



NEWSLETTER

Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association

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BUMBA Forum

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www.bumbabees.com and Forum

Next BUMBA Meeting: Thursday, Oct. 4, 7:30 PM
Watkins Park Nature Center

Honey Shows - Exhibiting and Judging, the View from Both Sides

Our topic tonight will be honey show entries and judging. **Mike Mehalick, BUMBA VP**, will talk about his experience judging the Honey Show exhibits at the D.C. State Fair as well as his experience as an exhibitor at the Maryland State Fair and the Honey Show at the Eastern Apicultural Society's summer conference.

This is an apt topic for the meeting since the Maryland State Beekeepers Association meeting, Nov. 17 (see below), will include their annual Honey Show. Get some final tips on how to improve your exhibits and get a blue ribbon. In addition, help **BUMBA** win the **Best Club Showing Award**, for the club with the most 1st, 2nd and 3rd place exhibits.

As always, expect a good time, share problems and solutions with fellow beekeepers, and plan for the winter and next spring!

See you there!

The President's Smoker

Dear **BUMBA** members -

Happy autumn! I hope this column finds all of you reflecting on your beekeeping season and preparing colonies for winter months. I completed my second and final honey harvest and was quite surprised by the late summer flow. As a result, my production hives are nice and heavy! I am feeding a few late season nucs, but am happy with the weight on the majority of my colonies. Regionally, there are reports of late season "absconding" (colonies with very small populations with and without queens and very little brood). It is my experience this is representative of a Varroa infestation and resultant dwindling due to pest or disease. I am also hearing reports of colonies being "lost to wax moth", but please remember, healthy colonies can tolerate these pests. It is actually weak or diseased colonies which collapse due to wax moth. The same can be true with small hive beetle (SHB) and I am hearing reports that this pest is in full force. My shady yard at home has more SHB than I have ever seen! Fortunately, colonies are robust and able to contain these pests, driving them to the top (or corners) of the hive and holding them hostage in wax/propolis encased jails which are disturbed during inspection. If you are seeing SHB, it's important to reduce the colony to the fewest number of frames so they have the best opportunity to control these pests. This is the appropriate time to test for Varroa and act as necessary. I've repeated it so many times, but I'll say it again, beekeepers will not usually see Varroa on their bees (and if they do, the infestation may be too bad to correct). This is a critical time period and I encourage old and new beekeepers to monitor and treat as necessary. As a Certified Naturally Grown apiary, I like to treat with the half dose of Mite Away Quick Strips (MAQs) and vaporize later in the fall or early winter. The bees being raised now will raise your spring bees, so it's very important they are very healthy. As a reminder, it is too late for Integrated Pest Management such as drone brood culling or brood breaks (IMHO) to manage Varroa. Powdered sugar dusting is not an effective treatment.

As we wind down the season, I encourage you to read "**The Beekeeper's Handbook**" sections on seasonal management. They are short and contain a lot of helpful information to help you prepare for the most

difficult months ahead.

For me, honey supers are frozen, double bagged and stacked in the garage (I don't use chemicals to store them and have never had problems with wax moth using this method) I lost 3 colonies after my honey harvest. This pattern is now normal to me and could be the direct result of not using queen excluders, killing the queen and accidentally removing supers with the only eggs the colony could use to make an emergency queen. I try to be more careful about this each year, but the discovery of a queen on a frame in the honey house indicates I haven't succeeded.

The months ahead include several craft shows where I will sell my honey and body products and begin preparations for spring. It seems so far away, but when producing nucleus colonies and balancing multiple priorities, it creeps up!

Keep an eye out for **Maryland Public Television's** season premiere of "**Maryland Farm and Harvest**" in **November**. You might see a familiar beekeeper and learn a bit about Nucleus Production.

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

Peace, Love and Bees -

Maggie

Other Bee Meetings

MSBA Fall Meeting, Honey Show and Elections

November 17, 9:00 AM

Md. Dept of Agriculture

50 Harry S Truman Pkwy, Annapolis

Featured Speakers: Mel Disselkoen

The November meeting will feature **Mel Disselkoen**, a beekeeper for 40 years, a Master Beekeeper and developer of "On The Spot (OTS) Queen

Rearing” Mel will explain his OTS Queen Rearing process to help beekeepers to be able to produce their own queens when they need them. Check out his web page at <http://www.mdasplitter.com>

Dr. Doug Vinson, VP, NCState Beekeepers Assoc. and an EAS Director, will speak on two topics: “Improved overwintering success: Reduced nest cavity size” and Summer splits: Timing and technique for mite load reduction”

Val Dolcini, President, Pollinator Partnership, will speak on “Partnering for Pollinator Health: The North American Mite-A-Thon and More”

Don’t forget your entries for the **MSBA Annual Honey Show** will also be held. You can get the **Honey Show Rules and Entry Forms** at <https://www.mdbeekeepers.org/honeyshow/>.

Annual Elections will be held as well. If you are interested in serving in a capacity as an officer, please contact a the MSBA President VP, or Secretary.

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.dcbeckeepers.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.dcbeckeepers.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. As we come to the end of a busy season of great Outreach events, I want thank each and every person who came out and helped so much during the year. We can’t do it without your help and support

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)

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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.

The Killing of our Bees and their Keepers

By Michael DeNardo

Pesticides are defined by Sanchez-Bayo and Guka as “toxic chemicals designed to control target groups by interfering with particular metabolic pathways.” Types of pesticides include acaricides, fungicides, herbicides, and insecticides. The insecticide neonicotinoid, routinely used in the farming of soybeans, corn, and other crops to coat the seed before planting, is one of the most dangerous insecticides to bees US and European studies show that “small amounts of neonicotinoid both alone and in combination with other pesticides can cause compromised communication, disorientation, decrease longevity, destroy immunity and disrupt of the brood cycle.” (Pesticide Toxicity in Bees). It has been demonstrated that bee colonies feeding on honey and pollen contaminated with neonicotinoid insecticide may succumb to combined effects of the chemical and disease.

Other chemicals can also cause major disruptions to the bees. Wild bees

exposed to sub-lethal levels of thiamethoxam and clothianidin have their reproductive ability reduced by 50% (Ellis, 2012) Actually, even very small levels of pesticides in the bees' diet can cause 33% of the bees to suffer from disorientation disorder In Journal Plus 1, it was noted that there exist “high concentrations of these insecticides in waste talc that is exhausted from farm machinery.” In fact, the insecticides clothianidin and thiamethoxam were also constantly found in low levels in the soil up to two years after the treated seeds were planted on dandelion flowers and con pollen gathered by the bees. Additional effects on the bees with full exposure to pesticides include “behavioral disruption, thermal regulation, reduced foraging, decreased flight, locomotion, ability, impaired memory, hearing, phototaxis, a shift in communication, compromised immune system, and delayed development” (Decourtye, 2009).

Unfortunately, we do not really know how dangerous these chemicals are to the bees. “A single drop of insecticide may be sufficient to kill a bee” (Marinelli, 2004). There are lethal and sub-lethal levels of pesticides that can kill a species and the “sub-lethal” dose that do not kill still effect the normal functioning and health of the bees Exposure of bees to sub-lethal doses of nicotinoid pesticides may cause increased stress, paralysis or abnormal behavior without killing the bees. (Cotton Pest Management Guide, 2013-2014) There is a cumulative effect of insecticides on most insects (and perhaps humans). As has been noted before, any pesticide that kills one species may kill another species cumulatively and over time We have to ask ourselves, “Can humans, as well as bees, be adversely affected by the use of pesticides?”

Insecticides can also have a deleterious effects with pesticides used for varroa mites control is often addictive and synergistic. “Varroa mites can infiltrate honeybee hives by smelling like the bees; they can even tweet the scent to match the individual colony” (Johnson, 2013) When pesticides are used for mite control, honey bee queens experience an unusual high rate (up to 60%) of **supersedure** and bumblebees have had 85 % fewer queens than normal. There is a greater risk to bees when chemicals used to control mites come in contact with the bees, and the synergistic mixture of araricides and insecticides put larva at risk. The producers of oxalic acid crystals and Beachwood claim that its use will kill up to 90% of the mites However, 10% to 90% may not be killed, and the mites that are not killed can develop a resistance to the oxalic acid and pass this resistance on to the next generation of mites.

Beekeepers are also at risk. Oxalic acid crystals (Beachwood, used off label) can be very harmful to the user. In order to use this substance, the beekeeper must use acid resistant gloves, a mask approved for oxalic fumes, eye protection, cover all skin (as exposure can produce a burning sensation), and use plenty of water to rinse hands and eyes. There is also the warning that “breathing fumes can cause severe irritation and burns to the throat.” The manufacturer’s claim that its use is safe to the bee and the keeper is highly suspect. Do the manufacturers offer any long term studies of the safety and efficacy of this product?

Herbicides, as well as pesticides, wreak havoc with bees. Because herbicides reduce plant species, all foragers have problems, but bees in particular find it difficult to collect various pollens that are required for a healthy bee diet. Glyphosate News reports that Roundup, a defoliant used in Vietnam, (also known as Agent Orange), causes bees not to find food, to starve, and die. “The combination of fungicides with insecticides has been revealed to be more deadly than either chemical alone (Johnson, 2013).

A study by H. Cheng in 2016 asserts that “Nanoscale particulate matter rapidly induces oxidative stress and inflammation in olfactory epithelium with concomitant effects on the brain.” Nano particulates from pesticides can breach the blood brain barrier, and be absorbed into the gut. This creates the beginning of the destruction of the immune system, and the disruption of intercommunication between the brain, gut, and other organs. This venomous aggression, a man-made attack on species, brings instant death, or a slow torturous death over time to the species. Thus, the species has numerous problems in functioning.

In August, 2018, a San Francisco court awarded a \$289 million liability, attributing Roundup causative to the death of a school groundkeeper from non-hodgkins leukemia. The active ingredient in Roundup is **glyphosate**, similar to Agent Orange, used as a defoliant. (Assoc press 8/11 /18.) There are currently over 100 cases pending, citing this herbicide liable for severe harm or death.

Unfortunately, on August 2, 2018 a memo received by the US Fish and Wildlife Agency has rolled back the ban on neonicotinoids (W Mann 8/18/18). We should all heed the wise words of former president Jimmy Carter, who said the government “has an ignorance of the truth” (Washington Post, 8/19/18). It is upon us to continue to fight against the use of pesticides and herbicides in order to protect our bees, our environment, ourselves, and future generations.

Finally, it is very interesting and disturbing to find similarities between the effects of pesticides on one species (bees) contributing to numerous disorders and the effects of pesticide on another species (humans) with similar disorders, ie, Alzheimer’s disease/dementia. Why does this similarity exist? Is it possible that the cumulative and over time effects of pesticides can be causative for diseases like Alzheimer’s and dementia?

BEES

HUMANS with Alzheimer’s/Dementia

Increased Stress	Increased Stress
Disorientation	Disorientation
Impaired Memory	Impaired Memory
Abnormal Mobility	Abnormal Mobility
Poor Diet	Poor Diet
Decreased Ability to Communicate	Decreased Ability to Communicate
Negative Colony Effect	Negative Family Effect
Decreased Longevity	Decreased Longevity
Mortality	Mortality
Risk to Larva	Risk to Future Generations
Decreased Immunity	Decreased Immunity
Decreased Hearing	Decreased Hearing
Thermal Deregulation	Thermal Deregulation
Phototaxis	Phototaxis
Capital Cost	Capital Cost
Bee Cost	Human Cost
Decreased Locomotion	Decreased Locomotion
Reduced Foraging	Reduced Foraging
Decreased Flight	Decreased Walking
Delayed Development	Reversal of Development
Paralysis	Paralysis

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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

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**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:
 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 17, 9AM, **MSBA** Fall Mtg/Honey Show, MDA Hq, Annapolis
 December 6, 6:30PM, **BUMBA** Holiday Party