



# NEWSLETTER

**Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association**

December 2015

Volume 35 No. 6

*Published Bi-Monthly since 1980*

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

## CONTENTS

### Meetings

- Pg 1 Next **BUMBA** Meeting
- Pg 2 The President's Smoker
- Pg 2 MSBA Fall Meeting: Dr. Deborah Delaney

### Club Happenings

- Pg 3 New **BUMBA** Outreach Coordinator  
Urgent! Free Honey Marketing Opportunity

### Members' Corner

- Pg 4 Notes on using Oxalic Acid Drip, by Jan Day

### Bees in the News

- Pg 4 Camelina cover Crops a Boon for Bees  
North Carolina Student Investigates Honey  
Bee Disease Alert Chemical Signal  
Status Change For Antibiotics In A Beehive

### Club Programs

- Pg 5 Extractor; [www.bumbabees.com](http://www.bumbabees.com)

## **Next BUMBA Meeting**

**Thurs, December 3, 6:00 PM**  
**Watkins Park Nature Center**

## **Holiday Potluck Dinner and Gift Exchange**

It's time for the **BUMBA Holiday Party!** We'll continue our **Potluck Dinner** tradition and **optional gift exchange**. Set-up is at 6-6:30PM; sit down at 6:30. We also will have a speaker program, based on feedback from the survey distributed at the October meeting. Here's your chance for 20 minutes of fame! Do you want to tell us about your experiences keeping bees? Or maybe your once in a lifetime trek to Costa Rica to study native bees? Do you have a special skill, talent or even photos of bees? Come tell us about it! Please contact me, Maggie Mills, directly (email & phone on back page) if you are interested in speaking during the program - we can tailor the time slot for you and I'd be happy to provide feedback on your slides or topic. Worst case scenario, you all will have to listen to me talk about my first 4 seasons of beekeeping.

Please visit the link below to sign up for the potluck, speaker slot or to help set up the room. [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0C48AAAB28A7F94-holiday](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0C48AAAB28A7F94-holiday) .

To sign up on the page, find a category you wish to contribute to and check the box (or boxes if more than one category) then go to the bottom of the page to "Submit and Sign Up". A new page will offer you a place to write in what you are signing up for (set-up, food, to speak). Provide your name (so we know who is providing) and email address. You do not have to join SignUpGenius to use it.

Allow extra time to arrive because the **Festival of Lights** will be operating. Tell the gate attendants you are going to the meeting at the Nature Center and they shouldn't charge an entrance fee.

# The President's Smoker

## The President's Smoker December 2015

Yesterday morning I found ice had formed on the surface of my bee's water supply tank, and the wind coming in off the bay today at my jobsite had a frigid bite to it. I am beginning to believe that winter may be settling in on us. It has been a long autumn it seems, and I know that while I have enjoyed the mild temperatures, I have had some concerns that my colonies may be consuming their stores best saved for colder months. When I heft the hives they still seem heavy enough, yet the bees have not been in tight cluster yet this fall, so they have to have been consuming some of their stored honey. I've checked the hives over twice this month, and I believe them to be as ready for winter as they should be, despite my concerns. After preparations such as mite treatments, supplemental feedings, equalizations, culls and combinations, and the ritual of installing all those mouse guards, I am entering 70 full size hives and 60 nucs into the wintering contest. A few of the nucs are questionable, but I normally expect to lose some of them, and left a few of them as single deep 4-framers just as an experiment, rather than combine all of them to doubles. Wish me luck, even as I wish each of you good wintering this season.

I am looking forward to our holiday meeting/party next week. Great thanks and appreciation to **Maggie Mills** for setting up the on-line sign up page. It is very nice to be able to see who is coming, and I hope you will all use it, as well as join us for a good time and good food.

I was hoping that my **Flow Hive**™ frames would ship to me in time to bring them along for a show-n-tell, but alas, I have not received them as yet. The latest ship date was Nov 15<sup>th</sup>, and the status on the site shows "queued" which was a change logged on the 16<sup>th</sup>, so maybe yet?? **Toni Burnham** added a very nice link ([www.bumbabees.com/PGflowhive.html](http://www.bumbabees.com/PGflowhive.html)) to our webpage with information aimed at some of the 4 million people who bought a Flow Hive™. The new link asserts that the flow hive purchaser is going to need some basic beekeeping training, tools, and protective equipment, despite the "Flow" advertising that implies their full hive kit includes "everything you need except the bees". I think the Flow Hive might be a great gadget for an experienced backyard beekeeper willing to

experiment with a new concept in honey production equipment, but I predict that there are going to be a bunch of broken-hearted and frustrated wannabees by this time next year. I thank you Toni, for adding that link to the websites, and I sincerely hope that our local clubs will be able to help and guide some of those folks into our world of the honey bee. With the upcoming short course, and an empathetic attitude, perhaps we can assist at least some of them to success. I don't want this new promotion to negatively impact beekeeping in general, and those of us that responsibly pursue management of our colonies. Every Flow Hive™ out there (many will likely have been sold into urban areas), well... even if the new owner manages to get a hold of a package of bees, and figures out how to get them into their "complete" hive, it is just a swarm in the making, maybe repeatedly, without skilled management. Can't be good for beekeeping in general right? ... and yet at the same time it is a very ingenious invention with the potential to revolutionize backyard beekeeping. Could be the greatest invention since the Langstroth hive and Hoffman frame. Well, I digress...I was just trying to invite everyone to the party!!

God save the queen!

*Bob Greenwell*

## **MSBA Winter Meeting**

**February 13, 9:30AM – 4:30PM**

Howard County Fairgrounds, West  
Friendship, MD

[www.mdbeekeepers.org](http://www.mdbeekeepers.org)



*Featured Speaker: Dr. Deborah Delaney*  
*University of Delaware*

MSBA is honored to welcome **Dr. Deborah Delaney**, assistant professor of entomology and wildlife ecology in the **College of Agriculture**

and Natural Resources of the University of Delaware. Dr. Delaney is an expert in honey bee genetics, the evolutionary biology of honey bees, pollination ecology, and the world of feral bees. She has used her deep background in genetics, the history of beekeeping in North America, and work in Dr. David Tarpay's lab to develop a unique understanding of survivor bees! Recent research projects look at native and bumble bees as well. Dr. Delaney continues to publish with Dr. Tarpay and Dr. Tom Seeley of Cornell. In addition, Dr. Delaney is a 2015 recipient of UD's Excellence in Undergraduate Academic Advising Award.

## DC Beekeepers' Alliance

[www.dcbeekeepers.org](http://www.dcbeekeepers.org)

The DC Beekeepers Alliance is now holding regular meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.dcbeekeepers.org)



## CLUB HAPPENINGS

### New Outreach Coordinator

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. Colleen White has volunteered to serve as our Outreach Coordinator. BUMBA will have a busy public events schedule in 2016. Be sure to volunteer for at least one event. They are a lot of fun!!

### Beginning Beekeeping Class

Tell your friends about our upcoming BUMBA Beginning Beekeeping Class. Exact dates have not been set, but when they are they will be posted

on our web page as well as registration information and forms.

## Urgent! Free Honey Marketing Opportunity

Dear BUMBA beekeeper,

The Smart on Pesticides Campaign, a coalition which has been working to pass pollinator protection legislation in Maryland, is highlighting the importance of **supporting Maryland beekeepers by purchasing local hive products this holiday season**. In anticipation of Christmas and Hanukkah gift buying, they will be sending out an email on Monday 11/30, to a list of 5,000 members suggesting where residents can find local honey and other hive products.

If you are selling these products ANYWHERE in Maryland and would like to be highlighted in the email, **please respond no later than Sunday 11/29 11 AM** to [legislate@centralmarylandbees.org](mailto:legislate@centralmarylandbees.org) with:

- Your name or name of your apiary
- Contact info - such as phone and website (we would love to be able to link in the email if you have one)
- Your county
- All hive related products you are selling (what you have in stock)
- Where you are selling them - whether its a market that is still going on, a store you have partnered with that is selling your products, or any location information you are comfortable with sharing.

We will put your information into the email to **5,000** campaign supporters with a message to support their local beekeeper by purchasing products from **Maryland Beekeepers**.

Best wishes for your holidays! If you have any questions, please reply to [legislate@centralmarylandbees.org](mailto:legislate@centralmarylandbees.org).

Bonnie Raindrop,

Legislative Chair, Central Maryland Beekeepers Association

## 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?

## BEES IN THE NEWS

### Excerpts from "ABJ Extra" at Dadant.com

#### ***Camelina Cover Crops a Boon for Bees***

*By Jan Suszkiw, Public Affairs Specialist  
USDA-ARS News Service, Agricultural Research Service*

Camelina is an herbaceous, yellow-flowering member of the mustard family whose oil-rich seed and cold tolerance has piqued the interest of [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) (USDA) scientists for its potential as both a winter cover crop and biodiesel resource.

Now, in the process of studying this plant, scientists with USDA's [Agricultural Research Service](#) (ARS) have found that its flowering period can provide honey bees and other insects with a critical, early-spring source of nectar and pollen that's usually unavailable then. This is especially true in Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota, where about one-third of the nation's managed bee colonies are kept from May through October.

The researchers observed that fields of winter camelina and winter canola (another alternate oilseed crop) produced about 100 pounds per acre of nectar sugar over the course of a two- to three-week flowering season. That quantity, produced in such a short time, is enough to support the annual energy requirements of a typical bee hive, which is 100-200 pounds of sugar per year, according to [Frank Forcella](#), an agronomist with ARS' [Soil Management Research Unit](#) in Morris, Minnesota. He participated on a team of ARS and university scientists which evaluated the attractiveness of camelina, canola and a third oilseed crop—pennycress—during two years of outdoor field trials.

Highlights of the team's findings—reported in the June 2015 issue of [Industrial Crops and Products](#)—are:

1. Insect counts showed that, besides honey bees, the three oilseeds also attracted wild bee species, butterflies, beetles, and hoverflies, whose larval stage feeds voraciously on aphids.
2. Insects visited flowering canola up to 15 times more often than pennycress and camelina, perhaps because of higher nectar levels in each individual flower, which are much larger than those of camelina and pennycress.
3. Canola failed to bloom during one of the study years, a reflection of it being less cold-hardy than the other two oilseeds.
4. Camelina earned the highest marks overall, thanks to its optimal combination of desirable agronomic traits.

[Read more](#) about this research in the November issue of *AgResearch*. ARS is USDA's chief intramural scientific research agency.

#### ***North Carolina Student Investigates Honey Bee Disease Alert Chemical Signal***

Kaira Wagoner, University of North Carolina at Greensboro Biology Department's first doctoral student, has uncovered a chemical that could increase the odds of honey bee survival by helping them better combat the parasites within their hives.

Wagoner has been working in Prof. Olav Rueppell's lab under his mentorship since August 2011, when she began working on her Ph.D. in the newly established environmental health science program. She received bachelor's degrees in biology and health science from Guilford College, and earned her master's degree in biology from UNCG in 2011.

Wagoner's research focuses on *Varroa destructor*, also called the Varroa mite.

Varroa mites reproduce by infiltrating the special cells in a honey bee comb built for larvae. The mites lay their own young in the cell to feed off the baby honey bee. When that happens, the honey bee larvae give off a chemical signal that alerts the nurse honey bees to the presence of the mites and the disease that comes with it.

In response, the nurse bees uncap the wax covering from the cell to

check for the mites, and if mites are present, they remove the larvae from the hive to prevent the spread of disease. That behavior is called “hygienic behavior,” Wagoner said.

Her research suggests that the chemical could be used as a tool to breed hygienic honey bee colonies that show increased hygienic behavior and are therefore more disease resistant hives.

Wagoner said she believes that if that specific chemical is sprayed over the top layer of all the honey bee cells in a hive, the nurse honey bees will uncap and check all the cells, increasing their chances of catching and emptying cells with the Varroa mites. Cells without mites will be recapped and the larvae left to develop normally.

“We think it will help reduce the parasite load of the colony,” Rueppell said. And reducing the parasite load means reducing illness and death, leading to more honey bees to pollinate crops.

## 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 **Gerry Jones** in Mitchellville (gejones486@verizon.net, 301-577-1365) and David Clark in Dunkirk (dadicl.clark@gmail.com, 443-871-0494, seven days a week from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm). 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 manager, 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!

Gerry reports 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 Gerry!

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

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

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

Check out a new feature. Thanks to **Scott Seccomb** and **Toni Burnham**, we have a private web forum 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](mailto: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	Colleen White	301 736-7482	ciwhite2000@yahoo.com
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 1<sup>st</sup> 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:

December 3, 7:30-10, BUMBA Mtg

**2016 BUMBA** Calendar

February 4, 7:30PM, BUMBA Mtg.

February 13, 9:00-4:30 MSBA Mtg

April 7, 7:30PM, BUMBA Mtg.

June 2, 7:30PM, BUMBA Mtg.

July 25-29, 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