



# NEWSLETTER

## Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association

August, 2017

Volume 37 No. 4

*Published Bi-Monthly since 1980*

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

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**Next BUMBA Meeting: Thursday, August 3, 7:30 PM**  
**Watkins Park Nature Center**

## Guest Speaker: Gerry Jones on Mead

### Making Mead from your Honey

We are thrilled to have **BUMBA** member **Gerry Jones** as our August speaker. Those of you who have attended our Field Day or Holiday Party may have had the good fortune of tasting Gerry's delicious mead. For our August meeting, Gerry will give us an overview on the process of turning the slow liquid gold of honey into the faster liquid gold of mead. According to Gerry, "mead making can be as simple as making a cake or as complicated as can be . . . depending on your level of interest."

Gerry has been making wine off and on in one form or another for 50 years. This is Gerry's 11th season of beekeeping; over this span of time, he has been actively introducing favorable genetics into his bee stock. He is on track to get over 1,000 pounds of honey this year, which would translate into, technically speaking, a **WHOLE LOT** of mead. Please come ready for a fun and casual discussion on how to make this medieval but hip beverage.

### Bonus Meeting Event: Member Honey Tasting

August marks the end – or near-to-end – of the annual Maryland honey harvest. To celebrate another year in the bee yards, we will have a Member Honey Tasting at the August meeting. If you feel you can spare a pound of honey, please bring it, preferably in a plastic squeeze bottle. Our VP Tracy will provide a box of tiny tasting spoons and notepads where you (as the taster) can jot down your thoughts on each honey. (Think wine magazine reviews: "Hints of melon with grassy undertones.") This is NOT a judging, just a chance to sample your fellow beekeeper's bounty. If you ARE interested in competitively entering honey into the **Maryland State Fair** (Aug 24 – Sept 4) or the **Maryland State Beekeepers Assoc. Honey Show** (Nov. 4), **David Morris** will provide some tips on what judges DO look for in a blue ribbon jar of honey!

# The President's Smoker

Happy Spring!

I hope this bee season has been productive and rewarding for you all. The main nectar flow has ended, although my bees continue to forage on late blooming floral sources. During a recent storm I had a 5 box nuc tip over (I am out of full-size equipment). The top box was robbed out in a matter of hours, but the colony was plenty strong and will recover. This is definitely a recommendation to install robbing screens on your colonies. It's also a good time to do alcohol washes to determine mite loads. Beekeepers should place orders and make a plan for *Varroa* treatments. Please remember it is unlikely to see *Varroa* mites on your bees and your colony could look robust and healthy even with heavy mite loads. If you are a first year beekeeper, you must do your homework and be prepared to administer treatment if you want to get your bees through their first winter. In my experience, many new beekeepers report "strong" colonies in the Fall and decide not to administer treatments. Sadly, in October or November these colonies are discovered to have very few bees but plenty of honey stores and maybe even a little capped brood. These beekeepers believe their bees "absconded". Unfortunately, this scenario is representative of a *Varroa* infestation. For more on this, I recommend the following articles: <https://honeybeesuite.com/did-they-abscond-or-die-from-varroa/>, and by our own, **Toni Burnham** at [www.bee-culture.com/downtown-3/](http://www.bee-culture.com/downtown-3/).

As a **Certified Naturally Grown** producer [www.cngfarming.org](http://www.cngfarming.org) I only use soft chemical treatments such as **Mite Away Quick Strips** (MAQs). Personally, I do a half dose after experiencing queen failures with the full dose. I also like **API-Life Var**, although I'm not thrilled about the 3 week treatment cycle so I have moved to MAQs. I plan to use an oxalic acid vaporizer on my colonies in early/mid-winter. I know some beekeepers are vaporizing now though. Please, *do your research, follow label instructions, and wear personal protective gear.*

It was a wonderful season for my bees. I aggressively split colonies beginning in late March at the first sign of swarming behavior. This strategy reduces my honey harvest, but has been proven to limit the number of swarms cast in my urban neighborhood just outside the D.C. line. The bees benefitted from a wonderful nectar flow and I found myself struggling to

find enough equipment to give everyone enough space! I did my first harvest in late June and plan to finish harvesting the remaining supers in August or early September. (I'd do it now, but my schedule won't allow it!)

The **Eastern Apiculture Society** meeting will be held the first week in August nearby in Newark, Delaware. I encourage all of you to attend! If you have never attended, I think the first 3 days would be most beneficial as there are a number of short course options with a variety of tracks. For more information, please visit: <http://www.easternapiculture.org/conferences/eas-2017.html>.

I look forward to seeing you all at a future meeting and/or EAS in Delaware!

Peace, Love and Bees -

*Maggie Mills*

## Message from the VP

*Tracy Velazquez*

### Is Honey Vegan?

My sixteen-year-old daughter decided to go vegan this summer. No, I don't know why, and I don't think she does either. While her dad and I didn't join her in this dietary adventure, we did try to make eating healthier a goal of ours as well. As a result, I've dropped a couple of pounds and acquired baking skills in case cows and chickens ever become extinct and milk and eggs cease to exist.

Why do I bring this up in my **BUMBA** column? Because many vegans – perhaps most vegans – don't eat honey.

As my daughter's love for honey is one of the reasons I got into keeping bees in the first place, I was pretty sure how she was going to come down on this. Honey was staying; how else to eat an unbuttered biscuit made with rice "milk," after all? In her mind – as in mine – honey is not made out of animals. Certainly not in the way a hamburger is, or even an omelet. It is, as far as I'm concerned, made by animals. It is primarily made out of plants. Nectar from a gazillion flowers, to be exact.

The National Honey Board is fairly vague about how this transformation from nectar to honey transpires: "Honey starts as flower

nectar collected by bees, which gets broken down into simple sugars stored inside the honeycomb. The design of the honeycomb and constant fanning of the bees' wings causes evaporation, creating sweet liquid honey.” [www.honey.com/about-honey/how-honey-is-made]

Our friends at Wikipedia provide a little more scientific (and perhaps less appetizing) detail: “Leaving the hive, foraging bees collect sugar-rich flower nectar and return to the hive where they use their "honey stomachs" to ingest and regurgitate the nectar repeatedly until it is partially digested...it is then placed in honeycomb cells left unsealed while still high in water content and natural yeasts, which, unchecked, would cause the sugars in the newly formed honey to ferment. The process continues as hive bees flutter their wings constantly to circulate air and evaporate water from the honey to a [sugar - editor] content around 18%, raising the sugar concentration, and preventing fermentation. The bees then cap the cells with wax to seal them.” [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honey]

Does the fact that bee digestive enzymes mix with the nectar make honey an animal product? I don't think so. (If that were the case, one could argue that yeast, being a “not-plant,” also makes leavened bread non-vegan.) And honestly, I don't think that most vegans who refuse to eat honey generally know that much about the biochemistry of honey. It is more of a moral/ethical issue. Take this passage from [www.yourdailyvegan.com](http://www.yourdailyvegan.com): “Vegans avoid honey and bee products because they are made from the lives of bees...beekeeping is nothing more than another form of factory farming...consuming honey is not only detrimental to bees, it's detrimental to the environment, and has dangerous consequences to our own food supply... And honey is tested on animals such as cats and dogs, among others.”

My pets can only dream of having honey “tested” on them, particularly at mealtime.

And, as far as I can tell, to be a “card carrying” vegan, you must have a container of almond milk in your fridge. (It does make a nice substitute for dairy milk in muffins and coffee.) As most beekeepers know, California's almond crop is most definitely dependent on “the lives of bees;” its success is due to their pollination. And applesauce, which often stands in for animal-based moisture in cakes and other baked goods, comes from apples,

which also rely on bees for pollination. Those healthy “superfoods,” blueberries? Also a product of the lives of bees.

Which is not to say that the author of the vegan website post doesn't have a point. Anyone who has watched the 2012 documentary “More than Honey” knows that large scale commercial beekeeping commoditizes bees in a way that, for me, as a backyard beekeeper anyway, is uncomfortable. I cringe when I hear that bees are taken to orchards for pollination, knowing many will die from pesticides being applied at the same time they are pollinating. Heck, I feel guilty when I accidentally squish a bee when putting a box back in place.

Some vegans may always see honey as a product of human's oppression of animals. But I believe that for many vegans, consuming local honey from small producers such as ourselves is a compromise they can and should consider. If they buy their honey direct from a nearby beekeeper, they can ask about his or her beekeeping practices. Most people would likely be surprised to learn how far their local beekeeper goes to try to keep their bees healthy and free from harm. By talking with beekeepers, they also can learn about the role bees play in producing all the other fruit and vegetable crops that are the mainstay of a vegan diet. And hopefully, they will come to see that, at least for backyard and small operators such as ourselves, beekeeping is really a mutually beneficial relationship between two species, that in many ways have come to depend on each other for survival. And get to enjoy sweet, delicious, natural honey on a piece of warm-from-the-oven vegan bread.

## ***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).





## EAS 2018

### Virginia

You can find out all about the current and future meetings of the Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS) at the EAS webpage [www.easternapiculture.org](http://www.easternapiculture.org). EAS 2018 is scheduled for Virginia. Come and join the fun!

*Timothy McMahon*  
Maryland EAS Director

## MSBA Fall Meeting

**Annual Elections and Honey Show**  
**November 4, 8:30AM – 4:30PM**

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

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

*Featured Speaker: TBD*

The **Maryland State Beekeepers Association** Fall Meeting will be held at the headquarters of the **Maryland Department of Agriculture**. The schedule will be announced soon.

The Fall meeting also is when **MSBA** holds **Annual Elections and Honey Show**. **MSBA** also provides very good premiums. The honey show rules and entry forms don't change much each year and the 2016 forms can be found at [www.mdbeekeepers.org/honeyshow.html](http://www.mdbeekeepers.org/honeyshow.html) and [www.mdbeekeepers.org/downloads/MSBA\\_Honey\\_Show\\_Entry\\_Form\\_2016.pdf](http://www.mdbeekeepers.org/downloads/MSBA_Honey_Show_Entry_Form_2016.pdf)

Doors open at 8AM and morning refreshments will be available. Check back with the MSBA website for future announcements.

## CLUB HAPPENINGS

### BUMBA Outreach Calendar

*Frank Fennell, Event Coordinator*  
*Bumba.Outreach@gmail.com*

Hello fellow apiarist! The 2017 **BUMBA** Outreach season has continued to provide valuable educational information to the public. We recently supported a STEM event for the **Bowie Public Library**. Over 40 children and their parents gained valuable knowledge about bees, pollinators, and how to be environmental stewards ("Say NO to Mosquito Joe") to support bees and other insects. All who attended agreed to become bee ambassadors; they raised their right hand and took the pledge "I promise to be nice to bees!". As a reward everyone received a nice spoonful of fresh honey. They all agreed it was the best they had ever tasted so I think we won a few converts. Again, many thanks to **Gerald Jones** for his support by providing the bees and the wonderful honey for all to enjoy!

The 2017 outreach season is slowly coming to an end but there is still time to participate. On **Saturday, September 16 from 11am - 3pm** we will be supporting the **Bowie Health Fair** located at **14999 Health Center Drive**, in Bowie ( off Rte. 197 just south of Rte. 50 north of Bowie Town Center). The focus will be on how bees and their products are beneficial and support human health. If you would like to support this event please contact me at [BUMBA.Outreach@gmail.com](mailto:BUMBA.Outreach@gmail.com).

THANK YOU!

## 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 or want to share?

### NOTICE:

#### ***First West Nile Virus-Positive Mosquito Pool of 2017 Confirmed***

#### **Treatment scheduled for *New Carrollton* area of Prince George's County**

*CONTACT: Julie Oberg, 410-841-5888  
Jason Schellhardt, 410-841-5889*

ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 28, 2017) – The Maryland Department of Agriculture has announced the first detection of a West Nile virus mosquito pool in Maryland in 2017. On July 28, the Maryland Department of Health confirmed the presence of West Nile virus in mosquitoes collected by department personnel in the New Carrollton area (Prince George's County) on July 18. Ultra-Low Volume (ULV) truck-based spraying to control adult mosquitoes is scheduled for the evening of **July 31 in New Carrollton** and the evening of **August 1 for the communities of Lanham Woods, Oakwood Knolls, Wildercroft, Kingswood/Good Luck Estates, Dresden Green, Martins Woods, and Chestnut Ridge**. The department's mosquito control personnel continue to work aggressively to reduce mosquito populations in these communities and across the state.

"We know that West Nile virus may be present throughout Maryland. It typically appears at this time in the summer, so we are not surprised with this positive finding," said **Secretary of Agriculture Joe Bartenfelder**. "The confirmation of virus-positive mosquitoes serves as a reminder to all residents to continue protecting themselves against mosquito bites and to conduct backyard mosquito control activities in addition to the department's routine surveillance and spray activities."

The department's **Mosquito Control Office**, in cooperation with the **Department of Health**, has been conducting surveillance activities

throughout the state to collect and test mosquitoes for **West Nile virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis** and several other mosquito-borne diseases. These diseases are endemic in Maryland and are transmitted through the bite of a mosquito. Approximately 20 percent of people infected with West Nile virus will develop West Nile fever, which is typically characterized by fever, headache, and body aches which can last for just a few days or as long as several weeks. Less than one percent of people bitten by a mosquito carrying West Nile virus will develop a more severe form of the disease. People most at risk for developing severe disease are those over 50 and those with already compromised immune systems.

While not all mosquitoes carry these diseases, the Maryland Department of Agriculture suggests that residents take precautions to minimize their exposure to mosquito bites. These measures include:

- Wear long, loose fitting, light colored clothing
- Wear insect repellents according to product labels
- Avoid mosquito infested areas during prime periods of activity (between dusk and dawn)
- Install, inspect, and repair window and door screens in homes and stables
- Regularly clean bird baths and bowls for pet food and water
- Remove or empty all water-holding containers

Currently there is no WNV vaccine for humans. There are, however, effective vaccines for horses, ostriches and emus – also known as ratites. Owners are encouraged to get their animals vaccinated and boosted in a timely manner in consultation with their veterinarian.

Dog owners are also urged to have their pets checked for heartworms, the most common disease transmitted by mosquitoes in Maryland. Dogs in all Maryland jurisdictions should be placed on a heartworm preventive program. Pet owners should consult with their veterinarians.

For more information about mosquito-borne diseases, contact your local health department. The following websites are available to provide additional information:

- [Maryland Department of Agriculture](#)
- [Maryland Department of Health](#)
- [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#)
- [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

# BEES IN THE NEWS



## Honey Bee Healthy Coalition and Bee Informed Partnership

### 2017 Mite-A-Thon!

September 9-16

Mite-A-Thon is a national effort to collect mite infestation data and to visualize *Varroa* infestations in honey bee colonies across North America within a one week window. All beekeepers will be asked to participate, creating a rich distribution of sampling sites in **Canada, the United States, and Mexico**. Their *Varroa* monitoring data will be uploaded to [www.mitecheck.com](http://www.mitecheck.com).

The parasitic mite, *Varroa destructor* (*Varroa*), and the viruses it vectors is a significant driver of this honey bee colony mortality. Yet, indicators suggest that many beekeepers are not monitoring honey bee colony *Varroa* infestations and therefore not able to connect infestation to colony loss.

#### OBJECTIVES:

1. To raise awareness about honey bee colony *Varroa* infestations in North America through effective monitoring methods.
2. Management strategies will be made available for discussion within bee organizations utilizing **Mite-A-Thon** partner developed information and outreach materials.

**DATE:** The week of September 9, 2017, with a practice test during summer 2017

**PARTICIPANTS:** All beekeepers are encouraged to participate

**COST:** There is no cost. You can create your own test materials or kits can be purchased online. Some scholarships are available ([js@pollinator.org](mailto:js@pollinator.org)).

**OUTREACH:** Promotion of **Mite-A-Thon** will be through local bee clubs, state beekeeping organizations, and national associations (see partners for examples)

**DATA COLLECTION:** Participants will monitor the level of mites (number of mites per 100 bees) using a standardized protocol utilizing two common methods of assessment (powdered sugar roll or alcohol wash) and then enter data, including location, total number of hives, number of hives tested, local habitat, and the number of *Varroa* mites counted from each hive. The published information will not identify individual participants.

**SPONSORS:** Sponsorships are being solicited to underwrite costs and grants, as necessary.

**CONTACT:** [Miteathon@pollinator.org](mailto:Miteathon@pollinator.org). 415-362-1137

**TO DO:** Determine your preferred method of testing for mites and commit to a day for testing, either individually or through beekeeping organizations, and report your data (see above).

Learn more and stay up to date at [www.pollinator.org/miteathon](http://www.pollinator.org/miteathon)

**BUMBA** encourages its members to participate.

For a current and informative guide for current control methods and *Varroa* testing instructions, get the guide “Tools for *Varroa* Management” at:

[http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/HBHC-Guide\\_Varroa\\_Mgmt\\_6thEd\\_7April2017\\_c.pdf](http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/HBHC-Guide_Varroa_Mgmt_6thEd_7April2017_c.pdf)

## American Bee Journal “Extra”

### **First Pan-European Field Study Show Neonicotinoid Pesticides Harm Honey Bees and Wild Bees**

*Centre for Ecology and Hydrology*  
29 June, 2017

Researchers from the **Centre for Ecology & Hydrology** (CEH) publish results of a large-scale, field-realistic experiment to assess neonicotinoid impacts on honeybees and wild bees across Europe, in the peer-review journal *Science* on 29 June 2017.

The experiment - undertaken in the UK, Germany and Hungary - exposed three bee species to winter oilseed rape crops treated with seed coatings containing neonicotinoid clothianidin, from Bayer CropScience, or Syngenta's thiamethoxam.

The researchers found that exposure to treated crops reduced overwintering success of honeybee colonies - a key measure of year-to-year

viability - in two of the three countries. In Hungary, colony numbers fell by 24 percent in the following spring. In the UK, honeybee colony survival was generally very low, but lowest where bees fed on clothianidin treated oilseed rape in the previous year.

No harmful effects on overwintering honeybees were found in Germany.

Lower reproductive success - reflected in queen number (bumblebees) and egg production (red mason bee) - was linked with increasing levels of neonicotinoid residues in the nests of wild bee species buff-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*) and the Red Mason Bee (*Osmia bicornis*) across all three countries.

According to the CEH lead author, **Dr Ben Woodcock**, "The neonicotinoids investigated caused a reduced capacity for all three bee species to establish new populations in the following year, at least in the UK and Hungary."

He suggests the differing impacts on honeybees between countries may be associated with interacting factors including the availability of alternative flowering resources for bees to feed on in the farmed landscape as well as general colony health, with Hungarian and UK honeybees tending to be more diseased.

In contrast, the hives in Germany happened to be larger, showed little evidence of disease and had access to a wider range of wild flowers to feed on. Dr. Woodcock suggests that this may explain why in this country alone there was no evidence of a negative effect of neonicotinoids on honeybees.

In Dr. Woodcock's view, "There may be opportunities to mitigate negative impacts of neonicotinoid exposure on bees through improved honeybee husbandry or availability of flowering plants for bees to feed on across non-cropped areas of the farmed landscape. Both these issues require further research.

He adds that, "The negative effects of neonicotinoids on wild bees may also be the result of diverse mechanisms of exposure that include persistent residues of neonicotinoids in arable systems due to their widespread and often very frequent use."

Co-author **Professor Richard Pywell**, Science Area Lead, Sustainable Land Management at the Centre of Ecology & Hydrology, said, "Neonicotinoids remain a highly contentious issue with previous research on both honeybees and wild bees inconclusive.

"This latest field study was designed, as far as possible, to reflect the real world due to its size and scope. We therefore believe it goes a considerable way to explaining the inconsistencies in the results of past research, as we were better able to account for natural variation in factors like exposure to the pesticide, bee food resources and bee health for different bee species.

"Our findings also raise important questions about the basis for regulatory testing of future pesticides."

**Bayer CropScience** and **Syngenta** funded the research assessing the impact of neonicotinoids on honeybees. The **Natural Environment Research Council** funded the analysis of the impact on the wild bees. The experiment, including design, monitoring and analysis, were scrutinized by an independent scientific advisory committee chaired by **Professor Bill Sutherland of Cambridge University**.

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### ***Exposure to Neonics Results in Early Death for Honeybee Workers and Queens, York Univ. Study***

*TORONTO, Thursday, June 29, 2017*

Worker and queen honeybees exposed to field realistic levels of neonicotinoids die sooner, reducing the health of the entire colony, a new study led by York University biologists has found.

The researchers were also surprised to find that the neonicotinoid contaminated pollen collected by the honeybees came not from crops grown from neonicotinoid treated seeds, but plants growing in areas adjacent to those crops.

The role of neonicotinoid insecticides in honeybee colony deaths in Ontario and other parts of North America has been controversial. Some critics dismissed studies that found negative effects on worker behavior and colony health as unrealistic, suggesting bees were exposed to higher doses of pesticides for much longer than realistically found in the field.

"This debate about field realistic exposure has been going on for a long time," said **York University** biology **Professor Amro Zayed** of the Faculty of Science. "We needed season-long monitoring of neonics in bee colonies to determine the typical exposure scenarios that occur in the field, which we have now done.

The research team studied honey bee colonies in five apiaries close to corn grown from neonicotinoid-treated seeds and six apiaries that were far

from agriculture. These colonies were extensively sampled and tested for pesticides from early May to September.

"Honeybee colonies near corn were exposed to neonicotinoids for three to four months. That is most of the active bee season in temperate North America," said York U PhD student **Nadia Tsvetkov**.

However, the neonicotinoid contaminated pollen the honeybees collected did not belong to corn or soybean plants - the two primary crops grown from neonicotinoid treated seeds in Ontario and Quebec.

"This indicates that neonicotinoids, which are water soluble, spill over from agricultural fields into the surrounding environment, where they are taken up by other plants that are very attractive to bees," said Tsvetkov.

The researchers then chronically fed colonies with an artificial pollen supplement containing progressively smaller amounts of the most commonly used neonicotinoid in Ontario, clothianidin, over a 12-week period. The experiment mimicked what would occur naturally in the field.

The worker bees exposed to the treated pollen during the first nine days of life had their lifespans cut short by 23 per cent. Colonies that were exposed to treated pollen were unable to maintain a healthy laying queen, and had poor hygiene. "We found that realistic exposure to neonicotinoids near corn fields reduces the health of honey bee colonies," said Tsvetkov.

While chronic exposure to neonicotinoids has negative effects on honeybees, the researchers also discovered that a commonly used fungicide can interact with neonicotinoids to make them more dangerous.

"The effect of neonicotinoids on honey bees quickly turns from bad to worse when you add the fungicide boscalid to the mix," said **Professor Valérie Fournier of Laval University** who collaborated with the York U team. "The researchers found that field realistic levels of boscalid can make neonicotinoids twice as toxic to honeybees."

The research, "Chronic exposure to neonicotinoids reduces honeybee health near corn crops," is published today in the journal Science.

## Bee Culture – “Catch the Buzz”

**New Sivanto™ Pesticide – Safe for Bees, Hard on Pests  
Good for Crops**

*Jack Boyne*

A recent CATCH THE BUZZ blog about **Bayer's** new insecticide product **Sivanto® Prime (flupyradifurone)** discussed the decision by officials in Kentucky to allow emergency use of this product to protect the sorghum crop from the devastating losses that otherwise are expected to occur later this year from sugarcane aphid outbreaks.

The question was raised: that's all well and good for sorghum farmers, but could use of Sivanto affect bees?

The good news is that Sivanto was selected for development by **Bayer's Crop Science Division** specifically because of its low toxicity to honey bees. According to **Dr. David Fischer**, Bayer's director of pollinator safety in the US, the low toxicity found in honey bees has also been shown for bumble bees and several other native bee species. In fact, Fischer said "no new insecticide has been as thoroughly tested with respect to bee safety prior to registration."

A series of field and cage (bee tunnel) studies conducted in Europe showed that Sivanto when used according to the label has no adverse effects on honey bee colonies, including foraging activity, brood and colony development, colony vitality or overwintering success. A recent study by researchers at the **University of Florida** published in the **Journal of Economic Entomology** (<https://doi.org/10.1093/jee/tow186>) confirmed this by making applications at full bloom to buckwheat, a favorite crop of honey bees. The Florida researchers reported no harm to honey bee colonies as well as no change in abundance of foraging native bees and other pollinators.

**Dr. Joshua Campbell** who led this research team as part of his post-doctoral research under the direction of **Dr. James Ellis** explained, "Our results indicated that Sivanto™ is a promising systemic pesticide that has a favorable safety profile for honey bees and can be incorporated into integrated pest management programs for various crops in Florida." For more on the University of Florida study, see <http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/entnemdept/2016/09/15/field-study-new-pesticide/>.

As an added precaution, the Sivanto label instructs growers to avoid applications when bees are actively foraging, but this novel insecticide will undoubtedly help address the concerns of farmers and beekeepers, alike.

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

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

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

Check 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.

*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](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*

**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	<a href="mailto:maggie.m.mills@gmail.com">maggie.m.mills@gmail.com</a>
VP	Tracy Velazquez	406-539-9715	<a href="mailto:tvelazquez@mcn.net">tvelazquez@mcn.net</a>
Treas.	Larry Prikockis	703 981-1796	<a href="mailto:mailto:thirstycat@gmail.com">mailto:thirstycat@gmail.com</a>
Sec'y	Debby Heyes	301-855-0071	<a href="mailto:mailto:dbheyeyes@comcast.net">mailto:dbheyeyes@comcast.net</a>
Event Coordinator	Frank Fennell	301-675-0971	<a href="mailto:bumba.outreach@gmail.com">bumba.outreach@gmail.com</a>
Editor	David Morris	301-725-6185	<a href="mailto:beefriend@verizon.net">beefriend@verizon.net</a>
P.G. Inspector	Gregg Gochnour	301-261-8106 x5920	<a href="mailto:gregg.gochnour@maryland.gov">gregg.gochnour@maryland.gov</a>
MSBA Pres.	Allen Hayes	410-489-2835	<a href="mailto:Thehayeshouse4@aol.com">Thehayeshouse4@aol.com</a>
P.G. MSBA VP	David Morris	301-725-6185	<a href="mailto:beefriend@verizon.net">beefriend@verizon.net</a>

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 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 **2017 BUMBA** Calendar:  
April 6, 7:30PM, **BUMBA** Mtg.  
April 8, Saturday **BUMBA** 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.  
September 16, 11-3PM, **Bowie Health Fair**  
October 5, 7:30PM, **BUMBA** Mtg.  
November 4, 9AM **MSBA** Fall Mtg/Honey Show  
December 7, 6:00PM, **BUMBA** Holiday Party