



NEWSLETTER

Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association

October 2015

Volume 35 No. 5

Published Bi-Monthly since 1980

www.BUMBAbees.com

CONTENTS

Meetings

- Pg 1 Next BUMBA Meeting
- Pg 2 The President's Smoker
- Pg 3 Notes from Maryland Honey Shows
- Pg 4 MSBA Fall Meeting: Dr. Michelle Flenniken

Club Happenings

- Pg 4 BUMBA Outreach Schedule
Outreach Leader Needed
- Pg 5 Outreach Report

Members' Corner

- Pg 6 Notes on using Oxalic Acid Drip, by Jan Day

Bees in the News

- Pg 7 Bee Informed Partnership Releases 2014-2015
Winter Survey Results
It Takes More Than Royal Jelly To Make A
Queen
- Pg. 8 New Guide Helps Citizens Customize Their
Gardens For Native Bees
Status Change For Antibiotics In A Beehive
- Pg 9 True Source Honey Issues Alert on Honey
Shipped from Thailand and Taiwan
Bee Health App

Club Programs

- Pg 10 Extractor; www.bumbabees.com

Next BUMBA Meeting

Thurs, August 6, 7:30 PM
Watkins Park Nature Center

The Other Bees: Maryland's 400 Native Bee Species

BUMBA's October speaker will be **Sam Droege**, from the **USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center**, in Laurel, familiar to many BUMBA beekeepers as the site of many **Maryland Honey Festivals**. While our valuable honey bee is our primary pollinator, before *Apis Mellifera* arrived native bees pollinated a wide variety of native plants. Be sure to come and learn about the wide variety of native bees around us, many you have seen yourself and wondered just what they were. Now you will know. Be sure to also read the article "New Guide Helps Citizens Customize Their Gardens For Native Bees"

Sam Droege, a native of Hyattsville, received his undergraduate degree at the UMD, College Park, and a Master's at the State University of New York – Syracuse. Most of his career has been spent at the **USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center**. He has coordinated the North American Breeding Bird Survey Program, developed the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program, the BioBlitz, Cricket Crawl, and FrogwatchUSA programs and worked on the design and evaluation of monitoring programs. Currently he is developing an inventory and monitoring program for native bees, online identification guides for North American bees at www.discoverlife.org, and with Jessica Zelt reviving the North American Bird Phenology Program. His group maintains high resolution photographs of insects and other macro natural history objects at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usgsbiml/> and can be contacted at sdroege@usgs.gov.

The USGS Native Bee Inventory and Monitoring Program designs and develops large and small scale surveys for native bees. As part of that program they also develop identification tools and keys for native bee species. One aspect of creating those tools is creating accurate and detailed pictures of native bees and the plants and insects they interact with.

The President's Smoker

Have you noticed the sour odor of curing goldenrod honey in your apiary? The rather pungent scent has been welcoming me at each visit over the past several weeks, and is indicative that we are having a better than average fall flow for our area. My scale hive registered a 7 lb increase once this week and has been running at 3-4 lbs. I hope it will continue for a bit longer. The weather has apparently been kind to the fall flowers even though it has been on the dry side. Remember in the spring how we kept noticing everything seemed to be blooming two to three weeks late? Well, I keep seeing fawns still wearing spots, and bucks still in velvet, both of which have normally progressed beyond those states by this point in the season. Mother Nature is so interesting to observe in all her facets. I ponder...

I hope you have all had an enchanting experience with your beekeeping this past spring and summer. I have heard so many encouraging reports from many of our **2015 Short Course** graduates, as well as from our more seasoned veterans, that I am hopeful of a better wintering season than so many in our area have experienced in recent years. It is good to hear of the many people proactively taking charge of the Varroa mite loading in their hives this year. I still cringe when I hear someone say they don't have any mites in their hives. Thank you **Jan Day** for the serial accounting of the mite falls in your OAD treatment reporting. The numbers are eye opening and quite staggering. [See her report later in the newsletter; ed.]

Now is also the time to assess your colony's weight in preparation for winter, and begin feeding appropriate amounts of heavy sugar syrup (2:1) if needed to bring them up to winter ready weights. Ideally, you want to be done feeding syrup by about mid-October so there will be some time left for the bees to dry it out a bit and perhaps cap it over. [ed. note: the temps need to be above 50° for the bees to properly cure syrup to honey.] Your colony should have at least one deep body of honey, or if running medium boxes, two mediums of honey on top to tide them over. I run mostly 8 frame double deeps and they winter well. With 8 frame mediums I run triples with almost as good a survival rate as the double deeps, and I believe that mediums in quads with the top two full of honey would be even better. With the triple medium stack, the top box has to be solid honey with the middle

box containing the top of the brood sphere and honey laid in all around the brood. A textbook hive would have a good amount of pollen in the bottom box along with a spherical brood nest in the lower center of the hive, and a solid ceiling of honey on top for them to move up into as winter progresses. The hive should have 60-90 lbs of honey in it for wintering in our area, and the entire hive should top the scale at over 125+ lbs total weight to feel pretty comfortable with it. If you need to bunk up the weight, a gallon of heavy syrup weighs approximately 12 lbs and will dry down to 10 lbs of hive weight. Ergo, if your hive is 30 lbs light, you'll have to plan on feeding about 3 gallons of syrup. The syrup needs to be 2 parts sugar to 1 part water by volume or by weight, it doesn't really matter which. Water weighs 8.33 lbs per gallon, so you can mix 8 lbs. of sugar with ½ gallon of water and be close enough. There are some folks recently promoting a 5:3 mix for fall feeding. If you want to try it, you'll have to heat the water up to boiling to get it to dissolve all the sugar. Don't boil the syrup... just take your water off the heat and then add the sugar. The claim is that the bees do not have to dry it as much. Makes sense I guess, but I personally find that 2:1 works just fine and the math is easier for me.

Also that time of year to assess the strength of your colonies. Weak colonies need to be combined onto strong colonies. Two weak colonies combined do not make a strong colony, but rather just a bigger weak colony. If yours is a multi-hive apiary and you have a weak hive or two, your purposes may be best served by combining to the better queen, wintering, and then splitting in the spring. Dead-outs make no splits or honey. In certain apiaries where there is a only one hive and it is weak, compressing it down into nuc configuration by changing equipment or use of a follower board may be an option. Bring your questions and concerns to the October meeting on Thursday for discussion.

Also time for those mouse guards to go on...no mouse already wreaking havoc inside is there? Check for good ventilation, and perhaps a functional top entrance. A good heavy brick on top or strapping may save your colony if the winter winds get to ripping. Windbreak of some sort shielding the north and west quadrants?

Thanks for the great participation this year in our general meetings. The attendance has been good, and we appreciate your interaction, your feedback comments, and the many compliments are heartening. Just a reminder that the December Meeting/Holiday Gathering will be held on the

first Thursday evening in December, Dec 3, 2015 and will include our usual potluck dinner, set up is between 6:00 and 6:30 PM. Maggie will line up a guest speaker for our party night, watch for the announcement in the December Newsletter and be sure to come join us for the fun time it is. Last year was an entertaining and social event, and I was pleased that I was able to spend time in personal conversation with some folks I never seem to get time to talk with.

God save the queen!

Bob Greenwell

Notes From Maryland Honey Shows

*David Morris
Maryland Honey Judge*

This year I had the opportunity to participate in judging at several Honey Shows in Maryland, Howard and Anne Arundel counties, the State Fair, the DC State Fair (a new experience for me), the upcoming Calvert Fair on Tuesday and the MSBA Honey Show in November. I was pleased to see a large number of newcomers to exhibiting honey and hive products (beeswax, propolis and pollen as well) and crafts (photos, drawings, baskets, candles, etc.). Unfortunately, some long-time and larger contributors were not present at shows they have habitually entered in the past. This lead to smaller than usual honey shows, which is unfortunate. Fewer exhibits attract fewer visitors and may also mean reductions in exhibit classes, thus less money available for prizes. And speaking of prizes, a lot of money was left on the table simply because there were not entries in all the categories. Fairs are our opportunity to exhibit, with pride, our accomplishments as beekeepers and practitioners of an unusual and somewhat arcane hobby. Please exhibit!

Across the board, this year's honey was uniformly higher in moisture than is customary. I rarely disqualify honey for moisture and have never seen it above 19.6%, until this year. Almost every show had one or two exhibits in the 19.2 – 19.6% range, and one exhibit at the DC Fair checked in at 20.2%! When the crowd in front of the judging table asked what difference the higher moisture makes, I explained that high moisture content leads to fermentation. Then I showed them the “bubble test”. I took a 17.0%

jar and the 20.2% jar and turned them upside down at the same time. The speed at which the bubble travels in 20% honey astonished even me. Three percent in moisture readings is the difference good honey and soon to ferment honey. Control moisture by waiting for a warm, dry, day to remove your supers. If you suspect the honey has high moisture, borrow a refractometer to measure honey from some cells. If it is high (over 18-18.5%), or has a lot of open cells, put a dehumidifier in the room set to 50% and let it run for a couple of days, with the frames still in the supers. The large surface area will allow the moisture to cross the cappings and dry the honey. Then retest the moisture content before extracting.

A few other observations about new fair exhibitors. Many jars were not properly filled. Most made an attempt to fill the jars but did not realize the honey must be on the neck bead just below the lid. Some were as much as a half-inch below the mark. Jar cleanliness was another factor. I could see some attempted to clean the jars, but still left honey smears. Others were just messy. Always clean your jars to grocery store shelf cleanliness. Finally, the honey itself needs to be clean. There was a lot of foam, some wax particles, and some cloth fibers. One jar even had a cat hair! When extracting honey and bottling to give to friends and family, please, make sure it is clean! Run the honey though the 100 mesh strainer that comes with the **BUMBA** extracting equipment. This is a strainer, not a filter, and only improves the product; it does not detract or subtract. Second, allow the honey to stand overnight in an extracting or bottling pail before bottling. Before bottling, skim off the foam and debris from the top of the pail and save it. We eat it because it has been filtered and is mostly foam, air bubbles, with some delicious beeswax and propolis. Do not, under any circumstance, use cheesecloth to strain your honey, despite anything you read anywhere else. Take my work for it; I've seen too many bottles of honey with cloth fibers in the honey. Sure, it won't hurt you to eat a little cotton, but I prefer not too.

Keep these points in mind when you prepare your exhibits for the MSBA Honey Show on November 14 (see next article). Follow these tips and you will do well, with moisture being the major determinant for the blue ribbon. Make it hard for the judges to select the winner by producing great entries. Oh, and win money!



MSBA Fall Meeting, Elections and Honey Show

November 14, 9:30AM – 4:30PM

Dept of Agriculture, HQ
50 Harry S. Truman Pkwy, Annapolis, MD

www.mdbeekeepers.org

Featured Speaker: Dr. Michelle Flenniken

In our third keynote of the year to feature emerging superstars in the field of honey bee health, **MSBA** is honored and excited to welcome **Dr. Michelle Flenniken**, microbiologist, virologist, and **Assistant Professor at Montana State University**. Dr. Flenniken's lab studies honey bee pathogens, including monitoring, detection and discovery with an emphasis on those that are associated with colony losses.

Dr. Flenniken has numerous publications and professional recognitions (including the Haagen-Daz Postdoctoral Fellowship!) and has discovered and investigated several honey bee viruses. She also examines the sublethal effects of agrochemicals on honey bee health. Research in the Flenniken Lab is aimed at elucidating the mechanisms in host-pathogen interactions in agriculturally important systems, including honey bees. Please join us for this interesting and informative speaker.

MSBA's Fall meeting will feature their **Annual Elections**. Contact **President Toni Burnham** or **Vice-President Allen Hayes** if you are interested in serving on the **MSBA Board** or wish to nominate a fellow member.

The **MSBA Honey Show** features exhibit classes for hive products (honey, beeswax, candles, pollen, comb honey), crafts (photos, artwork, beekeeping gadgets, baskets and gift packages), and cooking (pies cakes, breads, cookies, sauces, etc., all using at least 50% honey sweetener). Take

special note that there is a special **Children's Division** with three classes: Hive Products, Crafts and Cooking. Everything allowed in the adult classes are allowed in the Children's classes. **People, we have not had entries in the Children's Division for several years!** That means money is left on the table that children could have earned, encouraging further interest in beekeeping. Check out the Honey Show rules on the MSBA web page.

MSBA also has a "**Best Club Showing Award**" for the club with the most winning entries (based on a weighted scale for first, second and third prizes). If we get enough entries we may be able to reclaim the trophy!

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

Wanted: Outreach Leader

David Morris

We need a new Outreach Program leader!! It could be YOU!

Wanted: an enthusiastic beekeeper to help convey a positive image of bees and beekeeping to the interested and uninformed public.

Duties: Promote public events to members. Respond to public requests for **BUMBA** participation and coordinate the club calendar of public events. Recruit volunteers and a leader for each event. Assist the event leaders and coordinate use of the club displays and tent, delivery and storage. The Outreach Leader does not have to attend the events (some attendance is desired) or deliver the displays, you coordinate those activities. Write an Outreach report for the Newsletter to make sure every volunteer is

recognized and to promote our public outreach activities to members.

Two of the things that make **BUMBA** a special club are the success and quality of our Beginning Beekeeping Course and our public outreach events. Our outreach events present the positive image of beekeeping and honey bees that they need and deserve. Our extremely successful publicity campaign has already been built by **Linda Thompson** over many years. Help us continue this successful effort!

If you can help the club with our events as the Outreach Leader, please **contact Bob Greenwell or Maggie Mills**. Their contact information is available on the last page of the newsletter.

Hollywood Farmer's Market

Linda Thompson, ex-Outreach Coordinator

This event was held Saturday, **June 20**, in the **Hollywood Shopping Center** where the REI is. I'm sorry the report is late, but I wanted to thank the volunteers that made our presence at the event a success and I missed it in the last newsletter. One of the vendors thanked me as we were packing up, saying "*Your presence here today really lifted our little Farmer's Market*". Kudos to: **Verna Gehring, Effie Baldwin (and her granddaughter), David Morris, and Larry Prikockis**. (*Also, my apologies to Colleen White, who signed up at the June meeting; I misplaced the hardcopy signup sheet and never contacted her about the event.*)

Annual MSBA Honey Harvest Festival

Linda Thompson, MSBA VP

Lindsay Baranco did a great job organizing the **2015 MSBA Honey Festival** and **Brookside Gardens** was a lovely venue for us. Lots and lots of people were able to learn about our bees on Saturday, **September 19**.

Honey sales, pollinator games, and the Open Hive Demonstration tent were in **Brookside Gardens**. **Jim Frasier** from the **Montgomery County Beekeepers Association** provided the hive. I did one of the demos with **Carl Guerci** of the **Anne Arundel Beekeepers Association**; the rest were done by volunteers from other clubs. Folks are always awed to see beekeepers working the bees like this. Fun!

The club display tables (**BUMBA** and **MCBA**), honey extraction demonstration, and very cool, permanent observation hive were all in the **Brookside Nature Center**. Our awesome club display was staffed

throughout the day by **Bruce Murray** (who helped setup, stayed all day, packed up, and hauled everything home - **thanks, Bruce!**), **David Norkin, Wendy Margolis, Marci LeFevre, Jan Day, and Colleen White**. Colleen also helped Bonnie Raindrop get folks to sign a pollinator petition to be sent to Governor Larry Hogan. **Colleen and Steve helped Bruce** pack up our display table -thanks so much!

The honey extraction equipment was provided by another club, but was very capably staffed by **BUMBA** members **Cheryl Evry, Jan Day, Steve White, and Toni Burnham**. They extracted all day long. Special thanks to Cheryl for doing all the setup. I had to leave early and don't know who to thank for cleanup (Sorry!).

Frank Fennell, Jr. entertained folks at the observation hive. This built-in wonder is 4 frames high and 2 frames deep. Unfortunately, the queen tends to hide between the 2 frames, and she was not seen at all at the event. Nonetheless, folks got to see honeybees in action!

Thanks also to **Debby Heyes, Jutta Dunaway, and Frank Ragsac**, who signed up but were unable to attend due to illness and unexpected events. We appreciate and missed you.

Watkins Park Green Craft Fair

Linda Thompson, ex-Outreach Coordinator

I regret to announce that **BUMBA** will not participate in the **Green Craft Fair** at our own **Watkins Park Nature Center** on Saturday, **November 14** from 10 am to 4 pm. This is only the second time we have not been there. This year there is again a conflict with the **Maryland State Beekeeper Association (MSBA)** fall membership meeting and **Annual Honey Show**. It is very disappointing, but our first loyalty has to be to our own association. If you are unable to make it to Annapolis on 11/14, do stop by this fair; it is one of my favorites.

MEMBERS' CORNER

This is *your* space for *your* story. Tell us why you started beekeeping, what you enjoy most, or least? What have you learned? What do you want to share?

Notes on Using Oxalic Acid Drip

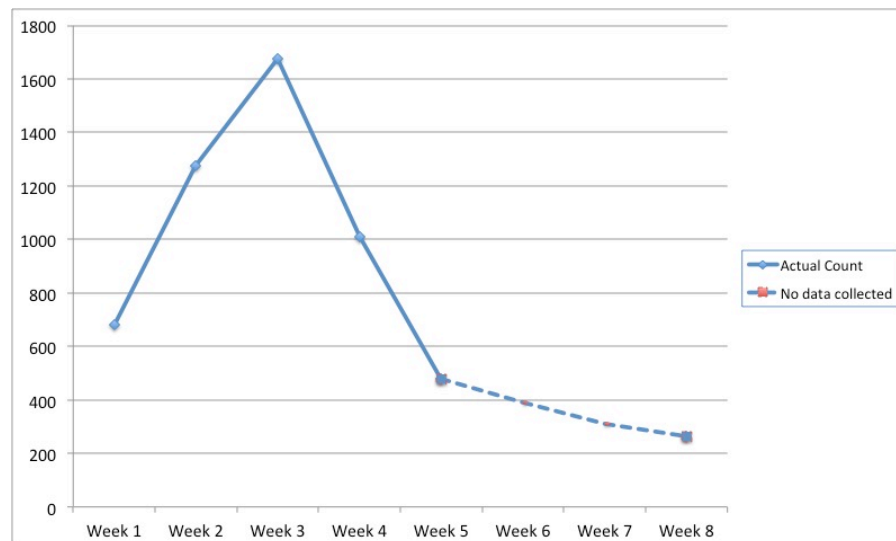
By Jan Day

I have two hives - both acquired this year as 5 frame deep nucs. When I brought them home in early May I did a baseline mite test. One nuc had 0 mites drop in 24 hours, the second had 29 mites. I was pretty overwhelmed by the options for mite treatments and not really knowing where to start I dusted my infested hive with powdered sugar each time I did a hive inspection. Whether it did any good I have no idea, but at least it made me feel like I was trying.

Fast forward to late July and I realized it was time to treat. I heard Bob's presentation about Oxalic Acid Dribble and decided to give it a try. I used the dribble recipe and technique from <http://scientificbeekeeping.com/oxalic-dribble-tips/> (5 oz water : 5 oz sugar : 3 tsp wood bleach) and squirted 50 ml in both of my hives each week for 5 weeks to try and bring the mite count down. Along with fellow beekeeper Del Voss, I squirted 5 ml into each "seam" between frames in the brood box.

The two person technique: At this time of the year there is no time to be dawdling, examining frames and so forth. The treatment goes a lot faster with two people. This is how Del and I are did it: one smokes the bees while the other takes apart the hive. Then the one doing the smoking hands the smoker to the first beekeeper and quickly squirts the acid into the hive while the first beekeeper works the smoker. Once the dribble is done the second beekeeper puts the hive back together. If you work fast enough and you're lucky both beekeepers end up sting-free.

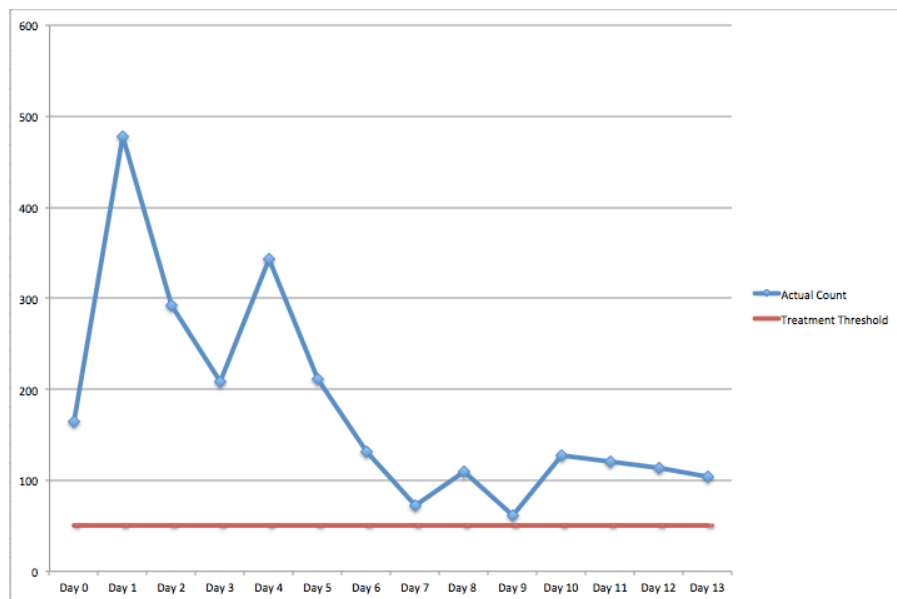
After each treatment I did a 24-hour mite drop test. My results graphed over 5 weeks. They peaked at 1675 mites falling the 24 hours after the 3rd week of treatment.



I was curious how long the effects of the oxalic acid dribble last. If I do a dribble and then a 24-hour mite drop count, do 50% of the impacted mites fall off within 1 hour, 6 hours, 12 hours and so forth? Or does the treatment continue to have an impact over the following days?

To try and find out I did a sticky board test during the 24 hours prior to my 5th and last treatment and continued the 24 hours tests for the following 13 days. Day 0 is my baseline mite drop of 165 mites in 24 hours. Then during the first 24 hours after treatment five, 478 mites fell. The mites continued to fall each day. It took 5 days before my mite drop count was below the baseline. So my hypothesis that the acid dribble continues to have an impact many days after the initial treatment seems to be true. The second graph has those results.

Sadly, I was not able to get my mite counts below the recommended treatment threshold of 50 mites in 24 hours. In a last ditch attempt to knock the mites down below the threshold I did one last dribble today [Sept. 27]. I will have the results of my mite drop count tomorrow. I will be surprised if this hive makes it through the winter.



About my equipment: I bought Savogran 10501 Wood Bleach, 12 oz (Amazon, \$10.33) and a package of 10 5ml syringes (Amazon, \$7.49). Refilling each syringe per seam was ok, but not as easy as filling up the 60ml syringe that Toni got from her local vet. Next year I'm going to use the Easy Glide 60cc Syringe Sterile Catheter Tip (Amazon, \$3.08). The 60ml syringe is nice because you can load it once and then spray into each seam then re-assemble the hive pretty quickly.

BEES IN THE NEWS

Bee Informed Partnership Releases 2014-2015 Winter Survey Results

*By Bee Informed Partnership
University of Maryland*

<https://beeinformed.org/results/the-bee-informed-partnership-national-management-survey-2014-2015/>

The Bee Informed Partnership released their 2014-2015 Honey Bee Management Survey on September 25. The file can be accessed at the link

above. It is an extensive document reporting information about losses by region, operation size, operation type, “management philosophy”, treatments used, and many other categories. Some of the distinctive points I found perusing the document are:

- ❖ Northern beekeepers had 11% higher winter losses than Southern operations. Maryland is considered a Northern state and Virginia is Southern. Overall Northern losses were 48%.
- ❖ In Maryland, 162 beekeepers, managing 16,673 hives, responded to the survey. Colony losses ranged between 41 and 51%, with an average of 46%.
- ❖ Beekeepers who used some Varroa control product lost 26% fewer colonies than those who did not.
- ❖ “The following products have shown significant differences when used for Varroa control treatment: Amitraz, ApiGuard, ApiLife Var, Fluvalinate, Formic Acid, Hops, and Oxalic Acid.”

Excerpts from “Catch the Buzz” at BeeCulture.com

It Takes More Than Royal Jelly To Make A Queen

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — A closer look at how honey bee colonies determine which larvae will serve as workers and which will become queens reveals that a plant chemical, p-coumaric acid, plays a key role in the bees’ developmental fate.

The study, reported in the journal *Science Advances*, shows that broad developmental changes occur when honey bee larvae – those destined to be workers – are switched from eating royal jelly (a glandular secretion) to a diet of jelly that includes honey and beebread (a type of processed pollen).

Beebread and honey contain p-coumaric acid, but royal jelly does not. Queens feed exclusively on royal jelly. Worker bees known as nurses feed the larvae according to the needs of the hive.

Experiments revealed that ingesting p-coumaric acid pushes the honey bee larvae down a different developmental pathway from those fed only royal jelly. Some genes, about a third of the honey bee genome, are

upregulated and another third are downregulated, changing the landscape of proteins available to help fight disease or develop the bees' reproductive parts.

“Consuming the phytochemical p-coumaric acid, which is ubiquitous in beebread and honey, alters the expression of a whole suite of genes involved in caste determination,” said University of Illinois entomology professor and department head May Berenbaum, who conducted the study with research scientist Wenfu Mao and cell and developmental biology professor Mary Schuler.

New Guide Helps Citizens Customize Their Gardens For Native Bees

*Jan Suszkiw
Public Affairs Specialist
Agricultural Research Service,*

In a three-year outdoor experiment conducted on the campus of Utah State University, entomologist Jim Cane, with USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Pollinating Insect-Biology, Management, Systematics Research Unit in Logan, Utah, found that the common, widespread social bee species *Halictus rubicundus* (*H. rubicundus*) prefers digging its subterranean burrows next to small surface stones rather than in areas of bare soil. The next generation of queens, who mature in the fall and hibernate away from the cluster, return in the spring to use those same sites to establish nests of their own. Indeed, when Cane created a thin mulch of flat stream pebbles along the edges of a landscaped sidewalk area, he observed 66 to 78 percent more burrows there the following spring than in adjacent areas of bare soil.

Together with Utah State University Extension, Jim Cane turned his research findings into practical guidelines that gardeners and landscapers can follow to create habitat areas that will serve other ground-nesting bees, which comprise about three-fourths of the 4,000 described native species in North America.

“Bees have two primary needs in life: pollen and nectar to feed themselves and their offspring, and a suitable place to nest,” writes Cane in his guide, “*Gardening and Landscaping Practices for Nesting Native Bees*”. While lists of bee-friendly plants are available, most practical advice focuses on practices to avoid, like using buried landscaping fabric or

sprinkler-irrigation systems during daytime, which can disrupt a female bee's orientation to familiar landmarks.

For ground-nesters, like *H. rubicundus*, Cane suggests creating a single surface layer of small, streambed-type pebbles along the perimeter of a flower garden or landscape area. It's important that these pebbles remain undisturbed by foot traffic, because female bees will burrow into the ground near them and rely on the pebbles' positions as landmarks to return to their nests after foraging for nectar and pollen. When pruning plants with woody stems that have pithy or hollow cores, Cane advises, leaving a few foot-long dead sprigs in place. This will attract species that prefer to nest above ground, like small orchard bees.

Urbanization, loss of habitat, and other events have taken a toll on managed and wild bees. But they're resilient insects, and even a few simple steps to help these important pollinators can go a long ways.

“***Gardening and Landscaping Practices for Nesting Native Bees***”, by James Crane, USDA, is available at <http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/factsheet/ENT-175-15.pdf>

Status Change For Antibiotics In A Beehive

*I. Barton Smith, Entomologist
USDA Honey Bee Research Lab, Beltsville, MD*

On December 11, 2013, The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) implemented a plan to help phase out the use of medically important antimicrobials in food animals for food production purposes, such as to enhance growth or improve feed efficiency. The plan would also phase in veterinary oversight of the remaining appropriate therapeutic uses of such drugs. See

www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/NewsEvents/CVMUpdates/ucm378166.htm

Implementation will require a beekeeper to get a prescription or veterinarian feed directive (VFD) from a veterinarian who has a “Veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR)” with the beekeeper in order to purchase and feed antibiotics to honey bees for the prevention and control of American and European foulbrood diseases. A list of drugs affected by this plan can be found at: www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/AntimicrobialResistance/JudiciousUseofAntimicrobials/ucm390429.htm

It should be noted that the list includes oxytetracycline (Terramycin), lincomycin (Lincomix) and tylosin (Tylan) which were over the counter drugs labeled for controlling American foulbrood (AFB) in honey bee colonies. Oxytetracycline was also labeled for preventing AFB, and for the control and prevention of European foulbrood.

On June 2, 2015, the FDA announced the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) final rule. See www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/NewsEvents/CVMUpdates/ucm448620.htm.

Drugs included under the VFD will require a veterinarian to write a VFD for a producer that will allow that person to purchase and use the product specifically as written. This will include oxytetracycline.

Prescription drugs for bees can only be obtained from a local or on-line pharmacy. Additionally, drugs included in the VFD may only be obtained from a licensed medicated feed mill.

At the time of this writing (8-2015), it is unclear if Fumagilin B will be subject to the new requirements.

Excerpts from “ABJ Extra” at Dadant.com

True Source Honey Issues Alert on Honey Shipped from Thailand and Taiwan

*Washington, D.C.
September 2, 2015*

The non-profit **True Source Honey Certification™ Program** (www.TrueSourceHoney.com), whose mission it is to protect consumers, retailers and manufacturers from illegally sourced honey, has issued an alert concerning honey labeled as coming from Thailand or Taiwan. Honey importers, retailers and manufacturers are advised to proceed carefully and consider additional safeguards if they are buying low-priced honey labeled as produced in Thailand or Taiwan, such as ensuring that honey imports are certified by an independent third party. Thailand currently has one True Source Certified exporter, while Taiwan has no True Source Certified exporters.

“What we’re seeing based on the trade data is strong evidence of two possible routes of Chinese honey coming into the U.S. illegally,” said True

Source Honey Executive Director Gordon Marks. “One route would be directly through Thailand, and the second may be through both Thailand and Taiwan. Such circumvention schemes would not be new – this is the same type of pattern we’ve seen repeatedly from China over many years, including recent cases of circumvention through Latvia, Malaysia and Indonesia that were pursued for prosecution by U.S. government authorities.” (See 1/28/15 [U.S. Immigration & Customs Press Release](#) and 2/20/13 [U.S. Department of Justice press release](#), both which can also be found on the True Source honey [government press releases page](#).)

Bee Health App

Alberta Agriculture has developed an app for “Bee Health”. Phase I of the “Bee Health” app is released. It focuses on bee diseases symptoms, diagnosis and treatment options. It is developed for iOS and Android platforms. It can be downloaded to iPhone, Samsung phone family and iPad. To download to iPad, you need to use the iPhone only option for down loading.



We are currently working on the second phase that will include diagnoses of diseases based on symptoms. It will also include an interactive feature to communicate with Alberta registered beekeepers. It will facilitate bee diseases diagnostics, and communication to provide recommendations on line. Pictures can be emailed to Alberta apiculture staff for assistance in diagnoses. Broadcasting warnings of pest outbreaks will also be included. All reports and findings will be recorded in the provincial bee pest surveillance database.

Please help yourself and download the app. To find the app, search App Store or Google Play store for "bee health" or follow this link: <http://www.programs.alberta.ca/17713.aspx#ad-image-0>

Please share with the beekeeper's community. Hey it is free for all.

If you have any comments please contact medhat.nasr@gov.ab.ca

*Dr. Medhat Nasr, Provincial Apiculturist
Crop Research and Extension Division
Crop Diversification Centre North
17507 Fort Road, Edmonton, AB, Canada T5Y 6H3*

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 a printed copy. 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			
Pres.	Bob Greenwell	410-867-3251	rfgreenwell@aol.com
VP	Maggie Mills	301-683-8853	maggie.m.mills@gmail.com
Treas.	Jutta Dunaway	301-464-1093	kasseljutta@aol.com
Sec'y	Debby Heyes	301-855-0071	dbheyas@comcast.net
Event Coordinator	Linda Thompson	301-352-3663	lmtpublic@comcast.net
Editor	David Morris	301-725-6185	beefriend@verizon.net
P.G. Inspector	Gregg Gochnour	301-261-8106 x5920	
	gregg.gochnour@maryland.gov		
MSBA Pres.	Toni Burnham	202-255-4318	dcbees@dcbeekeepers.org

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:

- October 1, 7:30-10, BUMBA Mtg
- November 14, MSBA Fall Mtg, Annapolis
- December 3, 7:30-10, BUMBA Mtg

2016 BUMBA Calendar

- February 4, 7:30PM, BUMBA Mtg.
- April 7, 7:30PM, BUMBA Mtg.
- June 2, 7:30PM, BUMBA Mtg.
- July 26-29, EAS Conference, NJ
- August 4, 7:30PM, BUMBA Mtg.
- October 6, 7:30PM, BUMBA Mtg.
- December 1, 6:00PM, Holiday Party

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

