



NEWSLETTER

Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association

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

Our Next Meeting

Thursday, October 4, 7:30 PM!

Watkins Park Nature Center

Our next meeting is Thursday, October 4, 7:30 PM at the Watkins Park Nature Center. Our guest speaker will be **Charlie Brandts**. Charlie was a dedicated civil servant who served as a White House carpenter until his retirement in May of this year. Outside of the White House he is better known as the "**White House Beekeeper**". In March of 2009, the first family's chef, **Sam Kass**, tapped him to establish a hive near Michelle Obama's organic veggie garden. He readily consented using a hive from his own apiary in Maryland. Since that time Charlie has been a great ambassador for the bees, and has raised much awareness of the tremendous benefit this tiny insect affords mankind. Come to our meeting this Thursday to learn about the management techniques, and challenges, of keeping bees at one of the best known residences in the world. Charlie is a member of the Montgomery County Beekeepers Association. You will certainly enjoy what Charlie has to share.

Important Notice: The 4th Annual Pasture Party for Land Conservation, in Brandywine, THIS Saturday, Oct 6. BUMBA has No Volunteers YET!!

The President's Smoker

By this time everyone should have harvested their honey crops and done a thorough fall inspection and assessment of the condition of each of their colonies. If the colony is light and needs feeding with sugar syrup to add winter weight, that process should have begun a couple weeks ago. We have been experiencing a pretty good fall flow in most areas of Maryland it seems...better than we usually get, although it is nothing like a spring flow. The bees have been bringing in nectar and pollen, but only the really strong colonies are making much headway with it, and the weaker colonies are going to need feeding.

I managed to get a friend...a big strapping aspiring beekeeper to help me with feeding this year in exchange for a new hive with bees set-up for the spring along with a good bit of the needed equipment, and personal mentoring. I bought 750 lbs of sugar and mixed up about 1300 lbs of 2:1 sugar syrup, and Brian has been putting it on the colonies for me. I am feeding approximately 25 of my 65 colonies. The rest are in good shape. I make my 2:1 (approx) syrup by placing 1-3/4 gallons of hot tap water in a 5 gallon bucket with 2 tbsp of apple cider vinegar, adding 25 lbs pure cane sugar, and stirring with a drill and paint mixer. This makes up about 3-3/4 gallons or about 40 lbs of syrup per bucket. I bought my buckets, and some flat black snap-on bucket lids from Home Depot to keep the buckets spill- and bee-proof, and mix up 15 buckets at a time. I buy my sugar at Sam's in 25 lb bags. I may have to look into buying sweepings in

drums (660 lbs.) in the future. I dislike the thought of having to use HFCS-55 due to it being processed from 100% GMO corn.

For the smaller beekeepers, if you want to make smaller quantities of 2:1 syrup, you can mix 5 lbs. sugar into 5 cups of hot water with 1 tsp of cider vinegar. The vinegar helps to discourage molding. That will make you about 3 qts of syrup or about 8 lbs. I just estimate how much feed is needed to bring the hive in question up to the weight that that it should be, and then feed that much or a bit more syrup to the hive. As a general rule of thumb in our area, experience dictates that a strong colony that is to survive the winter will require at least 80 lbs of stored honey (or supplemented with syrup). This includes total storage such as full honey frames in the brood chambers as well. I just count full and half frames of honey or nectar in the hive and total it up. I just roughly figure 10 lbs. for a deep frame and 5 lbs. for medium frames. Actually, nowadays, I just tip the hives up from both opposite sides and gauge how it feels. When they are heavy enough, I can just barely tip them up.

Now is also the time to be done with, or doing, your other winterizing chores as well. Remove queen excluders, add mouse guards (check inside for mice first), see to ventilation, combine weak hives with strong ones, re-queen if you subscribe to fall re-queening, treatments for mites or Nosema if you are treating for them, setting up windbreaks if needed, or perhaps if your frames are over 3-4 years old you may wish to move a couple of the oldest to the bottom box most outward positions for replacement in the spring. We will try to take a little time at the meeting coming up if some of you have questions or need a quick refresher on fall/winter management.

Be sure to be in attendance at the October meeting. Leigh Walton has been able to arrange for **Charlie Brandts**, the “**White House Beekeeper**” to present to us some of his experiences while managing our nation’s “First Queen and her

Court”. You won’t want to miss it. Bring your questions for him as well...I want to know if the Secret Service body guards ever had to take a sting to protect the President or First Lady☺

See you Thursday at the meeting!

Bob Greenwell

Top of the Bar - Winterizing

This column has been to provide 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

I started this series of articles to prevent “dangerous amounts of white space” in the BUMBA Newsletter. Thanks to all who have read it. This is the last article of the series, covering the last chore of the year – winterizing the hive. Keep in mind that this is only my experience from last year. There are many other sources of information on top bar hives on the Internet.

Winterizing comes down to three issues – enough food stored, shelter from the cold, and moisture control. In the discussion below, I can only give you amounts, sizes, etc. for my hive of Carniolan bees. You’ll have to adapt to the race of your bees.

How much honey in the hive and where should it be placed? The top bar hive enables the bees to arrange it the way they want to! During most of the year, my bees had honey at the top 1/3 of the combs and brood in the bottom. In late October and through the winter, they reversed themselves – brood in the top 1/3 of combs and honey below. The brood area was over 6 of the bars. In addition, they had 3 pretty full combs of honey and some partial ones. (A fully built-out comb on one of my bars is equal

to a standard deep frame.) By measuring the square inches of honey and using a figure from The Beekeeper's Handbook (by Sammataro and Avitable), a deep frame of 100 square inches is 10 pounds of honey, I estimated that bees had 60 pounds. But earlier, in my inspection around Labor Day, they had about a third of this amount, which seemed too little to take through the winter. I fed them 2:1 syrup during September and October...about 30 pounds of sugar. Key is to start to build up their winter stores early.

During the winter, the bees should be a snug in their hive as you are in your home. You've probably packed your attic with the pink insulation. You need to think of insulation for your bees. Air, when it does not move and mix, is a great insulator. The hive needs to be reduced in size to eliminate empty space which the bees would have to keep warm. At the final hive inspection, on 31 October, I moved the follower board so that my hive (4 foot long /30 bars) was reduced to 2 foot long, 15 bars. In the now-empty half, I crumbled up newsprint paper to improve the insulation value. At the brood end, I put a follower board in the first bar space, to create a ¾ inch insulation space, also with a bit of crumpled paper. (To demonstrate the insulating effect, think of the difference in temperature of a single-pane glass window and a double-pane one.) I also reduced the entrance to the hive to an inch wide by ¾ inch. My entrance is on the south side of the hive, so I didn't cover or insulate that, letting the sun warm that side. Along the back side, facing north, I propped a piece of plywood, covering the 4 foot side from ground level to the roof eave. This would divert any wintry wind. I also put insulation under the roof, as recommended in The Beekeepers Handbook.

According to all the **BUMBA** beekeepers I talked to, humidity control is the key to winter survival. Again, analogizing to our own homes, under the roof, we have vented attics. When I built the hive, I made a pitched roof with triangle gables at each

end. In each gable I put a vent with screening so bees can't get through. Any excess moisture can vent away. The Top Bars fit right next to each other, creating the ceiling of the bee's living space. Excess moisture can work through that, so I needed insulation which would absorb moisture without losing its warmth. I got a wool fleece, washed it, and used it to fill a sack made out of muslin. This insulating cushion is in a 1 ½ inch high shim just under the roof. I did not consider the pink stuff, fiberglass, as it does shed sharp fibers. Cotton loses its insulating quality when damp. Styrofoam would not absorb moisture to draw it away from the hive area.

I hope that these articles have been helpful not only for those who are considering a top bar hive, but also for those with standard hives, who may be able to use some of the concepts. I encourage each BUMBA member to write up some of their observations or techniques to share with others... and to minimize the "dangerous amount of white-space" in the BUMBA newsletter.

{Lynn, thank you very much for your wonderful, informative, and well-written articles. I've enjoyed the articles and learned much, as I am sure the rest of the members have, about TBH beekeeping. David Morris, editor}

Three Things Things We Learned During Our First Year of Beekeeping

Cathi Gulyas

This is our first year keeping bees, and it has been an adventure...to say the least. I, personally, fell in love with the bees. They are fascinating, and brilliant, and wondrous creatures. During our first 4 months of keeping bees, we learned many things, below are three that I found interesting and important.

1. Bees are very, very smart:

We observed our bees daily - in the morning and in the evening. This gave us a good sense for their normal activities. We installed what we call their trash bins, or pest trays, to assist them with their efforts to get rid of wax moth and hive beetle larvae. In order for this to work, we had to also modify the bottom boards - we put #6 mesh in so that the larvae would fall through/crawl through to the trash bin. After a short while, we observed our bees not only taking hive debris into their trash bin, but they were rummaging around for pollen that had fallen down there. We had read several postings on different forums about whether or not bees would go after discarded pollen like that, and everyone seemed to think they would not go for it - so we had dumped out the contents of the entire tray once or twice. However, when we went to check the tray for larvae subsequently, we observed a couple of bees checking out pollen in the tray. They picked it up, inspected it, and if it was past its prime (I guess) they would drop it and continue on to the next pollen clump. We would not have believed that they would scavenge for pollen like that if we hadn't seen it for ourselves. Not only had these bees figured out that they could use their tray as a trash can, they also knew that they could find pollen down there. As a side note, the tray did appear to help keep down the populations of wax moth and hive beetles - or at least we believe it did. We found only a few hive beetles inside their hives, and only a few in the Beetle Blaster traps we had inside the hives. In fact, we found more ants in those traps than we did beetles! We also discovered carnivorous insects, like the earwig, making meals of the larvae - thus cleaning up before we even made it to the tray to get them most of the time. We had a nice healthy ecosystem going on in the back yard.

2. Vent boxes work

A few weeks after getting our bees, we noticed that something was not quite right, that they needed more ventilation

- we saw a bee carry out what looked like a little mummy. We did not want to raise their outer cover and possibly invite unwanted visitors into the newly installed nucs. I recalled seeing something about ventilation boxes, so we looked for some plans and we set to work on making them. Our first vent boxes were made with wood from Home Depot. We cut the boards to size, drilled holes at an angle so that rain could not get in, and put window screening on the inside to keep other critters from going in. (Later on we got shallow honey supers that matched the equipment we had and made better fitting ones.) The vent boxes worked great. Not that long after installing them we noticed that there were no more mummies on their front porches. The bees, being so very smart, didn't make any burr comb in them. We also noticed a little less bearding using the vent box - especially without an inner cover. As a side note, right after the vent boxes had been installed, we observed several bees come out and seemingly test the holes for weaknesses. They would fly into the hole, disappear for a little while and reappear and start on another one. It really looked like they were testing to see if anything could get into their home. Bees are very, very smart.

3. Break up the burr comb

This might be our most valuable lesson this year. The end of July we were looking at one of the hives because we were concerned about it. Back before the power outage and heat wave this hive had been doing quite well. Our daily observations revealed a strong healthy hive with lots of foraging activity.

When we got back from staying with relatives during the power outage (our power was out for 4 days) we noticed fewer bees at this hive, and less activity. We waited almost 4 weeks before disturbing them.

When we went in we found no queen, no brood, no eggs - just a much smaller colony than before and good honey stores. We figured they had swarmed during the power outage/heat

wave - which is why we waited for almost a month to check on them. We were disappointed to find not even eggs. We figured we had a few options: A) install a new queen; B) swap a frame of brood out of the stronger hive we had since they were doing quite well; C) wait longer. We went with option B. Well, I will spare you the horrid and slightly terrifying details. Let's just say that it was a good plan that was executed poorly (as **Leigh Walton** said to me on the phone). We failed to break the burr comb up sufficiently and many frames from the lower hive body came out with the upper hive body - and we managed to seriously piss them off and slightly ruin their lovely home. I sustained so many stings that I had a toxic reaction - but on the bright side I'm not allergic. We ended up calling several senior members to enlist some help to get everything back together before too much robbing happened (thanks **Michael** for coming to our aid, and thanks **Leigh, Bob and Scott** for taking our frantic calls). This was an IMPORTANT lesson, rather than just something merely interesting - always make sure that burr comb has been completely broken between the hive bodies before taking that top hive body off.

I'm sure we will continue to learn fascinating things about bees throughout the years.

The Perfect Storm

By Leigh Walton

Every written article needs a title. I decided to call this one the "The Perfect Storm"; so called, because I created the perfect storm for which my bees paid the price.

I had eleven, five-frame nucs, four of them were being fed to draw out a second box of 5 frames. These are the hives for which I created the perfect storm. For overwintered nucs, I use Beemax polystyrene 10 frame deep boxes divided in the middle. This

makes two, five frame nucs. Having two nucs side by side also helps the bees share the warmth generated in Winter.

Now, for how I created the perfect storm. To protect against robbing, I reduced the entrance to about 3/4" wide. The feeders I put on top provided for very little ventilation. Adding to the problem was the fact that the bottom board was not screened. The entrance reducer was inserted with the opening on the top. The bees were taking the sugar water for a couple of weeks. I noticed that there were lots and lots of bees hanging on the outside of the box. Since it was warm, I assumed they were there to offload some of the heat in the hive. This trouble indicator was either the cause or the effect of what was going on inside the hive. I will explain later. Another indicator of trouble was that there was that a small swarm issued; it was nasty, and just swirled around not really settling at any one spot. This swarm was actually an absconding. Eventually, the bees stopped taking the sugar water. I thought I had better see what's going on. The first thing I saw was slime on top of one of the frames. I had seen this before in another nuc a couple of years ago, so I knew quite well what it meant, small hive beetle (SHB) out of control. As I pulled the frame out, at the bottom there were thousands of maggot type larvae squirming around moving from cell to cell. It was gross, but not as gross as it was going to get. As I got to the bottom board there was a 1/2" layer to goo, the consistency of pancake batter that covered the entire bottom board. This resulted from the SHB contaminating the honey by defecating in it, causing it to ferment and become this mess. If the entrance reducers had not been in place this stuff would have run out by itself and may have revealed the problem sooner. I was totally unprepared to deal with this.

I knew that every larvae that fell to the ground was another potential beetle. To contain the mess, I decided to put the double nucs, frames, bees, SHB larvae, slime and all, in plastic bags

destined for the freezer. I only have freezer capacity for one unit, so the other had to wait for a couple of days. There was a third nuc that needed to be dealt with, I didn't want to hold it for three or more days until there was room in the freezer, I decided to put water in a tub, the immerse the frames with the larvae in the tub. To my amazement the larvae were unaffected; they continued to crawl around for an hour or more. A search on the internet revealed that a 50% bleach/water solution would kill the larvae. I used a less potent mixture and it did kill the larvae. The article implied that the frames could be reused after drying and airing out for a minimum of 24 hours. I rendered the wax from most of the infected frames as they never seemed to give up the rotting smell.

It is clear to me that the conditions I set up caused this mess. The seven other nucs that were not being fed and had reasonable ventilation had no SHB problems. Oddly, as I went through the infected nucs, I didn't see any adult beetles.

In summary, this is how I believe I set up the perfect storm.

1. Primarily, lack of ventilation
 1. Produced high humidity which the SHB loves.
 2. The high temperature in the hive caused the bees to hang on the outside of the box, resulting in fewer bees inside patrolling for SHB.
 1. It could have been that the bees moved outside since the conditions inside had severely deteriorated due to the SHB.
 2. Too much real estate for the quantity of bees in the hive to patrol (adding of the five additional frames)

Dark Chocolate Honey Mints

"Just Three Ingredients"

When we saw the bag on the shelf at **Trader Joe's** I had to

read the ingredients to see if it was true. I turned over the bag and read, "Ingredients: Honey, Chocolate Liquor, Oil of Peppermint". There also was the following explanation "*Made using pure clover honey from century old traditions that have been handed down from one generation to the next. The honey is creamed by adding special seed honey and a hint of peppermint oil to create a smooth and refreshing center, which is then dipped in a rich dark, chocolate.*" We just had to buy a bag.

We savored and evaluated each mint, purely in the interest of research, and were amazed at how solid the honey was in the mint. And, they were delicious.

David Morris

DC State Fair Includes First-Time Honey Competition

The **DC State Fair** took place on September 22nd and included a Honey category for the first time this year. Several **BUMBA** members participated, with two winning prizes! The Fair is in its third year, this time being held in association with the Barracks Row Festival on 8th Street SE. Fair



organizers use this celebration to showcase the wide range of home-grown talents in DC, and to support awareness of a large, vibrant green and creative community in the Nation's Capital.

Fifteen beekeepers entered the honey show, which was judged by **Maryland State Beekeepers Association** President, **Dr. Wayne Esaias**, **Chef Ian Bens** of the **Fairmont Hotel** (which has hosted beehives for several years), and EAS Master Beekeeper **Pat Haskell** of the **Beekeepers Association of Northern Virginia**.



Figure 1: Pat Haskell, Chef Ian Bens & Wayne Esaias judge honey entries.

Fair rules require all entries in all categories to be sources from gardens, hives, and workshops located in DC, though many DC beekeepers are also members of suburban clubs like **BUMBA**. Judges from both surrounding states and downtown were invited because of the ties and educational debts owed to neighboring clubs which have played a huge role in mentoring downtown beekeepers.

The fair awarded prizes in three classes: Dark (**Karl Moeller**), Medium (**Toni Burnham**), and Light (**Todd Cymrot**), the last two are BUMBA participants! **Toni Burnham also won Best in Show**, with the Washington Youth Garden--at a unique

bee forage location in the National Arboretum-winning Best Tasting. Wayne Esaias declared that the quality of entries was extremely high for such a first time contest, and we hope to expand our hive product categories in years to come!

Winners received gift certificates to the **Juniper Restaurant at the Fairmont Hotel** and to **Dos Gringos Restaurant in Mount Pleasant**. All participants received DC beekeeper refrigerator magnets!

Bees in the News

New Use for White House Honey

Honey from the White House hives has a new use. Recently, President Obama purchased a home beer brewing kit. The kitchen staff use the equipment to make three microbrews, White House Honey Ale, White House Honey Blonde Ale, and White House Honey Porter, all made from honey from the White House bees.

Washington Post, August 16, 2012

News from "Catch the Buzz" at BeeCulture.com

Is Pollen Part of Honey?

By Alan Harman

The European Commission is moving to overturn a court ruling that pollen is an ingredient in honey. The Commission said that in line with World Trade Organization standards, the proposal defines pollen as **a natural constituent of honey and not as an ingredient**.

The change in EU rules, if accepted by all EU member states, would clarify the position for beekeepers left in limbo by the European Court of Justice ruling. The court said it considered

pollen to be an ingredient in honey, rather than brought there naturally by the bees, and if it came from GM plants, the honey would have to carry a warning that it contained GM products.

The warning would be needed if GM pollen accounted for 0.9% of all the pollen in the honey. However, the Commission proposal recognizes that pollen is a natural constituent and not an ingredient of honey; it enters into the hive as a result of the activity of the bees and is found in honey regardless of whether the beekeeper intervenes.

“Consequently, since pollen is considered as a natural constituent of honey, EU labeling rules requiring a list of ingredients would not apply,” the commission says.

The EU accounts for about 13% of global honey production or 200,000 tonnes. Spain is the largest producer (33,000 tonnes), followed by Italy, Hungary and Romania (which each produce around 22,000 tonnes) and Portugal (21,000 tonnes). EU honey imports amount to around 140,000 tonnes and account for 40% of total EU consumption.

This ezine is also available online at <http://home.ezine.com/1636/1636-2012.09.24.09.13.archive.html>

Zombie Bees?

The Seattle Times published an article on September 25th, of the discovery of a local beekeeper that his hive was afflicted with “zombie bees”. **Mark Hohn**, returning from a vacation this summer, noticed some of his bees were behaving oddly. On a hunch he sent some to San Francisco State University biologist **John Hafernik**, who first described the zombie bees in 2008. The fly responsible is *Apocephalus borealis*, a parasitic fly commonly called the “Zombie Fly”. It parasitizes yellow jackets, bumble bees as well as honey bees.

Read the article in the online Seattle Times at

<http://is.gd/ji7UNX>. Learn more about the work to track the fly’s impact on honey bees at www.zombeewatch.org. Read the Wikipedia article about the “Zombie Fly” at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apocephalus_borealis

Fall MSBA Meeting, Elections and Honey Show!

November 10, 2012, 9:30AM

Md. Dept of Agriculture

50 Harry S Truman Pkwy, Annapolis

Keynote Speaker: **Jennifer Berry**, Univ. of Georgia. In addition, two visiting scientists from China will talk about royal jelly production in China. Annual Elections will be held during the business meeting. If you have an interest in serving as an officer, convey your interest to the **MSBA Secretary, Liz Filter** at (410) 643-1486 or emfilter@verizon.net. For the complete program, check back with the MSBA website at www.mdbeekeepers.org/meetings.html

The 76th Annual Honey Show will be held. Entries must be submitted by 10AM. There are 45 entry classes with special classes for first time honey exhibitors and for those who have entered before, honey classes are separated into those with fewer than 10 hives and those with 10 hives or more. Check the MSBA web page a little later for rules and entry forms.

A few tips for Honey Show exhibitors. You do not have to be the producer of the honey or beeswax entered in the show unless it is entered a honey or beeswax class. This means you can buy honey for cooking, and beeswax candles and honey for gift

baskets. The honey show usually has few honey cooking entries, so there is less competition and a better chance to ribbon. Go to www.honey.com, pick out some recipes where honey is the major sweetener (at least 50%). Be sure to provide two copies of the recipe.

The **Youth Division** has three classes, Honey, Arts & Crafts and Cooking. Here is an opportunity for your children to have some fun and earn some prize money. *Last year I think there were no entries.* We really need more participation from young family members.

Finally, there is a “Best Club Showing Award” for the local club with the most points calculated on a scale of 3 points for each 1st prize, 2 points for 2nd, and 1 point for 3rd place. **BUMBA** has won the prize before, why not again?

Read the rules and make sure you have the right weight of beeswax, right number of bottles, recipe copies, etc.

Good luck and have fun!

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.

BUMBA Extractor use

BUMBA now has two honey extractors for use by members. This has necessitated the establishment of club policy governing their use. The extractor use agreement, rules, and cleaning

instructions have been completed and uploaded to the Yahoo **BUMBA** page files section. Click on this [Link](#) to view the Extractor Agreement. The extractor managers are **Chuck Mewshaw** (ctmmaw@aol.com, 301-249-3229) and **Gerry Jones** (gejones486@verizon.net, 301-577-1365). Each has a complete set of equipment and are pretty centrally located for the convenience of the majority of members. The managers have been instructed that the rules go into effect immediately. Anyone scheduled to use the extractor will need to bring a \$50.00 deposit, cash or check, when you pick up the equipment and sign the use agreement and inventory form. Please be sure to read what you are signing ☺.

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 (Oct 6 and Nov 5). 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

Oct 6, Saturday - 4th Annual Pasture Party for Land Conservation, Brandywine

Volunteers Needed ASAP!

The Black Swamp Land Trust is having their 4th Annual Pasture Party for Land Conservation from 11:00-3:00 at the **P.A. Bowen Farmstead in Brandywine**. **Leslie Bradley** would like to lead a team of volunteers, but so far no one has signed up! If you can help, please let me know **ASAP** at lmtpublic@comcast.net or 301-352-3663. My apologies for confusion about this date, as I typed it wrong in the subject line of the email. The body of the email correctly reported Saturday 10/6, which is this Saturday. See their webpage at <http://pabowenfarmstead.com/>

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

Coordinator needed!

BUMBA has supported this fun event every year that it has been held. It is in our very own **Watkins Park Nature Center**. All vendors must sell items that are all natural, made sustainably, or made from recycled or reclaimed materials. It will be Saturday November 5, 10AM - 4PM. BUMBA has paid for a vendor table, so we can sell honey and hive products, but I need the names of sellers ASAP. So far, **Jutta Dunaway**, **Toni Sanchez**, and **Mellie Landon** have signed up for this event. If you would like to volunteer, please email me at lmtpublic@comcast.net and let me know what times you can cover. See their webpage at www.PGParks.com/page33505.aspx.

Recent Outreach Events Report

by Linda Thompson

St. Thomas Episcopal Church Farmer's Market in Croom

For the 2nd year, **Jeff Colburn** led a team of **BUMBA** volunteers at the Croom Farmer's Market on August 12, a day they designate to honor the bees and the role they play in the pollination of our food. Jeff brought all the **BUMBA** displays. **Gerry Jones** brought an observation hive and sold honey. **Toni Burnham** gave a soap-making demonstration.

Honey Harvest Festival

BUMBA had an amazing turnout at the **2012 Honey Harvest Festival** on September 15 at the National Wildlife Visitors Center! This is officially an **MSBA** event, but **BUMBA** always has a huge presence, and our volunteers make it successful. **Tony Drake** gave his Starting Beekeeping presentation and I gave a talk on Bees. Tony brought an observation hive to the event, **Gerry Jones** brought the **BUMBA** extraction equipment, and **Leigh Walton** brought his equipment for the mock apiary and a hive. We set up the **BUMBA** screened tent out front, and there was a live hive demonstration at the top of each hour. Leigh and Gerry sold honey and **Toni Burnham** sold soap. I apologize if I am missing anyone, but I know that **Alison Frane and Nikki Thompson** brought frames of honey to extract; without those donations the extraction station would have nothing to demonstrate. The weather was perfect. The disappointment was fewer than 500 visitors; especially after setting the bar high with nearly 1000 people last year. We need to do better with advertising next year. Many, many thanks to the following fabulous volunteers: **Cheryl Evry, Gerry Jones, Brien McNamara, Felicia Sallis-Peterson, J.B. Peterson, Leslie Bradley, Leigh Walton, Tony Drake, Alison Frane, Shayla Taylor, Paula Tuttle, Ben Tuttle, Toni Sanchez, Michael**

Sanchez, Tony Sanchez, Dave Clark, Toni Burnham, James Mehalick, Kim Mehalick, Michele Tucker, Nikki Thompson, and Tom Hanyok. I'm pretty sure a good time was had by all. Additional thanks to everyone who took the time to send me suggestions for next year. Thanks also to **Bob Cory** and **Jutta Dunaway**, who signed up but due to unforeseeable circumstances could not make it. **Bob Greenwell** stopped by (probably against doctor's orders!) and participated in the bee rodeo (catching bees with your bare hands and putting them in a jar... without stings!), which was won by **Leigh Walton**.

Bowie-Crofton Garden Club 1st Annual Fall Plant Sale

Gerry Jones, Debby Heyes, Martha Schmidt, and Linda Thompson represented **BUMBA** at this event on September 29. Gerry brought an observation hive and Debby brought equipment. It was rather lightly attended, but it was a short event (8AM - noon), the weather cooperated (although rather windy), and we were able to do some bee outreach.

BUMBA Events - 2012 Shortage of Volunteers

by Linda Thompson

2011 was a banner volunteer year. 2012 has not been so good. With the exception of the Honey Harvest Festival, which had a stellar turnout, our other events have been covered by the same small core group of people. We can't keep this up or folks will burn out. We are a large group and should be able to support these events. So far this year we have had to pass on the Maryland State Fair in Timonium, Behnke's Gardner's Night Out 9/14 in Beltsville, 8th Annual Clearwater Nature Fair 9/22 in Clinton, and possibly the event this Saturday at the P.A. Bowen Farmstead 10/6 in Brandywine, due to a lack of volunteers to work the events. If you receive this newsletter but are not receiving my event emails, please let me know. If you have volunteered in the past, but have not this year, please take a

minute to let me know why. If you have never volunteered, I'd like to know why not. This feedback could be invaluable in helping me enhance the program and get more folks involved. lmtpublic@comcast.net

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.**

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

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.

Members' Corner

GMO Crops, Neonicotinoids, and the Bees

by Linda Thompson

We have a monthly Green Lunch at my office, where everyone who is interested brings lunch to a conference room on the first Thursday of the month and discusses a "green" topic. Sometimes they are presentations and sometimes they are group discussions. This week we will be talking about GMO crops, neonicotinoid pesticides, and their effects on pollinators, in general, and honey bees in particular. If you have any references on these topics, I would sure love to have them. Please email me at lmtpublic@comcast.net.

Thompson Hybrid Hive in the News

Meme Thompson, developer of the Thompson Hybrid Hive, is working with the Rodale Institute to promote beekeeping as part of organic gardening. See a recent article featuring her [hive design at http://readingeagle.com/mobile/article.aspx?id=41](http://readingeagle.com/mobile/article.aspx?id=41)

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Honey Bee News Items

Charles Walter has been scanning the news for honey bee items and has found a few interesting stories you might want to read. He shares these via the Yahoo email list. Another reason to sign up to the BUMBA Yahoo group.

- White House Hive produced 175 lbs. of honey! <http://bit.ly/S4hzLQ>
- Researchers tag "Zombie Bees" with radio trackers to monitor parasitic infection <http://bit.ly/PhlGU7>
- Decline in pollinator population will have a severe impact on nature and mankind. <http://bit.ly/RDgkmL>
- Honey may be preferable for children's cough. In all 3 honey products and the placebo group, there was a significant improvement from the night before treatment to the night of treatment. However, the improvement was greater in the honey groups for all the main outcome measures. <http://bit.ly/RMs6gP>

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:

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

Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association Officers

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VP	Leigh Walton	301-577-3088	leiwal@verizon.net
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