



NEWSLETTER

Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association

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www.BUMBAbees.com

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www.bumbabees.com and Forum

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

Guest Speakers: Meghan McConnell & Nathalie Steinaur

Research updates on best practices for beekeepers and Varroa

We are thrilled to have **Meghan McConnell** and **Nathalie Steinaur** as our October speakers.

Meghan McConnell is the **Delaware State Apiarist**. She received her BS and MS at the **University of Maryland**; her MS under **Dennis vanEngelsdorp** at UMD's Department of Entomology, studying the Varroa mite. She has also worked for the Bee Informed Partnership.

Nathalie Steinhauer is a current PhD candidate in **Dennis vanEngelsdorp's** lab. She graduated with a Master in Biological Sciences from **Universite Libre de Bruxelles**, Belgium and with a Master Research in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation from **Imperial College London, UK**. Her PhD project's objectives are to apply epidemiological approaches to honey bee health and identify best management practices associated with reduced colony mortality.

Nathalie's portion of the program will focus on good management practices. She will discuss a method the lab developed to summarize operational management practices in a holistic manner and test if beekeepers who follow more closely expert's recommendations also experienced lower risk of colony mortality in their operations. **Meghan's** talk will focus on our seemingly perennial mortal enemy, the Varroa Mite. She will discuss "mite bombs" and treatment experiments.

The President's Smoker

Salam **BUMBA**,

This month's newsletter comes to you all from **Istanbul, Turkey**. I arrived Wednesday to experience **Apimondia 2017**, the international bee conference held every other year in a different country. The



Conference focus is to gather and share information on bee sciences and technology around the world. Glancing at the program, topics include beekeeping economy, health, biology, pollination and flora, technology, apitherapy and beekeeping for



rural development. At the end of the conference, I will attend a full-day technical tour and visit a beekeeping village north of Istanbul.

Remember, **Apimondia 2019** will be close by in Montreal, Canada!

Yesterday was a full day organized tour of the Sultan Ahmet area which includes Aya Sofia, Blue Mosque, the Grand Bazaar and Topkapi Palace. My hotel is steps to Taksim Square and minutes from the Conference Center. The weather has been a bit cool and today promises some rain. The city is so clean and vibrant! I have already purchased some Turkish Delite with honey and nuts to share at the December meeting. I appreciate the Board, especially **Tracy**, handling things in my absence! Special thanks also to **Jeff** for being on top of the Prince George's

zoning regulations.

This was a productive beekeeping season for me and my honey harvest was very good considering the number of splits I take in the spring. I completed a June and August harvest and find two harvests make it a bit more manageable since I'm limited to weekends unless I take time from my weekday job. I inspected and treated my big apiary before my trip and had 2 empty colonies and one drone laying queen in a small nuc. I have heard beekeepers complaining of absconding this season, but I don't believe my 2 empties were a result of this. Instead, I think I probably killed the queen during harvest and didn't leave them eggs to recover. I didn't find abandoned brood in these colonies, and typically those hives become laying workers, so I could be mistaken. I treated with half doses of Mite Away Quick Strips. I'll evaluate my home colonies when I return home.

Major problems threatening the survival of honey bees		
Environmental Stressors	Parasites and Pathogens	Genetic Variation and Vitality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat destruction, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urbanization Deforestation Forest fires Pesticides, Herbicides, Fungicides Malnutrition, Starvation, Mismanagement, Queen problems, Global warming, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Varroasis, Tracheal mites, Small hive beetle, AFB, EFB, Septicemia Nosemosis, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>N. apis</i> <i>N. cerena</i> Chalkbrood, Stonebrood Viral diseases <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ABPV, IABPV CBPV Sac brood DWV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited importation Selection pressure Commercial queen-production (small number of queen mothers) US ban for importation of bees Genetic diversity increases the survival of the colonies and resistance to diseases

I encourage all of you to consider mites now. Please remember you are not likely to see them on your bees! Even if your colony appears healthy, they could be struggling with a high mite load. Bees are expensive, so please don't overlook this critical management item. There are several options for soft chemicals. You may benefit from guidance provided by Certified Naturally Grown at this link: www.cngfarming.org/apiary_standards

Remember, you don't have to certify for CNG to follow their philosophy and keep your apiary as organic as possible.

Peace, Love and Bees -

Maggie Mills

Message from the VP

Tracy Velazquez

Insects vs. People: who wins?

I got stung by a wasp this week. I was reaching into the recycling bin on my front porch to pull out some newspaper to peel potatoes onto, when I suddenly felt a searing pain in my hand. After a moment of confusion, I saw the wasp; it must have been sniffing around the bottles in the bin. While I went inside to try to stem the swelling with ice, my husband Dennis investigated and found a small wasp colony on the underside of a table that was on the porch. That night after dark, he sprayed the nest. I felt bad but not too bad, as my hand was still painful and puffed up like a pillow.

Earlier in the month, the **City of Mount Rainier's** no-spray policy was overruled by the **Maryland Department of Agriculture**, following detection of a mosquito somewhere in the Hyattsville/Port Towns/Gateway area. I had received a notice as either the **Vice President of BUMBA** or a beekeeper registered in the area. Despite the notice warning residents to keep pets in overnight, no one in town— not our mayor, nor our city council or manager – had been sent this notice. Our mayor was *ticked*. But some residents said that we had to trust the county to know what was the right thing to do to keep people from getting **West Nile** virus.

Just a couple of days ago, **Jeff Forbes** was informed that despite testimony from multiple beekeepers and others over the past year, the proposed **County rezoning plan** contained language limiting beekeeping and including irrational restrictions that are onerous to the point of being

prohibitive. [We will discuss at this week's meeting.]

What do these three seemingly disparate stories have in common? A fear of insects. I was afraid of people – including myself – getting stung by wasps on my front porch. The state of Maryland is afraid of mosquitoes transmitting West Nile and other diseases. And, from the language of the proposed zoning ordinance, clearly some people are afraid of honeybees generally in Prince George's County.

I think on some level, a fear of insects is hardwired in humans. Think: plague of locusts. Kafka. The horror movie *The Fly*. (Although the scene of Jeff Goldblum putting ten spoonsful of sugar in his coffee is hilarious). We are big and smart. They – at least individually – are not. And yet, there are so many more of them, and they seem so capable of thwarting our efforts to keep them *down* – both literally and figuratively. One of the main characters in the animated film Wall-E is a cockroach, because we all *know* that after the bomb drops they, like Gloria Gaynor, will survive. They will survive.

How do we, as stewards of honeybees (what we consider “beneficial insects”), navigate this complex and often emotional topic? How do we balance the needs of *Homo sapiens* and *Apis mellifera*? The key, I believe, is education backed up with advocacy. On the education side, thanks to **Frank Fennell** and many dedicated club members, **BUMBA** is out there doing outreach to help with this education, on the person-to-person level. On the advocacy side, **Jeff Forbes** and others have been trying for over a year now to keep the county's zoning ordinance on the rails, and folks around Maryland have been active at the state level to pass laws that help honeybees and block ones that hurt them.

The question remains, though: is it enough? When you are dealing with something as primal as fear – fear of death, pain and illness caused or carried by insects – the equation seems to be different. Arguments about healthy ecosystems for all can be trumped by a single case of West Nile. As this beekeeping year draws to a close and folks are focusing on making sure their own colonies have enough food to make it through the winter, I hope you will join me in thinking about what more we can do to make sure honeybees generally and beekeeping in this county can survive and thrive. To do this, we must show that this is not just for their benefit or ours as beekeepers, but for *Homo sapiens* (and the planet) collectively.

DC Beekeepers' Alliance

www.dcbeckeepers.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.dcbeckeepers.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. 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

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**. If you wish to run for an office, or nominate someone, please contact the outgoing MSBA President, Allen Hayes, at Thehayeshouse4@aol.com.

MSBA also provides very good premiums. If you have children, encourage them to enter the honey cooking and bee-related crafts classes. 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 and 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.

Apimondia 2019

Montreal, CA
September 8-12, 2019

CLUB HAPPENINGS

BUMBA Outreach Calendar

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

Hello fellow apiarists! The 2017 BUMBA outreach season is like the bunny in the battery commercials; it keeps going and going and going... While the end of the year is in sight we still have opportunities to provide critical information to the public and advocate for bees. In September we supported the **Bowie Health Fair**. Attendees learned of the important role bees have in supporting human health by pollinating 1/3 of all fruits and vegetables eaten around the world. We also promoted the

consumption of honey from local beekeepers and how it can help mitigate allergic symptoms and provide a source of natural sugar that is more easily metabolized by the body than processed table sugar. A sample tablespoon of recently harvested honey was available and all who consumed agreed it was the best tasting honey ever so I think we made a few converts! As usual the bees were the stars of the event; I was informed that our booth probably had the most foot traffic of all vendors there.

Again I want to thank all the volunteers who have supported the **BUMBA** events so far this year. Without their help and energy we would not have the level of success that we do. A special thanks to **Gerald Jones** who has been kind enough to bring an observation hive to every event supported and for providing the knowledge to the public only a master beekeeper can give.

There is still one more item on the **BUMBA** calendar so you **STILL** have an opportunity to advocate for bees and support a 2017 event:

PG Hospital Health Fair

PG County Health Department

November 18th, from noon to 4pm.

3003 Hospital Dr., Cheverly MD 20785

If you would like to support this event please contact me at BUMBA.Outreach@gmail.com.

Since this is a health fair information about the importance of bees, their role in supporting human food production, and medicinal uses of bee products will be provided.

Yours in beekeeping, 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:

County Re-Zoning Plan Restricts Beekeeping

Unexpected Zoning modifications made

Jeff Forbes

{Jeff Forbes sent the following email to Danielle Glaros, Vice-Chair, Prince George's County Council; editor}

I received an email today about the zoning comprehensive review draft. <http://zoningpgc.pgplanning.com/2017/09/26/compreview/>

I examined this document: <http://zoningpgc.pgplanning.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Comprehensive%20Draft%20Zoning%20-%20Public%20-%20CLEAN.pdf> to see if there were any changes from your legislation concerning **beekeeping in Prince Georges County**. Below I have include the beekeeping section from **page 470** of the PDF document linked above.

I was stunned to see that it would make most beekeepers in the county illegal again. I have a lot and one-half of a lot, so I have around 15,000 sq ft, but most people do not. I also keep more than two hives. The proposed regulations for requiring requeening if colonies swarm !!! or if they are aggressive are not enforceable, and really outside of the purview of zoning regulations. I thought that your legislation on beekeeping would have put our concerns to bed, but this is not the case. The authors of this document clearly chose to ignore your wise legislation, and they have written **onerous zoning regulations** that seem to have been designed to **push beekeeping out of Prince Georges County** if they are enacted as is. How could this have happened after all of the comments from myself and other Prince Georges County beekeepers? I thought that the process was designed to take into account the voices of the citizens of the county. Are there people or groups in Prince Georges County that would like to remove beekeeping from the county, and hold more sway than the beekeepers

themselves, or is this simply the consultants' view? At the very least, I would have thought that this draft would have been modeled after your well reasoned legislation, since it was so recently enacted.

Beekeeping:

Beekeeping in the Residential zones shall comply with the following standards:

- a. Only occur in rear yards of single-family detached dwellings, on parcels of land greater than 15,000 square feet in area;
- b. Be located in the rear yard;
- c. Include no more than two bee colonies per 15,000 square feet of parcel area;
- d. Not locate hives within 25 feet of any property line;
- e. Establish a flyway barrier at least six feet in height consisting of a solid wall, fence, dense vegetation or combination thereof. The flyway barrier shall be parallel to the property line, located only upon such property line as is closest to the colony, and extend ten feet beyond the colony in each direction so that all bees are forced to fly at an elevation of at least six feet above the ground level over the property lines in the vicinity of the hive. In instances where more than one hive is kept, a flyway shall be installed and maintained per hive. This flyway barrier requirement shall not apply if the setback between any colony and the closest lot line is 75 feet or more.
- f. It shall be the responsibility of any person having honey bees on the property to maintain each colony in the following condition:
 - i. Colonies shall be maintained in movable-frame hives;
 - ii. Adequate space shall be maintained in the hive to prevent overcrowding and swarming; and
 - iii. Colonies shall be re-queened following any swarming or aggressive behavior.

BEES IN THE NEWS

American Bee Journal "Extra"

EPA Proposes Registration of New Biopesticide to Help Control Spread of Zika and Other Viruses

Mosquito control products can be detrimental to honey bee health. The EPA is seeking comments on a new program that would release bioinfected male mosquitos to help reduce populations of mosquitos carrying the Zika virus. If effective, such bioremedies could reduce the reliance on pesticides.

report courtesy of the EPA

EPA is proposing to register **ZAP Males®**, a new microbial biopesticide that reduces local populations of **Aedes albopictus (Asian Tiger)** mosquitoes, which have the ability to spread numerous diseases of significant human health concern, including the **Zika virus**.

The registration would allow **MosquitoMate, Inc.** to sell the Wolbachia-infected mosquitoes (ZAP Males®) in the **District of Columbia (DC)** and the following states: California (CA), Connecticut (CT), **Delaware (DE)**, Illinois (IL), Indiana (IN), Kentucky (KY), Massachusetts (MA), Maine (ME), **Maryland (MD)**, Missouri (MO), New Hampshire (NH), New Jersey (NJ), Nevada (NV), New York (NY), Ohio (OH), **Pennsylvania (PA)**, Rhode Island (RI), Tennessee (TN), Vermont (VT), and West Virginia (WV). Male mosquitoes do not bite people.

ZAP Males® are live male mosquitoes that are infected with the ZAP strain, a particular strain of the Wolbachia bacterium. Wolbachia are naturally occurring bacteria commonly found in most insect species. The ZAP strain is extracted from a different type of mosquito (than *Aedes albopictus*) and then introduced into *Aedes albopictus* embryos. Infected males mate with females, which then produce offspring that do not survive. With continued releases of the ZAP Males®, local *Aedes albopictus* populations decrease.

EPA's risk assessments, along with the proposed pesticide labeling and

EPA's response to public comments on the application for registration of this product, are available for public comment until September, 27, 2017. They can be found on www.regulations.gov by searching under docket number EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0205.

Bee Culture – “Catch the Buzz”

NATIONAL HONEY BOARD PARTNERS WITH PROJECT APIS M. TO INVEST \$10 MILLION TO AID BEE HEALTH

The **National Honey Board** and **Project Apis m.** are reinforcing their commitment to the future of bees through an investment of \$10 million by 2020 in bee health research. In addition to producing honey, bees are an important contributor to our food supply. Pollinator foods, including those pollinated by bees, represent one in every three bites of food that we eat.

The initiatives will seek to improve the well-being of nearly 2.9 million American bee colonies, with a specific focus on the main threats to bee health:

- **Pesticides**, some of which, may kill the bee immediately once they've made contact, or when the bee brings small amounts of the pesticide, on its body or in contaminated nectar, back to the hive. There are also many sub lethal effects which appear slowly or synergisms of multiple exposure.
- **Pathogens and parasites**, such as Nosema and Varroa mites, infect bees with diseases that can destroy entire colonies. All parasites directly or indirectly feed on the honey bees.
- **Limited quality and quantity of forage** for bees results in poor nutrition.

“The National Honey Board depends upon the hard-working honey bee to produce the honey that many of us enjoy, and celebrate every September during National Honey Month. We feel a strong responsibility to help protect the bees, which is why we've been funding production research since 2004, funding for CCD research since early 2007 and began allocating five percent of our annual budget to all honey bee health research in 2008,” said Margaret Lombard, Chief Executive Officer, National Honey Board. “We're so pleased to be working alongside partners, such as Project Apis m., who share our commitment to improving and maintaining bee health,

during a time when it is needed most.”

Find plant species that are native to your area and also beneficial non-native plants by visiting the Pollinator Partnership website. <http://pollinator.org/guides>

A PROTEIN PRODUCED BY HONEY BEES COULD INSPIRE THE FIRST NEW ANTIBIOTIC IN 30 YEARS

Health officials are desperate for new antibiotics as dangerous bacterial strains strengthen their resistance against long-used drugs.

Every year in the United States, 2 million people are infected with drug-resistant bacteria. For 23,000 people, the infection and related complications prove fatal.

Researchers are constantly scanning nature for compounds and molecules that might inspire new antibiotics. Recent studies have identified potential compounds in sponges and Komodo dragons.

In a new study published this week in the journal **Nature Structural & Molecular Biology**, researchers highlight the promising **Api137**, a protein capable of blocking protein production in harmful bacteria.

The protein is produced naturally by bees, wasps and hornets, and helps keep the insects infection-free.

Most antibiotics disrupt protein production by targeting the ribosome inside bacterial cells. The ribosome is responsible for synthesizing the proteins that allow bacteria cells to function.

Api137 — an antibacterial peptide, or small protein — works by thwarting DNA translation, the genomic process that sees genetic instructions read and translated into fresh proteins.

The latest analysis of Api137 — carried out by researchers at the **University of Illinois at Chicago** — has helped scientists better understand exactly how the protein works. Now, scientists are working to replicate, or synthesize, the peptide in the lab.

“This project was a result of an excellent collaboration of our team,” researcher **Vázquez-Laslop** said in a news release. “We can now harness the knowledge of how Api137 works in order to make new drugs that would kill bad bacteria using a similar mechanism of action.”

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.

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

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. Larry loves to find checks in the mailbox, so you can mail your dues to:

Larry Prikockis, Treasurer, 6701 44th Ave, University Park, MD 20782

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
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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:
- 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

