in New Zealand - it was something that we could actually make an impact in, which we have," Prof Hodgson said.

The Classifynder is now attracting international interest for its use in forensic crime scene investigations, studying ecosystems and authenticating honey, including countering honey fraud.....

"Pollen scientists can spend weeks squinting down a microscope manually trying to count and identify the tiny grains," Mr MacDuff said.

"The Classifynder gives them the ability to sample more material and produce more consistent results over time, and leading pollen scientists consider it may well revolutionise the field of palynology."

Read the full article at:

<http://home.ezezine.com/1636/1636-2013.11.28.11.26.archive.html>

Be Sure, Be Safe. Know Where Honey Comes From

Make Sure You Don't Buy Illegal Honey from China.

Check Your Honey with a New Look-Up Tool on www.TrueSourceHoney.com

A new search function on www.TrueSourceHoney.com allows U.S. shoppers to be sure that they're not mistakenly buying honey that has been illegally shipped from China. In one easy step they can help ensure the safety and quality of their honey, while also supporting U.S. honey producers and beekeepers. In addition, retailers and manufacturers are able to trace their product back to the hive.

By going to www.TrueSourceHoney.com and clicking on the starburst at the top of the page, consumers can enter the UPC code on the back of their packaged honey to see if it is True Source Certified™.

Millions of pounds of illegally sourced honey may continue to enter the United States, despite continuing federal crack-down efforts. True Source Certification™ helps ensure honey's safety and quality because it traces the source of that honey from hive to table. The program has been applauded by honey industry leaders, including the American Honey Producers Association and the American Beekeeping Federation.

"The True Source Certified logo tells you that the honey you're buying was ethically and legally sourced," says True Source Honey Executive Director Gordon Marks. "If you don't see the logo, ask your retailer or honey company to join the program. And make sure that your favorite foods with honey – from breakfast cereals to snacks – are made by a manufacturer that purchases honey from a True Source Certified honey company."

About one-third of honey sold in North America today is now True Source Certified. Many large grocery retailers and club stores only use certified honey for store brands, including Costco (Kirkland Signature) and Target (Market Pantry and Simply Balanced).

True Source Honey, LLC is an effort by a number of honey companies and importers to protect consumers and customers from illegally sourced honey; and to highlight and support legal, transparent and ethical sourcing. Visit www.TrueSourceHoney.com. Follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/TrueSourceHoney).

It's Simple, Bees Need Enough Good Food, All Of The Time

By Christine Souza, ass't editor of Ag Alert, Calif. Farm Bureau Fed

At a first-of-its-kind meeting in Sacramento, beekeepers, farmers and representatives of public and private organizations gathered to discuss how to improve honeybee populations by allowing beekeepers access to more sources of bee forage.

During the meeting, held last week at the California Farm Bureau Federation, beekeepers and bee experts said increased access to

forage on both public and privately managed lands would promote the long-term health and sustainability of managed honeybee populations.

California State Beekeepers Assoc President John Miller said, "We're at a juncture here where we must address some fundamental issues of forage and access,... enhance the ability of honeybees to find clean forage, safe forage, and recover from the many challenges they are experiencing."

CFBF President Paul Wenger said that, as an almond grower whose crop depends on bees for pollination, he knows firsthand the importance of honey bee health.

"This is a key issue, not only to the bee industry, but also to those of us who depend upon the bees to produce a crop. The general public is also concerned about pollinator health, because we know how dependent our food supply around the world is on bees," Wenger said.

"We're actually losing this war," he said. "We can do better. We have to do better."

Eric Mussen, an apiculturist with the University of California, Davis, said it takes about 50 pounds of mixed pollens to keep a bee colony alive for a year.

"There's no one pollen out there that is particularly suited to keep the honeybees going. What they really require is a mix (of floral sources)," Mussen said.

Natural food that bees need, he said, includes wildflowers, weeds, shrubs and trees. Though beekeepers provide bees with supplemental feed, nothing comes close to the mixed pollens found in nature, Mussen said. But he said beekeepers find there are fewer places to store bees where they can have access to the necessary, diverse floral sources.

Suggested examples of potential locations where good bee forage might be found include state and national parks, forests, Bureau of Land Management lands and other public lands, as well as private

land. Many agencies that could be partners in providing forage land for bees were represented at the meeting, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, BLM, California Department of Food and Agriculture, state Department of Fish and Wildlife, state Department of Parks and Recreation and the State Lands Commission.

A partnership between beekeeper Miller and Justin Wages, land manager for the Placer Land Trust, was held up as an example of a successful venture between a non-profit organization and a beekeeper.

"We want to study what the bees are actually eating, what they are collecting, what are the most important plants to focus on and, for me, to hone that down to the native plants I'm allowed to use," Wages said. "We want to be one of those (bee) yards where we can be that blooming feed source."

Wages said he does not charge the beekeepers to be on the land because he views the bees as a benefit to the land, but there is a liability contract that beekeepers must sign.

Cathy Johnson of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who works with managers of wildlife refuges, recommended that beekeepers start by contacting a local refuge manager. Those managers enjoy partnerships, Johnson said, although she cautioned that refuges are short-staffed and some managers may be concerned about the added workload of accommodating bee colonies.

Robbin Thorpe, UC Davis native pollinator specialist and professor emeritus, said honey bees are more likely to compete with each other than they are with native bees.

Paramount Farming Co. bee biologist Dr. Gordon Wardell said he has demonstrated in Southeast Asia that honeybees can be instrumental both in maintaining a natural system and as a tool to help foster stewardship over the land.

"I think we need to start to look at bees—instead of as an invader—look at them as a way we can really make this system

whole," Wardell said.

Great Christmas Gift Books

"Bees, A Natural History"

Christopher O'Toole, 2013, 240 pages, 125 color photos, hardcover, \$40 (less on Amazon.com).

Bee Culture has a great review for this new book, which covers not just honey bees, but all bees. It reviews the history of where bees come from as well as solitary, social, miner, leafcutter, carpenter and mason bees.

Honey Bee Diseases & Pests

Stephen Pernal and Heather Clay, 3rd ed., 2013, 68 pages, color photos, published by the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists, usually \$10 from most bee supply outlets.

The 3rd edition, updated to include new pests and new information about old pests. The phorid flies, Nosema cerana, pesticides, and more. "Every beginner's class should have this as a part of the pack folks receive. Good information, good photos, a good book. Get one."

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

Check out the club web site maintained by **Toni Burnham**, 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.

www.BUMBAbees.com/forums

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

FREE STATE Bee Supply

Your local bee supply dealer

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

Email or call if you have any questions.

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

Phone: 301-580-9313.

Email: Freestatebees@gmail.com

As always, thank you for your continued support!

Dave and Laura Polk

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

Put these dates on your **2014 BUMBA** Calendar:
December 5, 6:00 PM, Holiday Party

2014

Feb 6, BUMBA Mtg, 7:30 PM

Feb 15, **MSBA** Winter Mtg, 9:30 AM

Feb 20, 27 BUMBA Bee Class, 7 PM

March 6, 13, 20, 27 BUMBA Bee Class 7 PM

April 3, BUMBA Mtg, 7:30 PM

June 5, BUMBA Mtg, 7:30 PM

July 28-Aug 1, EAS Mtg, Richmond, KY

August 7, BUMBA Mtg, 7:30 PM

October 2, BUMBA Mtg, 7:30 PM

December 4, 6:00 PM, Holiday Party

BUMBA Meeting Location – Watkins Park Nature Center, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Largo.

BUMBA annual dues are \$15. Our regular meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of the even months 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**

Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association Officers		
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BUMBA Editor: David Morris
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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