



NEWSLETTER

Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association

August, 2018

Volume 38 No. 4

Published Bi-Monthly since 1980

<http://www.BUMBAbees.com>

BUMBA Forum

CONTENTS

Meetings

- Pg 1 Next **BUMBA** Meeting:
- Pg 2 President's Smoker
MSBA Mtg, Nov. 17
Other bee meetings

Club Happenings

- Pg 4 **BUMBA** Outreach Program Update

Members' Corner

- Pg 5 Extracting: Another Learning Experience

Programs

- Pg 5 **BUMBA** Extractor
www.bumbabees.com and Forum

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

Producing Queens – Why Am I Not Making It Happen for Myself?

Our guest speaker for the August meeting will be **Mike Church**. He is a current member and the founding president of the **Gateway Beekeepers Association** of King George, Virginia. He will be speaking on **queen-producing techniques** that are easily adaptable to the small-scale beekeeper. We will discuss low cost methods that produce superior queens and practices that ensure that well-mated, high-quality queens are available as desired. Come to the meeting to review what you think you knew about queen rearing and learn something new.

There will also be brief updates on **BUMBA** outreach activities, our mentoring program, and the **2018 EAS** Conference.

The President's Smoker

Dear **BUMBA** members -

I hope this bee season has been productive and rewarding for you all. My season has been extremely busy as I rebuilt my apiaries after heavy winter losses. This spring I purchased packages to rebuild and I'm amazed by the success of the packages, package queens, and queens reared from my stock. As of today, I have 46 colonies ranging from full size production hives down to 5 frame nucleus hives with queen cells. I was really worried I wouldn't be able to get all of my drawn comb out of the garage before the wax moths found it, but I did – and then some! I did a few rounds of grafting and my success rates were better than expected. My favorite way to make increase colonies continues to be the use of swarm cells. This year I had some fun adventures opening colonies with ripe queen cells where the worker bees were holding virgin queens hostage in the cells. The disruption of a hive inspection resulted in these new queens emerging. Acting quickly, I was able to introduce virgin queens into small mating nucs. As a result, some of my overwintered hives ended up being broken down completely and split into mating nucs. One colony produced 8 mating nucs using this method and those nucs have built up as either full size colonies or triple nucs which are prepared for winter. While I'm pleased with my rebuilding success, I have also come to the conclusion that it's time for me to downsize to a more manageable number of hives. My Department has all but eliminated our teleworking option, so it won't be possible to sustain this many hives again next year. I expect to sell off some full-size colonies and equipment in the spring. It's a bummer to think about, but I feel sure I'll continue to produce nucs as well as honey, because these aspects of the hobby make it worthwhile – especially the nuc production and queen rearing! Our August speaker will be excellent for anyone who wants to learn more about queen production.

I was reviewing my newsletter article from last August and at that time the nectar flow was definitely over and I was suggesting the use of robbing screens. This season feels a bit later. While I agree the nectar flow is over, I'm also not seeing the level of robbing in my yards that was present this time last season. I also found the bees were slower to cap honey, resulting

in the need to do a second extraction in August. **Leigh Walton** posted a similar finding on the **BUMBA** forum.

This is a good time to order mite treatments for your bees. I shared it last year, but I'm going to share it again – an article on how I experience Varroa losses: <https://honeybeesuite.com/did-they-abscond-or-die-from-varroa/> I also recommend this article by our own, Toni Burnham: <http://www.beeeculture.com/downtown-3/>

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

I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting!

Peace, Love and Bees -

Maggie

Other Bee Meetings

MSBA Spring Meeting

November 17, 9:00 AM

Md. Dept of Agriculture

50 Harry S Truman Pkwy, Annapolis

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. **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

The **DC Beekeepers Alliance** monthly meet ups are the third Wednesday of each month at the **Hill Center (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.

CLUB HAPPENINGS

BUMBA Outreach Program

BUMBA.Outreach@google.com

Greetings fellow apiarists and **BUMBA** members!

Hello fellow apiarists! The 2018 **BUMBA** outreach season is finally slowing down, but as the late great American sage Yogi Berra said “It ain’t over til it’s over.” **BUMBA** supported two events recently.

A new **Pollinator Workshop** event was held at the **Greenbelt Parks and Recreation Center** this year. With it being a brand-new event unfortunately the turnout was not as expected but we still had the bees! Many thanks to **Gerald Jones** for helping out with this event.



Figure 1: Gerry Jones (R), Frank Fennel (C) and a Greenbelt DPW staff member at the BUMBA display.

These are still events on the calendar for 2018 so please consider spending some time to help out and do your part. Two requests recently came in for June events so I am hoping we can accommodate them.

There also was a STEM event for the youth at Bowie Library that had to be cancelled because the weather knocked the power out. But as the saying goes

'there's always next year!'



Figure 2: BUMBA display at Accokeek.

different types of honey, and of course the bees. Usually one 3'x4' table will suffice.



Figure 3: Why we do this! Kids learn about bees, food, and beekeeping. Future beekeepers?

BUMBA has a lot of materials for outreach and is able to display a lot of information in a very small space. We usually have; banners, pamphlets (with valuable info about bees, pollinator plants, coloring pages, honey recipes, etc...) bee products (including wax,

candles, and soap), a hive box and tools,

Having all this information available guarantees great interaction with the attendees. This is why your help is so important; it allows for us to provide the maximum amount of information with a minimal amount of physical

resources. Reaching the

next generation is so important because they will inherit what we leave them.

**September 15th (Sat.) 11am-3pm, *Bowie Health Fair*
15001 Health Center Drive, Bowie MD**

This event's primary focus is on issues affecting human health. We supported it last year and as usual the bees were the rock stars. A lot of valuable information was provided too.

I (and the bees) want to THANK ALL the BUMBA volunteers who have supported an event this year. Without your time and energy, we would not have the success that we do. Remember, bees and other pollinators have no voice so you must be their advocate.

If you can help support one of the listed events please contact me at BUMBA.Outreach@gmail.com and I will get back to you. Thank you for this opportunity to serve in this important capacity for the club.

Yours in beekeeping, THANK YOU!

Frank Fennell Jr
2018 BUMBA Outreach Coordinator
BUMBA.Outreach@gmail.com

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
Store hours M-S 9-6PM, Sun 9-5PM
As always, thank you for your continued support!
Delia Edelmann

Woodcamp Farm – Mid-Atlantic Honey Bees

Jason Hough

17403 Hardy Road, Mount Airy, Maryland 21771

bees@woodcampfarm.com

443.962.7226

www.woodcampfarm.com

MEMBER'S 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?

What excites you about beekeeping or honey bees? What has amazed you the most? We'd love to hear your story.

Extracting: Another learning experience

Bob Cory

In beekeeping you can always learn something new, intentionally or unintentionally. I recently had two "accidents" while extracting honey and wanted to relay to the members the outcome and what I learned (or think I learned)

I had frames that needed to be extracted, but there were too many open cells. Being concerned about the moisture content being too high, I dried it some by putting it in a room with a dehumidifier. That brought down the moisture content all right. Perhaps I let it dry too much, because it started to crystalize in the honey bucket where I was storing it. To melt the honey crystals, I put the bucket in a warm water bath. What I did not realize was that the honey valve was loose. Well, warm water seeped in and guess what! The water went to the top of the bucket (it was less dense than the honey). I poured off the thin, watery honey on the top and fed it back to the bees. The rest of the honey slowly de-crystalized and tested at 18.5% moisture content. It stopped crystals and now I have a 60lb bucket of

beautiful amber honey. Had to feed some of the honey back to the bees because it was too thin.

The second problem was with honey that wasn't crystalized but had a moisture content of 18.9%. Was concerned about the possibility of the honey fermenting. I decided to try to pasteurize it by heating it to 140 degrees. I had to do this in smaller batches, about 25 pounds each. I did this to three batches and have about 80 pounds of very light honey. It still measures at 18.9% moisture, but I am more comfortable about it not fermenting. I am selling that in 2lb jars.

Always remember to dry uncapped honey if you plan to extract it. And keep those honey valves tight!

Good luck with your extracting.

Bob

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, 301-577-1365) and **David Clark** (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 **Larry Prikockis**, **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. 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

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. From the web page www.bumbabees.com/membership.html print a membership form and mail your dues or fill in the online form and pay using PayPal.

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 | Mike Mehalick | 301-552-2214 | genioavgvsti@verizon.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 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 **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 16, **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