



NEWSLETTER

Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association

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Next BUMBA Meeting
Thursday, June 2, 7:30 PM
Watkins Park Nature Center

Dr. Kirsten Traynor on *Varroa*!

Our June speaker will be **Dr. Kirsten Traynor, PhD**, from **Flickerwood Apiary** (www.mdbee.com) Her topic will be "**Varroa: Biology, Control, and Viruses**".

Kirsten received the prestigious **German Chancellor Scholarship** from the **Humboldt Foundation** in 2006-2007, annually awarded to ten American leaders in their field. Kirsten earned her PhD in biology from **Arizona State University**. While a grad student, she spent almost a year in Avignon, France in the lab of **Dr. Yves Le Conte** as a **Fulbright Fellow**. You may have read one of her many articles in "**American Bee Journal**" She currently investigates how pesticides affect honey bee health at the **University of Maryland** in the lab of **Dr. vanEngelsdorp**. She also is the editor of "**Bee World**", published by the "**International Bee Research Association**" (www.ibrabee.org.uk), the author of "**Two Million Blossoms: Discovering the Medical Benefits of Honey**", and co-author of "**Simple, Smart Beekeeping**", with her husband, **Michael Traynor**, who took all the photographs.

The meeting format will change a bit. Refreshments will be available at the start of the meeting with a short Q&A period with members asking and answering questions (not the President, but an open forum discussion), ending with a **BUMBA Outreach** update from **Colleen White**. We'll have a quick break and turn the meeting over to **Kirsten** who will speak until 9:30. We'll adjourn the meeting at 9:30 and allow time to put away refreshments and A/V and give members who want to stay and chat that opportunity.

Our August speaker will be **Judge Dan O'Hanlon** of the **Mountain States Queen Producers**. He is active with the **Heartland Honey Bee Cooperative** in developing "**Purdue Ankle Biter Queens**" mite resistant stock that bite *Varroa*. See the article at www.nrdc.org/onearth/biting-back.

The President's Smoker

It's hard to believe I was writing about cold and wet weather for the last newsletter and nearly 2 months later, we are still dealing with cold and wet weather. An article in the Washington Post today says we had had rain 19 out of 23 days this May: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/capital-weather-gang/wp/2016/05/23/washington-d-c-s-worst-may-ever-explained/>

In spite of this, bees have swarmed and will continue to do so. If you purchased a nuc with an overwintered queen, your bees may be at risk of swarming. Each colony is different, but a properly made nuc should not require feeding and I would urge you to use caution if you have chosen to feed your nuc. While it's important for the bees to draw out comb, the problem with feeding a nuc is the bees will fill the brood nest with syrup. The queen will run out of room and the colony may decide to swarm. When inspecting, pay close attention to the bottom of the frames and look for Queen cups. Colonies will typically swarm within a day of capping a Queen cell. If you find queen cells before capping, you can move the queen and a few frames of bees/brood/stores to a nuc box to simulate a swarm.

As we go deeper into swarm season, I think it's important to remind beekeepers that it will take a full 4 weeks to see signs of a replacement queen. So many beekeepers get impatient waiting and often order a replacement queen for colonies which likely have a virgin or new queen in the colony. Listen to your bees when you open the colony. If the bees are quiet and busy when you open the colony and you don't see any signs of a queen, things are probably fine. However, if you hear the "**Queenless Roar**" upon opening the colony and find the bees are restless and loud you may have a problem. When in doubt, I say "give them another week" when it comes to waiting for a young queen to start laying.

It will be interesting to see how much honey beekeepers are able to harvest this season. I am not seeing comb being drawn as in years' past, but I am seeing honey in supers. It's widely believed Tulip Poplar and Black Locust were a complete loss due to the rain. We can only hope the rain will mean a great summer bloom of Basswood, Beech, Catalpa, and Sourwood.

This spring I will be adding queens with **Purdue University's** "ankle biter" genetics.

Gerry Jones recently purchased some of these queens as well. Last year

I purchased **VSH** queens from the **Harbo** line and I was thrilled with their overwintering success. Additionally, I added a **Michael Palmer** queen and a Michigan queen to my apiary last July and both overwintered well as 5 frame nucs (who ate a lot of fondant). These Northern queens are doing very well, both colonies are supered and will probably be split this weekend (as a swarm precaution).

I hope you are able to join us at the June meeting to hear **Dr. Kirsten Traynor** speak on Varroa Mites (Biology, Treatment and a bit about Deformed Wing and other viruses vectored by these pests). I'm excited to announce **Judge Dan O'Hanlon (Mountain States Queen Producer)** will be our August speaker. We'll have a very busy agenda at both meetings. Moving forward, I plan to change the meeting format a bit: we'll start with a few quick announcements and give members an opportunity to ask questions to be answered by the audience. If you're uncomfortable asking your question publicly, you're welcome to write it down before the meeting (with as much detail as possible) and I can ask the question for you. We'll also get an update on **BUMBA Outreach** from **Colleen White**. Our break will be short, but I hope to wrap meetings up by 9:30 to allow members some time to socialize and give officers an opportunity to pack things up, speakers to sell books (if applicable) and be off the grounds before 10 pm. We'll see how this goes for the next two meetings.

Peace, Love and Bees -

Maggie Mills

Message from the VP

Tracy Velazquez

The best part of being the new vice president of **BUMBA** is getting to share my misadventures as a pretty-new beek. Given that this is the late spring edition, it will surprise few that this column centers on my recent failed swarm capture.

I knew this colony was hankering to hit the road, so I'd pulled out the queen, a bunch of bees and some frames of food and brood to try to simulate a swarm, and banished them to a new hive. I'd read that if you leave more than one queen cup behind they might still swarm, but it seemed just as likely to me that the first queen to hatch would go all "**Game of Thrones**" and kill off her competition. Of course, that isn't what happened.

My friend Jenny, who hosts two of my hives in her backyard, called during one of the two sunny days in May and said, “the bees are flying everywhere.” When I got there, Jenny was in her back yard raking. “Do you think they swarmed?” she asked. I looked up, and there was a huge ball of bees clinging to a branch about 15’ directly above her head. “Yes, I think so,” I deadpanned, pointing up.

I decided the best thing would be to use a tree pruner to cut off the branch; the bees decided otherwise. As I started cutting, they all rose into the air and out of the yard. I dropped the pruner and followed them, trying not to trip as I kept my eyes skyward. They flew right up the middle of the street at about 15’ high and 2 mph; they took the first left on 31st St. They veered toward a condemned abandoned house on the left, thought better of it, flew towards another tree along the road, and determined it was not to their liking either. Several neighbors looked up to see what I was looking at, and I told them, “I’m following my bees.” Fortunately, none of them called the Maryland Department of Mental Health. Finally, the swarm settled inaccessibly about 25’ up on the trunk of a tree. After getting in touch with the homeowners, I put a hive on a picnic table near the tree, hoping they might choose this for their new home. Alas, when I went back the next morning they were gone.

Since then, I’ve started reading “**Honeybee Democracy**”, a fascinating book on swarms. The author, **Dr. Thomas D. Seeley**, first did a study on the ideal (from the bees’ perspective) new home for a swarm. Then he observed how the bees make their “democratic” decision on which among a number of prospective new homes they should choose. While I would still have greatly preferred to have captured my mutinying bees, I felt a little better envisioning them doing their house-choosing dances, yet another example of what an amazing social creature the honeybee is. Sadly, Seeley noted that most swarms don’t make it through their first winter; I’ll keep my fingers crossed that mine found their ideal home and survive here in Prince George’s County.



MSBA Summer Meeting

June 18, 9:30AM – 4:30PM

University of Maryland College Park

www.mdbeekeepers.org

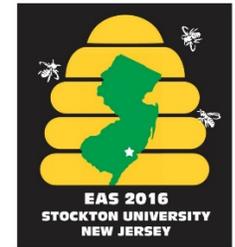
Featured Speaker: TBD

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.

EAS 2016

**Stockton State University,
Galloway, New Jersey**

July 25 – 29



www.easternapiculture.org

What national beekeeping organization held its founding meeting at the University of Maryland in 1955? The **Eastern Apicultural Society’s** first meeting was held in **College Park** in the summer of 1955. Over 60 years later it is better and bigger than ever.

Registration is now open for the **Eastern Apicultural Society’s 2016 Conference and Short Course**. Registrations received after July 10 will incur a \$25 late fee. **Don’t hesitate, *registrate!*** The link above will take you to **EAS’s** online registration pages as well as information on classes, meetings, accommodations and meals. **EAS** is a tremendous organization for hobby and sideline beekeepers. Don’t be mistaken, professional, full-time, beekeepers attend as well, but this isn’t the 10,000 hive with tractor-trailer loads of bees heading for California every year. These are beekeepers

like us who want to learn more about beekeeping, the art, the science, the business and related crafts.

The annual event is broken into two parts. It begins with a two and one-half day, Monday to Wednesday noon, beekeeping course with beginners and advanced levels, as well as a queen rearing course! The second half of the week, from Wednesday noon to Friday evening is a panoply of lectures, demos, open hive beekeeping work, banquet, auction, and just plain fun. You can pick and chose which lectures to attend. Accommodations are available on campus as well as at nearby hotels. All the big vendors are there with ample supplies of every gadget you could every desire, or imagine, and the latest books. Have lunch and dinner with noted scientists, beekeepers and speakers. Ask them that question no one else can answer!

Another great EAS effort is the **Master Beekeeper Program**. Inspired nearly 40 years ago by **Dr. Roger Morse**, it promotes the mastery of beekeeping knowledge and skill as well as educational outreach activities. Aspirants must have five years beekeeping experience and be nominated by a **Master Beekeeper** or an officer of your state or local beekeeping association.

Be sure to check out the **EAS** website today!

Membership is \$25 per year. Life membership is \$250.

EAS 2017 is scheduled for **Delaware** and **EAS 2018** will be 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

Bob Greenwell: An Appreciation

For the past five years **Bob Greenwell** has provided leadership for BUMBA as President, providing excellent speakers, sharing his knowledge through writing, speaking, responding to questions and through mentoring. We have had excellent successes with our Beginning Beekeeping Classes and Field Days.

In appreciation for Bob's years of voluntary leadership, **Leigh Walton** (left), on behalf of all of **BUMBA** presented Bob with a recognition award,

suitable for a beekeeper, in the form of one side of a deep hive body, with the **BUMBA** logo and Bob's years of service laser burned into the wood.



It reads "Robert Greenwell, BUMBA President 2011-2016, In appreciation for outstanding dedication and contributions."

And, of course, there was a cake, as well!



BUMBA Field Day Review

After a one-week delay due to a bout of cold, wet weather (not to be confused with the cold, wet weather that followed), the **BUMBA** field day was held on April 16 under beautiful sunny skies and perfect temperatures for visiting, hiving a swarm, raffling a hive, having a barbeque and observing bees. Our special thanks to **Scott Seccomb**, former **BUMBA** President, for hosting the Field Day again, even with the date rescheduled due to weather. In appreciation for hosting the event, Bob presented Scott with a **BUMBA** ball cap and a strong five-frame nuc containing a VSH X Caucasian queen that Bob had made last year and overwintered. VSH is “Varroa Sensitive Hygiene”, meaning the bees can detect Varroa in a cell and remove the larvae and mites. **Scott’s** hives are well laid out and it was easy for everyone to participate. His back yard was a festive picnic and great setting for the field day bee activities. As always, the barbecue, was ample and delicious. There was ample pulled pork and fried chicken for everyone, as well as salad, beans, and dessert (I really like this part of the “bee activities”). **Gerry Jones** kindly brought several varieties of his excellent homemade mead for adult sampling before the barbeque arrived. He had a variety of different flavored meads. Due to the change in date, we were unable to have a demonstration of how to make non-honey hive products. Bob counted 83 attendees, including several new beekeepers from other clubs that did not offer a field day like **BUMBA**. Positive comments

about the field day include the friendly and social atmosphere and the quality of the interaction between the leadership, hive examiners and students.

Outgoing **BUMBA** President **Bob Greenwell** presided over the event, securing experienced beekeepers **Leigh Walton**, **Debbie Heyes**, **David Clark** and **David Morris** to conduct hive examinations. Some hives examined were found to have numerous queen cells (including one queen in the act of emerging) and all the examiners either made splits or discussed how to make splits with queen cells. The students could also see what swarm queen cells look like. At least one swarm issued from a hive right in front of the new beekeepers. **Scott Seccomb** and **Bob Greenwell** captured the swarm and hived it in front of the class. This was an excellent

opportunity for the new beekeepers to see how exactly how to handle a real swarm and how to hive it.

The 5-frame hive raffle with the VSH queen was won by new beekeeper **Vic Curtis**, of Upper Marlboro. Vic chose to take home the package of bees and hive the bees at home, with the knowledge gained from the field day. Congratulations, Vic!

Thanks to those who helped with tactical operations, including **Debbie Hayes**, **Jutta Dunaway**, **Leigh Walton** and **David Clark** who helped



organize the day, took money for the barbeque, sold raffle tickets, and just overall made it possible for everyone else to have a good time.

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?

Prince George's County Zoning Rewrite Listening Sessions, June 6th-9th

June 6th through June 9th the Prince George's County Park and Planning Zoning Rewrite Team will **host 3 listening sessions for the Zoning Ordinance Rewrite** to preview Clarion Associates' draft language for Development Standards and Adequate Public Facilities.

Attend one of three information sessions on the Zoning Rewrite to explore the Second Module of the New Zoning Code.

During the session, participants will meet with the project's consultants to understand how their recommendations will help modernize the County's zoning code. Specific proposals in Module 2 include Neighborhood Compatibility Standards, Transportation Adequacy, Pedestrian and Bicycle Connectivity, and Sustainable and Green Development Standards.

Central County, June 7, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Sports and Learning Complex
8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD 20785

South County, June 8 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Southern Technology and Recreation Complex
7007 Bock Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744

North County, June 9 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center
7120 Contee Road, Laurel, MD 20707

For information on the Zoning Rewrite project, contact Chad Williams, 301-952-3171, ZoningPGC@ppd.mncppc.org

BEES IN THE NEWS

Bee Informed Annual Survey



Interpreting and Understanding the Differences in Honey Bee Colony Loss Numbers From Different National Surveys

From the Bee Informed Partnership blog found here:

<https://beeinformed.org/2016/05/19/interpreting-and-understanding-the-differences-in-honey-bee-colony-loss-numbers-from-different-national-surveys/>

Over the last year, and for the first time, the National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS) conducted a survey to monitor colony losses. The Bee Informed Partnership (BIP), in collaboration with the Apiary Inspectors of America, has also recently published preliminary loss data covering the same time period. While the core purpose of these two surveys are the same, to track honey bee colony losses in the US, there are significant and important differences in survey design (questions asked),

The NASS report, with the full explanation of their sampling design and methodology can be found here:

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide_to_NASS_Surveys/Bee_and_Honey/

The BIP abstract can be found here:

<https://beeinformed.org/results/colony-loss-2015-2016-preliminary-results/>, and an explanation of our methodology can be found in previous peer reviewed reports.

American Bee Journal "Extra"

Secrets of Resistant Varroa Revealed

New research by Rothamsted Lab, Great Britain, has revealed the different gene mutations that have enabled Varroa mites to become resistant to acaricides, including pyrethroids (such as the active ingredients of Apistan and Bayvarol). The findings have also helped explain Vita's earlier observations about differing patterns of resistance across the world.

Tau-fluvalinate is a pyrethroid that can kill vulnerable mites by over stimulating their nervous systems. It interferes with sodium channel proteins that are involved in generating electrical signals in nerve cells.

Earlier research showed that resistance to tau-fluvalinate in central and southern England evolved through a mutation of a single base in the *Varroa's* DNA. This latest research has shown that a different mutation evolved in resistant *Varroa* mites in the USA.

Dr Max Watkins, Technical Director of Vita (Europe) Ltd, explained: "In our ongoing studies of resistance to pyrethroids, we noticed that the pattern of resistance in the USA was different to that of the UK which was different again to that of continental Europe. We have long suspected that different mutations are responsible for these variations.

"In continental Europe, the graphs plotting the amount of tau-fluvalinate required to kill the mites over time were a very different shape to those in Britain. Investigations in the USA suggested a third pattern, that is, a third mutation, distinct from the first two. This new research has precisely identified the difference between the UK and USA evolutionary resistance paths."

The practical implication for beekeepers is that resistance evolves only when mites are exposed to a single treatment type over many years. Therefore, by alternating treatments and using Integrated Pest Management techniques, as recommended by Vita, the evolution of resistance can be delayed or even prevented, enabling the first generation varroa-control products like Apistan using tau-fluvalinate to continue to be effective.

Watkins continued: "The Rothamsted researchers say they can now develop diagnostic screening tests to analyse individual mites for the presence or absence of the mutations. That would be extremely useful, although I suspect that these will have to be laboratory, rather than hive-

side, tests. This is excellent work and we look forward to hearing more results from this study. Meantime, Vita plans to continue its monitoring of acaricide resistance in Europe."

The Rothamsted research was carried out in collaboration with scientists working in Spain, the USA and Germany).

The article is published in PlosOne at <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0155332>

Chicago Homeland Security Investigators Seize Nearly 60 Tons of Honey Illegally Imported

Department of Homeland Security News Release

CHICAGO — Special agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) have seized nearly 60 tons of illegally imported Chinese honey valued at more than \$200,000 destined for U.S. consumers.

The three shipping container loads (195 barrels) of bulk honey smuggled into the United States were falsely declared as originating from Vietnam to evade anti-dumping duties applicable to Chinese-origin honey.

HSI Chicago was notified in March of the suspect honey by a domestic honey packer located in the Midwest after laboratory reports provided to the honey packer appeared fraudulently altered. HSI sent honey samples to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) laboratory in Savannah, Georgia, for analysis. CBP determined that the honey had a greater than 99 percent probability match with Chinese-origin honey.

HSI seized the illicit honey April 28. The domestic honey packer who proactively notified HSI of the suspect honey and the private laboratory whose reports were fraudulently altered are fully cooperating, and are not targets in this investigation. The investigation continues to determine where in the supply chain the private laboratory reports were altered for the honey.

In December 2001, the U.S. Commerce Department imposed anti-dumping duties after determining that Chinese-origin honey was being sold in the United States at less than fair-market value. The duties first imposed were as high as 221 percent of the declared value. Later these duties were assessed against the entered net weight, currently at \$2.63 per net kilogram, in addition to a "honey assessment fee" of 1.5¢ per pound on all honey.

Great Practical Beekeeping Information for New Beekeepers

Joli Winer, Editor
"The Bee Buzzer", May 2016
NE Kansas Beekeepers' Assoc.

Tips for May

- ✓ Check for ticks, they love beekeepers
- ✓ Wear as much protective clothing as makes you comfortable when working your hives. Work hives with slow, smooth movements. Jerky movements agitate the bees.
- ✓ Use your smoker each time you check your bees.
- ✓ Organize your bee tools in a toolbox so that you can always find them.
- ✓ The best time to work bees is during the middle of the day when the field bees are collecting nectar.
- ✓ Work each hive from the side or the back, out of the bee flight path.
- ✓ Inspect hives by removing an outside frame first. Lift straight up to avoid damaging bees on the frame
- ✓ When supering your hives add more than one super at a time if you have drawn comb. If you have new foundation add only one super at a time and start with 10 frames. Put your second super on after the first one is almost filled.
- ✓ Use queen excluders to prevent brood in your honey supers and as a deterrent to wax moths.
- ✓ Double check medication dates - safety matters. Don't misuse any chemicals in the hive. Follow all time guidelines. Absolutely never medicate hives with supers on. It is illegal.
- ✓ Keep the grass mowed in front of your hives - it makes it easier for the bees to land. Old carpet scraps, roof shingles or weed barriers can be used to keep grass under control.
- ✓ Keep supers on until the honey is capped, unripe honey will ferment.
- ✓ Do not feed sugar syrup during a honey flow since the bees will store the syrup in your supers rather than your honey.
- ✓ Don't get excited on hot humid days if the bees are hanging outside the

hive. They are trying to relieve the congestion in the hive to cool it off inside. Earlier in the year this is an indication of swarming, but as hotter summer temperatures return it is natural, so don't worry.

- ✓ Keep up with your record-keeping so next year you'll know which hives produced the best for you.

Swarm Call Questions

- Here are some questions to ask if you get a call wanting you to come get a swarm:
- Have you called someone else?
- How big is it?
- How high is it?
- Do you have a ladder?
- What have you sprayed them with?
- How long has it been there?
- Is it on your property?
- What is your contact number?
- Do you have pets that might bother me?

Supering

Just before putting on your supers you'll want to check your hives to make sure that you have a laying queen and that everything looks ok. You should have both hive bodies mostly filled with brood and some honey and pollen. Avoid opening up the hive to look at the brood area unless you suspect a management problem.

Weak colonies should be combined with stronger colonies or requeened.

How do you know if the honeyflow is "on"?

- Fresh white wax is on the edges of drawn comb or top bars.
- Wax foundation is quickly drawn out
- Bees are fanning at the entrance
- Bees are extremely active at the entrance - they are coming, and going like crazy
- You can smell it - the odor in the apiary is incredible - it smells

sweet, like honey

- Bees are docile and easy to work

If you have supers with drawn comb put on more than one at a time, this encourages the bees to bring in more honey and gives them more room to let the honey dehumidify. However, if you put on too many at a time the bees will "chimney" or just go up the middle and fill out only the center combs. You can encourage them to fill out the whole super by taking the full center frames and exchanging them for the outside frames - move the outside frames in the inside frames out - *voila!*

Since bees are hoarders, the more space you give them, the more bees will go out to collect nectar.

If you are using supers with new foundation then just put on one at a time and keep 10 frames in the supers. When the super is almost full move your outside frames inside and add your next super.

Make sure to mark any comb honey supers or frames so you don't extract them. Best to paint these supers a different color or paint a stripe on each side.

Move your full supers to the top and your newer supers lower (just above the queen excluder).

Keep supers on the hive until they are capped with beeswax (have a layer of beeswax covering the honey).

Bee Culture "Catch the Buzz"

NEONICS Killing Bees From Wildflowers

By Alan Harman

New British research finds that 97% of the neonicotinoids brought back to honeybee hives in pollen could come from wildflowers – not oilseed rape.

The research was detailed at a scientific briefing in London organized by the Soil Association, Dave Goulson, professor of biology at the University of Sussex specializing in the ecology and conservation of bumblebee, says the new research found that when neonicotinoids are applied to seeds, low concentrations are found in the nectar and pollen of the crop, which are then collected and consumed by bees.

But throughout spring and summer, mixtures of neonicotinoids and

other pesticides are also found in the pollen and the nectar of wildflowers growing in arable field margins and hedgerow flowers such as hawthorn, wild rose, blackberries and honeysuckle at concentrations that are sometimes much higher than those found in the crop.

"Indeed, the large majority (97%) of neonicotinoids brought back in pollen to honey bee hives in arable landscapes was from wildflowers, not crops," Goulson says.

"Both previous and ongoing field studies have been based on the premise that exposure to neonicotinoids would occur only during the blooming period of flowering crops and that it may be diluted by bees also foraging on untreated wildflowers.

"Here, we show that exposure is likely to be higher and more prolonged than currently recognized because of widespread contamination of wild plants growing near treated crops."

Soil Association policy director Peter Melchett said one in 10 species of Europe's wild bees is facing extinction, and neonicotinoid insecticides are increasingly seen as contributing to these declines.

"This shocking new research shows that the very wildflowers that were designed to protect bees are actually killing them," Melchett said.

"The scientific panel agreed pesticides in general, and neonicotinoids in particular, are one of the key reasons why bumblebees and other pollinators are in decline. But the dramatic new issue raised at this briefing is that we cannot save bees while we continue any use of neonicotinoids – the current ban should be extended to all crops.

"The routine, regular use of any toxic chemical or drug is now seen as bad practice and seed coatings like neonicotinoids are just that – used routinely, and long before any problem emerges," Melchett said.

Nation's Beekeepers Lost 44% of Bees in 2015-16 – BIP

Summer losses rival winter losses for the second year running.

Beekeepers across the United States **lost 44 percent** of their honey bee colonies during the year spanning April 2015 to April 2016, according to the latest preliminary results of an annual nationwide survey. Rates of both winter loss and summer loss—and consequently, total annual losses—worsened compared with last year. This marks the second consecutive survey year that summer loss rates rivaled winter loss rates.

The survey, which asks both commercial and small-scale beekeepers to track the health and survival rates of their honey bee colonies, is conducted each year by the **Bee Informed Partnership** in collaboration with the Apiary Inspectors of America, with funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Survey results for this year and all previous years are publicly available on the Bee Informed website.

“We’re now in the second year of high rates of summer loss, which is cause for serious concern,” said **Dennis vanEngelsdorp**, an assistant professor of entomology at the **University of Maryland** and project director for the Bee Informed Partnership. “Some winter losses are normal and expected. But the fact that beekeepers are losing bees in the summer, when bees should be at their healthiest, is quite alarming.”

Beekeepers who responded to the survey lost a total of 44.1 percent of their colonies over the course of the year. This marks an increase of 3.5 percent over the previous study year (2014-15), when loss rates were found to be 40.6 percent. Winter loss rates increased from 22.3 percent in the previous winter to 28.1 percent this past winter, while summer loss rates increased from 25.3 percent to 28.1 percent.

The researchers note that many factors are contributing to colony losses. A clear culprit is the *Varroa* mite, a lethal parasite that can easily spread between colonies. Pesticides and malnutrition caused by changing land use patterns are also likely taking a toll, especially among commercial beekeepers.

Varroa is a particularly challenging problem among backyard beekeepers (defined as those who manage fewer than 50 colonies).

“Many backyard beekeepers don’t have any *Varroa* control strategies in place. We think this results in colonies collapsing and spreading mites to neighboring colonies that are otherwise well-managed for mites,” said **Nathalie Steinhauer**, a graduate student in the **UMD Department of Entomology** who leads the data collection efforts for the annual survey. “We are seeing more evidence to suggest that good beekeepers who take the right steps to control mites are losing colonies in this way, through no fault of their own.”

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.	Maggie Mills	301-683-8853	maggie.m.mills@gmail.com
VP	Tracy Velazquez	406-539-9715	tvelazquez@mcn.net
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:

June 2, 7:30PM, BUMBA Mtg.

June 18, 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

Laurel, MD 20708-2553