



NEWSLETTER

Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association

April 2014

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www.BUMBAbees.com

MEETINGS

Next BUMBA Meeting

“All About Bees” and Annual Elections

Thursday, April 3, 7:30 PM!

Watkins Park Nature Center

Our next meeting is April 3, 7:30 PM at the Watkins Park Nature Center. **BUMBA** member **Linda Thompson** will give her talk “All About Bees”. This is a presentation she gives to public groups as part of her outreach efforts. The talk touches on pollinators; native bees, wasps, and hornets; honeybee life cycle; foraging and pollination; and, the "making" of honey. Linda has presented it to schools, the Patuxent Nursery, the Bowie Lions, the Bowie-Crofton Garden Club, and at the Patuxent Honey Harvest Festival.

Following the presentation there will be time for general topics, questions and discussions of honey bee management for the current season. Our Annual Elections will also be held. Anyone interested in serving as an officer should attend the meeting and speak to either **Bob Greenwell** or **Leigh Walton**.

The President's Smoker

I am writing this column near the end of March, and it has been cold and snowing outside. Just last Saturday, I was out in the bee yards with **Michele Tucker** and **Vanessa** (my wife) assisting me,

installing 40 packages of bees. I had some packages ordered with Snyder Apiaries this year for March 29th delivery, but they came a week earlier on March 22nd. Seems the bees are building up early in Georgia this spring. Knowing that we were facing a week of cold weather, I decided to go ahead and install them into their new homes, but I placed fondant and pollen substitute patties over the top bars and queen cages, so they would be able to reach some sustenance and hopefully keep the queen warm during the cold spell. Last year we were installing packages on the 4th of July, and this year a month before Easter. Sheesh...it's hard to plan anything out on the calendar anymore.

I had ordered 10, 3lb., packages, and also 15, 4lb., packages and 15 extra queens. We split the 4lb. packages into 2lb. packages as we installed them for a total of 40 package installs.

I had a student in the short course class ask me why in the world was I buying packages, if I was selling so many nucs? Good question, and I am not sure I answered it to his satisfaction. I am always so pressed for time during the class that I am sometimes unable to answer all the questions directed to me adequately. The reason I bought packages is like this: I will be using them to draw comb and for bulk bees to stock mating nucs for queens, both open-mated production queens, and instrumentally inseminated queens...they have no other duty initially. The half frames in the mating nucs are nearly impossible to get drawn out well when stocking them with a pint of bees and a queen cell. The beetles tear them up too.

I have gone to considerable effort and expense to design and build specially adapted “freeman-style” beetle trap bottom boards for 60 nucleus colonies and 40 queen mating colonies on half frames. This is a lot of frames to get drawn out, and Italian package bees do this very

well, when kept on a diet of 1:1 sugar syrup, and can be started very early in the year if they can be had. I was able to get them early this year, and they are already at work and should be able to take full advantage of the nectar flow when it hits. Once their job is completed they will be split up into additional nucs or be used to equalize and balance needy hives, with the better queens made available for sale. I have orders for nearly 50, five-frame nucs this spring to be split from my overwintered colonies, am contracted for 1200 lbs of honey, have a small pollination contract, and expect to be selling some queens after May 1st. I over-wintered 52 hives (out of 63), and the economics of purchasing the packages and using them to full advantage primarily to draw comb, and also to populate a number of medium frame nucs (for which I had some drawn comb) seemed to make sense to me at the time I placed the order. We shall see if it works out as expected, or if the venture becomes a lesson in futility and marital distress. I am trying to get back on track to the level 1

Bee sure to check out the “**Bee Quilt**” made by **Jan Day** that she donated to BUMBA to raffle. The article and photos are in the newsletter.

I hope to see you all Thursday night. God save the Queen!

Bob Greenwell

MSBA Winter Meeting

June 14, 9:30AM – 4:30PM

UMD, Chemistry Bldg

College Park, MD

www.mdbeekeepers.org

Featured Speaker: Dr. May Berenbaum

Univ. of Illinois-Champaign Urbana.

Dr. Berenbaum is a noted speaker, award winning teacher/scholar, and expert in the evolutionary interactions of insects and plants. She founded the BeeSpotter program (<http://beespotter.mste.illinois.edu/>). The following is from that web page

“BeeSpotter is a partnership between citizen-scientists and the professional science community designed to educate the public about pollinators by engaging them in a data collection effort of importance to the nation. It is a web-based portal at the **University of Illinois** for learning about honey bees and bumble bees and for contributing data to a nationwide effort to baseline information on population status of these insects.

A couple of notes for those who are new to the BeeSpotter website:

We are currently only collecting Bee Spottings in the state of Illinois, but hope to eventually expand to other states as well!”

The exact location, and directions, for the June meeting will be posted later at the MSBA web page.

DC Beekeepers’ Alliance

The DC Beekeepers Alliance is now holding regular meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Their next meeting is April 16.

The speaker at the April meeting will be native plant expert **Damien Ossi**, to talk about pollinator friendly plantings in the Chesapeake region. For information about time and location, visit www.dcbeckeepers.org

CLUB HAPPENINGS

2014 BUMBA Spring Course and Dues Renewal

Another successful Spring Beekeeping Course was completed last Thursday, March 27. **BUMBA** Treasurer **Jutta Dunaway**, reports that we had **49 class members** complete our class and added to our

BUMBA membership. We also have 63 renewed members, for a current total 102 members. There are 81 members who have not yet renewed.

April 5 Field Day & Lunch Plans

Scott Seccomb has graciously allowed us the use of his apiary again for our annual Field Day. We can't promise that the weather will be fabulous and the swarms plentiful; but, with the weather's cooperation we should have a wonderful time and many learning experiences once again. We have tentatively planned on having a catered lunch again (the feedback was great on the delicious BBQ we enjoyed last year). Expect the cost to be **\$10-15 per adult**; an advance count will be needed. Of course, anyone wishing to bring their own lunch may certainly do so.

Details at the Thursday meeting!

Directions to Scott's Apiary

7804 Woodyard Rd, Clinton, MD 20735
(H 301-868-2086 C 301-580-8031)

PLEASE PARK IN THE FIELD, NOT IN THE DRIVEWAY

From Route 301: Take Md. Route 4 west (towards DC) to route 223, the Woodyard Road exit. At the bottom of the ramp turn left onto Woodyard Road (South). Go about 2.5 miles and at the third stop light veer right, (this is still Woodyard Rd.) After you go around 3 sharp S turns, you will see Don Drive on the right and TALL PINE TREES AHEAD ON THE LEFT. Just on the other side of the pine trees is a small field and a gate.

From Md. Route 5: Take Woodyard Road towards Upper Marlboro/ Mellwood. Go past the Dash In gas station at the 4-way light and continue until you see Resurrection Cemetery on the right. After the 7th house on the right, past the cemetery and across from Tanglewood Plant Nursery, there is a small field and a gate.

Drive through the gate and come back by the house and park

anywhere you want.

2014 April & May Outreach Events

Linda Thompson, Outreach Coordinator
lmtpublic@comcast.net, 301-352-3663 (h), 301-943-4368 (c)

A big part of our **BUMBA** mission is public education about bees, to share why we love beekeeping, why bees are in decline, why that is a threat to our food supply, and what non-beekeepers can do to help. We can teach children about bees and adults that they *can* live with their neighbor's bees. In addition, these events give us a forum for selling your products, recruiting new beekeepers, and promoting club membership.

BUMBA is committed to attend a number of exciting public events this year. **BUMBA** participated in 12 outreach events in 2013 *plus* the Cheverly and Bowie town meetings where we advocated for bees and beekeeping, and a full day at the Maryland State Fair. Our 2014 outreach season starts April 12. Spring is a busy time, and we need *your* help. The bees need your help, too. Each event is an opportunity to be ambassadors for the bees, sell our products, recruit beekeepers, & promote club membership. Can you help?

- 4/12** **Bowie Green Expo**
1 - 4 Kenhill Center, 2614 Kenhill Drive, Bowie
BowieGreenExpo.org
- 4/26** **Maryland Day**
10 - 4 University of Maryland, College Park campus
Farm & Regents Drive (across from the horse barn)
MarylandDay.umd.edu/
- 5/3** **Spring Farm Festival**
11 - 4 Hard Bargain Farm, 2001 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek
FergusonFoundation.org/events/spring-farm-festival/
- 5/4** **Bostwick Spring Festival**
1 - 4 Bostwick House, 3300 48th Street, Bladensburg

BattleOfBladensburg1812.com/?page_id=280

This event is on Sunday!

5/17 A-MAY-Zing Animal Fest

11 - 4 Bladensburg Waterfront Park, 4601 Annapolis Road
PGparks.com/Things_To_Do/Nature/Bladensburg_Waterfront_Park/Programs_and_Events.htm

There will be more events throughout the year. They will be announced in the newsletters and on the BUMBA online forum.

Bowie Green Expo

The **Bowie Green Expo** (Saturday 4/12, 1PM - 4PM) is a day of discovery and delight featuring tons of green family fun, designed to educate people about the importance of living a healthier green lifestyle that reduces their environmental footprint. Get your face painted; make art from recyclables, meet farm animals, and win prizes. BUMBA has a small, 1-table "booth".

Maryland Day

Maryland Day (Saturday 4/26, 10AM - 4PM) is our **biggest, busiest event of the year**. We need lots of volunteers for this one! Even if you can help for only an hour or two, please join us. If you have never attended one, you should definitely bring your family and plan to make a day of it. The entire campus participates and it is amazing. Visit the website for details and to plan your day. *We set up across from the horse barn at the entrance to Ag Day Avenue.* In the past, volunteers have received tee-shirts and tote bags.

Spring Farm Festival

The **Spring Farm Festival** (Saturday 5/3, 11AM - 4PM) is sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation & held at the gorgeous 330-acre Hard Bargain Farm on the banks of the Potomac River, across from Mount Vernon. This working farm has areas representing nearly every habitat in southern Maryland. Grass-fed beef & free-range chickens (and eggs) are raised on the farm and

available for sale. It is a lovely site to spend the afternoon. We bring our cabana and set up on the lawn.

Bostwick House Festival

The Bostwick House in Bladensburg is the setting for the **Bostwick Spring Festival** (Sunday 5/4, 1 - 4PM). Take a step back in time to the War of 1812. Tour the historic house & gardens, watch the 1812 re-enactors, & take the "British Invasion" walk. See heritage breed farm animals from Accokeek Foundation, 1800's-style children's games & activities, historic demonstrations (e.g., brick-making, spinning, quill-writing), & Native American Dance demonstrations by Maryland's Piscataway tribe.

A-MAY-Zing Animal Fest

The **A-MAY-Zing Animal Fest** (Saturday 5/17, noon - 4PM) is hosted by MNCPPC at the beautiful Bladensburg Waterfront Park on the Anacostia river. Interpretive signs provide historical information about the area, which was occupied by Native Americans, served as a major shipping port in the colonial period, and played a pivotal role in the War of 1812. There will be birds of prey, reptiles, farm animals, pony rides, arts & crafts, and food vendors. Volunteers get lunch and a tee-shirt!

MEMBERS' CORNER

Bee Quilt Raffle!

BUMBA member **Jan Day** has created the most amazing and beautiful bee quilt, which she has very generously donated to the club as a fund raiser. The quilt is 69x87 inches, so it will fit a double bed. It is 100% cotton with a 70-30% cotton-poly batting. As you can see from the photos it is made of hexagons (honey comb cells). The cells look like capped honey, pollen, and even has a few bees on the honey comb.

President Bob Greenwell will provide the details of the raffle

during the meeting. Bee sure to bee there so you don't miss out on a chance to own this magnificent quilt.



BEES IN THE NEWS

Excerpts from "Catch the Buzz" at BeeCulture.com

New Model For Virtual Hive Lets Everybody Look At Bee Problems

Alan Harman

British scientists have created a virtual hive that gives them just about everything except a bee sting.

In their search to unravel the complex causes of colony decline, the new computer model will help scientists, beekeepers and regulators to understand multiple environmental effects on honeybee colonies.

The model simulates a honey bee colony over the course of several years.

It is freely available at <http://www.beehave-model.net>

The scientists, led by Prof. Juliet Osborne of the Environment and Sustainability Institute at the University of Exeter, created what they call the Beehave model to simulate the life of a colony including the queen's egg laying, brood care by nurse bees and foragers collecting nectar and pollen in a realistic landscape.

"It is a real challenge to understand which factors are most important in affecting bee colony growth and survival," Osborne says. "This is the first opportunity to simulate the effects of several factors together, such as food availability, mite infestation and disease, over realistic time scales."

The model, published in the *Journal of Applied Ecology*, allows researchers, beekeepers and anyone interested in bees, to predict colony development and honey production under different environmental conditions and beekeeping practices.

To build the simulation, the scientists brought together existing honeybee research and data to develop a new model that integrated

processes occurring inside and outside the hive.

The first results of the model show that colonies infested with the common parasitic mite *Varroa* can be much more vulnerable to food shortages. Effects within the first year can be subtle and might be missed by beekeepers during routine management.

But the model shows these effects build up over subsequent years leading to eventual failure of the colony, if it was not given an effective *Varroa* treatment.

Read the full article at:

<http://home.ezezone.com/1636/1636-2014.03.06.08.34.archive.html>

Money For Food...It's About Time!

Alan Harman

The **U.S. Department of Agriculture** is providing close to \$3 million in technical and financial assistance for Midwestern farmers and ranchers to help improve the health of bees.

The funding, focused investment to improve pollinator health, will be targeted in five Midwestern states, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack says the future security of America's food supply depends on healthy honey bees.

"Expanded support for research, combined with USDA's other efforts to improve honey bee health, should help America's beekeepers combat the current, unprecedented loss of honey bee hives each year," he says.

Funding will be provided through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to promote conservation practices that will provide honey bees with pollen and nectar while providing benefits to the environment.

It follows studies showing beekeepers are losing about 30% of their honey bee colonies each year, up from historical norms of 10% to 15% overwintering losses experienced prior to 2006.

The new assistance will provide guidance and support to farmers and ranchers to implement conservation practices that will provide safe and diverse food sources for honey bees.

Excerpts from "ABJ Extra" at Dadant.com

Honey is a New Approach to Fighting Antibiotic Resistance: How Sweet It Is!

DALLAS, March 16, 2014 — Honey, that delectable condiment for breads and fruits, could be one sweet solution to the serious, ever-growing problem of bacterial resistance to antibiotics, researchers said here today.

Medical professionals sometimes use honey successfully as a topical dressing, but it could play a larger role in fighting infections, the researchers predicted. Their study was part of the 247th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society (ACS), the world's largest scientific society.

"The unique property of honey lies in its ability to fight infection on multiple levels, making it more difficult for bacteria to develop resistance," said study leader Susan M. Meschwitz, Ph.D. That is, it uses a combination of weapons, including hydrogen peroxide, acidity, osmotic effect, high sugar concentration and polyphenols — all of which actively kill bacterial cells, she explained. The osmotic effect, which is the result of the high sugar concentration in honey, draws water from the bacterial cells, dehydrating and killing them.

She said that her team also is finding that honey has antioxidant properties and is an effective antibacterial. "We have run standard antioxidant tests on honey to measure the level of antioxidant activity," she explained. "We have separated and identified the various antioxidant polyphenol compounds. In our antibacterial studies, we have been testing honey's activity against *E. coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, among others."

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 now has two honey extractors for members to use.. The extractor 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. Call to reserve, bring a \$50 refundable deposit (cash or check), sign the use agreement and inventory form. Please be sure to read what you are signing☺. The first 4 days are free!

www.BUMBAbees.com

Check out the club web site maintained by **Toni Burnham**, www.bumbabees.com. You will find meeting schedules, newsletters, information and membership application forms (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.

www.BUMBAbees.com/forums

Check out a new feature. Thanks to Scott Seccomb and Toni Burnham, we have a private web forum on the BUMBA web page for members' use.

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 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

Phone: 301-580-9313.

Email: freestatebees@gmail.com

Call or email if you have any questions.

Please be sure to call ahead to set up a time to visit! As always, thank you for your continued support!

Dave and Laura Polk

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 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**

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 for \$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

Club Calendar

Put these dates on your **2014 BUMBA** Calendar:

- April 3, BUMBA Mtg, 7:30 PM
- April 5, Field Day
- April 12, Bowie Green Expo, Kenhill Center
- April 26, Maryland Day, UMD, College Park
- May 3, Spring Farm Festival, Hard Bargain Farm, Accokeek
- May 4, Bostwick Spring Festival, Bladensburg
- May 17, A-MAY-Zing Animal Fest, Bladensburg
- June 5, BUMBA Mtg, 7:30 PM
- July 28-Aug 1, EAS Mtg, Richmond, KY
- August 7, BUMBA Mtg, 7:30 PM
- October 2, BUMBA Mtg, 7:30 PM
- December 4, 6:00 PM, Holiday Party

David Morris, BUMBA Editor
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