



NEWSLETTER

Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association

June 2015

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www.BUMBAbees.com

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Next BUMBA Meeting

Thurs, June 4, 7:30 PM

Watkins Park Nature Center

The Varroa Challenge

The June meeting is this Thursday, June 4th, and it is back at the regular location at the **Nature Center in Watkins Park**. It will be a pretty informal meeting this time. I plan to open the floor to discussion on current experiences and encourage the active participation of the newbees, now that you probably are beginning to get a sense of just how much doesn't come through in the short courses. If you have questions or want to share experiences, this will be the place to be.

The other part of the meeting is framed around the un-avoidable issue of *Varroa destructor*. Let's talk open forum about mites, how to detect them, and what to do about them. We will discuss integrated pest management (IPM) techniques and the "Treatment Free" concept (myth?) of survival of the fittest to develop natural resistance, as well as labeled chemical treatment choices. I asked **Maggie Mills** (our new VP) to help me with this portion of the meeting, so be prepared to challenge her with your questions. I will say this...it is my belief that if it were not for Varroa mites, beekeeping would be easy. I was involved with bees somewhat during the 60's, pre-Varroa, even pre-tracheal, and it was much easier during those golden years.

The President's Smoker

This year's spring beekeeping and nectar flow season has often felt as though we were on a roller coaster ride. Cool temperatures and wet weather delayed most all of the flowering trees and plants by as much as two weeks by comparison with previous years. I hope all of our members have had as much fun with their bees this spring as I have had with mine. I loaded on 85 honey supers and am pleased that many...maybe most of them are full and being capped. The last of the tulip poplar ended this week and the smooth sumac began to flower. The scale hive is still showing a daily increase average of about 5 lbs. this week. Fifty of the supers I put on were undrawn foundation and the hives have been strong enough to get most of them drawn out for me, and quite a few of them filled or nearly so.

I don't usually like to tally up surplus until about the end of June, but the season seems so strong right now that I was roughly figuring I have about 1500 lbs in the combs right now. This amazes me considering that I sold 64 nucs with two thirds of the nucs made by pulling the overwintered core and queen out of my production and support hives. I was able to get out all of the nuc requests I accepted this year with the exception of one. There were several "no shows" and last minute cancellations to juggle as well as a clerical error where I wrote down one instead of two, but which worked out alright in the end as I had an extra one that day from a no show. Please try to remember that nucs represent a considerable investment in time and resources to produce, and that they are like any other agricultural product...very dependent upon the weather conditions.

I had a late order around the first of April for 3 nucs, which after much reluctance on my part and great insistence on the purchaser's part, I accepted with the understanding that they would not be available until after the 15th of May. On the 2nd of May the person called to inquire as to the status of the nucs, and I committed to the 15th for pick-up. On the 9th of May that person (not a member of **BUMBA**) sent me a text saying that she had run across another supplier who could supply her with the 3 nucs that very afternoon, and so she was cancelling her order with me, since mine were still week away from pick-up. It is okay...I supered those hives and each of the three has blessed me with 1-2 supers of honey I would not have otherwise collected. I am already re-thinking some of my nuc production

and sales policies for the future after analyzing last year and this year's crops. I will be very interested in feedback from those who started with nucs this year and contrasting your experiences with those who started with packages, most particularly southern origin packages.

There have been a number of inquiries concerning availability of queens locally. I have taken a few orders for later queens, but I have not been taking orders for spring queens. I had two earlier grafting rounds yield less than spectacular results, and with all the field work getting the nucs out this spring, swarm control measures, and supering up for a banner attempt at harvesting, literally, a ton of honey, I only recently got serious about grafting queens. I should have some ready and laying by about the 10th of June. I have been referring people in need of queens to **Maggie Mills** and **Lee Travis**, so I hope they have had good luck with their early grafts. I have requests for about 30 queens so far for late summer delivery for folks with the protocol of fall re-queening in mind. There is a very good article on fall re-queening (in the 201008 newsletter) written by **Leigh Walton** that is archived either on the [BUMBA Support Forum](#) or the older [Yahoo forum](#). It is good reading, and I also subscribe to the concept and have practiced it myself. I now have a total of four different Harbo VSH breeder queens representing different genetic lines, and have some of the Caucasian stock being bred from semen imported by **Sue Cobey** and Washington State University a couple of years ago. I am excited about putting my II equipment to use this summer and fall, enhancing and diversifying the gene pool within my apiaries. Hopefully I have most of the bugs worked out of the regimen after last year's heartbreaking experiences. Wish me luck!

Hope to see you all at the June meeting!

God save the queen!

Bob Greenwell

Notes From the Vice-President

Dear Members -

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Vice President. I look forward to getting to know our members, so please introduce yourself at the next meeting. I hope you will all feel comfortable reaching out to share ideas for making **BUMBA** an even better organization. We are fortunate to

have a strong club with amazing volunteers. I hope those of you who haven't already helped at an outreach event will consider doing so. If you are a second year beekeeper, please make yourself available to mentor. This can be accomplished by posting on the forum when you are going into your yard for an inspection and seeing who wants to accompany you. [Volunteering at an outreach event](#) enables you to connect with the general public and help dispel many myths about honey bees. You will find the public is fascinated by honey bees and it's really a joy to be a part of their educational experience! The more you are involved with the club, the more you will benefit. And don't worry about being a newbie - you already know more than the most of the general public and you'll have plenty of support for questions you can't answer!

For me, my first and second seasons were spent learning about the bees, finding queens, how to inspect, and maintaining records. In both seasons I dabbled with making splits and trying to understand swarming impulses. My third season was all about splits (jumping from 6 to 30 colonies). I also started to learn and understand the forage and bloom times and observe colony buildup. Now, in my fourth season, I have been busy providing nucleus colonies to new and seasoned beekeepers and teaching workshops for experienced beeks. The learning never ends - at least for me. Active membership will help bridge the gaps and enable you to connect with more experienced beekeepers to broaden your knowledge and experience.

With the help of four **BUMBA** members (**Thanks Kim, Mike, Gerry & Tracy**) we were able to collect samples for the **BeeInformed Partnership Sentinel Hive Project** on May 9th. Eight hives in one yard are being sampled for health. It's quite a task, especially with supered hives, but I'm fortunate to have pretty gentle bees! Each hive must be opened and the number of brood and honey frames, and frames of adult bees, estimated and recorded. Live bees are collected from a brood frame (making extra sure not to scoop the Queen) and funneled into a bottle of alcohol. Once collected, the eight bottles of bees/alcohol are analyzed by the Bee Informed Lab at the University of Maryland. Additionally, pollen samples are collected every two weeks from one hive. I will be sure to share lab results once I receive them. Additionally, one hive has an electronic hive scale which connects wirelessly to my cell phone via Bluetooth. With the push of a button I am able to load hive weights which are collected every 15 minutes and stored in the scale memory. [My apologies for the broken link - I will try to update this and post on the forum. I believe it's due to a new version

of the software being rolled out in the past couple of weeks.] The last weight was 144.36# on 5/26. This is down from 146.74# on 5/21. It is possible the hive cast a small swarm with a virgin Queen during that period, but the cool weather was also a likely contributor. The hive did not have a mated queen; she was moved out for swarm control earlier in the month. This hive started as an overwintered 5 frame nucleus and has built rapidly, although they hadn't started drawing their super foundation on the last inspection. Our next sampling will take place on Sunday, June 14th - Most likely in the morning with the crew meeting afterwards for lunch at Franklin's Restaurant & Brewery in Hyattsville. I will continue to need your help with this project, so please consider joining in on the fun. Don't forget, the MSBA meeting on June 13.

I'm excited to share my registration for the Heartland Apiculture Society annual conference in Albion, MI this July. <http://www.heartlandbees.org/> I usually attend the 2015 **Eastern Apiculture Society** Conference, but have a conflict this year and thought I would try HAS. I'll be sure to let you all know what I learn! If you are planning to attend, let me know.

Consider taking a Varroa count, using your bottom board hive insert or a sugar roll, to share at the next meeting. I'd like to hear from you all on what you're seeing in your hives. I will bring ApiLife-VAR for those who would like to purchase wafers at the case/discounted price.

Peace, Love, and Bees,

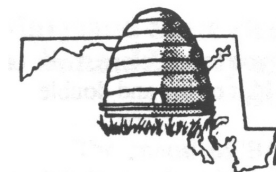
Maggie

MSBA Spring Meeting

June 13, 9:30AM – 4:30PM

Univ. of Maryland
College Park

www.mdbeekeepers.org



Featured Speaker: Dr. Juliana Rangel, Texas A & M

MSBA's guest speaker is **Dr. Juliana Ragnel**, from **Texas A&M University**. She received her PhD from Cornell University and studied with **Dr. Thomas Seeley**. She researches problems facing the apiculture industry, teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in honey bee biology, and also works with extension. Among exciting topics of her recent publications are the effects of miticides on honey bee reproduction.

MSBA will also continue their reports on "**The Honey Regions of Maryland**"; this meeting will be, "Tulip Popular Region", by **Jim Fraser**

EAS 2015 Summer Convention



August 10-14

The University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada

Timothy McMahon, EAS Director for Maryland
timothy.mcmahon@uspto.gov

Speakers

Mark Winston, Robert E. Page Jr., Phil Craft, Robert Currie, Ernesto Guzman, Pierre Giovenazzo, Tammy Horn, Zachary Huang, Greg Hunt, Doug McRory, Heather Mattila, Medhat Nasr, Gard Otis, Steve Pernal, Nigel Raine, and many, many more.

Workshops include:

[Queens Rearing](#)

[Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\)](#)

[Introductory Beekeeping Workshop](#)

Mead and Beer Making

How to Win at Honey Competitions

Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced Beekeeping

DC Beekeepers' Alliance

www.dcbeekeepers.org

The **DC Beekeepers Alliance** is now holding regular meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the **Rock Creek Nature Center** of the National Park Service, 5200 Glover Road NW from 6:30 PM to 8 PM. For directions and other meeting information, visit www.dcbeekeepers.org



CLUB HAPPENINGS

Leader Needed for BUMBA's Outreach Program

David Morris

Two of the things that I feel make **BUMBA** a special club are the success and quality of our [Beginning Beekeeping Course](#) and our [public outreach events](#). Our beekeeping class is well organized by **Bob Greenwell** and the **BUMBA Board** with classes conducted by many **BUMBA** volunteers.

[Our outreach events present the positive image of beekeeping and honey bees that they need and deserve.](#) The driving force behind this extremely successful publicity campaign for many years has been **Linda Thompson**. Now we need a new Outreach Program leader. It could be YOU!

The primary responsibility is to organize the **BUMBA** events calendar, identify organizers for each event and assist the organizers with getting equipment and volunteers.

If you think you could help the club with our events, either as our program leader, as an event organizer, or as a volunteer for an event near you, speak to an officer at the meeting, make a phone call, or send an email. The **BUMBA Officers** names and contact information is available on the last page of the newsletter.

Last 2015 Outreach Event until the Fall

Linda Thompson, ex-Outreach Coordinator
LMTpublic@comcast.net, 301-352-3663 (h), 301-943-4368 (c)

It is not too late to be an ambassador for the bees this summer! Educate the public about bees and pollinators, recruit beekeepers, & promote club membership. **Can you help?** If you can volunteer your time, please let Linda know ASAP. There will be a sign-up sheet at the BUMBA meeting.

Saturday 6/20 9am-1pm Hollywood Farmers Market

9801 Rhode Island Avenue
Hollywood Shopping Center, next to REI
north College Park, 20740
<http://www.hollywoodmarket.org/>

Only 2 volunteers are signed up for this event, Verna and Effie.

2015 Successful Club Outreach Events

Linda Thompson, ex-Outreach Coordinator

It has been another amazing outreach year. Thanks SO much to all of you wonderful volunteers who have staffed our BUMBA "booth" and taught folks about our bees. You all are what makes our program successful! *As always, my humblest apologies if I have missed anyone. Your time and effort are truly appreciated and the oversight is absolutely unintentional. (If your name is omitted from an event you worked, please contact me and tell me; do not be shy!)*

March 21 Behnke Spring Open House

Volunteers: Gerry Jones, Sara Brozena, Frank Fennell, Linda Thompson. A quiet indoor day; too early for an observation hive; lots of good info shared.

April 18 Spring Greening Fair, Mt. Rainier Nature Center

Thanks to Tracy Velazquez, newbie Frank Ragsac, and, especially Gerry Jones, for bringing a magical ob hive! I gave my presentation at 1:15 and we talked to many people.

April 25 Maryland Day, UMCP

Muchas Gracias to Cheryl Evry, Tony Drake, Effie Baldwin, Colleen White, Rob Kolosky, Verna Gehring, Frank Ragsac, Linda Thompson, and Gerry's poor bees for braving the cold - brrrr! Special thanks to Nikki Thompson for making all the arrangements and Gerry Jones for bringing the observation hive. It was a really raw day and we thought perhaps that would keep the crowds away, but it did not; we were as busy as ever. We spoke with folks as far away as Winchester and Hagerstown; MD Day really draws in the crowd! We couldn't have done it without every volunteer.

May 2 Spring Farm Festival, Hard Bargain Farm

Many thanks to volunteers Steve and Colleen White. Special thanks to Mellie Landon for making all the arrangements and bringing all the BUMBA display materials and to Gerry Jones, who brought the ob hive. Gerry summed up this event: "A serene and lovely setting with really nice weather and a steady stream of parents with young children in tow. Lots of 'Oh look, Joey there are live bees! Where is the Queen?'" Introducing the concept of bees as pollinators helps to bring an important idea to young minds that seems to be lacking in the public awareness.

May 10 Green Man Festival, Old Greenbelt

Thanks to Gerry Jones, Wendy Margolis, Dave Norken, Jim Sauer, Jutta Dunaway, and Linda Thompson. Special thanks to Steve Cook and John Brassfield for providing the ob hive. This was a lovely day and quite well attended. We were set up in front of the theater and the bees attracted the attention.

May 16 A-MAY-Zing Animal Festival, Bladensburg

Many thanks to Debby Heyes, Nikki Thompson, and Jim Sauer. Special thanks to Leigh Walton for bringing all the BUMBA display materials and the ob hive.

May 16 Cheverly Day

Many thanks to Gerry Jones for jumping events and not leaving Frank all alone! Special thanks to Frank Fennell for handling all the BUMBA display materials and providing the ob hive. Frank summed up this event: "We had a very successful Cheverly Day. Usual location and good traffic flow. Gerry and I were able to provide a lot of good information to the

community and get the word out. Bees have been in the news a lot lately so many people came prepared with good questions.” Gerry added: “Frank and I had almost no down time, talking continuously. All the Cheverly resident comments were positive in favor of bees.” (YAY!)

A Note About Observation Hives

It takes effort to put an observation hive together. The beekeeper goes into the apiary hours before the event and goes through a hive to select a frame or two, looking for brood, honey/nectar, and/or pollen to show off... and hopefully finds the queen (“Where’s the queen” is definitely the question of the day!) His house bees, who are used to being in the dark, tolerate hours in the sunshine, in the heat (or cold), away from home. The beekeeper must transport the glass hive with great care. Then he must return the bees to their hive at the end of a long day. It is NOT a trivial contribution.

For many folks, an observation hive provides their first glimpse of a colony of bees. Seeing thousands of bees moving around on the comb they built is a vastly different experience than the typical encounter with a forager. It really draws the public to our table and fascinates young and old alike. Often there are drones, which spark interesting conversation. If we get really lucky, we can watch the queen lay eggs or watch new bees emerge. And there is ALWAYS some poor garbage collector bee who spends the entire day carrying around something she desperately wants to toss outside. Foragers clustered on the screens give glimpses of honeybee tongues. It truly makes great entertainment and assures us a successful outreach event.

I want to give extra thanks to our beekeepers who have gone the extra mile to provide ob hives at our 2015 events, especially **Gerry**, who has done it for us time and again. **Kudos (with much gratitude) to Gerry Jones, Steve Cook, John Brassfield, Leigh Walton, and Frank Fennell.** You guys rock!!

Bruce Murray - Quiet Outreach

Linda Thompson, ex-Outreach Coordinator

Not all of the **BUMBA** outreach is done at the events that our club "officially" attends each year. There are **BUMBA** members who quietly attend educational events on their own throughout the year. Long-time **BUMBA** member and retired school teacher **Bruce Murray** is one. He has

his own educational display materials. He taught children all about our bees at the **Earth Day Festival** at John Hanson Montessori school in Oxon Hill (in April) and **Career Day** at a Capitol Heights elementary school in May. He has presented to the kids at the **Watkins Park Summer Camp** program the past 2 years and expects to be involved there again this August. **Thanks, Bruce!**

8th Annual Honey Harvest Festival: 9/19

Linda Thompson, MSBA VP

Save the date! This has been a fabulous event for the **Maryland State Beekeepers Association (MSBA)**. **Steve McDaniel** did a great job as our fearless leader for the past 5 years and has passed the baton to **Lindsay Baranco** for the 2015 festival. We had a great run at the **Patuxent Wildlife Visitors Center**, but this year we are returning to our first venue, **Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, MD.**

<http://www.montgomeryparks.org/brookside/>

When the event was in our backyard, **BUMBA** supplied the bulk of the volunteers and equipment. This year I expect the Montgomery County Club to be more involved, but it does not mean that we won't support our only state association-sponsored outreach event. More information will follow as the date draws nearer.

MEMBERS' CORNER

Your story could be here! Tell us why you started beekeeping, what you enjoy most, or least? What do you want to learn? What do you want to share?

BEES IN THE NEWS

www.beeinformed.org



Colony Loss 2014-2015: Preliminary Results

Corresponding Author: dvane@umd.edu

Note: This is a preliminary analysis. Sample sizes and estimates are likely to change. A more detailed final report is being prepared for publication in a peer-reviewed journal at a later date.

The Bee Informed Partnership (<http://beeinformed.org>), in collaboration with the Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA www.apiaryinspectors.org) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is releasing preliminary results for the ninth annual national survey of honey bee colony losses. For the 2014/2015 winter season, a preliminary 6,128 beekeepers in the United States provided valid responses. Collectively, these beekeepers managed 398,247 colonies in October 2014, representing about 14.5% of the country's estimated 2.74 million managed honey bee colonies.

About two-thirds of the respondents (67.2%) experienced winter colony loss rates greater than the average self-reported acceptable winter mortality rate of 18.7%. Preliminary results estimate that a total of 23.1% of the colonies managed in the United States were lost over the 2014/2015 winter. This would represent a decrease in losses of 0.6% compared to the previous 2013/2014 winter, which had reported a total loss estimated at 23.7%. This is the second year in a row the reported colony loss rate was notably lower than the 9-year average total loss of 28.7%.

Beekeepers do not only lose colonies in the winter but also throughout the summer, sometimes at significant levels. To quantify this claim of non-winter colony mortality of surveyed beekeepers, we have included summer and annual colony losses since 2010/2011. In the summer of 2014 (April – October), colony losses surpassed winter losses at 27.4% (total summer loss). This compares to summer losses of 19.8% in 2013. Importantly, commercial beekeepers appear to consistently lose greater numbers of colonies over the summer months than over the winter months, whereas the opposite seems true for smaller-scale beekeepers. Responding beekeepers reported losing 42.1% of the total number of colonies managed over the last year (total annual loss, between April 2014 and April 2015). This represents the second highest annual loss recorded to date.

As in previous years, colony losses were not consistent across the country, with annual losses exceeding 60% in several states, while Hawaii

reported the lowest total annual colony loss of ~14%.

This survey was conducted by the Bee Informed Partnership, which receives a majority of its funding from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA (award number: 2011-67007-20017).

Excerpts from “Catch the Buzz” at BeeCulture.com

Effect of pollen stress on honey bees

By Alan Harman

Pollen stressed youngsters die younger, are smaller, and forage and dance less – all which exacerbate other problems like pesticide exposure.

Inadequate access to pollen during larval development has lifelong consequences for honey bees, leading not only to smaller workers and shorter lifespans, but also to impaired performance and productivity later in life.

Research by Heather Mattila, a leading honey bee ecologist and assistant professor of biological sciences at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, shows for the first time a crucial link between poor nutrition at a young age, and foraging and waggle dancing, the two most important activities that honey bees perform as providers for their colonies.

The study published in the journal Plos One was co-authored by Hailey Scofield, a former undergraduate research assistant.

While a number of sophisticated nutrition studies have been undertaken recently, the Wellesley study is the first to show that nutritional deficits early in life can have far-reaching consequences for adult honey bees, including effects on complex behaviors such as foraging and waggle dancing.

The pollen-stressed bees were lighter and died younger, and fewer bees foraged. Those that did foraged earlier, for fewer days, and were more likely to die after just one day of foraging.

Pollen-stressed workers were also less likely to waggle dance than workers that had been well-fed as larvae, and if they danced, the information they conveyed about the location of food sources was less

precise.

Bee Losses Are Not Sustainable

From The Pollinator Stewardship Council

The Bee Informed Partnership released its analysis of honey bee losses for 2014 yesterday, (<http://beeinformed.org/2015/05/colony-loss-2014-2015-preliminary-results/>) showing beekeepers lost 42 percent of their colonies between April 2014 and April 2015. The Associated Press noted “it’s not quite as dire as it sounds” because beekeepers can split their surviving hives, according to Dennis vanEnglesdorp of the University of Maryland.

Yes, it is. Beekeepers can split healthy hives to make more colonies. But apiaries with 40 percent losses probably don’t have very many healthy hives, and it’s not likely splitting weak colonies will succeed. Logistics aside, what is really missing from this picture is an understanding of the economic investment required to return the number of colonies to previous levels.

This is best understood from the vantage point of the beekeeper, in the context of almond pollination, the beekeeper’s primary economic event. One beekeeper explained it thus:

Do we count downhill such as 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, or do we count uphill such as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5? Well, it depends on “where you start,” or “where you are going.”

If we count downhill, a beekeeper begins the year with 2,000 bee hives for honey production. The beekeeper loses some during the summer, and gets the survivors ready for winter. The beekeeper loses more colonies over the winter, and takes the remaining 1,000 good hives to almonds for rent. So, the beekeeper’s losses are 50%.

If we count uphill, the beekeeper knows from past experience, to stay in business he/she needs to rent 1,000 hives to almonds. For the beekeeper to ensure 1,000 hives will be available to rent to almonds, he will need to start with 2,000 hives. This means 1,000 colonies will have to be split. The original colonies will need to be re-queened in order to begin spring with 2000 hives. Therefore, when counting uphill, the beekeeper preparing for almond pollination needs 200% more hives than he/she intends to rent. This costs staff time and hard cash for queens. Splitting a colony also takes away from its ability to make honey, as the field force is reduced.

So where should the counting start? Do we examine the beekeeper’s primary economic event (almond pollination), and count the economic inputs it takes to get there? Or, do we examine the high number counting down towards the beekeeper’s primary economic event (almond pollination), even if this does not capture the beekeeper’s economic inputs?

A true and accurate mathematical analysis will reflect what is actually happening to the bees, and what beekeepers have to do to keep our agricultural system from collapsing. Counting downhill from ivory towers, beekeeping becomes an easy race, but you have to discount how you got to the top of the hill. Counting uphill shows the effort it takes to run the race. Counting downhill or uphill each year shows how the beekeeping race has changed, but fails to capture the big picture and the number of beehives which used to last three years now only last one year.

If other commodities were examined for their sustainability based on a similar survey what would be the response? If half of the cattle died every year, and the cattle industry had to double in size to generate the same number of cattle sales, what would be the repercussions, the regulatory response, and the support offered to the industry?

It has been acknowledged honey bees and other pollinators are integral to agriculture and our wild lands, and an affordable and sustainable food supply. Yet, we are not listening to the bees. Forty to fifty percent losses are not sustainable for either the bees or the beekeepers.

Excerpts from “ABJ Extra” at Dadant.com

White House Announces a National Strategy to Promote Pollinator Health

On Tuesday, May 19, the White House announced the National Strategy to Promote Pollinator Health. The strategy released today and its accompanying Pollinator Research Action Plan outline needs and priority actions to better understand pollinator losses, improve pollinator health, and to enhance pollinator habitat.

The strategy's broad-reaching goals are to:

Restore colony health to sustainable levels by 2025.

Increase Eastern monarch butterfly populations to 225 million

butterflies by year 2020.

Restore or enhance seven million acres of land for pollinators over the next five years.

For more information:

[White House blog](#) announcing the National Strategy to Promote Pollinator Health

Read the [National Strategy to Promote Pollinator Health](#)

Read about [EPA's role in the national strategy](#) and [EPA's actions to protect pollinators](#)

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 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. The Board has established an extractor agreement, rules, and cleaning instructions. Copies are available from the managers. To reserve the equipment, call the managers, bring a \$50 refundable deposit (cash or check upon pickup), and sign the use agreement and inventory form. Please be sure to read what you are signing☺. The first 4 days are free!

Chuck and Gerry report that the extractor was been borrowed 6 times in 2014. The extractors have always been returned on time and in good shape. To reserve your use of either of the extractors, simply email or call Chuck or Gerry!

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.

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

Phone: 301-580-9313.

Email: Freestatebees@gmail.com

Call or email if you have any questions.

Please be sure to call ahead to set up a time to visit! As
always, thank you for your continued support!

Dave and Laura Polk

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** annual dues are **\$15**. Please remember to bring your dues (**checks preferred**) to the next meeting. Consider paying for two years, as a commitment to beekeeping. Jutta loves to find checks in the mailbox, so you can mail your dues 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

Jutta will not be at the April meeting. Debbie Hayes and Linda Thompson will be accepting dues at the meeting. Please have a check, or \$15 cash.

Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association Officers			
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BUMBA Meets at – Watkins Park Nature Center

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**

Club Calendar

Put these dates on your **2015 BUMBA** Calendar:

- April 2, 7:30-10, BUMBA Mtg
- April 11, BUMBA Field Day
- June 4, 7:30-10, BUMBA Mtg
- June 13, MSBA Summer Mtg
- August 6, 7:30-10, BUMBA Mtg
- August 10-14, EAS Conference
- October 1, 7:30-10, BUMBA Mtg
- November ??, MSBA Fall Mtg
- December 3, 7:30-10, BUMBA Mtg

David Morris, BUMBA Editor
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