



NEWSLETTER

Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association

June 2012

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www.BUMBAbees.com <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/BUMBABEE/>

Our Next Meeting

Thursday, June 7, 7:30 PM!

Watkins Park Nature Center

Our next “regular” meeting is June 7., 7:30 PM at the Watkins Park Nature Center. Since this is our first meeting after the Beginning Beekeeping Class and we have a lot of new beekeepers, the officers and class organizers would like to hear from participants, what they liked and didn’t like about the class. One essential skill we did not cover during the beekeeping class was frame assembly. There is a right way and a wrong way to assemble frames. BUMBA President, **Bob Greenwell**, will bring in a frame jig and some frames to demonstrate how to correctly assemble and wire frames. BUMBA Vice-President, **Leigh Walton**, will share what he has recently learned about Laying Workers; what it means, how to spot it, what initiates that behavior and how to avoid it, and what to do when it happens. This should be a very interesting talk. We also will open the floor to discussion about current management questions, including TBH.

Finally, to get your mental juices percolating about laying workers, there is a little “BUMBA Challenge” in the following article. Five questions about laying workers; how many can you answer? The answers will be revealed at the meeting!

The President’s Smoker

Bob is out-of-town and out-of-country and was not able to prepare a column this month. His usual sagacious wit and advice will return in full, and well-rested, strength in the next newsletter. Please enjoy Leigh Walton’s puzzler below.

Bob Greenwell

The V.P.’s Corner

Leigh Walton

Recently, I was given a beekeeping book entitled “What Do You Know”. It is authored by Clarence H. Collison, he has a Ph.D. in Entomology. Beginning in 1984, he wrote a monthly column for Bee Culture magazine entitled “Do You Know”. The book contains a collection of questions and answers chosen from the best of nearly two decades of testing the readers of Bee Culture through his column. He still writes a monthly column for Bee Culture, if you receive the magazine you probably recognize the name.

I think it would be both fun and informative to include some of these questions in the newsletter. Then at the meeting we will solicit answers from the members as well as provide the “book” answer. This meeting's questions will focus on the topic of laying workers. Please take some time to ponder these questions. As we

often say, when you ask ten beekeepers a beekeeping question you are likely to get 10 different answers.

Question # 1

Laying workers behave like normal queens, they cease doing typical worker duties and spend all of their time laying eggs.

(True or False)

Question # 2

Certain factors are responsible for the inhibition of ovary development in worker honey bees, they are?

- _____ Worker larvae in a queenless colony
- _____ Queen cells (pupae) in a queenless colony
- _____ Queen larvae in a queenless colony
- _____ Virgin queen
- _____ Mated queen

Question # 3

Laying workers produce between _____ eggs per day?

- A. 10-30
- B. 60-80
- C. 1-10
- D. 200-250
- E. 100-120

Question # 4

Worker honey bees over four weeks of age cannot lay eggs if the queen is lost.

(True or False)

Question # 5

Worker with developed ovaries are found in most normal queen right colonies.

(True or False)

Top of the Bar - Harvesting Honey

This will be a regular column in the BUMBA newsletter, providing an exchange of information on how BUMBA members manage their top-bar hives. I've volunteered to provide this column to the newsletter editor, but I am reaching out to all BUMBA members who have, or have had, a top-bar hive to provide their first-hand experiences.

Lynn Thorson

During the demonstration of the clubs' honey extractor, at the BUMBA Field Day, I was asked, "How do you use an extractor with top bar hives?" The short answer is that you could, if your combs fit into the frame holder's positions and you do not spin it too fast and damage the comb. See this video. www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4lwVgHTja0must. However, there are other methods – gravity extraction and crush & strain.

The first method, **Gravity Extraction**, relies on gravity and time, requires patience, so it would not be my preferred method. In this method, the combs on the bars are uncapped, then set upside down (i.e. bar at bottom) over a filter and collection pan. The honey will flow out of the comb eventually... sooner if it is warmer. The benefit of this method and that of using the standard extractor is that the combs can be returned to the hive and new wax does not need to be made each season.

Example (for standard frame)

www.greenbeehives.com/gravityextractor.html

The second method, **Crush & Strain**, will crush the combs, making them unavailable for re-use by the bees.

Step 1) The combs are cut off the bars and put in a bee-proof container. The now-empty bars can be immediately returned to the hive. Before you bring the container inside, check that there are no bees inside... encourage them to return to the hive.

Step 2) Remove all brood, pollen stores, and debris from the

combs. Brood will contaminate the honey and pollen will cause a bitter taste. Use a potato masher or a pestle (or muddler you use for mojitos) to break up the comb until all cells are broken and wax pieces are no larger than 1/4 inch.

Step 3) Pour the wax/honey mixture through your filter into the collecting bucket. A kitchen spatula is effective in scraping all honey out of the container. Wax will collect in the filter; it can be agitated (gently) with the spatula to enable more honey to flow. Best to wait a few hours for the honey to stop flowing, then you can use spatula to get the last bit of honey from the filter. Then pour honey into jars, using the spatula (or honey gate if you are high-tech) to cut off the flow when the jar is full.

Step 4) Clean off honey with dish detergent by hand washing everything and rinse out the filter in the detergent water. The wax residue could be put in or near the hive so bees can clean it.

What equipment is needed for the crush & filter method? There are complicated presses (one example uses a scissor-type car jack www.dave-cushman.net/bee/honeypress.html), but there is no need for specialized equipment. I have used a 5 gallon pail and a nylon paint filter (available at hardware store), and several kitchen tools -- a potato masher, spatula, instant-read thermometer, and some large pots. The resulting honey is cloudy & includes pollen. A finer filter (100 micron) would have reduced the pollen. Filters are available at bee supply and I did see some on Amazon, "EZ-strainer".

I did heat up the honey-wax mixture so that it poured easily. The heating needs to be gentle and monitored. I used a thick pot; thinner pans may get hot-spots. Putting the container of the crush into a larger pot with simmering water could also be done. Monitor the temperature and keep the honey at about 100 degrees "lukewarm". Do not heat over 140 degrees and melt the wax.

Several web sites that describe or demonstrate crush & filter

are:

www.topbarbees.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=86:extracting-honey-from-top-bar-comb&catid=52:honey-production-in-top-bar-hives&Itemid=70
www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=we28Oet6KT0

Simple method for extracting one comb, using two one-quart mason jars, with a filter between the jars: www.backyardhive.com/Caring_For_Bees_in_a_Top_Bar_Hive/Hive_Management/A_Simple_Harvest/

Again, I ask any other Top Bar Hive beekeepers in BUMBA to contact me to exchange information on how to manage hives horizontally. I'm looking for contributions (or questions) for future articles.

P.S. Kudos to Scott and the BUMBA officers for a great field day. How did they manage to get both great weather and hands-on demonstrations of swarming and swarm capture?

Bees in the News

Rooftop Bees

The Delmarva Farmer reported, in an article dated May 22, on the recent addition at the Hyatt Regency hotel, in Jersey City, NJ, of two rooftop hives! The hives were established by Joe Lelinho, of Hilltop Honey in North Caldwell, NJ. The hotel wants to incorporate local honey into menu items and join the increasing number of high end hotels who see providing local honey from local hives as a unique gourmet addition to provide their clientele. There are 2,500 registered beekeepers New Jersey who maintain about 11,000 colonies and produced 451,000 pounds of honey in 2011, worth \$1.7 million.

Plaque Honors Dr. Eva Crane

Hull, England - Dr. Eva Crane, nuclear physicist turned international beekeeping authority, will be recognized, on June 12, by beekeepers and the Hull City Council with the installation of a plaque memorializing her residing in Hull from 1946 to 1955, the era when she began her interest in beekeeping. Dr. Crane founded the International Bee Research Association, www.IBRA.org.uk, which is headquartered in Cardiff, Wales. Among her books are “The Archaeology of Beekeeping”, “The World History of Beekeeping and Honey Hunting”, “Bees and Beekeeping: Science, Practice and World Resources”, as well as beginning “The Journal of Apicultural Research” and “Bee World”. Her interest was in. She traveled to more than 60 countries to document and preserving the history of beekeeping worldwide, and to gain a better understanding the role and importance of beekeeping in different societies.

Frederick County Zoning Amended to Allow Beekeeping

Effective April 27, 2012, the Frederick County Board of Commissioners has revised the zoning ordinance in Frederick County, Md., with respect to beekeeping. Under the new zoning:

“The following provisions shall apply to apiaries in the R1, R3, R5, R8, R12, R16, VC, MX GC, ORI, LI and GI zoning districts.

- 1) The apiary shall be located at least 10 feet from any lot line.
- 2) The apiary shall be located behind a solid fence, hedge or other barrier that is at least 6 feet in height, runs parallel to the property line, and extends 10 feet beyond the apiary in each direction.
- 3) A water supply shall be provided to minimize honeybees from seeking water off-site.

- 4) Apiaries shall comply with Maryland Department of Agriculture regulations as they pertain to beekeeping.
- 5) Beekeepers shall be registered by Maryland Department of Agriculture and failure to maintain registration with the state constitutes a violation of this section.

“Limited Agricultural Activity: The keeping of farm animals in residential districts on lots with less than 3 acres. Apiaries are excluded from this definition.”

Thanks to Md. Delegate Kathy Afzali for her support of beekeeping by speaking in support of Frederick County beekeepers.

Congratulations to the Frederick County Beekeepers Association for their successful appeal to reduce the severe county zoning restrictions. See their web page at www.Frederickbees.org

News from “Catch the Buzz”, BeeCulture.com

Annual USDA Colony Count and Honey Production Report

Honey production in 2011 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 148 million pounds, down 16 percent from 2010.

<http://home.ezine.com/1636/1636-2012.03.30.16.02.archive.html>

Free Beekeeping Webinars from Ohio State

Beekeepers (in Ohio and other states) are invited to attend a free, monthly educational webinar series taught by Ohio State University experts, starting April 18. See the Bee Culture “Catch the Buzz” article here: <http://home.ezine.com/1636/1636-2012.03.29.12.26.archive.html>

The Webinars are live at 9/AM on the scheduled date and are recorded and can be viewed later. The link to the Webinar series and upcoming schedule is:

http://beelab.osu.edu/t08_pageview/Workshops_and_Webinars.htm

June 20, Mites and Honey Bees, Jim Tew, retired honeybee specialist, OSU Extension.

July 18, Planning Now for Winter Preparation, Bloetscher.

Aug. 15, Questions from the Hive, Johnson.

Sept. 19, Marketing Bee Products, Julie Fox, OSU South Centers at Piketon.

Oct. 17, Putting the Hive to Bed for Winter, Kim Flottum, editor, *Bee Culture* magazine.

For more information, contact Denise Ellsworth at ellsworth.2@osu.edu or 330-263-3723.

MSBA Meeting

June 16, 9:30AM

Plant Sciences Building

Univ of Maryland, College Park, Md

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Rick Fell

Recent Developments in Honeybee Research

www.mdbeekeepers.org/meetings.html

Social insect programs at **Virginia Tech** are led by **Dr. Richard Fell**. A graduate of Cornell University, Dr. Fell studied apiculture under **Dr. Roger Morse**. He has been at Va. Tech since obtaining his PhD in 1979. Recognized by Va. Tech and the Entomological Society of America for teaching excellence, Dr. Fell instructs on a variety of insect related topics including beekeeping, insect behavior and insect biology. Currently, the research group members are involved in teaching, extension, and research, with interests ranging from beekeeping to forensic

entomology.

The MSBA Spring Meeting is open to the public.

8:30AM Refreshments, Coffee, Donuts, etc.

9:30 Opening and Welcome Dr. Wayne Esaias, President

9:45 Md. Apiary Inspector's Report

Jerry Fischer, Md. State Inspector

10:00 Pheromones and Function Inside the Hive

Dr. Rick Fell, Virginia Tech

11:00 Maryland Pilot Apiculture Insurance Program

Steven Connelly, MD Dept. of Agriculture

11:45 Fourth Annual MSBA Honey Festival at Patuxent:

Participate in Our Major Outreach Event

Linda Thompson, MSBA Director

Noon Lunch

1:30PM Tower Hive Project & Maryland BeeInformed Survey

Jennie Stitzinger, www.BeeInformed.net

2:00 "Nosema ceranae: A Bad Problem or Just a Bad Reputation"

Dr. Rick Fell

3:00 Panel: Senior Beekeepers Answer Anonymous Questions

Dr. Rick Fell, Dr. Wayne Esaias and More!

4:00 Adjourn

MSBA: Directions to the Parking Garage from Campus Drive:

From Route 1 (Baltimore Blvd.) enter the University of Maryland via the main entrance, Campus Drive, getting immediately in the left lane. When you come to the circle with the University of Maryland "M" logo and a yield sign, veer right onto Regents Drive. You will go over a few speed bumps and

after passing the Geology Building on your left, you will come to a 3-way stop sign. At the stop sign, turn left onto Field House Drive, which is the street between Plant Sciences and the Parking Garage. Then turn right into the Regents Drive Parking Garage. The numbered parking spaces are towards the right.

CLUB PROGRAMS

BUMBA has several programs initiated over the years and we are always looking for members to get involved not only for assistance, but to better your knowledge as well. Please get in touch with a club officer if you would like more information on about a program. Program participation always makes you a better beekeeper. They are like additional classes for free and serve the beekeeping community in so many important ways.

The BUMBA 2012 Outreach Season

*By Linda Thompson
Outreach Coordinator*

2012 Outreach Events

BUMBA outreach events are popular with the public, especially kids, who are fascinated with honey bees and think beekeepers are just amazing people!

Mark your calendars! I am looking for coordinators for the last two events. The coordinator is the contact for the event host and BUMBA volunteers, ensures volunteer coverage for the entire time, and is responsible for the BUMBA supplies. I will solicit volunteers and provide to you a list of those who have signed up. I will arrange to get the BUMBA supplies to you, and to get them back when the event is over. We have an active club and you will absolutely have support - no need to fear that you'll end up at the event alone. If you can help as a coordinator, please let me know ASAP. Also, a huge THANK YOU! to all those

loyal volunteers who will show up and make all our events a success!

Upcoming BUMBA Public Events

Sept 15, 9-3PM MSBA Honey Harvest Festival, Patuxent
Wildlife Visitor Center, Laurel,
www.fws.gov/northeast/patuxent/vcdefault.html;
coordinator needed

Nov 5, 10-4PM Green Craft Fair, Watkins Park Nature
Center, Largo, www.PGParks.com/page33505.aspx;
coordinator needed

BUMBA 2012 Outreach Events

by Linda Thompson

After a whirlwind of events we have a lull now until the Honey Harvest Festival on September 15 and the Green Craft Fair on November 5. This year we were blessed with great weather.

Tony Drake and I worked the Bowie Green Expo, as it conflicted with Field Day. It was a short event, from 1-4PM. It was held this year at the Kenhill Center and we were inside! We did not have an ob hive, but we shared our information with many attendees.

Maryland Day was a huge success again this year. This is such an amazing, well attended event; our volunteers are kept very busy all day long. Thanks to **Gerry Jones** for providing the ob hive, which makes this so successful. People are fascinated and love to learn about the bees. A honey frame, brought for display purposes, was accidentally dropped and damaged... this turned into a bonus for a lucky few visitors at the end of the day when Gerry cut up the comb and handed out samples! As always, a huge number of BUMBA members staffed our tables. I was only there for the last hour and all I have is the advance schedule to go by, so if I have omitted your name here, please

accept my deepest apologies and know that your help was invaluable. Thanks to: **Nikki Thompson** (coordinator), **Gerry Jones**, **Debby Heyes**, **Leigh Walton**, **Kim Mehalick**, **Anastasia Newheart**, **David Etherton**, **James Key**, **Jeff Coburn**, and **Paula and Ben Tuttle**.

The Alice Ferguson Foundation Spring Farm Festival at Hard Bargain Farm was a pleasure. It was a lovely day atop the rolling hills overlooking the Potomac River. We were even treated to some freshly churned butter made from fresh cow milk! **Thanks** to ever loyal **Gerry Jones**, who *again* provided the ob hive (we watched the queen lay eggs), to **Mellie Landon** for providing the cabana and also to **Felicia Sallis-Peterson** and **her son J.B.**, who helped set up, clean up, and spread the word about our bees.

The A-MAY-zing Animal Fest at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park is always a treat because it is such a lovely venue and attracts so many children. This time **Leigh Walton** provided the ob hive. Leigh and **Gerry Jones** brought empty hives and equipment. Thanks also to **Nikki Thompson**, **Ellen Simmons**, and **Rebecca Bell** for their time and talking. To the delight of all, we watched the queen lay eggs and many bees emerge.

Thanks again to everyone who donates their time and effort to educating the public at our events.

Looking For an Outyard?

by Linda Thompson

At nearly every outreach event this year I collected contact information from folks who are interested in having bees on their property, but are not yet ready to keep them. If you are interested in maintaining an outyard, there is an opportunity here for you. If you would like to maintain colonies in a yard in Bowie or on a farm near Accokeek, please contact me and I will put you in

touch with the interested party(ies). I can be reached at lmtpublic@comcast.net or 301-352-3663.

Pollinator Week

June 18-24

by Linda Thompson

June 18-24 is the 6th Annual National and Maryland Pollinator Week. BUMBA has partnered with MSBA, the Bowie Gardens for Wildlife Habitat Team, Old Bowie Wild Bird & Nature Store, Patuxent Nursery, MOM's Organic Market, and All Saints Lutheran Church to promote **Pollinator Week** this year.

- On Monday, June 18, at 7PM at Bowie City Hall we will be presenting Governor O'Malley's proclamation to Bowie Mayor Robinson and City Council Members. Visit http://pollinator.org/npw_events.htm#md to view a copy of the proclamation. **Please join us at this meeting to show the Bowie officials that you are concerned about pollinators. We will be asking for everyone attending to express support for pollinators to stand during our 5-minute presentation.**
- On Friday, June 22, at 7PM at All Saints Lutheran Church Kerry Wixted, a biologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources will give a presentation about native pollinators. Door prizes and light refreshments will be available. All are welcome.
- On Saturday, June 23, at noon I will be giving a presentation at Patuxent Nursery in Bowie. I will talk about honeybees and native bees, the roles they play, the problems they face, and what gardeners can do to help them.

Please patronize our business sponsors during this week and thank them for their support; they will be offering discounts on pollinator-related items.

Neonicotinoids

by Linda Thompson

There has been a flurry of studies and reports in 2012 that are strongly linking neonicotinoid pesticides to the demise of bees of all kinds. These synthetic derivatives of nicotine are designed to attack the central nervous system of sucking insects, root and foliar feeders, and borers, and are very effective against these pests. However, they are systemic; they suffuse and express themselves in the whole plant, including the nectar and pollen, and are also killing pollinators and beneficial insects (like ladybugs) that feed on target pests.

Bayer has been marketing these as imidacloprid and clothianidin for years via seed coating or furrow application for industrial-scale farming of corn, canola, soybean, and potato crops (all GMO corn is treated). Their patent has expired and Bayer is now marketing these pesticides to consumers as granules or spikes, which "protect" even new growth for up to 8 weeks. These neonicotinoids have been banned in France since 1998 and in Germany since 2008.

Early in May the Pesticide Action Network North America (PAN NA) released *Honey Bees and Pesticides: State of the Science*, which presented 22 pages of studies documenting the role of pesticides in recent honey bee die-offs. The science is complex, but it is not unclear: if we want our bees to stop dying, we need to protect them from pesticides. The EPA is currently reviewing neonicotinoids in a process that is expected to last through 2018. With one-third of our bees dying off each year, this timeline is not fast enough. Congress has the authority to exercise oversight over federal agencies like the EPA. They can call a hearing, and they alone can fix a broken pesticide law that

leaves EPA hamstrung and captive to industry players like Bayer.

PAN NA will continue to pressure EPA to take action on clothianidin, and filed a legal petition this month to initiate a public process in which they will engage PAN supporters. They are asking for each of us to contact our Congressional representatives to drum up support and help them understand what's at stake. Honey bees pollinate one in every three bites of our food and, as an indicator species, they serve as sentinels we ignore at our own peril.

The US Senators from Maryland are Barbara A. Mikulski (www.mikulski.senate.gov) and Benjamin L. Cardin (www.cardin.senate.gov). You can visit <http://mdelect.net/> and enter your address; it will identify your Maryland district and your US Representative and provide a link to their contact information.

BUMBA Web Site!

Check out the club web site maintained by **Toni Burnham**, www.bumbabees.com. You will find meeting schedules, newsletters, and now have a membership short course application forms and information (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 Toni at phang@tonitoni.org. Please be mindful of the file size and resize any large files before you send them.

YAHOO News Group

<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/BUMBABEE/>

Sign up, check it out, see how much help it can really be. Make it better. Add materials. Post questions, photos, links to web pages or files you would like to share with your fellow

beekeepers. **Members receive automatic email notices of meeting and the BUMBA newsletter.**

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. I am sure some of us use it as a reminder to come to the meetings. People who don't have email, of course, continue to receive it. If you are willing to depend on email delivery, please inform our editor, David Morris, via email. Help keep club \$\$'s in the bank for club activities.

FREE STATE Bee Supply

Your local bee supply dealer

Free State Bees, 2420 Mill Hill Rd, Waldorf, MD 20603-3752

Please email or call if you have any questions.

Please be sure to call ahead to set up a time to visit!

Contact Dave or Laura Polk at 301-580-9313.

As always, thanks for your continued support!

Dave and Laura Polk

Free State Bee Supply

New products for 2012

The *NEW* "[The Beekeeper's Handbook](#)", 4th ed., is for sale at \$20 (tax included). List price is \$29.95!

I am selling Bee Garden seeds (the package includes 8 varieties of flowering plants) for \$10. For more info see www.houseofbees.com/products/The-Bee-Garden-Seed-Collection.html

Nectar Season 2012

Leigh Walton, BUMBA, VP

For me, the 2012 nectar season started off with high hopes of a banner honey crop. Due to the unusually warm Winter, the bees overwintered well. Many of the colonies were boiling over with bees in mid to late March. I did an inventory of potential honey producing colonies and came up with eighteen. This is more than twice the number I had in previous years. This increase wasn't totally from overwintering success. I've been trying to increase the total number of colonies to support the queen rearing effort. If all these hives held together and produced (which I knew they wouldn't), I realized I only have half the number of necessary supers. I determined that an additional 30 supers may be needed. So, to be prepared and beat the "out of stock" situation at the bee equipment suppliers, I ordered 300 assembled frames from Mann Lake (free shipping), they arrived in a week. I planned on making the medium supers as they were needed. I wanted to keep about a week ahead of the need so the paint had a chance to "fume off" before using them. I went to one of the big box stores and bought 1"X8"X6' lumber. For the corners, I wanted to use locking miter joints. I determined that when cutting the pieces to length that if I pre-cut them at a 25 degree angle on the miter saw, I could still get the full profile of the locking miter joint. This technique allowed using one six foot board rather than an eight footer to make a box. This definitely made good use of the lumber, but was sure labor intensive. After making ten boxes, I had enough! I like the idea of the locking miter join as there is no exposed end grain.

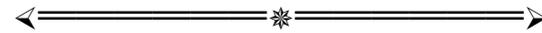
As it turns out, ten additional boxes is all I needed. Anybody wanna buy some medium frames – lol? Many of the stronger hives swarmed. Some seem to have swarmed early enough in the season that they have rebuilt to the point of working the honey

supers again. I have a management practice that once the honey supers go on a hive I stop monitoring it for swarm preparation. Disturbing the colony to do this negatively impacts honey production. Besides, how successful is swarm mitigation anyway. My experience tells me not very good. If a colony, through swarming, depletes the population to the point where there is little to no bees in the supers I remove the super and use them on other productive colonies. I had three such colonies this season. With the supers off these colonies I inspected them for queen presence. In all three cases they had turned into laying worker colonies. I had done no swarm cell removal or any other manipulations to mitigate swarming. There was evidence of swarm cells but for some unknown reason a queen did not result from them. Last year I had a case where a recently mated queen squeezed her way through the queen excluder, and while up there evidently developed to the point where she could not get back down. By the time I realized this happened the colony had reduced to a laying worker colony. Evidently the queen got lost when I removed the honey supers.

From my perspective the nectar season was about three weeks early. It seems the length of the nectar season will be longer since the Golden Rain trees, American Basswood, and other trees that usually bloom in June are not that advanced. They seem to be on a more normal schedule. Last year my Golden rain trees bloomed on June 9th; this year it appears they will bloom around the same time. I read or heard somewhere that these trees' bloom time is triggered by day length and not temperature.

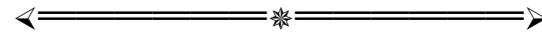
One aspect of beekeeping that troubles me is how frequently I am dealing with laying worker colonies. This is in some part due to the queen rearing process, but it also happens in mature colonies for no good reason. Seems the most common way to deal with the problem is to do a "bang out". I don't find this

technique to be very effective. Over the past few days I've been Googling the topic and have put together a presentation to share my findings with the club. I hope to do this at the June meeting. Since the questions in the section of the newsletter titled "What do you Know" relate to laying workers they will be answered during this segment of the meeting.



There is always room for your article in the **BUMBA Newsletter**. Tell us *why you became interested* in beekeeping, or *how your family reacted* to your announcement that you were interested in bees. *What has been the most interesting thing(s) you have learned* from keeping or studying bees (other than the given, beekeepers are all *slightly crazy*)? What has been *your favorite or most memorable experience*?

The editor



One Last Word: DUES are due, again!

Please be sure to send your membership renewal to BUMBA Treasurer, Jutta Dunaway.

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** has raised its annual dues to **\$15**. So we hope you'll remember to bring your cash or check to the next meeting. Jutta loves to find checks in the mailbox. Send your dues check to:

Mail \$15 to Jutta Dunaway, **BUMBA** Treas., 11814 GALAXY LANE, BOWIE, MD 20715

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

- Check if you are willing to help out with a club activity or program
- Check if you do not want your name and address published in a **BUMBA** member directory.

BUMBA Meeting Location – Watkins Park Nature Center

BUMBA annual dues are \$15. Our regular meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of the even months (except December) 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**

Put these dates on your **2012 BUMBA** Calendar:

April 5, 7:30 PM, BUMBA Meeting, Elections & Beekeeping Short Course 6

April 14, 10:00 AM, BUMBA Beekeeping Field Day

April 14, 1-4PM, Bowie Green Expo,

April 28, 10-4PM, Maryland Day, UMD,

May 5, 11-4PM, Spring Farm Festival, , Accokeek

May 19, 12-4PM, A-May-Zing Animal Fest, Bladensburg

May 19, 11-2PM, Mount Ranier Day,

June 7, 7:30 PM, BUMBA Meeting

June 9, 9:30 AM, **MSBA Summer Meeting**; Univ. of Maryland

August 2, 7:30 PM, BUMBA Meeting

Sept 15, 9-3PM, MSBA Honey Harvest Festival, Laurel;

October 4, 7:30 PM, BUMBA Meeting

Nov 5, 10-4PM, Green Craft Fair, Watkins Park Nature Center,

Nov 10, 9:30 AM, **MSBA Fall Meeting**, Md. Dept of Agriculture, Annapolis

December 11, 6:00 PM, Holiday Party

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