



NEWSLETTER

Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association

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

Guest Speaker: Luke Goembel

"Seven Years from Two Packages"

Our guest speaker is **Dr. Luke Goembel**, of Baltimore. He started beekeeping as a hobby in 2009 with two packages of bees and has not bought (nor been given) a single queen, package or hive since. He has tried a number of different methods to reduce the stresses on his bees over the years and has averaged overwinter losses of only 12%. Among his techniques is an oil-trap bottom board of his own design to reduce small hive beetle population (winner of a blue ribbon at the 2016 Maryland State Fair) and an oxalic acid drip to reduce Varroa mite population. He is the author of "[Beekeeping Stakeholder](#)," in the December, 2016, **American Bee Journal** and is an advocate for pollinator protection.

Luke's presentation will detail the steps he takes to keep his bees, including home-made ant moats, a home-made beetle trapping bottom board, treating for Varroa with oxalic acid and thymol, etc. Videos in his presentation include hiving his original two packages, oxalic acid drip preparation and application, wax dipping woodenware and extracting with his homemade extractor.

Dr. Goembel received a Ph.D. in chemistry at the Johns Hopkins University. He worked for the National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council, the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory before founding his own aerospace business in 1997

The President's Smoker

Happy New Year! If you kept bees over winter, I hope your colonies are doing well and you continue to monitor their weight by hefting the colonies from the back. When in doubt, I like to keep a small shim and fondant on top of my colonies.

If you are a new member, or signed up for our Short Course, I would like to welcome you. Please plan on introducing yourself at our February meeting. I think you will find our members to be friendly and helpful. The **2017 Short Course will begin on February 16th** and take place every Thursday evening through March 23rd. Class begins promptly at 7 pm and we'll wrap up by 9:30. Class is held at **Watkins Park Nature Center** 301 Watkins Park Dr., Upper Marlboro, MD 20774. Our Field Day will be held on Saturday, April 8th at **Scott Seccomb's** apiary (more information to follow). If you haven't signed up, time is running out. As of this morning we have 1 slot remaining, with just a few applicants unpaid who may get bumped to the wait list. Registration for first family member is \$75 and includes a copy of **Diana Sammataro's** book "The Beekeeper's Handbook" (4th Edition). The price for additional family members is \$35 per person and includes field day lunch and handouts. Students must be at least 11 years old and students under 16 years must be accompanied by an adult family member. The fee also includes membership to **BUMBA** for all registrants in 2017.

2017 Short Course students will be eligible for TWO raffle prizes! This year we are raffling a full-size, double deep hive with a package of bees (installed at Field Day). The package is being donated by **Free State Bees**. The second prize will be a deep nucleus donated by **Woodcamp Farm**. Both prizes will be DEEP equipment, so you may want to consider this as you place your equipment orders. More information will be provided in class.

If you attended a prior year class, we invite you to attend any class(es) offered this year as space allows. Returning students should sit at the back of the class to allow ample space for 2017 students. We will be generating a sign-up sheet at the February meeting for members who can help with the Short Course, Short Course Field Day, Mentoring, and Refreshments committee.

I have just returned from **Grenada**, located in the West Indies. While there I worked with a Native Grenadian who is the largest nucleus producer on the island. I hope to share more about this trip in the future. I always enjoy learning more about how other people (and countries) keep bees and this experience did not disappoint!

I look forward to seeing you all at the February meeting! I have heard great things about our guest speaker and look forward to hearing his talk. It should inspire our incoming class and motivate returning beekeepers! I'll bring some Grenadian honey we extracted as well as a bottle of my own honey so we can compare the flavors.

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

Peace, Love and Bees -

Maggie Mills

Message from the VP

Tracy Velazquez

Bee Keeping

I recently found a 1935 book at an estate sale published by the National Geographic Society entitled "Our Insect Friends and Foes and Spiders." (I guess spiders can't be classified into friends and foes.) There is an excellent chapter on "**Man's Winged Ally, The Busy Honeybee.**" Written by **James I. Hambleton, Senior Apiculturist at the USDA** at the time, it is outstanding in terms of its descriptions of bee biology and behavior and beekeeping traditions through different times and cultures. There also some great pictures and illustrations. For those readers who are "newbees," as well as experienced 'keeps, here is an excerpt you'll find pertinent even 80 years later:

"The supposition that the keeper of bees has nothing to do but watch the honey and money roll in is fallacious. Keeping bees is a specialized job, and one must have an inherent love for them. A thorough knowledge of bee behavior, gained only through experience, is a primary requisite . . . There are plenty of griefs in connection with the business: the

loss of bees during the winter is heavy; diseases of bees take a large annual toll; and wax moths, which destroy the combs, cause further losses.”

Hambleton states that (in 1935 or thereabouts) there were around 800,000 beekeepers in the United States, producing about 100,000 tons of marketable honey. The **National Honey Board** (<https://www.honey.com/newsroom/press-kits/honey-industry-facts>) states that these days, there are around 100,000 – 125,000 beekeepers in the U.S. producing around 75,000 tons of honey. I wasn't surprised at the concentration of the industry into fewer producers – that's the story of agriculture for the past hundred years or so – but I was surprised that less honey is actually being produced. So congratulations for being part of a revival in beekeeping here in the U.S.!

The start of a new beekeeping season – which I feel like this newsletter marks – is a great time to make beekeeping resolutions. Here are a couple of suggestions for **keeping** bees in 2017:

1. **Keep** learning. In addition to BUMBA meetings, consider attending meetings of the Maryland state club and the Eastern Apiculture Society. Subscribe to a magazine. If you're looking for short “hit” of info and a way to break up your workday, consider watching the lunchtime “Kim & Jim Show” webinars. <http://www.beeeculture.com/kimandjimshow/>
2. **Keep** records. Whether you do this on a smartphone or a spiral bound notebook, you will appreciate being able to look back at when you did what to which hives.
3. **Keep** on top of things. Bees wait for no man (or woman). We all get busy with stuff outside the apiary. But bees are living things that have their own timetables. Don't check to make sure your bees still have something to eat now, and they may starve. Waiting until “next weekend” to look for swarm queen cells, and you could be looking into a pretty empty hive. And of course, putting off managing for varroa may mean the little buggers have gotten so far ahead of your bee population that there's nowhere to go for them but down.

4. And finally, **Keep** your senses of both humor and wonder. Things don't always go according to plan, but sometimes things go better than planned. Usually these even out. And watching the bees venturing out on some of the warm days we've had the past couple of weeks is such a joyful sight, reminding me that warmer and longer days are just around the corner. Crossed fingers for a successful 2017 spring nectar flow!

MSBA Winter Meeting

***Elections and Honey Show
February 11, 9:00AM – 4:30PM***

Howard County fair Grounds
Friendship, MD

www.mdbeekeepers.org

Featured Speaker: Dr. Larry Connor

The **Maryland State Beekeepers Association** will convene its 109th Annual Winter Meeting on February 11, 2017 at the Howard County Fairgrounds, MSBA, our busiest meeting of the year! Our meeting keynote will be **Dr. Larry Connor of Wicwas Press**, author and co-author of numerous books on beekeeping (most recently his “**Essentials of Beekeeping**” series) as well as article in the **American Bee Journal**, and **Bee Culture**. Vendors will also be present, as will lots of Maryland beekeepers seeking to compare notes about the season to date, and the year ahead. Please visit again soon for the meeting agenda! Doors open at 8AM and morning refreshments will be available.

DC Beekeepers' Alliance

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) 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.



EAS 2017

**University of Delaware
Newark, Delaware
July 31 to August 4**

*by Timothy McMahon
Maryland EAS Director*



Have you ever considered taking a “Beekeeping Vacation”? Well now is the time to make your plans as **EAS 2017** will be taking place at the **University of Delaware in Newark, DE**. EAS (Eastern Apiculture Society) is one of the largest non-commercial 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 will be held at the **University of Delaware in Newark, DE**, from **July 31 to August 4**. 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 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 time 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 here <http://www.easternapiculture.org/>.



I hope to see you there.

EAS 2018 is scheduled for Virginia. Come and join the fun!

*FREE STATE Bee Supply
Your local bee supply dealer*

Crownsville Gardens

1241 Generals Hwy, Crownsville, MD 21401

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

Email: 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

CLUB HAPPENINGS

BUMBA 2017 Short Course February 16 – March 23

The **2017 Short Course** will begin on **February 16th** and take place every Thursday evening through **March 23rd**. Class begins promptly at 7 PM and we'll wrap up by 9:30. Class is held at **Watkins Park Nature Center**, 301 Watkins Park Dr., Upper Marlboro, MD 20774. Our **Field Day** will be held on **Saturday, April 8th** at **Scott Seccomb's** apiary (more information to follow). If you haven't signed up, time is running out. As of this morning we have 1 slot remaining, with just a few applicants unpaid who may get bumped to the wait list. Registration for first family member is \$75 and includes a copy of **Diana Sammataro's** book "The Beekeeper's Handbook" (4th Edition). The price for additional family members is \$35 per person and includes field day lunch and handouts. Students must be at least 11 years old and students under 16 years must be accompanied by an adult family member. The fee also includes membership to **BUMBA** for all registrants in 2017.

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** anticipates a busy public events schedule in 2017. *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. You will meet interesting people, learn something new, be amazed at what you know and have learned in the beekeeping class. More information will be available soon as we confirm invitations. Please pick a date and time, sign up, put it on your calendar, and come have fun!

Zika Spraying, Bee Hive Deaths, and Bee Hive Registration

Responding to public health concerns over the Zika virus the **Maryland Department of Agriculture**, like it did in 2016, will probably take active steps intended to minimize the public health threat. This includes spraying mosquito control pesticides. **BUMBA** officers may (or may NOT) receive initial notices. **It is important to note that the MDA uses the Apiary Inspector's Office list of registered beekeepers to help mitigate potential harm to your bee hives.** It is important that your hives are registered (at no cost!) with the Md. Office of Apiary Inspection.

According to a January 13, 2017, *Bee Culture*, "**Catch the Buzz**" article, "Millions of Bees Dead after Spraying for Zika Virus", *numerous hives in South Carolina were killed in late December* as the result of spraying the pesticide **Naled** from an airplane, instead ground spraying. In one apiary, 42 hives were killed. Unseasonably warm temperatures of 90 degrees contributed to high numbers of bees being exposed to the pesticide. Naled is fatal to mosquitos on contact and *is also highly toxic to honey bees.*

Contact Cybil Preston, Office of Apiary Inspection,
Md. Dept. of Ag., 50 Harry S. Truman Pkwy, Annapolis MD 21401
(410) 841-5920, cybil.preston@maryland.gov

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?

“Inside the Box”

Package Bees – vs – Nucs

*By Bob Greenwell
BUMBA Past president*

Package Bees

One method of obtaining bees to start a new colony or restart a winter lost colony is by buying a “package” of bees. Loose bees are shaken from commercial hives into screened transport cages that contain 2, 3, or 4 lbs. of worker bees, along with a newly mated queen in a separate cage, and a can of sugar syrup to keep them nourished for a few days while in transport. These bees are shaken from a great number of commercial production hives through a funnel and into the screened cage that is sitting on a scale to determine the weight. The bees are from mixed hives, are of mixed ages, from one day old to six weeks old. The new caged queen placed in the package is unrelated to the bees in the package and must be introduced to the hive in the small cage she is travelling in via a slow release candy plug in one end. These queens were mated in tiny mating nucs, and usually caged as soon as they start laying, or possibly...when the package supplier “thinks” the queen should have started laying.

There has seemed to be a trend in recent years for these southern package queens to suffer a great deal from getting superceded, most likely from not being well mated due to the early spring weather conditions that prevail just when all the beekeepers up north want those packages in early April. The southern commercial package suppliers are trying to fulfill an ever increasing demand for early spring packages, and another problem that persists with packages is that they are so highly dependent on favorable weather conditions, that they can sometimes be very late to arrive. In some recent years, many locally ordered packages were impossibly late arriving,

being delivered as late as the end of June...too late to successfully start new hives from package bees and expect them to overwinter. Costs have also risen sharply, along with shortages due to the rising demand for package bees.

Still package bees have for many decades been a favored way to populate a new colony, and still serve as the number one method for new beekeepers to start that new colony. They allow the newbee to get their skills honed at a more modest pace while they grow in experience along with the slower pace of a new package started on bare foundation, but without expectation of harvesting honey the first year. There is little concern for disease, though a package may contain hive beetles and probably mites. A package also works well to repopulate a winter-lost hive where they can be started on “drawn” combs, and can be expected to yield a decent honey crop oftentimes. They can fill the need for starting a top bar or Warre hive where loose shaken bees are about the only option for a start-up.

And another factor with package bees is that as of this date, they can still be shipped directly to one’s door, which can be a real boon for severely rural beekeepers. Packages can still be had at lower cost than buying established hives or a nucleus colony. The 3 lb. size package is the best fit for starting a new hive on bare foundation. The 2lb. package is okay for starting an observation hive, but is a little too small in numbers of workers to begin in an empty hive of bare foundation. The 4 lb. package is more an example of the “bigger is better” syndrome, but really doesn’t offer any advantage over the 3 lb. package because of the mortality rate of the workers vs. the proficiency of the new queen. A 3 lb. package of bees will have roughly 10,000 workers and a queen. These workers will be of various ages and will begin dying off and declining in numbers over the next 4-5 weeks. The new queen will be released by the workers chewing through the candy plug in her cage in 2-5 days. She will begin laying eggs in 2-5 days after she is released, provided she was mated before being caged. She will begin laying only a couple hundred eggs a day gradually laying more prolifically over the next couple of weeks until she gets up to her normal production of 1500 eggs per day or more. The first few hundreds of eggs she lays will not begin to emerge as new replacement bees for 21 days.

For the first 4 weeks or so the new hive will steadily decline in population. It is not until about the 6th week that the population finally stabilizes, and begins to build up and increase. As long as the queen is not superceded and the beekeeper keeps feeding 1:1 sugar syrup, the hive

should continue to build up over the course of the spring & summer. All the while, during those first 6 weeks, that ever declining population of original workers had to forage for nectar and pollen, secrete wax and draw comb from the foundation for the queen to have a place to lay eggs, feed the ever growing brood nest, and keep the brood warm in the cooler springtime temperatures. This is a vast achievement, and it amazes me that we ever get a package started at all. Well, we probably wouldn't, if we failed to constantly feed the new hive sugar syrup, right up until they have drawn out all of their brood frames, and also stored away 80 lbs. of honey and/or heavy syrup to get them through their first winter.

Nucleus Hive, or Nuc for short

A nuc is most commonly offered in 4 or 5 frame size. They are offered predominantly grown on deep frames, though there are a few producers that have recently begun offering nucs in medium depth frames as well. A nuc is exceedingly easy to install, and there is no concern of it absconding as can sometimes happen with a package. The queen is already accepted and proven by her brood pattern which is readily visible. A nuc is usually able to sustain itself and build up on the nectar flow to the point that feeding is usually minimal. A nuc is a small, "complete", and self-sustaining hive, with a queen that is already laying eggs and usually the mother of most, if not all of the workers in the hive. There will be brood in all stages of development, including eggs, larvae, capped pupae and newly emerging adult bees. The age of the worker population in the hive will be "balanced", and the worker force will be economically dispersed as nurse bees, house bees, heater bees, undertaker bees, guard bees, and forager bees. The population in the nuc will be building and increasing daily, right from the moment it is placed in its new home.

A 5 frame nuc will have roughly an equivalent amount of workers as a 3lb. package would on day one, but ever increasing as opposed to the decreasing population of a package. There will be from 2-4 frames of brood in all stages, and 1-2 frames of stored nectar, honey, and pollen. At least 4 of the frames will be drawn out to comb, with the 5th frame drawn or being drawn in earnest. A good strong nuc will seem to be boiling over with bees, and will be ready for immediate transfer into full size equipment. A good strong nuc can be considered to be at least 4-6 weeks ahead of a package from the first day if they were installed on the same day in your hives. In other words, it would have taken a package a minimum of 4-6 weeks to achieve a similar stage of development. While no one's goal should be to

try and harvest honey from a first year hive, often times a good nuc will build to the point that one might hope to achieve a little honey to sweeten their kitchen, particularly if hived on drawn frames.

Nucs are most often a product of local producers and hobbyists, and the queen and bees will be acclimated to the local climate, and therefore be more likely to overwinter favorably. When buying a nuc from a local supplier, one may benefit from meeting and getting to know the local producer, and hopefully be able to get help and advice such as might not be otherwise available. Some commercial operations generate nucs in the south, or out west, and truck them north to various drop points, selling through a local broker in your area. These are usually splits from hives coming back out of the almonds, with new queens, and often culled frames. They are not necessarily a bad buy and the price may be attractive, but be certain of what you are getting for your money. Again, getting to know your local nuc producers and asking questions of them can be your best route to obtaining healthful bees to start or repopulate your apiary.

I plan to write a future article on nucs and what exactly they are or should be. Nucs represent a considerable investment in time and equipment for the producer, and so they usually cost more than a package. There are never enough locally produced northern nucs to meet the demand, and so ordering early is a must, while at the same time reputable producers are hesitant to accept orders too early due to the nuc production being totally dependent on the climate during the winter and the spring weather conditions. Locally produced northern nucs are not ready as early as the packages or transport nucs from the south can be had, though generally they are available in May during the height of the nectar flow and will expand and grow explosively.

The nuc may not be supplied in a transport container, or the container might cost extra, or have to be returned to the producer requiring an extra trip. Some producers require you to bring your own nuc box or hive, bottom board, and inner cover, all properly screened and fastened together for transport. Some will provide a nuc container that can be re-used and makes a great item to have on hand for capturing a swarm.

There is a greater chance of disease or parasites being present in a nuc due to the fact that there are frames of brood included. Nuc producers in Maryland are required to have the hives from which spring nucs are split, and all overwintered nucs for sale, inspected in the spring by the state apiary inspector. Upon a clean inspection, the inspector will issue the

producer health tags to accompany the sale of the nucs. Ask your supplier for the certification sticker if it is not attached to the nuc you are purchasing.

A nuc will not always contain brand new freshly drawn frames, but the producer should not be using the sale of nucs as a dumping ground for all his old culled frames either. Still, a good rule of thumb is to remember that it is not the frames themselves that you are paying good money for, but rather, the brood contained within them. Two or three year old frames that are wall-to-wall with solid capped brood are very acceptable when selecting a nuc. On the other hand you should not be receiving junk frames, broken up and falling apart or very old misshapen/black colored wax. If the producer has placed a questionable frame in the nuc by reason of the brood or stores it contains, he should perhaps call it to the purchasers attention, though oftentimes nucs are picked up without opening and inspecting to minimize loss through flight of some of the bees. Again, buying local and maintaining a dialog between producer and purchaser can resolve many issues not readily resolved when buying from a stopover depot.

While installation of a nuc is exceedingly easy for the new beekeeper, the rapid expansion in population can be intimidating, and failure to remain ahead of the colony as it expands and becomes crowded will end up causing a swarm before the new beek recognizes the symptoms. If the newbee is aware of this, and stays ahead of the colony, a nuc is a fantastic way to begin a new colony.

In Summary

Starting with a nuc or a package is, in either case, a viable method to begin a new hive. There is always the chance of attracting or catching and hiving a free swarm, but the opportunities are limited compared to what they were in the past, and with the possibility of Africanized bees moving northward, there may come a time when it will not be a favorable method of starting hives in our area any longer. There is a good deal of information concerning the pros and cons of a nuc vs a package on line, and Googling package bees vs. nucs will get you started if you wish to research further.

The above information is largely based on my opinion, as formed by facts as I know them. I am a beekeeper, but also a nuc producer, and lean toward starting with a nuc. You may find that in talking with a package producer, that he/she will lean toward starting with a package. By all means, start a new hive both ways at some point, or even side by side the first year

for the comparative experience. Then, you may judge for yourself.

Citizen Scientists

By David Morris

The Washington Post, on January 29, ran an article by **Deborah Blum**, titled “Have a scientific passion? Become a citizen scientist” . The article is a book review in the Science section of the Post. The book reviewed is “Citizen Science, How Ordinary People Are Changing the Face of Discovery”. **Deborah Blum** is the director of the Knight Science Journalism Program at MIT.

The article also mentions some other, recent, books; “Diary of a Citizen Scientist” by **Sharman Russell**; “Be the Change: Saving the World With Citizen Science” by **Chandra Clarke**; “The Rightful Place of Science: Citizen Science” by **Darlene Cavalier and Eric Kennedy**”.

The review opens with a personal experience of the author, helping her father study the mating chemistry of honey bees. As a teenager engaged in helping her father, she stood in a cloud of drones swirling around her as she held a vial of queen pheromones. “Don’t worry”, he shouted, “drones don’t sting!” She cites numerous “citizen scientists”. One such person, **Anton von Leeuwenhoek**, an early hero of my own, ground his own microscope lenses and was the first to describe single cell organisms he found in water, was a cloth merchant.

Today, what does that mean, what opportunities are there today for citizen scientists? When I was in college I met a young girl, the younger sister of a friend, who as a high school student was helping a doctoral student study the life cycle of a particular small creature found in the Georgia saw grass coastal marshes. She became the world’s second foremost authority on this creature. I don’t know what impact it had on her future life, but at that time she was a citizen scientist.

As a beekeeper I relish meetings where honey bee researchers come to meetings and beekeepers in the audience provide observations that scientists can’t explain. I love to see beekeepers and scientists huddled in intense conversations about what is happening in beekeeping, both asking questions of each other. These eminent scholars have left with thoughts of new experiments that need to be run to better understand what is being observed.

Randy Oliver is an outstanding example of the citizen scientist. He has

a personal stake in what he does, but he is not a paid scientist. He is a scientific beekeeper. Read his work at www.scientificbeekeeping.com.

Even closer to home, I write this to commend **BUMBA** members **Maggie Mills** and **Nikki Thompson** for their own work as citizen scientists. **Maggie** participated in the **Sentinel Hive Project**, part of the **Honey Bee Health Coalition**, for several years. This required monthly measurements and sampling of eight or more hives. Every month, I think for three years, she recorded her measurements and provided them to the ongoing studies at the **University of Maryland**. You can thank Maggie for some of the outcomes of the scientific studies and recommendations coming from the College Park.

Nikki Thompson has taken the time to learn how to identify the “forgotten pollinators”, the solitary and semi-social bees and bumble bees and has taken part in census counts of the populations of these important native pollinators.

No one paid Maggie or Nikki. They did this because they became very interested a particular topics (non-beekeepers might say a “peculiar” topic), beekeeping and pollination. They wanted to learn more. They wanted to participate more. And they wanted to provide more back to the community. And they did.

Citizen Science is alive and well and the opportunities abound, if you open your eyes to it. Beekeepers happen to be participating in a vast scientific experiment right now, many not even realizing it: how to survive and overcome Varroa mites. Who knows, there just might be a **BUMBA** member or two who just might observe something that could turn a corner.

Think about it.

BEES IN THE NEWS

HOUSE BILL 177

Killing or Wounding Black Bears – Penalties – Exemption for Protection of Bee Colonies

During the January 27 **Maryland State Beekeepers Assoc.** Board meeting, it was reported that a Bill has been introduced in the State House to permit beekeepers to kill a black bear that is in the act of destroying a honey bee colony on the hive owner’s property.

Several important points were made while discussing this Bill. The Bill does not clearly exclude feral hives on an owner’s property. The Bill does not appear to allow a beekeeper to kill a bear attacking a hive placed on someone else’s property, e.g. for pollination or honey production. The discussion also raised the distinction that the **Maryland Dept. of Agriculture** classifies honey bees as *livestock*; but, the **Md. Dept. of Natural Resources** does NOT classify honey bees as livestock. The importance of that distinction, and the motivation for this Bill, is that the Md. DNR only allows killing of bears for the protection people and *livestock*. Since the DNR does not classify honey bee hives as *livestock*, they cannot be protected from by killing a bear destroying a hive.

A hearing on the Bill will be held on **February 15**, in **Annapolis**. For further information contact **Ben Cooper, MSBA Allegany County VP**, at (814) 324-4550, or **Marc Hoffman, MSBA Montgomery VP**, at wildwoodflower@gmail.com

Excerpts of House Bill 177 are provided below:

FOR the purpose of exempting an individual who kills or wounds a black bear in defense of the life of a bee in a bee colony from certain penalties; and generally relating to penalties for killing or wounding a black bear.

(a) Any penalty imposed under this section does not apply to an individual who kills or wounds a black bear in defense of

the individual's own life, the lives of other individuals, or the lives of animals, **INCLUDING BEES IN A BEE COLONY**, on the individual's property.

CLUB PROGRAMS

BUMBA has initiated several programs over the years *and we are always looking for members' assistance*. For more information about a program please contact an officer.

BUMBA Extractor for members' use

BUMBA now has two honey extractors for members to use. The extractor managers are **Gerry Jones** in Mitchellville (gejones486@verizon.net, 301-577-1365) and **David Clark** in Dunkirk (dadicl.clark@gmail.com, 443-871-0494, seven days a week from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm). Each has a complete set of equipment. The Board has established an extractor agreement, rules, and cleaning instructions. Copies are available from the managers. To reserve the equipment, call the manager, bring a \$50 refundable deposit (cash or check upon pickup), and sign the use agreement and inventory form. Please be sure to read what you are signing©. The first 4 days are free!

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.

Sentinel Hive Project

In the past, **BUMBA** has participated in the **Bee Informed Sentinel Hive Project**. This is an ambitious undertaking with the University of Maryland 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 to participate locally in a significant, national scientific study of apicultural science. Contact **Maggie Mills** (contact info on back page) for more information.

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
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Sec'y	Debby Heyes	301-855-0071	dbheyas@comcast.net
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P.G. Inspector	Gregg Gochnour	301-261-8106 x5920	
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MSBA Pres.	Allen Hayes	410-489-2835	Thehayeshouse4@aol.com
P.G. MSBA VP	David Morris	301-725-6185	beefriend@verizon.net

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

**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 **2017 BUMBA** Calendar:
February 2, 7:30PM, **BUMBA** Mtg.
February 16 & 23, 7:00PM, Short Course
February 11 **MSBA**, Ho. Co. Fair Grounds
March 2, 9 16 & 23, 7:00PM, Short Course
April 6, 7:30PM, **BUMBA** Mtg.
April 8, Saturday Field Day
June 1, 7:30PM, **BUMBA** Mtg.
June (17?), **MSBA** Summer Mtg
July 31- Aug 4, **EAS**, U. of Del, Newark, DE.
August 3, 7:30PM, **BUMBA** Mtg.
October 5, 7:30PM, **BUMBA** Mtg.
November 4, 9AM **MSBA** Fall Mtg/Honey Show
December 7, 6:00PM, **BUMBA** Holiday Party