



# NEWSLETTER

## Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association

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

BUMBA Forum

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**Next BUMBA Meeting: Thursday, April 5, 7:30 PM**  
**Watkins Park Nature Center**

## Annual Elections

**Kimberly Mehalick, BUMBA's** mentor program lead and new **Maryland State Beekeepers Association VP**, will talk on "**An Action Plan for Your Bee Yard**". In beekeeping, as in everything else that matters, you can't achieve a goal that has not yet been thought out, and you need both a strategy and a resource plan to get there. The beekeeping calendar in the Mid-Atlantic is one of the toughest in North America: Kim will help us plan the work and work the plan to the benefit of our bees and our beekeeping skills. This discussion should give you guidelines on planning your bee activities for the year, so you can determine the resources you will need to reach your personal goals.

**Maggie Mills, BUMBA President**, will talk on "**Swarm Prevention**". Maggie has become a successful, small scale sideline beekeeper, selling nucs and honey. To be successful in Maryland, you have to bring your hives up to swarm strength early in the spring, but not let them swarm! This is our perennial challenge. Swarm season looms, learn swarm control.

**BUMBA** holds its **Annual Elections** in April so there will be a short business meeting to accept nominations and hold elections. The term of office is one year, so offices are open each year. All officers have agreed to serve for another year, save one. This year, our vice-president, Tracy Velazquez, is stepping down after two years of service. The **Nominations Chair is David Morris**. He will accept nominations (self-nominations are accepted) by email received by Wednesday evening before the meeting, and during the elections. David's contact information is on the back page.

# The President's Smoker

Dear **BUMBA** members -

Happy Spring! I hope you will help me welcome our 54 new members who have completed the 2018 BUMBA Short Course. I'd also like to thank everyone who helped to make this year's course a success. We couldn't do it without the great volunteers who offer their time to our great organization.

Just when we thought spring was right around the corner, we found ourselves on the fringes of another Nor'easter. I am hearing packages from Georgia scheduled to be delivered the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in March have been delayed due to the cold snap. Some area beekeepers were able to do inspections last weekend (March 10<sup>th</sup>), but it is still too cold for me. I won't pull frames unless it's 60 degrees. Anything lower, especially on a windy day, could result in chilled brood. I saw a post on another club page where a beekeeper made a split and several veteran beeks responded that it was simply too early for splitting hives. I agree. In fact, April 15<sup>th</sup> is typically my "go-to" date for splitting. I'm writing this column early (March 13<sup>th</sup>), but the weather forecast doesn't look like we will see an early spring after all. The news reported even the Cherry Blossom peak has been pushed back approximately 2 weeks. I know we are all eager to get into our colonies and incorporate our swarm management techniques, but it's better to wait for the weather to cooperate so we don't risk setting back our colonies.

If you successfully overwintered your bees, congratulations! I know it has personally been a winter with heavy losses, which I attribute to late Fall "Varroa Bombs". I treated with Mite Away Quick Strips last Fall, but I did not vaporize as I have done the past 2 seasons and I paid the price. I was able to look at my colonies on January 12 and found more dead outs, but I felt the remaining colonies were strong and I hoped I had seen the worst of it. Unfortunately, it wasn't the end and more colonies dwindled until the clusters were too small to maintain warmth. While unfortunate, I gain a lot of knowledge by conducting Bee CSI of dead outs and typically I was seeing 2-3 frames with brood covering a fair amount of space on the frame, indicating these colonies came into January and even February with adequate bee populations to support build up. However, by early March these colonies had crashed and the remaining (dead) cluster was down to a

cup or so of bees. Through the grapevine, I heard this is happening throughout the country and may be the result of a new Varroa virus. It will be interesting to hear more about this hypothesis. Once winter comes, there's not much we can do for Varroa except Vaporization of Oxalic Acid. Area beekeepers who vaporized have few losses according to my conversations and I know I benefitted from this practice the past 2 seasons, so I will adopt that approach moving forward.

On **Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>** we will have the **BUMBA Field Day at Scott Seccomb's** apiary. I am looking forward to this event and hope you will join us for a fun day and a great meal prepared by **Vic and Linda Curtis!** I can't wait for some of that chicken and those Boardwalk fries!

Peace, Love and Bees -

*Maggie*

## Message from the VP

*Tracy Velazquez*

I saw the beehives right away!

My daughter Avery and I were taking California Route 5 from Oakland to Los Angeles as part of our *Epic College-Tour Spring Break Road Trip*. As we left the bay area's tech industrial corridor behind and entered the Central Valley, the landscape quickly turned beefy. Black angus dotted the scrubby hills. Herds of sheep were scattered here and there.

But after a while, the cows gave way to trees; we'd entered Almond Country. Articles or even videos cannot do justice to the immensity of the vastness of California's almond fields. There were so many trees, over so many square miles, that it almost played tricks on the mind, making you think you were looking at little bushes instead of full grown trees. If there was ever an example of "monoculture," this was it.



**Bees in the almonds**

At first, there were no hives, most likely because we were farther north. As we got closer to Fresno and Bakersfield, though, we began to see them. Many of the groves (if that is even an adequate description)



**Bees waiting to be put in the almond field**

had an access road running between the highway and the trees; there were usually two to four boxes of bees every few rows. At one point, we saw hundreds of boxes stacked up, likely just trucked in and waiting to be distributed among the trees.

Avery and I also began noticing signs. A number of them read: “Is Growing Food Wasting Water?” There were also some saying, “No water, no jobs,” and “Congress-Created Dustbowl.” In addition to these professionally-printed signs, there were also many hand-made ones, expressing similar water-policy sentiments.



**Political Sign on Water Rights**

were referring to? And still, more planting was continuing: one could be hypnotized looking at the endless rows of almond saplings, with their white protective sheaths.

In addition to more water, more trees would mean a need for more bees. Where will these millions more bees come from? We know the toll that being hauled around to almond fields takes on them. Almonds have little nectar, so they must be fed syrup. They are often exposed to harmful chemicals. Many colonies die. While I understand that people need jobs and want almond products, I came away wondering if maybe it was time to say “enough.”

It’s hard to drive through the Central Valley without being struck by the role that irrigation plays there. On the side of the road which was not irrigated, it was a brushy desert landscape. On the other, water had transformed the area into productive agricultural land. But as we approached Bakersfield, the sky became hazy; was this the “dust-bowl” the signs



**Newly planted trees in the dusty haze**

I know there are powerful economic forces that have invested millions in the Central Valley. But there must be more sustainable agricultural practices than these almond “factories” with their huge water needs and the use of bees - which are living things - as little more than grease in the gears of what has become an agricultural machine. As spring is a time of hope in the bee yard, I’ll be hoping we’ll move in that direction in the years ahead.

*Photo Credits: Avery Alexander*

## BUMBA Newsletter Questionnaire Results

*By Tracy Velazquez*

Thanks to everyone who filled out our newsletter survey. We had sixty responses! David Morris, our intrepid newsletter editor, has pored over the results and will be taking everyone’s comments into consideration. Some highlights that I thought worth mentioning:

- 85% of respondents always read at least some of the newsletter.
- The newsletter component that the most people find the most useful is “how to” articles on beekeeping. In addition, over 80 percent of people said they always or usually read the following components: Information on policies and regulations affecting beekeeping; calendar for BUMBA and other beekeeping clubs; and articles from the president and vice president
- Most people want to continue to get the newsletter emailed to them as a PDF.

- Almost half (47%) of club members get Bee Culture, which is the most frequently read other beekeeping publication.
- About half the people are fine with getting the newsletter just a few days before the bimonthly BUMBA meeting, while about half would like to get it 5 days to two weeks before the meeting.

In terms of the comments, BUMBA members are generally happy with the newsletter and are very appreciative of the work Dave puts into it! As was mentioned above, there is a desire for more advice on management during the upcoming two months (so for the April newsletter, what to do and expect in April and May), what to do under various special circumstances like swarming, etc. One suggestion is to include links to articles and videos on the web that experienced beekeepers feel reflect good practices. A number of folks would like more information on where to get beekeeping supplies, equipment, bees, etc., and one person suggested product reviews from members.

The issue of the **BUMBA** forum continues to surface. Perhaps, just like we always include the info on who has the extractors, we could always (or at least a couple times a year) have a tutorial on using the forum. Folks also had suggestions for the **BUMBA** website.

We also asked whether folks would be interested in writing guest articles, and about half said “yes” or “maybe.” I hope you will reach out to David. I know I like to hear the perspectives and experiences of our club members and think a guest column would be a great addition. I particularly liked the suggestion of including tried-and-true honey recipes! We all are learning from each other, which is what makes **BUMBA** such a great club!

## The Editor's Take

I want to thank everyone who participated in the survey, and especially to **Tracy Velazquez** who put it together. I appreciated the complements and will work on the various comments offered.

Many years ago, **Kim Flottum** wrote an article in **Bee Culture** about what should be in a good newsletter. I still look back to that article to make sure I have not left out something important.

According to the survey, the “How-to” and the officer’s articles are the most read. I commend our officers who have always stepped up and provided excellent articles; **Tony Drake, Scott Seccomb, Bob Greenwell,**

**Maggie Mills, Tracy Velazquez, Leigh Walton, Linda Thompson, Frank Fenton,** and many more over the years. Thank you all for your excellent contributions! Many different members over the years contributed “How-to” articles, current news and personal experiences in beekeeping, including; **Tim McMahon, Jerry Jones, Bruce Murray, Bob Cory, Jeff Forbes** (keeping us informed about the beekeeping zoning policies), **Jan Day** (who created the most amazing “Bee quilt” I’ve ever seen!), and **Lynn Thorsen’s** year-long series on **Top Bar Hive** beekeeping back in 2012. Most recently, **Bob Greenwell** has done a fantastic job with his very informative articles, well written and a pleasure to read. **Kim Flottum** told me he looked forward to Bob’s articles. You don’t get any higher complement than that! The point is, it takes a lot of contributors to keep our newsletter interesting and informative. We shouldn’t rely on just one person’s experience, perspective, or time. I will continue to work to get more voices in our newsletter.

Some suggestions seem more appropriate to be applied to our bee class, or be offered on our web page than the newsletter. For example, topics like how to use the web forum, tip sheets and check lists, local sources of beekeeping supplies, bees and queens, links to good beekeeping videos and web pages. Send your favorite or most informative links to **Larry Prikockis.**, our web master (see “**Club Programs**”). I’ll say right now, the best two web pages I know of are the **MAAREC** page at <http://agdev.anr.udel.edu/maarec/> and **Randy Oliver’s** <http://scientificbeekeeping.com>. But, that’s just my opinion. Regarding beekeeping tips and checklists, we can do this as a club. Who will take the lead?

There were several comments about the format of the newsletter, so I want to take a moment to explain the formatting. The comments were “could be shorter”, “not easy to read on the computer screen”, “don’t break the articles across pages”.

“Shorter”: since “reprints from other magazines” was the least read section, I will drop “Bees in the News” as a section.

“Don't break articles across pages”: this is a reality of publishing. Not all articles are exactly one page long. Every magazine, newspaper and even web pages are likely to have articles broken across pages. The articles do continue on the next page, so you don’t have to go searching for it.

“It’s hard to read on a computer”: I would sincerely like advice from

anyone about a better font size, font choice, or layout. By sending a PDF document, readers can print it or enlarge it on the screen as needed. Please tell me what will improve the readability of the newsletter. You may have read **Kirsten Traynor's** comments about the layout changes to the *American Bee Journal* under her editorship, how the font was adjusted from 9, to 10, and finally, to 9.5 points. I like the changes. I find it easier to read. Now, how can we improve *our* newsletter?

I switched to landscape mode when we started sending the newsletter primarily as a PDF in emails; only about 5% of the members now receive printed copies. I have always been annoyed at reading computer files and documents in Portrait mode (like a printed magazine) on a computer screen laid out in Landscape mode (horizontal). It is a holdover from printed magazines and established paper sizes in the US. If I enlarged the print enough to read the article I have to scroll it up and down to read each column. I tried different layouts and formats trying to accommodate Landscape for computers and Portrait for printed copies. I just don't know how to accommodate both without creating two different files. By using the Landscape mode, I hope to make reading the newsletter on the computer, easier.

A few years ago I introduced sections and a table of contents, hoping to make it easier to find what interests you. I try to consistent with the type of information in each section. If these can be improved, please make suggestions.

Finally, Tracy commented that someone wanted honey recipes. **Honey.com** has new honey recipes every month. Who would be willing to try out some of the recipes and write short articles recommending a recipe?

There also is the "Members Corner" for member writings. I'll be talking about this at the meeting.

Thank you again for your comments

*David Morris*  
*BUMBA editor*

## Other Bee Meetings

### ***MSBA Spring Meeting***

At this time we have no information about the next MSBA meeting. Be sure to check back at:

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

*Featured Speakers: TBD*



### ***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! This time it is a lot closer!



## 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 Field Day

April 7, 11-2

7804 Woodyard Rd., Clinton

The Annual BUMBA Field Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.-ish. All BUMBA members are invited! The event will be at Scott Seccomb's home and bee yard.

For those who can help with set up (around 10:00 a.m.) and/or cleanup (2 p.m.-ish), or those who are going to be mentors this year, BUMBA will cover the cost of your lunch. 2018 short course members also have the cost of their lunch covered by their tuition. For other BUMBA members, we are asking for a donation of \$10 per person for lunch, which will again feature Vic Curtis' excellent barbecue. We will be installing a package of bees into the raffle hive, and inspecting other colonies, so please bring a veil if you have one. Kim Mehalick will also be demonstrating soap making.

*Non-short course BUMBA members:* please email Tracy Velazquez at [tvelazquez@mcn.net](mailto:tvelazquez@mcn.net) to let her know if you anticipate coming. If you ARE coming, let her know if you can help with set up or cleanup.

Rain or shine, unless we have a typhoon! If the Field Day needs to be postponed, we will try to announce it at the Thursday's April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and send out an email by Friday.

DIRECTIONS: Scott Seccomb, 7804 Woodyard Rd., Clinton (if you have trouble finding the house, call 301-580-8031)

PLEASE ENTER THE FIELD ON THE EAST SIDE VIA THE GATE AND PARK IN THE FIELD, NOT IN THE DRIVEWAY.

#### From Md. Route 301:

Take Md. Rte. 4 west (towards DC) to Rte. 223, the Woodyard Road exit. At the bottom of the ramp turn left onto Woodyard Road (South). Go about 2.5 miles and at the third stop light veer right, (this is still Woodyard Rd.) After you go around 3 sharp S turns, you will see Don Drive on the right and TALL PINE TREES AHEAD ON THE LEFT. Just past the pine trees there is a small field and gate on the left. Enter there.

#### From Md. Route 5

Take Woodyard Road towards Upper Marlboro/ Mellwood. Go past the Dash In gas station at the 4-way light and continue until you see Resurrection Cemetery on the right. After the 7<sup>th</sup> house on the right, past the cemetery and across from Tanglewood Plant Nursery, is a small field and a gate on the right, before the tall pine trees.

Drive through the gate and come back by the house and park anywhere you want.

### BUMBA 2018 Short Course Graduates

BUMBA concludes another successful Beginning Beekeeping course, to be followed with the Field Day to give the class members some live, hands-on, experience. This year's 54 graduates are: Janine Bennett-Mohamed, Laura Darnell, Ray Islan, Azzam Islam, Benjamin Davis, Edward and Peggy Duckworth, Bernadette Dullaghan, Aamir El-Amin-Bey, Walter Evans, Kelly Fisher, Bryan Flexhaug, Jessie Gambrell, W. Curtis Houston, Daniel W Gantt, Sandra George, Brian George, Candace Green, Aunamesha Henley, Eric Hotchkiss, Peter Hunter, Karen Jackson, Kendra Jones, Lisa Joseph, John Kalinich, Janelle Livesay, Sherman Manley, Beth Mays, Cheryl Mendoza, Jarod Mendoza-Tingem, Jay Neal, Heather O'Rourke, Becky Patterson, Greg and Terri Pendleton, Stephen and Amanda Poland, Autumn Sandage-Stiltner, Michael Stiltner, Aisha Sarfo, James Sichelman, Bessie G Stroman, John and Rachel Sumerlot, Charles and Regina Ullrich,

Danielle Walker, Karen Ward, Pam Austin, Thorne Waugh, Carol Ann Williams, Scott Williams, Becky VanOcker,

Congratulations to all and we wish you fun and success in your new hobby!

As always, thank you for the many volunteers and instructors, including: **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**

## 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:

### **Sat, April 14, 12PM - 5PM: Spring Greening Fair**

Mount Rainier Nature Recreation Center, 4701 31st Pl, Mt Rainier, MD

#### **1 - 4pm: Bowie Green Expo (Tentative)**

Kenhill Center, 2614 Kenhill Dr., Bowie 20715

<http://BowieGreenExpo.org>

### **Sat, April 28, 10am - 4pm: Maryland Day**

University of Maryland, College Park, 20742;

Our largest event of the year! Hundreds of visitors of all ages get introduced to bees; **we need dozens of volunteers!**

<http://www.marylandday.umd.edu/>

### **Sat, May 7, 10am-4pm: Spring Farm Festival (Tentative)**

Hard Bargain Farm, 2301 Bryan Point Rd, Accokeek, MD

<http://fergusonfoundation.org/events/spring-farm-festival-2/>

### **Sat, May 12, 10am - 6pm: Green Man Festival**

Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

<http://greenbeltgreenmanfestival.org/>

### **Sat, May 21, 11AM - 4PM: Cheverly Days**

Cheverly, MD

### **Sat, June 2, Noon – 3PM: Behnke Nursery Spring Open House**

Behnke Nursery, 11300 Baltimore Ave, Beltsville,

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*

## BUMBA Mentor program

*By Kimberly Mehalick*

Last year (2017) was the inaugural year for assigning mentors to each person graduating from the **BUMBA** beekeeping class. This year, we are incorporating lessons learned and proceeding forward hoping to improve the program.

This program concept is the result of my personal dissatisfaction with the lack of follow-up after the first beekeeping class completion for the majority of students. It had been a discussion point for a few years with many of us. We want our club to grow and be successful in ensuring that people have the resources they need to be successful. It is hard to watch new beekeepers drift off when things get tough without a way to show them how to get better results. This mentor program is the first of several resources I hope to have established within the club.

To arrange mentors/mentees matches, I have a list of the phone numbers, emails, and cities of the 43 individuals taking the class. I say individual with the clear recognition that there are teams and several families diving into this together. However, I will assign only one mentor to each team.

There are 19 mentor teams willing to take at least one mentee. I now try to match based on one factor only... location. I first sent a survey to the class members asking if they already had a mentor, so I could respect those relationships. Then I created a MapQuest trip around the state listing the city of every mentor and mentee. This lets me know where Springdale and Harwood are located. Then based on the responses from the mentors I assign each 1 or 2 mentees. I do take into account those doing top bar hives, or interested in CNG (certified naturally grown) hive maintenance.

Each student was asked to logon to the [www.bumbabees.com/forums](http://www.bumbabees.com/forums) to setup their account. There were a typical number of problems found, and **Larry P, and Bob Greenwell** ensured everyone could get on who tried. The forum has historical information back to 2012 when our family first started keeping bees. Every member of **BUMBA** is welcome on the forum.

Tonight, I finally finished sending each and every Mentee a mentor match. The form letter gave minimum information of telephone, email, and city for both mentor and mentee. I tried to keep all locations within a half an

hour of each other. This is a two way street. Both mentors and mentees should be trying to communicate on a regular basis through this first season. Each team will establish the best way to work and contact each other.

If you are willing to be a mentor to a new beekeeper, please let me know. We always need more mentors.

*This year we have 8 new beekeepers that are not getting bees. They simply want the chance to shadow an experienced beekeeper.* If you are going to work your bees, *please announce it on the **BUMBA** forum*, and offer to let people come to your bee yard. If you are splitting a hive, announce it. If you are doing Varroa checks, announce it. I personally only let people use my hive tools (I have extra) so that no disease spreads between yards. I would have loved extra help when I was collecting all my bee samples.

Below are the guidelines for mentoring that were provided to mentees.

### *Guidelines for Students*

- 1) *Your mentor is a person who has had a beehive for at least one year.*
- 2) *Your mentor is a volunteer, offering to help. They have agreed to answer your phone calls or emails (whichever you together agree on). They are a resource to you and want you to succeed.*
- 3) *Your mentor will invite you to occasionally come see them with their hives, at their convenience. Most of us have full time jobs, and work our bees on the edges.*
- 4) *Your mentor has their own bees. They are not responsible for yours. You are.*
- 5) *Along with your mentor, you also have other resources. Use them.*
  - a) *the **BUMBA** forum at [www.bumbabees.com/forums](http://www.bumbabees.com/forums)*
  - b) *coming to our **BUMBA** meetings. At least you will know your mentor, and that person who sat next to you in class.... meet one new person each month, soon you will know everyone.*
- 6) *If you have problems, please contact me via email or phone.*

*Kim Mehalick*

*301-552-2214 240-778-5498 (cell)*

## MENTORS' MEETING

On Sunday, March 12, the **Mehalick's** hosted ten mentors at our home to share information, talk about the mentoring program, and discuss two topics. We agreed as a group that the face to face meeting was useful, and we will continue to meet trying for once a month for the bee season. The intention is to use these meetings to discuss more advanced beekeeping topics, and allow free information exchange.

As for last years mentoring program, the majority of us were confused by the lack of follow through by the new beekeepers. After one or two enthusiastic emails or calls, there was silence. The overwhelming opinion was that any face to face interaction made things easier for later follow up. That was one of the reasons Mentors worked to be present at the last few class meetings, and are attending the field day. We were all reminded that communication is two way, and we should try to engage throughout the season. We want to have everyone provide seasonal tips. As mentors are checking for swarm cells, tell the mentees to check their hives, too.

We walked through two presentations: First **Kim Mehalick's** presentation "Action Plan for the Bee Yard" Then **Dave Clark's** "First Spring Inspections"

We closed the meeting by reminding the mentors they are not being hung out to dry alone as the perfect resource, an all knowing Bee King/Queen. There is a separate email list just for mentors, a resource to be used to help everyone this season.

We agreed to the following Mentor Guidelines.

### *Guidelines for Mentors*

Thank you for offering to mentor a new beekeeper in our BUMBA community. Here are a few general guidelines to set some expectations, and hopefully make the system work better this year.

1. *Let your student know your preferred method of communication (phone, email, cell phone, carrier pigeon)*
2. *Try to introduce yourself to your student in person at the beekeeping class, the next meeting, or the April 7 field day.*
3. *Provide seasonal tips. If you are checking for swarm cells, tell them to check their hives, too.*

4. *Decide if you are willing to visit their apiary and check out their setup.*
5. *Definitely invite them to work your bees as a second set of hands. They are not visiting royalty, but another beekeeper willing to tote equipment and do hive inspections.*
6. *Use the mentor email list to ask questions, or if you hit a problem you need help with... You are not being left alone as the all knowing Bee King/Queen*

*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*

## 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?

Do you have a favorite honey recipe?

What excites you about beekeeping or honey bees?

What has amazed you the most?

We'd love to hear your story.

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

*Jason Hough*

17403 Hardy Road, Mount Airy, Maryland 21771

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

## 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**

Check out the club web site maintained by **Larry Prikockis**, [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.) This includes the forum [www.BUMBAbees.com/forum](http://www.BUMBAbees.com/forum). If you have any interesting *web links* or 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)

### **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.

***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
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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:

- April 5, 7:30PM, **BUMBA** Mtg.
- April 7, 11-2, Saturday **BUMBA** Field Day
- April 14, 12-5, Spring Greening Fair, Mt. Rainier
- April 28, 10-4, Maryland Day, UMD, College Park
- May 12, 10-6, Green Man Festival, Greenbelt
- May 21, 11-4, Cheverly Days, Cheverly
- June 2, 12-3, Behnke's Nursery Spring Open House, Beltsville
- 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