



NEWSLETTER

Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association

April 2016

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Next BUMBA Meeting

Thursday, April 7, 7:30 PM

Watkins Park Nature Center

BUMBA Elections, Bee Stings, Field day, Beekeeping in Costa Rica, zoning changes; we've got it all!

BUMBA will hold its Annual Elections this month. **Bob Greenwell** is stepping down after five years as a hard-working BUMBA President. BUMBA has excelled under his leadership and we look forward to maintaining our high standards with the next President. All offices are open for nomination. Please make your nominations, or self-nomination, known to a BUMBA officer before the meeting.

Our speakers this month will feature BUMBA member, **Jeff Forbes**, who will speak on the "What", "Why's", and "Hows" of **Bee Stings**. Jeff has a Ph.D. in biology, so do not miss this informative discussion. **Tim McMahon**, of Montgomery County, BUMBA member and **EAS Master Beekeeper** (more about EAS further in the newsletter) will give a short talk about his trip to Costa Rica, which he took in order to work with a bee researcher down there, and will share a few photos and videos. He wrote an great article about his trip for the BUMBA newsletter a couple of years ago. Do not miss either presentation!

Our **BUMBA Outreach Coordinator, Colleen White**, will talk about our exciting 2016 Outreach schedule and look for volunteers to lead each event and for volunteers to man the tables. Our very successful Outreach work should help us find partners who will join us to modify the proposed changes to the Prince George's County Zoning Regulations that will **ban beekeeping for most of BUMBA's members!** Check out the Outreach Program schedule and more on the zoning ban (page 7) in the Newsletter.

Our **BUMBA Field Day** will be held this Saturday, April 9; details on page 7.

The President's Smoker

It seems unbelievable to me that this article is my 30th “smoker” article. I’ve written this column every other month for 5 years now, and it is hard to realize where the time has gone. I must say that I have enjoyed my tenure as your president, and have tried to have something interesting to say in each of the past 30 newsletters. I hope that my thoughts have largely been stimulating to both our experienced beeks as well as our steady influx of newbees. I know there have been bloopers from time to time, but hopefully I have not left anyone with a bad taste in their mouth as a result of anything I may have said or implied over the years. Sometimes I admittedly rely on instinct, and shoot from the hip. I think I mostly hit the target, but of course I am often only expressing opinion, and the good thing is that if you don’t agree with what I may have said, you have only to ask another beekeeper to get another opinion ☺. Thank you to the many members of **BUMBA** for your support and respect over the past five years.

The 2016 short course classes have been completed and we can celebrate 49 new **BUMBA** members and potential beekeepers. See page 7 for the complete list of graduates. I think the minor changes we have made here and there in this year’s course were successful. We have put together an online survey whereby we hope the students will honestly critique our presentation in hopes of a continuing enhancement to our offering in future years. Only the field day scheduled for **Saturday, April 9th** is left to enhance the training of our “**Class of 2016**”. **Scott Seccomb** has again agreed to host the event at his home and apiary in **Clinton, MD** for this year. It is a great place to hold a field day event with many memories...thank you Scott! Look elsewhere in this newsletter for additional information about Field Day.

I would like to call out the names of the volunteers for 2016, whose time and sacrifice make the presentation of our short course so successful. In no particular order: **Jutta Dunaway, Debby Heyes, Linda Thompson, Tony Drake, Leigh Walton, Gerry Jones, Dave Clark, Gregg Gochnour, Jeff Forbes, Maggie Mills, Dave Polk, Toni Burnham, David Morris, Scott Seccomb, and myself**. If I omitted anyone, I do apologize. We did have a number of auditors from previous years courses who attended some or all of this year’s sessions, and they added flavor and

anecdote from the first and second year beekeeper’s perspective that was welcome and sometimes amusing. I can’t name them all, so let me just say that your presence was noted and appreciated. Also a very special thank you to **Jutta Dunaway**, who does more all-around work throughout the preparatory phase, during each of the sessions, at field day, and after the completion of the course, than anyone would ever imagine. And special thanks to **Linda Thompson** as a very capable pinch-hitter, in Jutta and **Debby Heyes’** absence. Thank you to the class students, whose intensity and challenging questions this year were invigorating. I should also note that **Maggie Mills** took on presenting two sessions this year, as well as copiously taking notes during each of our sessions with a desire to enhance and improve our offering in future presentations. Thank you Maggie, and once again thanks to all!

Plan on attending the April 7th meeting, which is our election of officers meeting. The officers of the club, along with the newsletter editor, form the **Board of Governors**, which convene to direct the business and leadership of **BUMBA**. We do not take nominations from the floor, so that a nominee can be juried, and be fully informed as to the requirements of duty pertaining to any particular office. Nominations for office can be made to the president, vice president, or newsletter editor, who will then contact the nominee and jury them as to their desire and suitability to meet the requirements of office. This saves time and perhaps embarrassment on the floor during elections. *It should be noted, that while strong beekeeping experience level can certainly be helpful to any officer, your experience level is not a prerequisite to serve. First and second year beekeepers are certainly eligible.* Both our secretary, **Debby Heyes**, and our treasurer, **Jutta Dunaway**, have indicated that they would be willing to again serve in their respective offices for 2016. The office of president will need to be filled, for which I have nominated **Maggie Mills**, and she has accepted the nomination. **Tracy Valesquez** has been nominated to serve as vice-president, and she has accepted the nomination. I have not been made aware of any additional nominations, and if there are any to be made, they must be made by phone or email, in time to jury the nominee prior to the start of the April meeting.

I have asked **David Morris** to be prepared to lead a discussion on a proposed re-write of the **Prince Georges County** zoning regulations. **Jeff Forbes** recently learned that there are proposed zoning changes which may

negatively affect the keeping of bees on non-agricultural property in the county and notified the **BUMBA** officers. We need discovery and discussion on this subject which could have an impact on many of our club members. If any one of our members has information pertinent to this zoning re-write, please be prepared to share it with the group.

Thank you again for supporting me as your president these last five years. In my opinion, a really good club requires a few basic elements, without any one of which, it becomes difficult to keep a club in existence. I feel that a good club starts with a group of individuals with a common interest, needs a decent place to meet regularly, benefits from a really good newsletter, and requires a pretty good leader. I have been blessed with a really strong support staff of fellow elected officers, and early-on, I also selected and appointed several advisers, all of whom have been my strength. I think that periodic new leadership should be a good thing...I want to relinquish the mantle before I become stuffy, with the same old-same old, scenario coming into play. Please support your new elected officials in their endeavor to bring new leadership to **BUMBA**.

God save the queen!

Bob Greenwell

Message from the VP

The calendar and tree bloom indicate spring is here, but the temperatures have me scratching my head this spring. I am aware of two swarms reported (one in DC and one at **BUMBA** member **David Clark's** apiary) last week. My most recent inspections were last Saturday and I saw colonies in every stage of build-up. A few hives started (empty) queen cups, but, until there's a larva, it's just preparation and my management techniques require me to be patient for swarm cells, which means letting the bees do this in their own time. Let's not overlook the temperatures in the next 15 days! Cold and windy and today (Sunday), a high of 53. There won't be a day at 70 until next week, and that's isolated to two days at 70 & 72 before dropping into the low 60's with rain. IMHO, swarm season is going to hold tight for temps in the 70's (presumably mid-April) and when it happens it is going to happen in a big way, all at once. I may have a different attitude after I spend tomorrow afternoon checking my colonies. You might ask why this matters since the temperatures are not that cold and there's not a huge worry about chilled brood if you were to make splits. The biggest reason to wait is to ensure a properly mated queen, and queen's need

it to be 70 degrees or warmer for a mating flight. That said, drone populations seem to be adequate for mating so that is good news!

Yesterday, I had the honor of making another trip to the **White House** to work with **Charlie Brandts**. The colony there looks robust and healthy. A few empty queen cups show signs of swarm preparations, but I only saw one cup with larva (and a new larva). Charlie indicated the temperatures at the White House are a bit warmer and it is usually a bit ahead of his other colonies. The forage in DC



Figure 1: Spring flowers surround the White House bee hive on the South Lawn. (Maggie Mills photo)

is also spectacular, so the colony is now stacked 5 mediums tall on a 4 foot hive stand! (It must be inspected on scaffolding). I suspect my apiary in Hyattsville (6 miles away) is probably at the same pace as DC. Both **Gregg Gochnour** and **Cybil Preston (Maryland State Apiary Inspectors)** suggest my area bloom is a about 5-7 days ahead of theirs. Cherries are leafing out (done blooming), redbuds look to be at peak and my tulip poplar is making progress. (The Tulip Poplar bloom coincides with Black Locust and for me, this is the bulk of the nectar flow. It won't be long.)

Spring in the bee yard is my favorite time. The hives are small and docile. Busy bees hardly paying any attention to the inspector. I know we have a lot of newbees and here are my top tips to aid in your early inspections:

1. Spend some time with your smoker. The smoke coming out should billow and hang in the air. If you see a "chimney" of air being forced out,

your smoker is too hot and you will upset the bees. I use long pine needles in mine, lighting a few in the bottom and slowly adding more and tamping them down. If it's your first inspection, light the smoker before suiting up and watch it. After suiting up and getting your gear together, check it and repack it again, giving it a few light pumps. I only use half-pumps for air and never push the bellows all the way to the end, just short little puffs of air into the chamber do the trick for me.

2. Start inspections with a frame near the outside - for example, frame #2. Remove this frame to create some room to move. Do not spend much time looking for the queen on the outside frames. Instead, focus your attention on the most populated frames and those in the center of the brood nest. If you see a frame that's capped brood, it's not likely you will see the queen (unless the capped brood emerged and she is backfilling the center). So many new beeks look for their queen on the outer frames and are tired and overwhelmed by the time they hit the frames she is most likely to be on. When putting the frame queen back in the hive, use the utmost care and watch her on the frame as you slide it down. Make sure she's not close to the wooden margins - preferably she should be in the center of the frame.

3. Continue feeding packages, but use caution when feeding nucs as it can/does/will induce swarming. If you purchased a nuc this year, try to do a little reading about swarming. There is some chance your nuc will swarm. Try to learn the difference between supercedure, emergency and swarm cells. Cells at the bottom of a frame are the classic sign of swarming.



Figure 2: Cybil Preston uses Mack to sniff out American Foulbrood as part of the Maryland Apiary Inspection program (Maggie Mills photo)

Last month **Cybil Preston** brought **Mack** to my apiaries to inspect. It was very interesting to watch Mack sniff things out. (**Mack** is trained to detect the odor of American Foulbrood.) Please remember to register your colonies - it's free!

4. Monitor your mite counts, especially if you are purchasing a nucleus. If you are a new beekeeper, give yourself a few inspections to get comfortable before doing a powdered sugar roll. While the sticky board is not considered the most accurate estimator (compared to the powdered sugar or ether rolls), it is still a good tool and does not require much skill. Consider ordering “**API Life VAR**” or other products for spring or Fall treatments. I'm recommending **API Life VAR** by name because it seems to be less hard on the bees (versus MAQs - **Mite-Away Quick Strips**), it is a natural product (thyme and other essential oils) and I have had the best success with it (compared to MAQs). I plan to experiment with the Oxalic acid dribble this year, but I have some concerns about continued treatment and colony health. Hopefully we will get more reports on the successful implementation of the dribble method for Varroa control.

5. Watch the entrance of your colony. I still love to sit at my bee yard and watch what's going on.

6. **KEEP RECORDS!** Record the bloom and everything you saw during the inspection. Trust me, you'll want this next year and you will be so happy you took the time to do it. Hive Tracks is free!

7. Keep coming to meetings, network with your classmates and start talking to experienced beekeepers. We all want a mentor who will come to our apiary and inspect with us, but it's more likely you will be going to the mentor. I hope to have a few events at my apiary where I bring small groups in to help sample and do inspections. I feel this interaction is critical to advancing BUMBA's ability to develop a structured mentorship program. (Let's think of this as the train the trainer phase.) If you are an experienced beekeeper, please consider posting to the forum to offer space for a few members to join you.

Peace, Love and Bees -

Maggie

MSBA Summer Meeting

June ??, 9:30AM – 4:30PM

University of Maryland, College Park, MD

www.mdbeekeepers.org



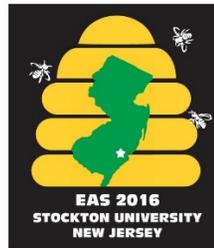
Featured Speaker: TBD

MSBA's Summer meeting will be held at the University of College Park. Exact date, location, and featured speaker are still to be finalized and announced. Please check the MSBA web site, mdbeekeepers.org for updates to the location and speakers. Will have definitive information in the June BUMBA Newsletter.

EAS 2016

**Stockton State University,
Galloway, New Jersey
July 25 – 29**

www.easternapiculture.org



Have you ever considered taking a "Beekeeping Vacation"? Well now is the time to make your plans as the **Eastern Apicultural Society's 2016 Annual Conference and Beekeeping Short Course**, taking place at **Stockton State University** outside of Atlantic City, NJ. EAS is one of the largest noncommercial beekeeping organizations in the United States and one of the largest in the world. Every summer EAS conducts its week long Annual Conference of lectures and workshops in one the 26 member states or Canadian provinces. This year's EAS conference at Stockton State is from July 25 to July 29. The conference usually brings in about 600 to 800 beekeepers from around the world to attend.

The conference is made up of the **Short Course**, running from Monday

to Wednesday, and the **Annual Conference** proper, running from Wednesday to Friday, with Wednesday the overlap day. Normally about half of the attendees stay the whole week with the other half coming just for the conference. The **Short Course** will contain classes for beekeepers of all levels and special events such as an open apiary with Langstroth, Warre' and Top Bar Hives, a microscope workshop on bee anatomy, a Honey Show for you to enter your bee products, and classes on all aspects of beekeeping. The conference proper will consist of over 100 different talks about all aspects of beekeeping including classes on Queen rearing, Mead and Beer brewing and on IPM (Integrated Pest Management).

I first attended EAS several years ago in Boone, NC, and the experience was so great that I became a **Life Member**. I've not missed an EAS conference since. Every year I go with a set of questions in mind that I then try to find the answers to from the best minds in Beekeeping. You can't get much better than that. Maybe the best thing about the week-long EAS was that I get to talk "bees" all week long and no one says that they had heard enough (normally my family asks me to shut-up after the first 2 minutes or so). You can find out all about the specific topic covered and how to sign up at the EAS webpage.

I hope to see you there. EAS 2017 is scheduled for Delaware, 2018 in Virginia. Come and join the fun!

DC Beekeepers' Alliance

www.dcbeekeepers.org

The **DC Beekeepers Alliance** monthly meetups are scheduled for third Wednesday of each month at the Hill Center (www.hillcenterdc.org) at 921 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20003 (Capitol Hill) 6:30 PM to 8 PM. Monthly meetings always include member discussions and speakers on topics of relevance to local beekeepers. For directions and other meeting information, visit www.dcbeekeepers.org



CLUB HAPPENINGS

BUMBA Outreach Calendar

Colleen White, Event Coordinator
ciwhite2000@yahoo.com
(301) 736-7482 Please leave a message

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. **BUMBA** has a busy public events schedule in 2016. *Be sure to volunteer for at least one of these fun events.*

I have yet to meet a beekeeper who doesn't like to talk about their bees and if your family and friends are anything like mine, they are tired of hearing about those dang bees. Here's your opportunity to talk to people who actually want to hear about bees. We need volunteers to help out at these events. Please pick a date and time, sign up, put it on your calendar, and come have fun! You will meet interesting people, learn something new, be amazed at what you know and have learned in the beekeeping class.

A huge thank you to **Linda Thompson, Gerry Jones, Larry Prikocski, Steve White, Jack and Donna Jackson** for their help at **Behnke's Nursery Spring Open House**. It was cold, it was wet and it was windy but it was fun. Gerry brought his observation hive and the girls were a hit.

Sat, April 9, 1 - 4pm: Bowie Green Expo
Kenhill Center, 2614 Kenhill Dr, Bowie 20715
<http://BowieGreenExpo.org>

I think we can choose to be indoors or out, if we get our reservation in early enough, so please indicate your preference

Sat, April 16, 12PM - 5PM: Spring Greening Fair
Mount Rainier Nature Recreation Center, 4701 31st Pl, Mt Rainier, MD

Fri, April 22: Green Festival
Calvert Memorial Hospital, 100 Hospital Rd, Prince Frederick, MD

Sat, April 30, 10am - 4pm: Maryland Day
University of Maryland, College Park, 20742;
Our largest event of the year! Hundreds of visitors of all ages get introduced to bees; **we need dozens of volunteers!**
<http://www.marylandday.umd.edu/>

Sat, May 7, 10am-4pm: Spring Farm Festival
Hard Bargain Farm, 2301 Bryan Point Rd, Accokeek, MD
<http://fergusonfoundation.org/events/spring-farm-festival-2/>

Sat, May 7, 10am - 6pm & Sun, May 8, 11am - 5pm: Green Man Festival
Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD
<http://greenbeltgreenmanfestival.org/>

This year is our second year and we worked this event only on Sunday; I am inclined to only choose 1 day again this year, so please indicate your preference and I will choose the day I get the most volunteers.

Sat, May 17, noon - 4pm: A-MAY-Zing Animal Festival
Bladensburg Waterfront Park

Sat, May 21, 11AM - 4PM: Cheverly Days
Cheverly, MD

There will be other opportunities throughout the year that we can support if there is interest. If your favorite event or venue is not listed above and you would like to attend, let me know and we'll see what we can do!

Thanks again. I look forward to seeing you at an event. Please share a little of your time and your voice to help save the bees!

BUMBA Field Day, April 9, 11AM

7804 Woodyard Road, Clinton, MD

As a conclusion to **BUMBA's** 2016 beekeeping classes, there will be a field day on April 9, beginning at 11:00 AM and concluding around 4:00 PM. The event will be held at the apiary of **Scott Seccomb** (address and directions provided below). The field day is open to all short course students and paid up members of **BUMBA**. Please bring a lawn chair with

you unless you intend to sit on the ground, which might be wet.

There will be opportunity for hands on open hive inspections, so be certain to bring your protective clothing, a veil at a minimum, and anyone having an extra veil is asked to please bring it along to share with someone visiting without proper equipment. We will instruct in the method of lighting your smoker and the use of various hive tools to perform in hive inspections, and give as many students as possible the opportunity to handle frames of live bees, while pointing out the sights to behold in an active honeybee hive.

The weather and temperatures may impact on how much hive examination we can do, so let's hope we get a nice warm, calm, sunny day. A soap making demonstration is planned, using products of the hive. The raffle hive for the 2016 short course students will be drawn and awarded at field day, and, if shipping works favorably, we'll install the package of bees that accompanies the raffle hive, on site, as a demonstration for all to see. Last chance tickets will be available at the field day prior to the drawing.

We will have a catered *southern style* BBQ meal via a friend of Scott's who always provides great tasting and nutritious food, such as ribs, pulled BBQ, BBQ chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, hot dogs, and like stuff. There is a meal ticket charge of \$10.00 per person, and please, as much as is possible, buy your meal tickets during class, or at the April 7th, meeting so we'll have a good idea of how many folks we will be feeding. Kids age 12 and under can eat free. We don't want to over order, but we don't want anyone that wishes to partake to go hungry either. There will only be a few extra meals ordered for on the spot meals for guests and such, so please order ahead. **BUMBA** will provide a variety of complimentary beverages. **Payments at field day for a meal ticket or dues must be by check or exact change!**

We intend to hold the field day, come what may, to the best of our ability; but, if there is a solid forecast of frog strangling deluges of rain the Field Day will likely be postponed a week, or cancelled, out of necessity. Meal refunds will generally not be available if such occurs and we are unable to cancel the catering order. The short course students and staff members will receive an alert via email if such weather looks eminent.

Thank you to Scott Seccomb for once again offering to host the field day at his home and apiary. It is a great place to hold a field day with many memories. Hope to see all the students there.

Directions:

When you reach Scott's house, drive through the gate into the field and come back by the house. Park anywhere you want in the field. Do not park in the main driveway of the house, enter the field.

From Route 301: Take Md. Route 4 west (towards DC) to the Woodyard Road exit. At the bottom of the ramp turn left onto Woodyard Road (south). Go about 2.3 miles (to the 3rd light) and veer right at the light where all the construction is/was (this is still Woodyard Rd.). After you go around a couple of S turns, you will see **Don Drive** on the right and **TALL PINE TREES ON THE LEFT**. Just on the other side on the pine trees is a field and a gate, turn left into the field.

Directions From Md. Route 5: Take Woodyard Road towards Upper Marlboro/Mellwood. Go past the Sunoco gas station at the 4-way light and continue until you see Resurrection Cemetery on the right. After the 7th house on the right, past the cemetery and **across from Tangelwood Plant Nursery** is a field and a gate. Turn right into the field.

Scott Seccomb, 7804 Woodyard Road, Clinton Md. 20735, C 301-580-8031

Zoning Changes Threaten Beekeeping

Prince George's County Proposes New Zoning Limits on Beekeeping

Proposed Zoning Regulation changes define beekeeping as "agricultural production" and will limit beekeeping to lots of 2 acres or larger and zoned for agriculture.

The proposed zoning regulations can be found at this link: [Zoning Ord-Subdiv_Mod 1.pdf](#).

David Morris

Jeff Forbes brought to my attention that **Prince George's County** is re-writing the zoning regulations in a way that defines beekeeping as keeping agricultural livestock which may only be kept in areas zoned for agricultural use.

Right up front I am asking that everyone make sure you are registered with the State Apiary Inspector's Office to document (and hopefully grandfather) your beekeeping activity. Second, we need, as a club, to document where you keep your apiary now, how small is your yard? This is necessary to show that beekeepers do and can peacefully and safely co-exist with neighbors in locales that would not be permitted under the proposed limits. Email me for more information after the Field Day, April 9 (beefriend@verizon.net)

When we (my wife and I) began beekeeping in the mid-80's, Prince George's zoning regulations specifically allowed beekeeping on property zoned "RA" or higher and having more than 20,000 sq ft. How do I know? Someone complained and a zoning inspector visited us. **Adele** showed him our hives and how the bees were flying above the trees before they even left our yard. He provided us with a copy of the relevant regs and said we were fine. Some years later, the beekeeping provision was dropped.

In recent years, **Howard, Frederick, Montgomery Counties, Baltimore City and the District of Columbia** all faced similar zoning challenges, either imposing stricter conditions, or new enforcement actions of previously unenforced regulations. They all have prevailed and achieved more reasonable regulations concerning beekeeping in residential areas. Certainly one factor assisting these arguments has been the presence of a bee hive on the White House grounds. Another very powerful argument is the lack of problems and complaints in the County about beekeeping. Why create new regulations for problems that do not exist? A third essential element has been the **Maryland State Beekeepers Association "Best Management Practices"** document which provides coherent guidelines for keeping bees in urban and residential areas.

We are fortunate that the regulations are not already in force, so we may seek modification while in the draft stage. We also are fortunate to have many fellow beekeepers in the state who have already been through this wringer. We will be calling upon our them for advice and suggestions, as well as support.

I encourage all **BUMBA** members to attend the April meeting for updates and planning intended to organize support to have the new zoning regulations recognize and permit current beekeeping practices in the county.

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?

BUMBA Graduates 49 Beekeeping Class members!

BUMBA congratulates the following graduates of our **2016 Beginning beekeeping Class.** Also, warmly welcome them as new BUMBA members, introduce yourselves and offer assistance where possible. Our graduates are: Theresa Alexander, Jennifer Allegro, Robin Anderson, Esther Burris, Jeff & Nicole Carlson, Chris & Sheri Craig, Joseph & Victor Curtis, Claire & James Denny, Christopher Dowling, Evan Ellicott, Colm & Constance Flanagan, Kim Fuller, Christine Gilroy, Elisabeth & James Greenberg, Angie Howard, Joshua Kauffman, Sophia Lafargue, Karesa & Richard Leverette, Kimberly & Tashi McGriff, Candace Morrell, Marc Mossberger, Billy Mullenax, Jan & Rachael Nealer, Sheri Page, Beth Petenbrink, Brian Poffenberger, Bethany Prechtel, Lutz Rastatter, Jeb Rucker, Joshua & Taryn Sanders, Larry Scheidegger, Susan Sparks, Ken Sweet, Alicia Tarr, Frances Toler, Lisa Toplansky, Michele Touchet, Angela Walter, Ryan Winklevoss

BEES IN THE NEWS

Bee Informed Annual Survey



Survey is open April 1-30

Dear Beekeeper,

We need you! We know it is one of the busiest times of the year for beekeepers and we thank you for taking valuable time from your colonies to participate in the **National Colony Loss and Management Survey** created by the **Bee Informed Partnership** and sponsored by the **National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)**. Please go to our online survey at <http://26.selectsurvey.net/beeinformed/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=BIP2016#> and complete the survey there. It will be live on **April 1st and close on April 30th**. Please do not complete the survey more than once.

Information about past Winter Loss and National Management Surveys and the annual reports can be found online at <http://beeinformed.org/>. The Colony Loss Survey has evolved from our winter loss survey conducted 10 years ago. Now, we monitor summer losses as well. Last year, for the first time in the history of this survey, beekeepers reported higher losses in the summer than in the winter. The National Management Survey is conducted annually in conjunction with the Colony Loss Survey. The two surveys are aimed at looking for relationships between colony losses and colony management (including disease treatment strategies, supplemental feeding, etc.) and/or other factors that may influence colony health (such as colony location, honey production, and forage type). Your participation in this research is voluntary and your responses will be kept confidential. In any publication or presentation resulting from this research, no personally identifiable information will be disclosed. We are also thrilled to release our **Best Management Practices** in the next few months. Please check back on our website soon for those exciting results!

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us

at askbeeinformed@gmail.com. Once again thank you for your participation.

Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp, President, Bee Informed Partnership, Inc.
University of Maryland
Karen Rennich, Executive Director, Bee Informed Partnership, Inc.
University of Maryland

Why Did My Honey Bees Die?

LEARNING TO IDENTIFY A COMMON CAUSE OF WINTER DEATH IN NORTHERN CLIMATES

*By Meghan Milbrath
Michigan State University Extension
March 8, 2016*

Guest Blog; beeinformed.org

Beekeepers in northern climates have already lost a lot of colonies this winter. While official counts won't be recorded for a few months, some trends are starting to emerge. One of these trends is a specific type of colony death. In Michigan, I've received so many calls describing the scenario below, that I can describe the deadout before opening the hive, or before the beekeeper describes it over the phone. While I may impress some with these predictive powers, the frequency of these types of losses indicates a real epidemic that is affecting honey bee colonies in northern states.

Characteristics of the common early winter death in northern states:

1. The colony was big and looked healthy in the fall
2. A lot of honey is left in the top supers
3. The cluster is now small, maybe the size of a softball
4. There are hardly any bees on the bottom board
5. Near or just below the cluster is a patch of spotty brood – some fully capped, and some with bees dying on emergence (heads facing out, tongues sticking out).
6. If you look closely in the cells around the brood, you will see white crystals stuck to the cell walls, looking like someone sprinkled coarse salt in

the brood nest. AND

7. You don't have records showing that *Varroa* was under control.

Sound familiar?

We see this classic set of symptoms over and over in the states with a proper winter. A big colony that seems to just shrink down and disappear. Many people want to use the term colony collapse for this type of death, and while collapse is a good descriptor of what happens, this is not true colony collapse disorder. This is death by *Varroa* associated viruses.

How did this happen? {read the complete article and a full explanation of each point at <https://beeinformed.org/2016/03/08/why-did-my-honey-bees-die/>}

Bee Culture "Catch the Buzz"

Honey Bees Exposed to a Multitude of Pesticides

The National Veterinary Research Institute in Poland – to figure out what's really putting honey bees at risk – developed a method for analyzing 200 pesticides at the same time.

What they found shocked them, but they said their research result could help unravel the mystery behind the widespread decline of honey bees in recent years and even help develop an approach to saving them.

The Polish researchers say in a study published in the Journal of Chromatography A that several studies have shown a link between pesticide use and bee deaths and the European Union has banned the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.

But Tomasz Kiljanek, lead author of the study, says it's not as simple as banning one pesticide that's killing bees; the relationship between pesticide use and bee death is complex and scientists are still trying to figure out exactly what's happening.

Kiljanek and the team used a method called QuEChERS, now used to detect pesticides in food. With this system, they could test poisoned bees for 200 different pesticides simultaneously, as well as several additional compounds created when the pesticides are broken down.

About 98% of the pesticides they tested for are approved for use in the European Union.

The team used the method to investigate more than 70 honey bee poisoning incidents. Their findings revealed 57 different pesticides present in the bees.

It's a toxic mess they hope their new method will help solve.

"This is just the beginning of our research on the impact of pesticides on honey bee health," Kiljanek says.

Read more at: www.beeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-honey-bees-exposed-to-a-multitude-of-pesticides/

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.

Sentinel Hive Project needs assistance

BUMBA participates in the **Bee Informed Sentinel Hive Project**. This is an ambitious undertaking to intensively study honey bee hives to better identify the reasons for high hive losses across the country. Volunteers are needed to organize BUMBA's participation as well as to perform the inspections and record keeping. This is an opportunity participate locally in a significant, national scientific study of apicultural science. Contact **Maggie Mills** (contact info on back page) for more information.

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

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 our web forum for questions, answers, opinions and help. Thanks to **Scott Seccomb** and **Toni Burnham**, our private web forum on the BUMBA web page is available 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

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	dbheyes@comcast.net
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P.G. Inspector	Gregg Gochnour	301-261-8106 x5920	
	gregg.gochnour@maryland.gov		
MSBA Pres.	Allen Hayes	410-489-2835	Thehayeshouse4@aol.com

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 **2016 BUMBA** Calendar:

- February 4, 7:30PM, BUMBA Mtg.
- February 13, 9:00-4:30 MSBA Mtg
- Feb 18 & 25 Bee Class 7PM
- March 3, 10, 17, 24 Bee Class 7PM
- April 7, 7:30PM, BUMBA Mtg.
- April 9, 11:00AM, BUMBA Field Day
- June 2, 7:30PM, BUMBA Mtg.
- June ? MSBA Summer Mtg
- July 25-29, EAS Conference, NJ
- August 4, 7:30PM, BUMBA Mtg.
- October 6, 7:30PM, BUMBA Mtg.
- Nov? MSBA Fall Meeting
- December 1, 6:00PM, Holiday Party

David Morris, BUMBA Editor
9309 Montpelier Drive