



# NEWSLETTER

## Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association

February, 2018

Volume 38 No. 1

*Published Bi-Monthly since 1980*

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

## CONTENTS

### Meetings

- Pg 1 Next **BUMBA** Meeting
- Pg 2 President's Smoker
- Pg 3 Message from the VP  
"Inside the Box" with Bob Greenwell
- Pg 4 MSBA Meeting, Feb. 17 Harford Comm. Coll.

### Club Happenings

- Pg 5 2018 Short Course, *Seats Still Available*
- Pg 6 **BUMBA** Outreach Program

### Members' Corner

- Pg 7 Sterilize your empty hives by irradiation

### Bees in the News

- Pg 8 Lithium Chloride kills Varroa  
Agricultural fungicides attract honey bees
- Pg 9 Worldwide importance of honey bees to  
natural habitat

### Programs

- Pg 10 **BUMBA** Extractor  
[www.bumbabees.com](http://www.bumbabees.com) and Forum  
Newsletter Survey Request!

**Next BUMBA Meeting: Thursday, February 1, 7:30 PM**  
**Watkins Park Nature Center**

## Honey Bee Biology and how we match our management

Our guest speaker will be **Zachary Lamas** and his topic is "**Honey Bee Biology and how we match our management**".

**Zachary Lamas** has recently been accepted to **Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp's** honey bee research lab at the **University of Maryland**. Zac has been producing queens on the coast of North Carolina and in upstate New York for the last few years. He produces surplus queens and nucs early in the season for spring markets and then rebuilds his apiaries on the long northern summer flows. For the last three years Zachary has been managing honey production and nucleus colonies for **Michael Palmer**, in Vermont. Zachary recently returned from Mexico and Brazil where he was teaching queen breeding.

### ***BUMBA Short Course Seats Available***

The BUMBA Short Course begins February 8, 7PM, At the **Watkins Park Nature Center** (same place as our meetings). We still have several open seats and you can reserve a seat up to the last day. However, payment is required to assure you have your seat. There are several registered students who have not paid for the class yet. Those seats will be available on the 8<sup>th</sup> if they are not paid for by then.

Questions? Contact Larry Prikockis, Treasurer at [thirstycat@gmail.com](mailto:thirstycat@gmail.com) or 703 981-1796.  
*See you at the Short Course!*

### ***Congratulations Kim!***

BUMBA member **Kim Mehalick** is the new **Maryland State Beekeepers Assoc. Vice-President**. Be sure to congratulate her at the meeting, and offer to help, too!

# The President's Smoker

Dear **BUMBA** members -

Happy 2018! 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 shim with fondant on top of my colonies. Early reports suggest heavy colony losses this Fall/Winter among beekeepers I have spoken with. We still have a few more months of winter and it's critical to ensure your bees have adequate food and ventilation.

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 2018 Short Course will begin on February 8th and take place every Thursday evening through March 15th. 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 (same place as our meetings). Our Field Day will be held on Saturday, April 7th (more information to follow). If you haven't signed up, time is running out. As of this message we have a few slots remaining. Registration for first family member is \$75 and includes a copy of **Diana Sammataro's** excellent 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 2018.

**2018 Short Course students will be eligible for TWO raffle prizes!** This year we are raffling a 10 frame, medium hive with a package of bees (installed at Field Day). The second prize will be a 2nd package of bees. Packages are being donated by **Free State Bees** and **Woodcamp Farm**. We try to change up the raffle hive, alternating between a Deep or Medium set-up. 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 2018 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.

This is my first meeting since attending **Apimondia** in Istanbul, Turkey in September/October. I want to thank our VP, **Tracy Velazquez** for covering for me while I was away. I enjoyed my time at the International Symposium where I met beekeepers and scientists from around the world. The technical program included a full-day trip in the countryside where we were allowed to see different hive set-ups and learn about beekeeping in Turkey. The tour took us to a commercial honey processing factory & laboratory where we learned about honey testing to ensure it was not adulterated. We also got to experience a farmer's market where we sampled local honey and enjoyed an amazing meal of local food. The tour even took us for a view of the Black Sea, a stop at a small beekeeping village where we learned about efforts in place to help improve efforts to utilize beekeeping to as a source of income in Turkey. I brought back a box of Turkish Delight to share with the club. I found the people of Turkey to be warm and welcoming, a culture rich, diverse and kind. I hope to put together a presentation in the future to show some pictures of my amazing adventure. The next **Apimondia International Symposium** will be held in **Montreal in 2019**, [www.apimondia2019.com/](http://www.apimondia2019.com/)

I look forward to seeing you all at the February meeting! I have asked **Zachary Lamas** to speak and I think he will appeal to everyone regardless of your experience with beekeeping. I met Zac last year and was fascinated with his experiences working with **Michael Palmer** in Vermont. As if that weren't enough, he is formerly a commercial beekeeper, built his own equipment, raises queens, sells bees, and most recently travel to Mexico and Brazil to teach queen rearing. We are fortunate to have Zac at the **University of Maryland** where he is pursuing his PhD and I am excited to have him speak at BUMBA.

Peace, Love and Bees -

*Maggie*

## Message from the VP

*Tracy Velazquez*

“And what are you doing this weekend?” My millennial co-worker Erin and I had gotten into the office early so were chatting. She had just told me she was going to be in her friend’s music video, which they were filming over the weekend.

“Feeding my honeybees.”

“You have bees? Wow, that is so cool.”

And that began what became a 15-minute impromptu lesson on beekeeping. It started with my explaining to Erin why I might have to feed them. Then she asked how I feed them (maybe she was picturing little bitty food bowls?); to do that, I first had to pull up pictures of Langstroth hives on my computer. She wanted to know whether I got any honey, and how I got the honey, so I pulled up a picture of an extractor, explaining it was basically a giant salad spinner. She asked if I got stung, what happens if the queen dies, and how the bees make a new queen. That was a tough one, since I really just want to say, “they’re magic,” since isn’t it kind of like Cinderella, that they can take any old egg and turn it into a queen? I happened to have a fresh jar of honey on my desk that I’d brought in for office use, so I gave it to her. She beamed. “My roommates are going to be so excited!”

Sometimes I forget that what has in just a few years become routine for me, is completely exotic to most people. But even without the glow of a co-workers’ adulation, this is the time of year that my love of beekeeping is rejuvenated. It used to be I’d get excited for the seed catalogues in the mail, thinking about what I’d plant in my garden that spring. Now, late winter also means planning what I’m going to do with the bees this year, and anxiously hoping the colonies make it through the last month or so until the first crocuses start to bloom. Back in early January, I still had bees flying from three full-size colonies and a double nuc. If they all survive, that’ll be a lot of bees (for me anyway) come Spring. Should I split the colonies? Try to do that funky faux split that gets recombined later? Maybe I should make a couple of swarm boxes, just in case. How will that spendy new queen from West Virginia do, and should I try to make new colonies with her? And should I take my neighbor up on his offer to put a hive or two in his yard, or is that pushing my limits? This time of year, the possibilities seem

endless.

Another way to capture that “new beekeeper feeling” is to volunteer at the **BUMBA Field Day**, which this year is April 7th. Helping a newly-minted short course grad inspect a hive for the first time is really a treat. And we can use help with all the other details of the event as well. And if the chance to vicariously experience the excitement of your first contact with real bees isn’t enough enticement, **Vic Curtis** has graciously offered to provide his amazing barbecue again this year. Please email me at [tvelazquez@mcn.net](mailto:tvelazquez@mcn.net) if you think you can help on April 7th.

And don’t forget: our public outreach will be starting up soon; these provide another great opportunity to share the world of honeybees with the uninitiated.

I hope you will sign up for one or more events this year. Then you too can convince someone that beekeeping is the coolest thing ever. Maybe even cooler than music videos.

## Inside the Box

*By Bob Greenwell*

### What exactly is a nuc?

This is a question often asked by brand new beekeepers and the answer can be confusing, depending upon who’s definition is offered. This, in part, is due to the fact that there is no universally defined standard for exactly what constitutes a nucleus colony, or “nuc” for short. They come in many configurations such as 2, 4, 5, 7, or 8 frame nucs. They can come in deep or medium frame depths, or natural shaped combs on top bars for starting a top bar hive. They can have differing contents regarding the number of brood frames vs honey/pollen frames, and some suppliers consider it to be acceptable to have one or more frames of undrawn or just started foundation in the mix. Some nucs are supplied with all newly drawn comb, or comb that is no older than a season or two with a few years of life left in it. Some suppliers use the sale of nucs as an avenue to cull out their oldest frames including, perhaps, misshapen or very old comb ready to be discarded, repaired frames, and even broken and unrepaired frames, which may be acceptable depending on the amount of sealed brood or honey they contain. After all, it is actually the bees and brood that is being bought in the nuc, more so than the equipment, as long as the overall health and strength of the

miniature colony is good. To further confuse the new beekeeper, the prices of nucs, even when in the same size configuration compared side by side, vary greatly from one supplier to the next, and often there is a regional impact on nuc pricing as well, with northern prices higher than southern pricing. Of course supply and demand factors in as well.

Buying a nuc is increasingly one of the preferred ways to obtain bees to populate a colony. For many beeks, the advantages to starting out with a nuc make wading into the procurement of a nuc attractive. It is after the deal is made that things sometimes begin to go awry, which could be a matter of beekeeping management on the part of the new owner. I believe that most sellers of nucs are honest people, although with the recent increases in the interest to keep bees, there are also many more people offering nucs for sale. A nuc purchased from a neighboring beekeeper selling some extra bees could be a really great deal and it is possible that buying from an unknown commercial dealer could be a disaster. It is a buyer beware scenario when purchasing livestock, and normally the supplier's responsibility for the product is going to end when you pick your nuc up. Do your research and, if possible, know your supplier and/or inspect your nuc before accepting it.

So now, let's offer a definition... A "true" nuc is a miniature colony of bees, where all of the bees within, whether adult, or brood in any stage of development, are the progeny of the queen contained within. There will be honey, pollen, and brood in all stages, from eggs through emerging workers. The number or size of the frames doesn't matter for the purpose of definition. If the progeny in the hive contains bees from another queen, then it is technically a split, not yet having achieved the status of a true nucleus colony. A split can be made by placing frames of brood and stores in a "nuc box", perhaps selected from multiple hives, giving it a caged queen, calling it a "nuc", which has become a generic term like Kleenex, and selling it as soon as the queen has been accepted. This is often the usual method of producing commercially available nucs in the southern states like GA, FL, or TX during the early spring, and then shipping them north where it is sometimes implied that they are "overwintered nucs". They are actually southern splits, not necessarily a bad deal by any means, but not in my opinion to be confused with an overwintered northern nuc, whose queen has been proven with her nuc through the winter.

Spring splits can be made in the same way in the north, often utilizing a queen imported from a warmer climate, but they will take a month or more,

longer to build up and be ready to sell, and longer yet if the northern supplier is making and supplying a local northern queen as well. Some suppliers will shake a package of bulk bees into a "nuc box" along with a new queen, which they will then feed until the combs are drawn to whatever extent meets their estimation of what will be acceptable to the buyer, and then sell it as a spring nuc. Is it a true "nuc", or a "package nuc", what I call "puc". It could be a nuc by definition, if enough time passes to consume all the package bees and repopulate it with the installed queen's progeny, but the new beek could have just installed the package himself or herself and saved the middleman charges.

So, there are, obviously, many ways in which "nucs" can be produced, but the wonder stories told around the campfire about a new nuc producing vast amounts of comb and honey, are most often fond recollections of particularly robust "local overwintered nucs". I hope this treatise helps shed some light on the subject of nucs. I do believe that with the trend of poor luck in using packages to start colonies among new beekeepers for many and varied reasons, that most new keepers would be well advised to start their colonies with a nuc whenever possible.

## Other Bee Meetings

### ***MSBA Winter Meeting***

***February 17, 9:00 AM***

Harford Community College

Darlinton Hall

401 Thomas Run Rd., Bel Air, MD

Check back at: [www.mdbeekkeepers.org](http://www.mdbeekkeepers.org)

*Featured Speakers: Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp, UMD*

*Dr. Christina Grozinger, Penn State*

The **Maryland State Beekeepers Association** Winter Meeting has moved to a new location this year, the Harford Community College. Allow 75-90 minutes to reach the meeting. Doors open at 8AM and morning

refreshments will be available. Check back with the MSBA website for future announcements.

### Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp

**Dr. vanEngelsdorp** received his PhD from **Pennsylvania State University**, is a founding member of the Colony Collapse Working Group, and a former board member of Haagen-Dazs Ice Cream Bee Board. He has worked as an Pennsylvania apiary inspector and as an apiculture extension specialist at Penn State and Cornell University. He is well grounded in the working needs of beekeepers. He now heads his own honey bee research lab at the **University of Maryland** and leads the Bee Informed Partnership. He is responsible for the semi-annual honey bee health surveys used to better understand what management and controls work best for beekeepers across the country.

### Dr. Christina Grozinger

**Dr. Grozinger's** research focuses on the genomic mechanisms that regulate social behavior and health in social insects, including honey bees, bumble bees, fire ants, and wasps. Her work is highly interdisciplinary, spanning behavioral ecology, chemical ecology, physiology, neurobiology, and genomics. Dr. Grozinger received her bachelor's degree in chemistry and biology at **McGill University** in 1997. She received a National Science Foundation Pre-doctoral Fellowship for her graduate work in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at **Harvard University**, where she received her master's and doctoral degrees in 1999 and 2001, respectively. In 2008, she joined the Department of Entomology at **Penn State** and was named the Director for the Center for Pollinator Research at Penn State in 2009.

### Matthew Willey

*The Good of the Hive* ([www.thegoodofthehive.com](http://www.thegoodofthehive.com)) is an artistic initiative founded by **Matthew Willey** to hand-paint 50,000 honey bees - in murals around the world. *The Good of the Hive* raises awareness about the importance of honey bees and other pollinators while celebrating the beauty and power of human connection.

### Directions to MSBA Feb 17 mtg:

Harford Community College is mid-way between Bel Air and Churchville Md. on route # 22. Turn into the Main entrance at Thomas Run Road. Turn right into Parking lot #2, then use the left side of the lot. The meeting is in Darlington Hall, the two story building which is on the left side of the lot. The side walk will lead you directly to the entrance. To the right will be stairs and an elevator to the second floor with the meeting room, on a slight turn to the right, directly ahead.



### EAS 2018

**August 13-17**  
**Hampton Roads, VA**

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*



### Apimondia 2019

**Montreal, CA**  
**September 8-12, 2019**

The Biennial Apimondia ("Bee World") Congress will be in North America in less than two years. If you want to know what the experience is like, ask Maggie Mills. She attended the 45th Apimondia Congress in Turkey!



## DC Beekeepers' Alliance

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

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

## CLUB HAPPENINGS

### BUMBA 2018 Short Course

The **2018 Short Course** will begin on **February 8th** and take place every Thursday evening through March 15th. We still have openings available (as of January 27) for additional students. If you have a friend who is interested, let them know. Class begins promptly at 7 pm and ends by 9:30. Class is held at **Watkins Park Nature Center**, 301 Watkins Park Dr, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774. As always, the class is taught by volunteers with a wide range of beekeeping experience. This year we have: **Jeffrey Forbes, Tony Drake, Bob Greenwell, Jan Day, Gregg Gochnour, Tracy Velazquez, Leigh Walton, Maggie Mills, David Morris, Toni Burnham, Linda Thompson, and Debby Hayes.**

The **Field Day** will be held on **Saturday, April 7th** (more information to follow). I'm excited to have **Vic and Linda Curtis** coming back to serve us another amazing meal to include smoked chicken, beans and Boardwalk fries. We are really fortunate to have Vic and Linda's talent and set up!

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 2018. If you haven't signed up, please don't delay. There are only a few slots remaining!

## BUMBA Outreach Program

Greetings fellow **BUMBA** members! 2018 is here and another season of outreach opportunities are currently being scheduled. With your help **BUMBA** successfully supported nine events last year and we are hoping to do even more this season. Already we have received requests to support events and the calendar is being filled. If you can commit just two hours of your time to supporting one event this year you will be doing a great service for the club, the bees, and yourself. It is a great way to interact with the community, provide critical educational information about bees (and other pollinators), and stress their importance to the environment. You also help to dispel many misconceptions people harbor towards bees; as an apiarist you already know that bees need all the positive publicity they can get. As I always say, "Bees (and other pollinators) don't have a voice so we need you to provide that advocacy for them and be an ambassador!"

Our first confirmed event for 2018 is:

### **Mt. Rainier Spring Greening Fair**

**Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from noon-5pm.**

Mt. Rainier Nature and Recreation Center

4701 31<sup>st</sup> Place, Mt Rainier, MD 20712

Please contact me at [BUMBA.Outreach@gmail.com](mailto:BUMBA.Outreach@gmail.com) if you are interested in supporting an event. You will be added as a member to receive outreach updates and you will be given access to the Outreach calendar to see the opportunities available.

Again thank you for the opportunity to lead this effort for another year, thanks to all who supported the events last year, and I look forward to seeing you at one of the events this year.

Yours in beekeeping, THANK YOU!

*Frank Fennell Jr*  
2018 BUMBA Outreach Coordinator  
[BUMBA.Outreach@gmail.com](mailto:BUMBA.Outreach@gmail.com)  
*Beekeeping since 2010*



## 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?

### **Sterilize your hives by irradiation**

***Montgomery County, PA., Beekeepers offer opportunity for low-cost hive sterilization***

Fellow Beekeepers,

Spring will be here before many of us are ready for it. So now is the time to make preparations for the arrival of new packages and nucs. If you have dead out hives from this season, before you put new bees in those dead out hives you should consider taking part in the **PA State Beekeepers Association** hive irradiation sterilization program. The annual **PSBA/MCBA** hive irradiation sterilization event will be held on **Monday March 12th, 2018 at Sterigenics in Salem, NJ**. Spending a little money and getting those dead out hives sterilized before putting new bees into them that cost \$110 or more would be the first step in keeping your new colony healthy.

The hive irradiation program will safely kill any disease or harmful bacteria in your dead out or used hives you bought that could harm new bees. You can sterilize boxes, frames, honey comb, and the honey in them. Just double bag any boxes that contain honey/stores as per the instructions on the **MCBA** website. This program has operated successfully for years allowing beekeepers from **OH, PA, NJ, NY, and DE** to sterilize second hand equipment and dead out hives and put them safely back in their operation without the threat of infecting new bees in that equipment.

For complete details about how to prepare and palletize your hive equipment, Go to [www.montcopabees.org](http://www.montcopabees.org), place your cursor over "Services and Resources" and click on "Irradiation". You MUST follow all of the instructions to wrap individual boxes or pallets of your equipment. Heavy plastic under sheeting is critical. There cannot be any leaks of liquefied honey from any pallet. Watch the video and read the instructions on bagging boxes with honey and stores in them. You can deliver your equipment already stacked and stretch wrapped on a pallet. Or you take

loose hive equipment to Sterigenics and palletize it right there. You may bring as many pallets of equipment as you like. If you deliver your equipment there is a post office close by where you may purchase your money order after you find out exactly how much it will cost to irradiate what you delivered.



We will meet at the irradiation facility, **Sterigenics International** located at **75 Tilbury Road, Salem, NJ 08078**, on **Monday morning March 12th at about 10:30 A.M.**

I suggest that you talk it up among fellow beekeepers and combine equipment to make it more cost effective and economical to take part in the treatment process. If we get enough equipment for 7 pallets the cost will be only \$177.78 for a standard 40" x 48" pallet. On one pallet we can pack 42 deep boxes and 6 mediums all with frames and comb which breaks down to treatment cost of \$3.70 per box. You can pack 66 mediums on a pallet which would be \$2.70 per box to have them treated. That is certainly cheaper than the cost on new boxes, frames, and foundation plus the time, energy, and food resource bees need to build comb.

This is cheap health insurance when you are putting a new package of bees into a dead out hive. If anyone is taking part please let me know by e-mail by the beginning of March. And please pass this on to others.

Sincerely,

Mark Antunes  
Montgomery Co. Beekeepers Association  
PA State Beekeepers Association  
honeyhillfarm@verizon.net, 484-955-0768

## BEES IN THE NEWS

### ***Lithium Chloride Salts may be new Varroa killer***

Thanks to **BUMBA** member **Bob Lomedico** who found this recent bit of news.

Through a chance discovery, German scientists from the **University of Hohenheim** have stumbled on a new method of wiping out this parasitic pest without harming the bees.

"Lithium chloride can be used to feed bees in sugar water. In our experiments, even small amounts of saline solution were enough to kill the mites sitting on the bees within a few days – without side effects for the bees," **Dr Peter Rosenkranz**, head of the **State Institute of Apiculture**, explained.

Currently, beekeepers treat infested beehives with aggressive organic acids or chemically derived miticides. However, mites can quickly gain resistance and these substances can also leave potentially harmful residues. Furthermore, no new active compounds against *V. destructor* have been registered in the past 25 years.

This newly developed technique of using lithium chloride is low cost, easy to manufacture, won't accumulate in beeswax, and has a relatively low toxicity to mammals. So far, so good, but it's perhaps premature to say whether this discovery could be the savior of honeybees. However, with few other options on the horizon, scientists are already in talks with companies in hopes of getting this solution off the ground and into the market.

Read the full article at [www.iflscience.com/](http://www.iflscience.com/)

## American Bee Journal "Extra"

### ***Agricultural Fungicide Attracts Honey Bees, Study finds***

When given the choice, honey bee foragers prefer to collect sugar syrup laced with the fungicide chlorothalonil over sugar syrup alone, researchers report in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

The puzzling finding comes on the heels of other studies linking fungicides to declines in honey bee and wild bee populations. One recent study, for example, found parallels between the use of chlorothalonil and the presence of *Nosema bombi*, a fungal parasite, in bumble bees. Greater chlorothalonil use also was linked to range contractions in four declining bumble bee species.

Other research has shown that European honey bees have a very limited repertoire of detoxifying enzymes and that exposure to one potentially toxic compound - including fungicides - can interfere with their ability to metabolize others.

"People assume that fungicides affect only fungi," said **University of Illinois** entomology professor and department head **May Berenbaum**, who led the new research with postdoctoral researcher **Ling-Hsiu Liao**. "But fungi are much more closely related to animals than they are to plants. And toxins that disrupt physiological processes in fungi can also potentially affect them in animals, including insects."

To the researchers' surprise, the bees also preferred sugar syrup laced with glyphosate - the active ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup herbicide - at 10 parts per billion, but not at higher concentrations. And while the bees actively avoided syrup containing the fungicide prochloraz, they showed a mild preference for sugar syrup laced with chlorothalonil at 0.5 and 50 parts per billion, but not at 500 ppb.

"The bees are not only not avoiding this fungicide, they're consuming more of it at certain concentrations," Berenbaum said.

The new findings are worrisome in light of research showing that exposure to fungicides interferes with honey bees' ability to metabolize the acaricides used by beekeepers to kill the parasitic varroa mites that infest their hives, the researchers said.



## Bee Culture – “Catch the Buzz”

### **Worldwide importance of honey bees for natural habitats**

Global synthesis of data reveals honey bees as world’s key pollinator of non-crop plants.

*Source Newsroom: University of California San Diego*

An unprecedented study integrating data from around the globe has shown that honey bees are the world’s most important single species of pollinator in natural ecosystems and a key contributor to natural ecosystem functions. The first quantitative analysis of its kind, led by biologists at the **University of California San Diego**, is published Jan. 10 in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*.

The report weaves together information from 80 plant-pollinator interaction networks. The results clearly identify the honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) as the single most frequent visitor to flowers of naturally occurring (non-crop) plants worldwide. Honey bees were recorded in 89 percent of the pollination networks in the honey bee’s native range and in 61 percent in regions where honey bees have been introduced by humans.

One out of eight interactions between a non-agricultural plant and a pollinator is carried out by the honey bee, the study revealed. The honey bee’s global importance is further underscored when considering that it is but one of tens of thousands of pollinating species in the world, including wasps, flies, beetles, butterflies, moths and other bee species.

“Biologists have known for a while that honey bees are widespread and abundant—but with this study, we now see in quantitative terms that they are currently the most successful pollinators in the world,” said **Keng-Lou James Hung**, who led the study as a graduate student in UC San Diego’s Division of Biological Sciences. He’s now a postdoctoral researcher at the Ohio State University.

“Our study also nicely confirms something that pollination biologists have known for a long time: even in the presence of a highly abundant species that pollinates many plant species, we still need healthy populations of other pollinators for entire plant communities to receive adequate pollination services,” said Hung.

The reason for this, Hung noted, is that in habitats where honey bees are

present, they nevertheless fail to visit nearly half of all animal-pollinated plant species, on average.

“Our take home message is that while it’s important for us to continue to research how we can improve the health of managed honey bee colonies for agricultural success, we need to further understand how this cosmopolitan and highly successful species impacts the ecology and evolutionary dynamics of plant and pollinator species in natural ecosystems,” said Hung.

*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**

\*\*\*\*\*PACKAGED BEE PRICES

3# Italian or Russians.

1-5 packages-----\$135 each

6-14 packages-----\$125 each

15+ packages-----\$110 each

Italian queens are marked; Russian are not. There is a \$5 charge to have Russian queens marked.

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 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 has two honey extractors for members to use. Contact extractor managers **Gerry Jones** (Mitchellville, [gejones486@verizon.net](mailto:gejones486@verizon.net), 301-577-1365) and **David Clark** (Dunkirk, [dadicl.clark@gmail.com](mailto: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 **Larry Priockis**, [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 Larry at [thirstycat@gmail.com](mailto:thirstycat@gmail.com)

### [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.

### Newsletter Survey

The **BUMBA Editor** wants your input to improve the newsletter! **VP Tracy Velazquez** has created a short survey to ask members for their opinions about the newsletter. We want to know what you like, don't like, suggestions for improvements and what you want in your newsletter.

We will bring printed copies of the survey to the meeting. However, we would prefer that you take the survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q73LYQX>

Thank you for participating.

### *Woodcamp Farm - Mid-Atlantic Honey Bees*

*Jason Hough*

17403 Hardy Road, Mount Airy, Maryland 21771

[bees@woodcampfarm.com](mailto:bees@woodcampfarm.com)

443.962.7226

Now taking orders on our web page

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

for 3 lb packages with an Italian queen:

\$110 for cash or check, \$115 for credit cards

Delivery dates: March 20 & April 28

**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
VP	Tracy Velazquez	406-539-9715	tvelazquez@mcn.net
Treas.	Larry Prikockis	703 981-1796	thirstycat@gmail.com
Sec'y	Debby Heyes	301-855-0071	dbheyas@comcast.net
Event Coordinator	Frank Fennell	301-675-0971	bumba.outreach@gmail.com
Editor	David Morris	301-725-6185	beefriend@verizon.net
P.G. Inspector	Gregg Gochnour	301-261-8106 x5920	gregg.gochnour@maryland.gov
MSBA Pres.	Jim Frazier	301-518-9678	marylandhoneycompany2011@gmail.com
P.G. MSBA VP	David Clark	443-871-0494	dadicl.clark@gmail.com

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 **2018 BUMBA** Calendar:  
 February 1, 7:30PM, **BUMBA** Mtg.  
 February 8, 7:00PM **BUMBA** Short Course  
 February 17, Saturday, **MSBA** Winter Mtg  
 Feb 8 – Mar 15, Thursdays, 7:00PM Bee Classes  
 April 5, 7:30PM, **BUMBA** Mtg.  
 April 7, 10AM-3PM, Saturday **BUMBA** Field Day  
 June 7, 7:30PM, **BUMBA** Mtg.  
 June, **MSBA** Summer Mtg  
 August 2, 7:30PM, **BUMBA** Mtg.  
 August 13-17, **EAS**, Hampton Roads, VA  
 October 4, 7:30PM, **BUMBA** Mtg.  
 November, **MSBA** Fall Mtg/Honey Show  
 December 6, 6:30PM, **BUMBA** Holiday Party