



# NEWSLETTER

## Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association

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

## CONTENTS

### Meetings

- Pg 1 Umd Grad Student Samuel Ramsey on *Varroa*
- Pg 2 President's Smoker
- Pg 3 Message from the VP
- Pg 4 MSBA Fall Mtg, Elections, Honey Show
- Pg 5 MSBA Honey Judging Class, 29 Oct.

### Club Happenings

- Pg 6 Mosquito Control in P.G. County

### Members' Corner

- Pg 7 "Small Swarm, Big Returns", Gerry Jones
- Pg 8 "The Quiet One", Bruce Murry  
"The Killing of Our Bees", Mike DeNardo

### Bees in the News

- Pg 10 Seven Endangered Bees  
Snowy Winter for Maryland  
Bee Foraging Model Powers the Internet

### Club Programs

- Pg 11 BUMBA Extractor  
[www.bumbabees.com](http://www.bumbabees.com) and Forum

**Next BUMBA Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 6, 7:30 PM**  
**Watkins Park Nature Center**

## Guest Speaker: Samuel Ramsey

Our guest speaker will be Samuel Ramsey, a PhD student at the University of Maryland, College Park, studying in Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp's bee lab. He will talk about his work at UMD studying *Varroa* and strategies for its control.

Samuel Ramsey's enduring interest in entomology started 19 years ago and shows no signs of waning. He is focusing on how insect research can benefit the public through development of IPM (Integrated Pest Management) strategies and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) outreach initiatives (see the article about honey bee foraging models powering the internet, page 10). He studied entomology at Cornell University as an undergraduate focusing on Predatory/Parasitic insect behavior. His current work focuses on the effects of honey bee parasites on individual and colony level survivorship specifically targeting *Varroa destructor*. He is focusing on identifying the host tissue the *Varroa destructor* feed on when attacking honey bees. The belief that *Varroa* feed on hemolymph (bee blood) has stood uncontested for more than half a century but several aspects of honey bee anatomy and *Varroa* biology seem to suggest that they're actually feeding on a totally different tissue entirely: the fat body. This misidentification of the targeted host tissue may be why researchers have observed so many different pathologies as a result of *Varroa* feeding.

# The President's Smoker

While I am fairly new to beekeeping, having completed just my fifth season, I must say this has been the most unusual in terms of weather. Things looked good in the spring, with a warm-up quickly followed by a month of rain. The rain is to blame for some beekeepers losing colonies due to starvation. The black locust bloom was completely washed out for me, which was unfortunate. Once the rain stopped, it seems as though swarm season was all at once. A hot, dry summer followed with virtually no Fall flow. Many beekeepers have been feeding packages all summer and I have heard from several veteran beeks who have been feeding for a month or more. I hope the recent rains will stimulate some nectar, but I'm preparing to start feeding. I remember my uncertainty as a new beekeeper entering this season. Here are a few tips (References refer to **Diana Sammataro and Alphonse Avitabile's** book "**The Beekeeper's Handbook, Fourth Edition**"):

1. Mites (Page 210): Know your mite count! It's too late for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) such as drone comb or breaking the brood cycle. If your mite load is too high, your bees will die. We are in a narrow temperature window to administer soft chemical treatments such as Mite Away Quick Strips (MAQs) or Api-Life VAR. You might consider an Oxalic Acid dribble or Oxalic Acid Vaporization. For all treatments, please read and follow all manufacturer's instructions and wear proper protection, such as a respirator or gloves when applying chemicals. Remember:
2. FEED if your bees do not have adequate stores (Page 86). Most likely everyone in the region will need to feed their bees this season. A full size colony should have 60- 70 pounds of honey to survive the winter. This is the equivalent of approximately 10 medium frames or 8 deep frames filled on both sides. Remember, a medium frame weighs approximately 6 pounds while a deep frame weighs approximately 8 pounds. There is no chance of a reproductive swarm this late in the season (swarms this late are likely due to absconding as a result of pests such as Varroa, Small

Hive Beetles or Wax Moth), so you can feed without worry of swarming. I do recommend using a robbing screen (you can easily build your own). (Robbing Page 153). I do not advise feeding using a "Boardman" or entrance feeder. Instead, consider a bucket feeder or other feeder that is used inside the hive. (Personally, I like the baggy feeder method).

3. Build a simple 1 inch by 2 inch shim to be used for feeding. I use my shims for baggy feeding syrup as well as feeding emergency fondant in the winter or spring. The shim should be the same size as the brood box and can be placed under the inner cover just before winter.
4. Ensure proper ventilation, you might consider a "quilt box". Remember: cold does not kill bees, moisture does. If you chose to wrap your bees, please do not ignore ventilation.
5. "Take your losses in the Fall". If you have a weak colony, combine it with a robust colony. It is not advisable to combine two weak colonies.
6. Read about Fall Management starting on page 121.

If you are a new beekeeper, I hope you have gotten the message about *Varroa*. They remain the number 1 reason for colony loss. Mites transmit a growing number of diseases to bees:

(<http://articles.extension.org/pages/71172/honey-bee-viruses-the-deadly-varroa-mite-associates>)

(<http://beeaware.org.au/archive-pest/varroa-mites/#ad-image-0>)

My first year was one for the books – After harvesting approximately 70 pounds of honey from a nucleus I was full of pride. I believed my bees were perfectly healthy and ready for winter. Unfortunately, my "barn-burner" colony was loaded with *Varroa* and was a dead out in October. It was a gut-wrenching loss for me, but I learned an invaluable lesson about *Varroa*. Every season I hear several beekeepers tell me their bees absconded in September/October/November. I often ask these beekeepers if they did a mite treatment or checked their levels and virtually all of them ignored *Varroa*. We all quickly discover how expensive beekeeping is – and the

price of bees (packages and nucs) go up every year based on demand. Many new beekeepers get discouraged and give up after losing their bees and so often this could be prevented simply by paying attention to their mite loads.

I am closing out my bee season, having completed my second honey harvest over Labor Day weekend. While my overall honey production this season was adequate, it was disappointing considering the number of production colonies I had this year. The black locust washout certainly played a part. I am entering Fall with approximately 40 colonies. I have about 20 in nuc boxes (a mix of single, double and triple medium & deep) and 20 full-size (double deep & medium 10 frame) colonies. With the help of **Jan Day**, **Caroline Boucher** and **Billy Mullinax** I applied *Mite Away Quick Strips* to both yards. Last year I had queen failures after using MAQs and planned to apply a half treatment. I changed my mind when the forecast predicted cooler temperatures. Temperatures were much warmer last season and I believe that contributed to my colony losses during the treatment period. I plan to remove the strips tomorrow and begin feeding colonies which need a little extra weight before winter. I have frozen and double bagged my honey supers which are stacked in the garage (I don't use chemicals to store them and have never had problems with wax moth using this method). I have lost 2 colonies over summer (most likely beekeeper error, but possibly due to high *Varroa* loads). This is much lower than my summer losses last season, although I attribute those (mostly) to the sampling efforts related to the [Sentinel Hive project](#).

Last month I participated in the **Maryland Honey Harvest Festival** as a vendor. This event was sponsored by the **Maryland State Beekeeper's Association (MSBA)** and was held at the **Brookside Nature Center**. This was my first time to the event, which usually conflicts with a neighborhood festival. I was overwhelmed by the number of people and had a great experience talking with the public about beekeeping. **BUMBA** had an informational table and there were demonstrations of honey extraction and an observation hive. It is a great event which was very well attended this year. Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time or attended.

Thanks for being a part of **BUMBA!**

Peace, Love and Bees -

*Maggie Mills*

## Message from the VP

*Tracy Velazquez*

### Mentoring

At the **EAS** conference, I, and several other **BUMBA** members, had the opportunity to attend sessions where different beekeeping clubs described their mentoring programs. I think we all came away with a recognition that a more systematized mentoring program would benefit our members and help new beekeepers through what can often be a challenging first couple of years. I know I probably would have thrown in the towel if it weren't for the experienced **BUMBA** members who mentored me through agonizing over pesticide kills, making splits, dealing with swarms, etc.

There are a number of different ways that clubs actually implement their mentor programs. For some, it's a matter of making sure that there is an experienced beekeeper assigned to everyone in the new beekeeper course. Other clubs have a learning apiary. There may be an expectation that the mentor invite the new beek to their bee yard, while for others it's the other way around. Some pair a mentor with two new beekeepers, who can also call on each other for mutual aid and assistance. Some send out to mentors every month a tip sheet of issues that may come up at that time of year with their mentee.

Over the remainder of 2016, I'd like to collect feedback from **BUMBA** members, and if there is sufficient consensus and interest, roll out a mentoring program in time for the new short course. Please be on the lookout for an email with a short, online survey. I'd like to know what your interest would be in being a member: how much time do you think you could devote to mentoring, what help or training do you feel you would need from **BUMBA** in order to be comfortable as a mentor, and what you think the mentor baseline activities should be. Also as a beekeeper, what mentoring did you receive (and what was most helpful), and what you'd like to receive.

We all know that many beekeepers quit after a year or two. Sometimes they just realize that it's not for them, and that's fine. For others, circumstances change. But for many, it may be that they had no one to turn to for help during one of the inevitable challenges that come with working with living creatures that straddle the line between wildlife and livestock. (Seldom do cattle ranchers complain of their cows absconding...).

Hopefully, we can become more systematic in how we provide ongoing peer assistance to our new beekeepers so they can get over that first- or second- year hump and really get to a place where they feel comfortable with the apiary and the cycle of the bees.

If you're not the survey-taking type, please feel free to reach out to me and share your thoughts. Always best to get ahold of me by email, [tyelazquez@mcn.net](mailto:tyelazquez@mcn.net). You can either provide comments by email or let me know what would be a good time to chat, either over the phone or a cup of coffee. I'm excited about strengthening our club's network of support for our members, and I hope you are too.

## ***MSBA Fall Meeting***

### ***Elections and Honey Show***

***November 12, 9:30AM – 4:30PM***

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

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

*Featured Speaker: Kent Williams*

The **Maryland State Beekeepers Association** will hold its **Fall Meeting, Elections and 80th Annual Honey Show** on Saturday, November 12, at the Maryland Department of Agriculture at 50 Harry S Truman Parkway in Annapolis. Our keynote is Kent Williams, a former EAS president with 30 years experience in sustainable, commercial, and sideline beekeeping. Kent is a personable and experienced beekeeper and educator with entertaining tales from the trenches as well as cutting edge management knowledge. Doors open at 8AM and morning refreshments will be available.

## ***MSBA Annual Elections***

Elections will be held during the business meeting, probably just before or after lunch. If you are interested in running for an office, or wish to nominate someone, please contact an MSBA officer, or Linda Thompson, our MSBA VP for Prince George's County (MSBA has a VP for each county in Maryland "and neighboring areas"). Anyone can nominate themselves in advance, or at the meeting.

## ***MSBA 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Honey Show***

You've shown your honey, beeswax, candles, photos and art at county fairs, now bring them to the **MSBA Honey Show**. Entry times are **8:00-9:00 AM!** You do not have to be an MSBA member to enter, however, if you are not an MSBA member, you must submit your entries in person. Judging will be conducted during the meeting with ribbons and cash prizes awarded at the end of the meeting; 1<sup>st</sup> prize is awarded \$12! The Honey Show has divisions for Hive Products, Arts & Crafts and Honey Cooking. The rules and entry form are available on the MSBA web page at [www.mdbeekeepers.org/honeyshow.html](http://www.mdbeekeepers.org/honeyshow.html).

Please note, there is a special division for children with three exhibit categories; Hive Products, Arts & Crafts, and Cooking. We almost never have entries in these categories. Please encourage your children to enter.

There also is a special "Best Club Showing" award for the club that receives the most 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place ribbons in the show.

## ***"I'm a Maryland Beekeeper" T-shirts***

"I'm a Maryland Beekeeper" t-shirts are back and currently on sale on the MSBA website at [www.mdbeekeepers.org](http://www.mdbeekeepers.org) for shipping to begin October 10. Adult sizes S-M-L-XL-XXL-3XL-4XL. The price is the same: \$15 plus shipping.

Please check the **MSBA** web site at [www.mdbeekeepers.org](http://www.mdbeekeepers.org) for updates for the election, program and speakers.

## **Special Event: MSBA Honey Judging Class**

**October, 29, 9AM – 4PM**

Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab  
1100 Johns Hopkins Road, Laurel, Md.

Fall is finally here, and the **Maryland State Beekeepers Association** wants to alert you to important offerings this season.

A **Honey Judging Class** is being offered on Saturday, October 29, at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, in Laurel, MD, as a service to members of the **Maryland State Beekeepers Association**. The class fee is \$45 and the class is limited to 35. Registration can be found on the MSBA web page at [www.mdbeekeepers.org/judging\\_class\\_sign\\_up.html](http://www.mdbeekeepers.org/judging_class_sign_up.html)

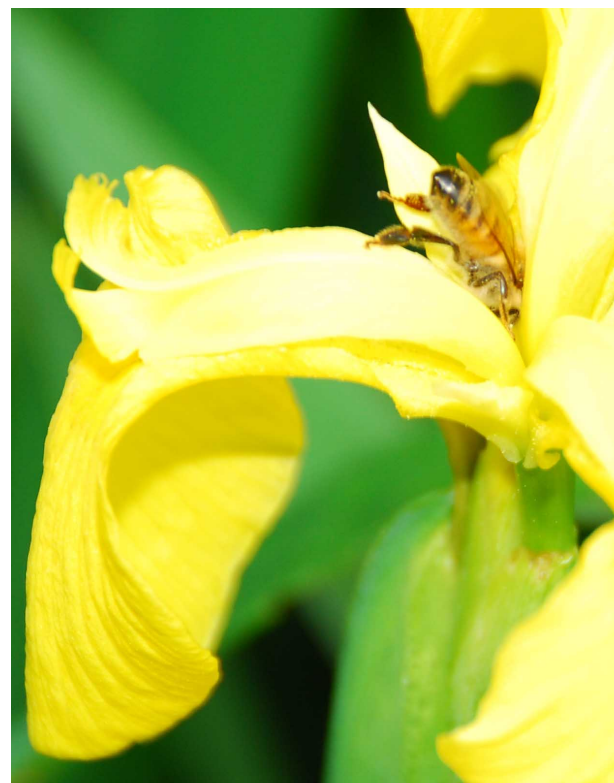
The class has two goals: to help Maryland beekeepers better prepare their honey show entries for competition; and, to serve as an initial training for beekeepers interested in becoming a qualified **Maryland Honey Judge**. Any beekeeper who is interested in selling their hive products should attend this class because improving your products will increase sales and can help your products support higher prices, making your operation more profitable. Those who are interested in becoming a **Maryland Honey Judge** will be considered for further training if they meet additional criteria, such as winning first place ribbons in the **Maryland State Fair** or **MSBA Annual Honey Show**.

The class will be taught by trained and experienced judges, including **Allen Hayes, Cybil Preston, David Morris, Kristien Zaal**, and others, and will be based on the American style of honey show judging. Students will receive a copy of **James Thompson's** book, "A Handbook for Honey Judges and Beekeepers Exhibiting Hive Products" and will be able to handle equipment such as refractometers, polariscopes (a lighted box with two polarizing films used to see crystals and debris in honey), and similar items. The **Atago Instrument Company** is sending a refractometer for demonstration purposes. A beautiful polariscope built by **Bill McGiffin** will be auctioned.

## **DC Beekeepers' Alliance**

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

The **DC Beekeepers Alliance** monthly meet ups are scheduled for third Wednesday of each month at the Hill Center ([www.hillcenterdc.org](http://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](http://www.dcbeekeepers.org)



**"Bee on a Bee's Wing Iris", by David Morris**

## CLUB HAPPENINGS

*{Editor's note: Responding to public health concerns over the Zika virus the Maryland Department of Agriculture is taking active steps intended to minimize the public health threat. This includes spraying mosquito control pesticides. BUMBA officers received this initial notice and we are publishing it below. There will be more activities such as these next year. It is important to note that the MDA uses the Apiary Inspector's Office list of registered beekeepers to help mitigate potential harm to our bee hives. It is important that your hives are registered (no fee to register) with the Md. Office of Apiary Inspection.}*

### **State Ag Department to Increase Mosquito Control Activities in Prince George's County**

*CONTACT: Julie Oberg, 410-841-5888  
Jason Schellhardt, 410-841-5744*

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (September 10, 2016)** – The **Maryland Department of Agriculture**, in cooperation with **Prince George's County Health Department** will expand mosquito control services in Seat Pleasant due to a public health concern over the potential for mosquito-borne diseases, including West Nile virus and Zika virus.

Mosquito control truck-based spraying will occur on Sunday, September 11, weather permitting, in the city of Seat Pleasant.

Spraying will begin at or after 7:30 p.m. Any existing spray exemptions in the area will be temporarily suspended. People should avoid outdoor activities on spray nights. As a follow up, within approximately 24 to 48 hours of the spraying, state and local inspectors will go door-to-door in the area to inspect properties for mosquito breeding sites and will conduct backyard spraying, as needed, to further reduce adult mosquito populations.

Please cooperate with state and local officials who may be in your neighborhood working to protect public health. It is critical that Maryland

residents continue to survey their properties and their communities and eliminate or treat mosquito breeding sites, which includes emptying all containers of water around the home and yard.

For more information, including: Frequently Asked Questions, 30-second videos on how to control mosquitoes around the home, tips on how to rid your community of mosquito breeding sites, and tips on how to avoid mosquito bites, visit: [www.mda.maryland.gov/zika](http://www.mda.maryland.gov/zika)

All Marylanders are encouraged to follow the Department's new **Twitter** feed [@MdAgMosquito](https://twitter.com/MdAgMosquito) that will post unscheduled spray events and other timely information about mosquito control in Maryland.

For more information, call the department's Mosquito Control Program at 410-841-5870.

#### **Questions and Answers about the Zika Virus spraying program.**

*{Editor's Note: **BUMBA Vice-President Tracy Velazquez** followed up the State notice with some questions. Here is a summary of her discussion with State officials.}*

Hi, all. I just had a conversation with **Jeannine Dorothy** at **MD Mosquito Control** (Prince George's County area). I asked for a meeting this fall with her and **Brian Prendergast** to discuss 2017 mosquito spraying. Cybil, it would be great if you could be in that meeting. I told her I'd send an email formally requesting the meeting.

Here is what I learned:

1. There is "regular" spraying for mosquitos, which I didn't know. The "schedule" is here:

<http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Documents/PrinceGeorges2016.pdf>

As you can see, it's a weekly schedule. I asked her if they sprayed every week, and she said no, you would have to call every week in the afternoon of the day spraying is scheduled to find out if they are spraying in your area. After I hung up, I noticed my town (**Mount Rainier**) isn't even on the list. I don't know if that means my town opted out of spraying or what.

2. You can opt out of spraying as an individual. The form to do that is here:

<http://mda.maryland.gov/plants->

[pests/Documents/MosquitoControlExemptionForm.pdf](#)

She did say that "the community" (so either the town or a community association) can override you on this. I would add that both of us had trouble finding this form on the website; I believe it's under Mosquito Control Policy.

3. She indicated that when they do unscheduled spraying (not spraying on the day of the week they are "scheduled" to spray), she looks over the list of registered beekeepers in that area and contacts them. She said that all beekeepers are required to register their hives; I said that while certainly **BUMBA** reinforces this message, we still would like to provide info to our members, regardless of whether they are currently registered, to help them protect their colonies if necessary. She said she didn't anticipate many more unscheduled sprays this fall, since mosquito season is winding down.

4. They don't use the same pesticide that was implicated in the bee die-off a week or so ago; I did point out that bees are susceptible to many pesticides.

### ***Additional Thoughts on Mosquito Control***

*By David Morris*

We have a small water feature on our patio, two water bowls for our cats, two birdbaths for our bees and birds, two watering cans left outside, some potted plants with built-in water dishes and a natural spring that appeared last year that leaves a puddle of water near the road all summer long. All of these provide perfect habitats for mosquitos. We all have small pools of water that accumulate in forgotten dishes, planters, yard equipment, unused toys, etc. Sometimes you surprise yourself when you pick up something and water falls out soaking your shoes.

Next year we will hear more about the Zika virus. It is a real concern. It is as mobile as human travel. An infected person comes home, gets bitten by a mosquito that then bites someone else, and so it begins. Mosquitos are more than just a nuisance, they carry real disease that can endanger the life of a person as well as your pets.

The simple point of this article is to remind everyone to be aware of the potential breeding grounds (or ponds) for mosquitos. Don't give them free roam of your property. For me, that means adding mosquito "Dunks" in the pond, changing the water in the cat bowls and birdbaths regularly. The watering cans and plant dishes are emptied any time I notice water sitting in

their bottom. Make sure your gutters drain completely and don't have standing water after the rain. Find the low spots where water doesn't drain away and fill them in. That natural spring in my yard? I'm filling it in with sand, hoping to level the land and allow the water to still drain without creating standing puddles. According to one source, a 6-inch puddle can breed 1,000 mosquitos in a week.

## **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?

### **Small Swarm, Big Returns**

*By Gerry Jones*

This is an anecdotal story about a colony that I currently still have in my apiary. I observed a swarm, from my apiary, that occurred on September 18, 2015. This swarm was caught in an empty nuc size swarm lure box that I had set out on my property. Common bee lore says that a swarm that occurs after July is not worth a fly. This swarm was very small, about the size of a softball when it occurred, and remembering that old lore, I almost dismissed this tiny swarm as worthless. But I hived it anyway in that 5 frame box with a frame of food that had some honey and pollen stores, almost as a throwaway measure. The tiny swarm with a queen took up residence in that nuc and stayed. I checked up on it periodically thereafter, about once a month, with the comments on my record sheet that the colony would die off at any time. Amazingly enough, the die off did not happen. At every inspection I told myself the colony would perish. It did not. It went thru winter on a fondant candy board with a cluster no bigger than a baseball. When spring finally arrived this colony was still there and slowly, very slowly began to build out. It was so slow that I inserted a frame of brood with nurse bees in March and another in April from other colonies. By May this queen was working on 5 frames of her own brood and I upgraded it to a deep 8 frame. By June 1, this queen had produced 8 frames of brood, so, another up grade to double 8 deep box. I added a medium honey super with that upgrade as well.. By the end of July the medium honey super was full. By mid-August, a second medium honey super was

filled and I harvested 2 supers in all. This colony is still working now, still vigorously foraging most recently for yellow pollen from goldenrod and Eupatorium (member of the Aster family, also called Thoroughwort) a pure white pollen. The colony didn't need any reversals or swarm control manipulations during the entire season. I did treat for mites in late August after honey harvest and again in September, using oxalic vapor. What will happen to this colony next, I won't even guess!

## The Quiet One

*By Bruce Murray*

Dear Friends in **BUMBA**:

I am one of your quiet beekeepers in **Prince George's County, MD**. I have been keeping our beautiful little worker girls since the early 1980's. You will occasionally see me at **BUMBA** meetings and when you do, I am usually tucked away in a corner quietly listening (hint: I have "snow on my roof"). I thank all the dedicated **BUMBA** officers and membership for such a strong enduring organization and for sharing, caring and advancing the knowledge of beekeeping to all in the MD/DC Metro area. The Newsletter is a valuable document and I tell folks that I meet in my travels to check out the **BUMBA** (and **MSBA**) website. I listen in awe to all the folks who share their stories, skills and research at the **BUMBA** meetings. In my own way over the years, I have shared the beekeeping "ABC's" with my students and teacher staffs in the PG School System (PGCPS) and/or with our guests and visitors at special events sponsored by **BUMBA**. I've done summer programs at **Watkins Park Nature Center** and almost always, I find my listeners amazed by beekeeping. I never tire of sharing "short course" facts and "getting stumped" by questions such as do bees sleep??

Shortly after moving to Prince George's County from Montgomery County in 1979, my wife and I started the improvement and expansion of our little acre by creating gardens and natural habitats for all wildlife. After we completed the beekeeper course given by a master beekeeper in Calverton in 1980, we began our personal adventure. Thanks to **Harold Lieberman of Free State Bees**, and his successors, several commercial family run bee farms and **Snyder's Apiaries**, we have done our best over the years to manage our honeybees and hopefully collect a golden harvest. The year round cycle of honeybees is so incredible!! On many a summer

afternoon, I've sat by my hives and watched and listened to the gentle hum of the coming and going of the foragers bringing in nectar and pollen. At about 4:30pm, I watch those drones coming in after spending a day "hanging out". The sweet smell of the hive is intoxicating. It was not unusual for me to get so relaxed I would get sleepy. I am certain the entrance guard bees recognized me!!

Then September would come around ... uh, oh drones; the easy summer life is over!! Goodbye!! Autumn and winter months were watchful times especially during extreme cold, snow storms and breaks in the weather. Always hoping that all was well inside the hives...was the Queen safe and the workers?? Only a gentle knock on a safe day would indicate a gentle "up-buzz" in the cluster. Phew!! In the heavy winter snows of 2009 and 2010, I worked my snow thrower out to the hives to make sure the entrances were all clear. In that heavy snow, my bamboo grove bent around the hives, creating a protective green snow cave!! When the weather warmed up, my bees ascended and descended vertically and then flew around!! Amazing!!

In this Olympic season, I think about spring bee package installation. As I place the queen and her court into the hive, the remaining workers "march-in" via the front entrance. How amazing is that?! Thousands of my golden girls, eager to begin their work. Well, I have *droned* on enough. Let's continue to share our love of and amazing stories of these beautiful creatures!!

## The Killing of Our Bees

*By Michael DeNardo*

The practice of chemically treating our bees goes against the laws of nature, making the bees genetically inferior by eradicating the bees that can adapt to the changes in nature. Beekeepers complain about the use of pesticides and herbicides but they have little or no knowledge of the chemicals they use and promote. We should stop promoting this practice in our classes. Unfortunately, when an inexperienced beekeeper hears experienced beekeepers speak, the inexperienced beekeeper will take their word as gospel. As everyone knows, if there are ten different beekeepers, there can be ten different theories about beekeeping. Research reveals that up to 80% of the bees in a hive can be killed by the use of chemicals, according to the drug companies. In addition, the testing of the chemicals



by the drug companies is very faulty and selective, and the FDA has a poor oversight record in monitoring the testing results and improving drugs for safety. One example is Vioxx™, manufactured by Merrick and Co., approved by the FDA, which killed 27,000 people\*. Whenever there is a heavily financed interest in a certain outcome, biased results, corruption, and fraud must be accepted. Stanford professor **Paul Ioannidis**\*\* concurs with these doubts on the validity of research in his highly esteemed research paper: "Since funders get to review the proposed research methods and specify the process and exclusion criteria prior to granting funds, the results will be stacked in the funder's favor."\*\*\* We as beekeepers are custodians of the bees and have a responsibility to protect them from harm and to be one with nature in our bee classes and beekeeping practices.

The new beekeepers need not use chemicals at all; like most of us, they are not knowledgeable of the long-term effects of the chemicals on the beekeepers, their families, and their world. Any element that kills one species may over time kill another. The time is ripe for a discussion and a vote on how **BUMBA** can best advocate for healthy bee keeping for the bees and the beekeepers. Of course, there are many commercial beekeepers among us who may invest the time to research the chemicals they use; however, most beekeepers do not make the effort nor do they school themselves in the pros and cons of the use of chemicals for the bees.

This is the day **BUMBA** should promote and raise nucs in larger numbers. This practice would bring the price down to a competitive level with packaged bees. The raising of local nucs will help with the demand for local healthy bees, and this practice could lead to the start of a coop for the raising of nucs with some beekeepers investing time and others investing money in the development of local healthy nucs. Finally, we should also consider using local and northern bees, as we all know the current problems existing with buying of southern bees.

*\*{Editor's note: Vioxx™ is the trade name for rofecoxib, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory pain killer. The FDA order the drug to be recalled in 2004. On October 6, 2004, NBC News reported the FDA estimated 27,785 people died of heart attacks from using Vioxx.}*

*\*\* {Dr. John P. A. Ioannidis, MD, DSc, Stanford Medicine, Professor Health and Research Policy}*

*\*\*\*{Ed. note: "Why Most Published Research Findings Are False",  
by John P. A. Ioannidis,*

*<http://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.0020124>;*

*FREE STATE Bee Supply*

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**Phone: 410-923-9800 (store); 443-336-1411 (cell)**

**Email: [dedelmann30@gmail.com](mailto:dedelmann30@gmail.com)**

Call or email if you have any questions.

Store hours M-S 9-6PM, Sun 9-5PM

As always, thank you for your continued support!

Delia Edelmann

## BEES IN THE NEWS

### ***U.S. Adds Seven Types of Bees to Endangered Species List for First Time***

by *REUTERS*

Seven types of bees once found in abundance in Hawaii but now facing extinction on Friday became the first bees to be added to the federal list of endangered and threatened species, according to U.S. wildlife managers.

The listing decision, published on Friday in the Federal Register, classifies seven varieties of yellow-faced or masked bees as endangered, due to such factors as habitat loss, wildfires and the invasion of nonnative plants and insects.

The bees, so named for yellow-to-white facial markings, once crowded Hawaii and Maui but recent surveys found their populations have plunged in the same fashion as other types of wild bees — and some commercial ones — elsewhere in the United States, federal wildlife managers said.

## American Bee Journal “Extra”

### ***US Winter Forecast: Frequent Snow to Blast Northeast; Freeze May Damage Citrus Crop in South***

From <http://www.coloss.org>

*AccuWeather expects above-normal snow for Maryland.*

Frequent storms to bring above-normal snowfall to northeastern US. Frequent storms across the northeastern U.S. this winter may lead to an above-normal season for snowfall. "I think the Northeast is going to see more than just a few, maybe several, systems in the course of the season," **AccuWeather** Long-Range Forecaster **Paul Pastelok** said. Unlike last season, in which most of winter's snowfall came from a few heavy-hitting storms, this winter will last into the early or middle part of spring and will feature frequent snow events. According to Pastelok, accumulation may be limited in areas south of New York City, such as Philadelphia, **D.C.** and **Baltimore**. These areas will see a handful of changeover systems, where

falling snow transitions to rain and sleet.

## Bee Culture “Catch the Buzz

### ***Golden Goose Award Goes to Scientists Model Web Hosting after Bee Foraging***

Internet users have the honey bees and the research team that studied them to thank the next time a webpage loads up smoothly.

Five scientists mapped the complex system honey bee colonies apply when foraging for nectar to feed the colony, and transformed the bees' procedures into a mathematical tool that now streamlines internet services across the globe.

The work has earned the scientists – four **Georgia Tech** engineers, and a Cornell University biologist – the Golden Goose Award, which recognizes federally funded basic research that has had significant impact, according to a 14 Sept. announcement by AAAS and the other organizations that established the award.

The research of honey bee foraging behaviors led to the development of the “Honey Bee Algorithm” (read the story here [www.goldengooseaward.org/awardees/honey-bee-algorithm](http://www.goldengooseaward.org/awardees/honey-bee-algorithm)) that major web-hosting companies are using to keep internet services running efficiently – an innovation that has increased revenues for the companies in a global market worth more than \$50 billion.

**John J. Bartholdi III, Sunil Nakrani, Thomas D. Seeley, Craig A. Tovey, and John Hagood Vande Vate** will be formally presented the award along with two other teams at the fifth annual Golden Goose ceremony at the **Library of Congress** on Sept. 22. The recipients of the two other awards were announced earlier this year.

So the next time you load up a webpage on your phone or laptop, you can thank the honey bees, and a team of federally funded researchers who let curiosity be their guide.

Read the rest of the article [HERE](#).

## 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!

### ***BUMBA Honey Extractor Use, 2016***

This is a short note to bring the members up to date on the extractor activity for 2016. To date there have been 9 borrowers of the extractor rig "BUMBA # 2. There have been no breakdowns or damage to the equipment and everything is in good working order. All the borrowers have been punctual with pickup and return dates so there have been no fines or deductions from security deposits.

*Respectfully submitted by Gerry Jones, Equipment Manager*

### **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**

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.

**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

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**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 **2016 BUMBA** Calendar:

- August 4, 7:30PM, BUMBA Mtg.
- October 6, 7:30PM, BUMBA Mtg.
- October 29, 9 AM, MSBA Honey Judging Class
- November 12, 9:30 AM, MSBA Fall Meeting, Honey Show & Elections, MDA HQ, Annapolis
- December 1, 6:00PM, Holiday Party

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