



# NEWSLETTER

## Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association

December, 2018

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<http://www.BUMBAbees.com>

BUMBA Forum

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[www.bumbabees.com](http://www.bumbabees.com) and Forum

**Next BUMBA Meeting: Thursday, Dec. 5, 6:30 PM**  
**Watkins Park Nature Center**

## Annual Holiday Potluck Dinner

Every year, **BUMBA** has held a **Holiday Potluck Dinner**. This year is no exception. **BUMBA** will provide the main dish (pulled pork BBQ by **Vic Curtis!**), as well as plates, napkins and utensils. **BUMBA** is asking everyone to use the online Signup Genius web page (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c4fa8a623a3fa7-bumba>) to let us know how many members and guests will be attending (to make sure we have enough BBQ), as well as the side dish, drink or dessert you will be bringing. Set-up begins at 6:00 PM so come a little early to get your dish on the serving table; dinner starts at 6:30! We are starting and ending early because it is a dinner meeting, not an after dinner meeting.

This was a difficult year, being pretty much the rainiest one on record. You would think we were in Washington State, not next to Washington, D.C.! Our program will be an unstructured event with several speakers reviewing their beekeeping year and sharing photos. We hope others will be willing to share their experiences, and photos, as well. If you have some photos of your bee yard, or interesting travels or other bee related events, please bring up to a dozen photos on a flash/thumb drive. Some of the speakers will have some photos of their bee year as well.

Another tradition is our **Gift Exchange**. If you want to participate, bring a small, wrapped, hopefully bee related, gift. Everyone who brings a gift will have the opportunity to bring home a surprise.

The **Annual Festival of Lights** will be in place, resulting in a slow ride to the Nature Center. Tell the attendants at the entrance that you are here for the meeting at the Nature Center and there will be no entrance charge. If you are lucky, you may be able to circle the large Christmas Tree outside the Nature Center instead of turning to the right and taking the entire trip through the lights.

See you there!

# The President's Smoker

Dear **BUMBA** members -

Greetings! I hope all of your bees are heavy, mite treated, and tucked in for winter! If you have not treated for Varroa, the only option (in my opinion) in these cold months is vaporization. There have been reports of late season dwindling and reports of dead outs. This is typically a result of Varroa infestation. This is a great time for you all to read up about your bees. If you are a newbie, you can read *The Beekeeper's Handbook*, especially the seasonal management sections. If you are an experienced beekeeper, maybe you will want to read about swarm management or making splits.

Maryland Public Television recently aired a segment filmed in my apiary. If you are interested, you can find it online at <https://video.mpt.tv/video/episode-601-uatwly/>. It was a wonderful opportunity to be a part of the "Maryland Farm and Harvest" series and I hope you enjoy the segment!

I wrapped up my fair and market season this weekend and am looking forward to a short break before I start thinking about spring! Last weekend I checked my colonies and provided supplemental fondant to all of my overwintered nucs and a few of my production colonies which were lighter than I wanted. Most of my production hives are still heavy and in good shape for wintering. I plan to vaporize this month. I am always surprised by the mite drop after vaporization, especially since I treat in the Fall. This signals the bees are probably picking up mites when robbing out infested colonies in the vicinity (I have a lot of beekeepers nearby and presumably, feral colonies). I haven't experienced any dwindling losses this season, but I did have a few nucs starve during the warm temps and while I was out of town. Hopefully you are all paying attention to your colonies and ensuring they have adequate reserves.

**BUMBA** is gearing up for the **2019 Short Course**. I have activated the registration link which can be found at: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfV9glySk84C4jw\\_ZzrUFe-eQswb5vY-zmi4ukJQLumryV5ZA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfV9glySk84C4jw_ZzrUFe-eQswb5vY-zmi4ukJQLumryV5ZA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1)

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the **Holiday Potluck** this Thursday!

Peace, Love and Bees -

*Maggie*

## Other Bee Meetings

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

February 2, 9:00 AM  
Harford Community College  
Bel Air, MD

*Featured Speakers: Dr. Samuel Ramsey and Bill Sprenkle*

In February, the **Maryland State Beekeepers Association** will host a lively meeting at the **Harford Community College** in Bel Air MD. The keynote speaker will be **Dr. Samuel Ramsey**, who will be speaking on the studies he has done on the Varroa mite including his recent work in Thailand, and the new guy on the block *Tropilaelaps* "a fate worse than Varroa"

Our second speaker will be **Bill Sprenkle**, the owner of the **Log Cabin Bee Farm, LLC**, located in York County, Pennsylvania. The farm is a micro-honeybee breeding operation with the mission to produce hygienic (VSH) queens for colony sustainability and production. Bill will be speaking on how to evaluate your queens, and his 18-year journey to get a better queen.

### ***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

### 2019 Beginning Beekeeping class

**Registration** has opened for the 2019 BUMBA Beginning Beekeeping Class; the registration page can be found on the [www.BUMBABees.com](http://www.BUMBABees.com) web page, or directly at this [LINK](#).

**Dates:** Thursday nights, **February 21st thru March 28th**, (possible make up date of April 11 if class cancelled due to inclement weather). Class starts at 7PM and ends at 9PM. Classes will be held at the Watkins Park Nature Center. The Field Day will be April 6, 2019; location still TBD.

**Cost:** Registration for first family member is \$75 and includes a copy of Diana Sammataro's book "**The Beekeeper's Handbook**" (4th Edition), one year of membership to **BUMBA** for all registrants, and lunch at the **Field Day**. The price for additional family members is \$35 per person and includes field day lunch and handouts. Additional textbooks are available for \$20. Students must be at least 11 years old and an adult family member must accompany students under 16 years.

Tell your friends! Registration is usually full before the class starts!

## BUMBA Outreach Program

[BUMBA.Outreach@google.com](mailto:BUMBA.Outreach@google.com)

Hello fellow apiarists!

The **BUMBA 2018 Outreach** season has finally ended. I want to thank all the members who showed up and supported one of the outreach events. **BUMBA participated in 10 events** this year (even more if the weather had cooperated). Without your help and effort these events would not be the success that they always are. We started back in April and did our last one in September. The community was very receptive to our message of advocating for the bees, other pollinators, and the environment. As usual the bees were the rock stars at every event where they were present and our booth would consistently have the most visitors and foot traffic.

Even though the 2018 year is ending it means the 2019 season is just around the corner. We have already received four requests for attendance at community events so the calendar is starting to fill up. By providing just two hours of your time to support any of the events you will be doing a great service for the club and the bees. Whether you are a long time member or a newbie all help is appreciated.





I am honored to support the club in the position of **BUMBA Outreach Coordinator** and I look forward to the upcoming year. It is a source of pride for me and I always appreciate the support of the fellow members who take the time to help in the bees in this endeavor. Wishing everyone the best in health and happiness coming



Yours in beekeeping, THANK YOU!

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

Woodcamp Farm – Mid-Atlantic Honey Bees

Jason Hough

17403 Hardy Road, Mount Airy, Maryland 21771

bees@woodcampfarm.com

443.962.7226

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

### West River Apiary

Now accepting early orders for 2019 nucs & singles:

5-frame deeps:	\$170.00
5-frame mediums:	\$170.00 (limited qty)
10-frame deep single:	\$325.00 (limited qty)
10-frame medium single:	\$325.00 (limited qty)

Nucs will be supplied in a waxed cardboard shipping box, and will contain a minimum of 2-3 frames of sealed brood, a frame of stores, and all frames drawn or nearly so..., your inspection is encouraged.

Singles will be supplied with a used, but serviceable, bottom board, hive body, cover, 10 frames with a minimum 8-9 drawn, ready to add a second brood chamber.

Expecting nucs to be ready by first of May and singles by mid-May. All are picked up in Owings, MD. Delivery and set-up assistance is available at additional cost.

Email me with what you would like to order and quantities, and I will reply with a confirmation and deposit instructions.

Bob Greenwell –  
West River Apiary - (410)-279-3086  
westriverapiary@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

## 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.

### Inside The Box

*Bob Greenwell  
December 2018*

It has been some time since I have written an article for publication in the newsletter. I have had a number of beekeeping friends checking in with me lately just to see what I have been up to. Therefore, I thought I might just write an article outlining some of my triumphs and tribulations over the past year and a half.

I had to resign my position as a **Maryland Apiary Inspector** last spring, having suffered a near fatal heart attack the end of October 2017. It was a concession to my cardiologist that I not over-exert with heavy lifting or spend time outdoors in extremely hot and humid conditions. More to the point, it was a concession to Vanessa that I not be all over the lower part of the state inspecting beeyards that don't even have street addresses in some

cases. Shucks, and I liked doing it too...and realized a good deal of pleasure inspecting and instructing in the field. I also learned things from the experience, such as an old beekeeping trick explained by **Bob Cory**, which I had never heard tell of before. Seems if your hives are in an open area, and you stretch a clothes line in front of them and hang a few old shirts and pants on it, the bees get much more docile and accepting of your presence around their hives when you step into the apiary to make an inspection. They don't regard a human shaped object suddenly in the openness of the field as such a strange apparition. As much lore as I have absorbed over the years, I had never heard of this before. I can't testify to how effective it really is in practice, but if you inspect Bob's apiary you will see his old discarded bee clothing flapping in the breeze beside the apiary. He did have some very gentle bees, a pleasure to work.

Despite my cardiology issues taking me out of service last fall --well actually I sneaked out to the apiaries a lot more often than I should have...after all I was off work, right? -- I ended the 2017-2018 winter season with both my bees and myself on the right side of the grass. I suffered absolutely zero full colony deaths from overwintering for the third year in a row, but lost a large number of nucs that were set-up to overwinter but which I was unable to adequately feed up to weight, nor did I get their oxalic acid vaporization mite treatments completed. Consequently, I sold far less nucs last spring than I usually supply, and was plagued with problems getting those I had ready for pickup with all the rain last spring. Fortunately, with much perseverance and crossed fingers, I got my commitments fulfilled and only had one issue with a customer receiving two less than desirable nucs (read as insufficient brood), and was able to the best of my knowledge, resolve the mistake within a timely manner by providing additional brood frames.

I am making a few changes to my operation for 2019 that I hope will improve the overall quality of my products and service. I have placed an ad on the trading post section of the forum and within this newsletter, to give earlier advantage to **BUMBA** members looking to purchase a nuc from me. I have enjoyed a rather wide following in other clubs in recent years and usually sell out early, to the distress of some of my **BUMBA** friends. Coming back from my "cardiac year" quantities will still be limited, and it will be best to order early.

I experienced colony losses between late August and late September this year, which I attribute to Varroa and resulting viral loads. The honey

crop was very late in drying out this year, with me harvesting around the first to middle of August. I had not treated for mites since July of 2017, other than the brood breaks that goes with all the spring splitting. Though I treated with Apivar as I pulled the supers off, it was too little--too late, and in all, I lost 6 hives while they were in the six-week treatment process. There were obvious signs of DWV (Deformed Wing Virus), as well as CBP (Chronic Bee Paralysis), along with the look of PMS (Parasitic Mite Syndrome) within the hives in general. The weaker hives just succumbed to the stress. I had 7 more hives crash in October, after the treatment strips were removed...viral load and it's aftermath I believe. I do not blame the Apivar, as I had amazing piles of dead mites to its credit. This was operator error! I should have perhaps used formic acid in early July. It is labeled for application with supers on, and perhaps the half dose treatment applied in two separated doses would have prevented the carnage without excessive queen mortality. Anyway, due to the crashing hives after the treatment regimen, I decided to re-treat all surviving hives and nucs (where there was also a number of crashes) prophylactically first of November, and monitoring as well as observation of robust health of the surviving hives, has proven worth the additional costs. After the mentioned crashes and some additional ruthless culling, combining, feeding 300 gallons of syrup, and a proposed oxalic acid vaporization in December and repeated in January, I am wintering 54 robust and seemingly healthy colonies plus a good number of nucs. So my numbers are down this winter a bit, but I think the surviving stock is still a very good foundation to work with.

Happy Holidays To All !!

Bob Greenwell

## 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 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. Print a membership form from the web page [www.bumbabees.com/membership.html](http://www.bumbabees.com/membership.html) 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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David Morris, BUMBA Editor  
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**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:  
 December 6, 6:30PM, **BUMBA** Holiday Party  
 Feb 3, 9:00AM, MSBA Winter Mtg., Harford.  
 Feb 7, 7:30PM, **BUMBA** Mtg.  
 Feb 21-Mar 28, 7:00PM, **BUMBA** Bee Class  
 April 4, 7:30PM, **BUMBA** Mtg.  
 April 6, **BUMBA** Field Day  
 June 6, 7:30PM, **BUMBA** Mtg.  
 June 15, 9AM, MSBA Summer Mtg., College Park  
 August 1, 7:30PM, **BUMBA** Mtg.  
 October 3, 7:30PM, **BUMBA** Mtg.  
 November (?), 9:00AM, **MSBA** Fall Mtg./Honey Show,  
 December 5, 6:30PM, **BUMBA** Holiday Party