



NEWSLETTER

Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association

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www.BUMBAbees.com

MEETINGS

Next BUMBA Meeting

Battling SHB with Nematodes!

Thursday, June 5, 7:30 PM!

Watkins Park Nature Center

Our guest speaker is **Izzy Hill**, from the Univ. of Maryland, will be presenting his research on using beneficial nematodes to control the Small Hive Beetle. Nematodes are a minuscule non-segmented worm that can be cultured and released into the soil as predators against small hive beetle larvae as they pupate. The program hopes to offer a viable defense against the SHB, attacking another segment of the beetle's life cycle which occurs outside of the hive. The nematode research team received a grant to implement a citizen science project looking at the efficacy of nematodes against SHB. They have funding to provide participants with free nematodes in exchange for them using a basic diagnostic strip in their hive to track SHB populations. Those who signed up for the free nematodes should attend this meeting to pick them up.

Our second speaker will be **BUMBA** member **Maggie Mills** who will be sharing her experiences and learning highlights from the 2013 EAS meetings. Maggie was originally scheduled to present this in October, but due to time constraints in that meeting it was postponed.

The President's Smoker

We are in the midst of our annual Maryland nectar flow as I write this column. The bees are really packing it in and drawing out the comb. No comb is ever so splendid as that which is drawn during the frenzy of a heavy nectar flow. This year is really looking far better for me than the past couple, both in bee production and honey production. The flow has seemed to me to be later than usual across the board this year. Anyone else noticed this? My notes show that both black locust and tulip poplar bloomed about 2 weeks later than in the past several years, but the flows seem to be lasting longer. I hope that we will all enjoy a bountiful harvest this year...I think we are due one, after the traumas of weather, winterkill, and bee shortages of late. I have heard that package bee availability dried up early this year, and that some folks who had packages on order for the later delivery dates didn't receive them at all. Several people had called me about the availability of nucs, and since I had plenty as it turned out, I know at least those several beeks were still able to start hives this year.

When I am among non-beekeeping people, I am always asked "you ever get stung?" I usually reply, "Sometimes" When I am among other beekeepers, I am always asked "how many hives you got?" That's a little tougher because the number changes frequently with my style of beekeeping. Since I am so often asked for the numbers, I thought I would offer the latest stats in this column. As of today I have, 58 strong hives, 53 strong nucs, and 40 mini mating nucs with bees drawing combs. I have also sold 51 5-frame nucs, 17 queens, and 10 virgins this spring, to date. I still owe one club

member a nuc with a special queen, and another club member a medium frame nuc if she decides she wants it. I also provided another club member with 7 splits, and some virgins and cells to pump up that apiary. After the flow subsides, I will pull enough additional splits to build my nuc count up to about 80 for overwintering. I hope to have at least 60 nucs winter over for spring sales. I have 46 supers on. With the month of June arriving in 3 days, I will begin my instrumental insemination program to develop my future stock of queens via a closed population mating system. I have received and successfully introduced several VSH breeder queens from Dr. John Harbo's stock. **Dr. John Harbo** was the original developer of the SMR-VSH expressing lines of bees for the USDA-Baton Rouge Bee Lab, LA. I feel very excited about the opportunity to work with these genetic lines of bees and the possibilities that I anticipate from mixing with my own lines, the Chesapeakes and the Patuxents. A fair number of our members have had my Chesapeakes heading up their colonies and most all of the feedback has been positive. I have never released any of the Patuxent line to date, but hope to have some available for next year. I have sold some of the Italian hybrids with favorable feedback, but in the future I want to concentrate more on my specialty lines.

The April meeting was a fun and informative meeting, and if you aren't attending, you are really missing out. **Jan Day** has hand sewn a beautiful quilt, done in a beekeeping motif, and generously donated it to **BUMBA** in appreciation of the impact that our short course and beekeeping has made on her life. This work of art will be raffled at each of our club meetings through and including the holiday party in December 2014, at which time it will be drawn for, and awarded that night. Tickets will be very reasonably priced at \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00, and there will be no limit on the number one can purchase. Jan presented her labor of love to us during the short course and then again at the April meeting. I would really like to win this quilt myself, it is quite stunning.

Club elections yielded no surprises with each of the

incumbent club officers opting to continue their respective offices for the 2014 term. **Tony Drake** asked the officers to each in turn, describe the qualities required of each officer to perform their respective duties, and to estimate the amount of time each actually puts in to fulfilling their roles in governing the club. I think that this was a welcome enlightenment, and that the realization that you don't have to be an expert beekeeper to fulfill the role of a club officer may pave the way for some new "blood" to step up in future elections. **Robert Boyette** came out of his seat and practically volunteered on the spot, he was that excited. The returning officer's names are all listed elsewhere in the newsletter and so I won't list them here, but I would like to express my genuine appreciation and admiration for each of the staff members that have supported our club so efficiently these past few years while I have been in office. This includes the "behind the scenes" support and advice of my chosen "board members" as well.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the staff who labored to make our annual short course an enviable success again this year. After getting off to a rocky first night...and I am solely responsible for the first night's confusion...we went on to offer 5 succeeding nights of superior performances. Both **Jeff Forbes** and **Nikki Thompson** have really melded into their presentations...never better you guys! **Linda Thompson, Leigh Walton, Tony Drake, Debby Heyes, Scott Seccomb, David Morris, Toni Burnham, and Gregg Gochnour** were all superb...and the MVP award goes to **Maggie Mills**, for her first time, but not last time, presentation, which was entertaining as well as educational for the students and staff alike. Maggie is a keeper. Thank you to **Kim Mehalick** for her fine soap making demonstration, **Gerry Jones** as our mead sommelier, and **Leigh Walton** for lugging an extra hive over to Scott's, all helping to make our field day very successful. Congratulations to **Polly** on winning herself that raffle hive, that she kept going around telling everybody she just had to win, and then did. And a very special thank you to **Scott Seccomb** for

hosting the field day event at his home and apiary, for taking a group of the students through the open hive segment, for absorbing a few of the stingers that otherwise would have ended up in my collection during the package install, and for making the dinner arrangements and once again filling us up with delicious and healthy food. Lastly, but certainly not least, I want to thank **Jutta Dunaway** for the many hours of hard labor she put in during the months leading up to the short course with all the registration paperwork, the communications, the collection of the payments, as well as the sacrificial devotion to being at each and every class for set-up, registration, coffee, raffle tickets, clean up, ...you name it. Nobody worked harder than Jutta before, during, or after the course ended. Thank you to Debby and Linda for helping Jutta keep her sanity. If I left anybody out, I am truly sorry, it is not because you weren't appreciated. With people like each and every one of you mentioned above, it is very easy to sit back and just be president. Thank you all, from me, and on behalf of the 2014 short course students, many of whom are now enjoying their first hive and beekeeping experiences.

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

Bob Greenwell

DC Beekeepers' Alliance

www.dcbeekeepers.org

The DC Beekeepers Alliance is now holding regular meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. For information about time and location, visit www.dcbeekeepers.org

MSBA Summer 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.

EAS 2014

Eastern Kentucky University

Richmond, KY, July 28-Aug 1

by Timothy McMahon

Would you like to take part in one of the most extensive beekeeping conferences in the United States? EAS (Eastern Apiculture Society) is one of the largest noncommercial beekeeping organizations in the United States and one of the largest in the world. Every summer EAS conducts its week long Annual Conference of lectures and workshops in one the 26 member states or Canadian provinces. This year's EAS conference will be held at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond Kentucky, from July 28 through Aug. 1. The conference theme is "Esprit de Bee". The conference usually brings in about 600 to 800 beekeepers from around the world to attend.

The conference is made up of the Short Course, running from Monday to Wednesday, and the conference proper, running from Wednesday to Friday, with Wednesday the overlap day. Normally about half of the attendees stay the whole week with the other half coming just for the conference. The Short Course will contain classes for beekeepers of all levels and special events such as an open apiary with Langstroth, Warre' and Top Bar Hives, a microscope workshop on bee anatomy, a Honey Show for you to enter your bee products, and classes on all aspects of beekeeping. The conference proper will consist of a talk about beekeeping in Afghanistan by Lt. Colonel B. Richardson, social events, symposia and lectures by some of the biggest names in beekeeping like Dewey Caron, Mike Palmer, Dianna Sammataro, Jennifer Berry, Cindy Bee, Wyatt Magnum and Maryann Frazier. Along with these speakers, there will be about 35 workshops on topics such as Queen Production Course, mead making, Nosema issues, Apitherapy, Varroa mite biology, Small Hive Beetles, a quilting class with a honey bee theme and many many more. You can tour a local "Walter T. Kelley's Co." store, or a

Esprit de bee



EASKentucky2014

surface and underground coal mine on Saturday July 26, with an EAS group, if you so wish.

I first attended EAS several years ago in Boone NC, and the experience was so great that I became a life time member. I've not missed an EAS conference since. Every year I go with a set of questions in mind that I then try to find the answers to from the best minds in Beekeeping. Can't get much better than that. Maybe the best thing about the week-long EAS was that I got to talk "bees" all week long and no one said that they had heard enough (normally my family asks me to shut-up after the first 2 minutes or so). You can find out all about the specific topic covered and how to sign up at the EAS webpage here www.easternapiculture.org/.

Honey Fights Fatigue

From Woman's World Magazine

B vitamins, amino acids and enzymes boost stamina and focus, according to a recent news item in Women's World. Honey also has compounds that cut inflammation and speeds healing, so injured muscles recover faster.

CLUB HAPPENINGS

2014 BUMBA Membership; Dues Renewal

After the Spring Beekeeping Course was completed **BUMBA** Treasurer **Jutta Dunaway**, reports that we had **49 class members** complete our class and added to our **BUMBA** membership. We also have 80 renewed members, for a current total 129 members, with 55 members from 2013 who have not yet renewed.

2014 June 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.

Only a few event remain in 2014. Each event is an opportunity to be ambassadors for the bees, sell our products, recruit beekeepers, & promote club membership. Can you help?

6/16 **Bowie City Council Meeting**

8 PM Monday evening
Bowie City Hall, 15901 Excalibur Rd, Bowie 20716
Presentation of the Governor's Proclamation, 5-minute citizen participation at start of meeting
I will share the 5 minutes with Maria Arnold from Bowie Habitats For Wildlife; We are hoping for beekeepers to sit in the front row and stand during the presentation, to show support for bees and pollinators in Bowie.

6/21 **Croom Farmers Market**

8 - noon Saturday morning
Saint Thomas' Episcopal Church, 14300 St. Thomas Church Rd., Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772
localharvest.org/our-local-bounty-M38285

The Farmers Market is all summer long, but Jeff Colburn designates one Saturday each season to honor pollinators.

9/20 **Maryland Honey Harvest Festival**

9 - 3:30 Saturday

National Wildlife Visitor Center, Patuxent Research Refuge
(Powder Mill Rd)

10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708-4027
fws.gov/northeast/patuxent/events.html

Sponsored by the MSBA and Friend of Patuxent, we take over the Visitor Center! Live hive demo tent, ob hives, honey tasting, candle-making, mock apiary, honey-bottling demonstrations, kid's arts and crafts, refuge habitat tram tours, and more!

11/8 **Trash To Treasure Green Craft Fair**

10 - 4 Saturday

Watkins Nature Center, Upper Marlboro

pgparks.com/Things_To_Do/Nature/Watkins_Nature_Center.htm

Recent Outreach Events in April & May

April and May have been an absolute whirlwind of events this year. It must be a record. Thank you, thank you, to you wonderful people who give your time and effort to the bees and to getting our message out. We truly are changing hearts and minds.

Bowie Green Expo

Saturday April 12, 1 - 4 PM. A great day at the Kenhill Center - the best Bowie Green Expo turnout yet! Our space was small, but we set up pretty well. We are considering asking for an outdoor space next year (they are larger, but the weather is risky). **Rob Kolosky**, **Lee Travis**, and I entertained visitors in a steady stream. Wanda offered to help; we were doing fine, so she worked with her other group, the Master Gardeners. Lots of folks expressed interest in beekeeping and we passed out a lot of **BUMBA** business cards. Thank goodness MOMS offered free food, because we were hungry! No food vendors here, so next year we need to plan to bring snacks and drinks. Thanks to all!

Spring Greening Fair

Saturday April 19, 10 AM - 2 PM. This was quite a nice event for a first at the Mount Rainier Nature Center. We had a lovely spot in the parking lot and used our **BUMBA** cabana. Gerry brought an ob hive, which was magical, as usual. Thank you so much, Gerry! We got to show pollen, nectar, honey, larva, capped brood, workers, drones, and the Queen. We got to watch her lay eggs! Folks saw housecleaning bees in action, carrying around the "trash" all day, looking for the way out to dispose of it. One worker carried around a deceased drone for hours. Gerry sold some honey and there was much mead tasting - yummm!

I gave a scaled-down "***All About Bees***" presentation, and the 4 people who came really enjoyed it and asked lots of great questions. **Gerry Jones, Tracy Velazquez, Frank Fennel, Nikki Thompson,** and I talked to lots of folks about bees... many expressed an interest in beekeeping! Lovely weather (although a bit windy), great company, an ob hive... spring days don't get much better than this!

Maryland Day

Saturday April 26, 10AM - 4PM. Another really great Maryland Day at the University of Maryland! Two (yes TWO!) ob hives, thanks to **Gerry Jones** and **Steve Cook & John Brassfield!** Ob hives really draw folks in. One queen marked, one not; both laying eggs! Drones to compare to the workers. The ever-frustrated garbage collector bees. (Ob hives *are* magic.) Lots and lots of great bee information exchanged. We had beautiful weather again, continuing our amazing streak, but the wind picked up at the end and shut us down just a bit early. Such a busy, non-stop day that I can still get tired just remembering it. Thanks to all who gave their time and shared their knowledge: **Rob Kolosky, Debby Heyes, Nikki Thompson, Gerry Jones, David Clark, David Jones, David & Jutta Dunaway, Felicia Sallis-Peterson, John Brassfield, Steve Cook, and Tony Drake.** Many thanks to Nikki for making all the arrangements, providing extra copies of coloring pages when we ran short, and talking, talking, talking!

Spring Farm Festival

Saturday May 3, 11AM - 4PM. Hard Bargain Farm is such a gorgeous venue. The day was beautiful, if a little windy. Amazing BBQ - yum! A fabulous ob hive, with an egg-laying machine for a Queen! It was a day chock full of interested folks and interesting conversation. Thanks to **Debby Heyes, Cheryl Evry, Mellie Landon, and Gerry Jones,** with special thanks to Gerry for the ever magical ob hive.

Bostwick House Festival

Sunday May 4, 1 - 4PM. A much busier day than ever before at this Bladensburg event! This year we were up on the road (out of the muddy grass, which was nice). No food was a bummer. Some of us took the Bostwick House tour and found that interesting. Wind was quite a problem, but we managed to hang on to everything. Ob Hive sucked folks in, as always, and was great entertainment! Lots of interest; lots of good bee information shared! Many thanks to **Frank Fennel, Nora Wixon, Felicia Sallis-Peterson, J.B. Peterson, Nikki Thompson, and Leigh Walton,** with special thanks to Leigh for providing the ob hive.

Green Man Festival

Sunday May 11, 11 AM - 5PM. Due to some difficulties on the Chesapeake Education Arts and Research Society (CHEARS) event planning staff, we were invited to this at the last minute. The event in Old Greenbelt was Saturday and Sunday; we pulled together a team for Sunday- on Mother's Day! The weather could not have been more gorgeous. The 10th Annual Green Man Festival was a celebration of Greenbelt's commitment to preserve its acres of forests, with a focus this year on pollinators, especially butterflies, that are endangered due to the destruction of their habitats. Thanks SO MUCH to **Tracy Velazquez, Wanda Jones, and Lee Travis** for making this one happen. Whew! Thanks also to **David Clark and Frank Fennel,** who offered Saturday, but I just couldn't gear up for setting up on both days.

A-MAY-Zing Animal Fest

Saturday May 17, noon - 4PM. Hosted by MNCPPC at the beautiful Bladensburg Waterfront Park on the Anacostia river. **BUMBA** was superbly represented by **Leigh Walton, Cheryl Evry, Gerry Jones, and Nikki Thompson**. It was busier than any Animal Fest event before. Many, many thanks to Leigh for toting the **BUMBA** display stuff to and from and for providing the ob hive. Thanks to Cheryl for setting up and to Nikki for packing up. These folks did a great job short-staffed.

Cheverly Day

Saturday May 31, 1 - 5PM. Another fabulous outreach day for **BUMBA**! Beautiful weather (so much different than last year) and much public interest! Sadly, Cheverly's anti-beekeeping law is still on the books, but the town council voted a special exception to allow a hive in the community garden as a pilot project. Unfortunately that never materialized. But at this event on a picture-perfect day we got more townsfolk onboard with bees in their community. Thanks to **Dave Kneipp, Jan Day, and Frank Fennel**, with special thanks and Kudos to Frank for putting together his very first ob hive! His green-marked queen was definitely the highlight of the day.

Behind the Scene Events

Saturday May 24, 11AM - 12:30PM. **Linda Thompson** gave her ***All About Bees*** presentation to staff at the Mt. Rainier Nature Center.

Friday April 25, 9:30AM - 2:30 PM. **BUMBA** was invited to participate in Earth Spirit Day at the John Hanson Montessori School in Oxon Hill, an annual event where students learn about interesting facts that impact our environment. We were represented by **Bruce Murray and Martha Schmidt**, who presented to 9 classes, grades 3 through 6. The teachers, staff, and students were super. The kids ate it all up and asked really, really good questions. They were awesome listeners.

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.

Raffle tickets for the quilt will be sold at each meeting until December. At the December meeting, the winning ticket will be drawn. Tickets are \$1 each, or 6 for \$5. *Bee sure* to buy some tickets there so you don't miss out on a chance to own this magnificent quilt.



BEES IN THE NEWS

Why Butterflies and Bees Drink Crocodile Tears

National Geographic posted a story about bees and butterflies that were observed sipping the tears of crocodiles. No one is sure how the

crocodiles feel about it, but apparently the bees and butterflies are seeking the salt in their tears. Check out the photo and video on the National Geographic web page at:

Read the full article at:

<http://newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/2014/05/07/insects-tears-feed-science-environment-animals/>

Blue Honey, NOT a French Delicacy

Reuters News Agency reported that beekeepers in Alsace, France, discovered blue and green honey in their honey combs when they began extracting. After some investigation it was discovered they the bees were foraging on discarded M&M candies that were sent to a “biogas” processing facility. The biogas facility quickly made sure the candies were stored in an enclosed facility.



Did Scientists Just Solve the Bee Collapse Mystery?

{This news item was forward to the editor by Charles Walter, habutti@yahoo.com}

Tom Philpott

Mother Jones News, May 20, 2014

In a recent story on the Mother Jones web page, Tom Philpott reports on recent information about the unexpected effects of ingredients used in pesticides and fungicides which were previously considered “inert”, that is, these ingredients would have no affect on organisms when applied with the active ingredients. The ingredients are used as adjuvants, materials used to control the concentration of

the active ingredients and to make the product easier to handle and apply. Recent studies have found that fungicides contribute significantly to the declining health of bees, a surprising finding since a “fungicide” kills fungus. However, bees and other insects need fungi in their gut to help digest pollen. Kill their gut fungi and they could starve.

But a recent study by Harvard researchers has replicated the colony collapse behavior in managed, research, hives. The research team, lead by Chensheng Lu, set up 18 hives; 6 colonies were controls and 12 were test subjects. The team put small amounts of neonicotinoids in 12 hives and observed the results through the winter. The control hives survived except for the loss of one hive to Nosema. Of, the test hives, 6 succumbed to classic CCD symptoms, the bees vanished during the winter, leaving empty hives.

Tom Philpott contacted Dr. Jeff Pettis at the Beltsville Bee lab for comment. Dr. Pettis declined to label the study as “the smoking gun”, saying that he study was too small to draw such a conclusion. But, “it does add to the list” of studies pointing to “neonics” as a significant factor.

The Bayer corporation disputed the research and its conclusions, stating the quantity of materials was too high and kept in the hive for too long. The researchers countered by stating the amount used was well below the establish LDC50 level and did not kill the bees. As for the duration, bees in New England may forage for up to 10 months, not 13 weeks, the period of exposure.

{Pollen, contaminated with pesticides, may remain in a hive for months. Stored pollen is the primary brood food in the winter. editor note}

Read the full article at:

<http://www.motherjones.com/tom-philpott/2014/05/smoking-gun-bee-collapse>

**Excerpts from “Catch the Buzz” at
BeeCulture.com**

USDA – Focus on Honey Bee Health

Statement to Congress, Dr. Jeff Pettis, Beltsville Bee Lab Research Leader

Dr. Jeff Pettis, Research Leader at the **Beltsville Bee Lab**, gave testimony to the House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Horticulture, on April 29. Dr. Pettis addressed the serious problems facing honey bees and beekeeping in the United States, and the potential impact on US agricultural production dependent on honey bee pollination. Dr. Pettis noted that pollination products \$15 billion dollars worth of food products annually, and that the \$3 billion dollar almond industry is totally dependent on honey bee pollination.

The threats to the honey bee were attributed to the introduction of the parasitic mite *varroa destructor*. Before its introduction in 1987 there were 3million bee hives managed in the US. Now, beekeepers struggle to maintain 2.5 million hives, experiencing 30% winter losses every year. The ARS budget for honey bees is \$11 million, with \$3 million devoted to *varroa* research and control methods.

The USDA held a honey bee summit in Washington, DC, in February, to address the multiple problems facing the industry. More than 75 representatives and researchers from beekeeping organizations, agricultural commodity groups, the crop protection industry, universities and federal agencies, including the Agricultural Research Service, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and the Environmental Protection Agency attended.

{The USDA is devoting only \$11 million to support an industry that produces \$15 billion in food. There are other funds, especially from the California Almond Board, in recognition of their total dependency on honey bees. In my opinion, these sums are awfully small for such an important agriculture segment that is experiencing the death of 30% of ts livestock annually. editor's note}

Read the full article at:

<http://home.ezine.com/1636/1636-2014.05.21.06.53.archive.html>

Australia's Weather Significantly Reduces Honey Production

Alan Harman

Australian honey producers have halted overseas exports and been unable to fill some of their supermarket orders after drought, heat waves, bush fires and a severe drop in the number of flower blossoms saw an estimated 30% of the bee population wiped out.

Victoria-based Beechworth Honey says Australian beekeepers are facing honey production losses of between 50% and 90% as a result of weather events, heat waves, bushfires and drought across vast areas of Australia.

Queensland-based Capilano Honey says in a statement that in extreme heat wave conditions beeswax honeycombs can melt inside the hive. Capilano has cut its domestic product range and is importing honey from Argentina, Canada, China and Europe for its international customers.

Read the full article at:

<http://home.ezine.com/1636/1636-2014.05.21.06.02.archive.html>

“Monarch Watch” Awarded 2014 Growing Green Award

NRDC and Berkeley Food Institute Join to Host 2014 Growing Green Awards

The 2014 Growing Green Awards honored an outstanding individual in each of the following four categories: Sustainable Food and Farm Educator, Sustainable Livestock Producer, Pollinator Protector, and Regional Food Leader.

POLLINATOR PROTECTOR Winner for 2014 is **Orley "Chip" Taylor** [Monarch Watch](#) / Lawrence, KS -- University of Kansas

Since insect ecologist Chip Taylor founded Monarch Watch in 1992, the organization has enlisted thousands of citizens to protect the monarch butterfly from extinction. The butterfly's numbers have sunk to ten percent of what they were in 1996, largely because milkweed—the only food source for monarch larvae and where adults lay their eggs—has been wiped out by herbicides and the relentless expansion of corn and soy acres in the Midwest. Based out of the

University of Kansas, Monarch Watch has enlisted hundreds of thousands of volunteers each year to track the butterfly's population and advocate for its protection. Now Taylor is on a crusade to plant new milkweed habitat through Monarch Watch's "Bring the Monarch Back" initiative. Beginning in 2005, the program has sent milkweed plugs to over 160,000 schools, parks and home gardens, creating vital fuel sources for butterflies on their migration path from Canada to Mexico. For Taylor, the monarch's decline signals a larger crisis affecting all pollinators, upon whom much of our food system and the food sources of so many animals depend.

Read Chip's blog post: [Bring Back the Monarchs!](#)

Excerpts from "ABJ Extra" at Dadant.com

International Honey Market

by Ron Phipps

President, CPNA International Ltd.1

Co-Chairman, Committee for the Promotion of Honey and Health

The International Honey Market is approaching a crisis due to a shortage of honey, especially genuine white honey and low priced light amber honey. The shortages and high prices of 2013 are finding more acute expression in 2014. But the shortage of honey in 2014 is also rapidly and substantially narrowing the traditional price gaps among white, extra light amber, light amber and amber honey.

Behind these shortages and escalating prices are negative climate events, especially the droughts in Argentina and Brazil. These droughts are affecting not only honey but also coffee as their impact is relatively indiscriminate. For example, Brazil's drought has caused coffee prices to spike during the past 5 months from \$1.20/lb. to \$2.10/lb. The extended and persistent drought in California is contributing to rapidly increased prices for citrus fruits and nuts.

Based upon USDA statistics of price trends during the past few years, since 2007 the price for honey has risen 110% over 7 years, from \$0.98/lb. in 2007 to \$2.10/lb. in 2013.

{Price your honey accordingly at your farmer market. Ed. note}

Better Results for Pollinators, but Losses Remain Significant

USDA Office of Communications Press Release

USDA Announces Fall Summit on Bee Nutrition and Forage; Launches "Bee Watch" Website to Broadcast Bee Activity and Increase Public Awareness of the Role of Pollinators in Crop Production

WASHINGTON, May 15, 2014 - A yearly survey of beekeepers, released today, shows fewer colony losses occurred in the United States over the winter of 2013-2014 than in recent years, but beekeepers say losses remain higher than the level that they consider to be sustainable. According to survey results, total losses of managed honey bee colonies from all causes were 23.2 percent nationwide. That number is above the 18.9 percent level of loss that beekeepers say is acceptable for their economic sustainability, but is a marked improvement over the 30.5 percent loss reported for the winter of 2012-2013, and over the eight-year average loss of 29.6 percent.

More than three-fourths of the world's flowering plants rely on pollinators, such as bees, to reproduce, meaning pollinators help produce one out of every three bites of food Americans eat.

"Pollinators, such as bees, birds and other insects are essential partners for farmers and ranchers and help produce much of our food supply. Healthy pollinator populations are critical to the continued economic well-being of agricultural producers," said **Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack**. "While we're glad to see improvement this year, losses are still too high and there is still much more work to be done to stabilize bee populations."

There is no way to tell why the bees did better this year, according to both **Jeff Pettis**, Research Leader at the Beltsville Bee Lab, and **Dennis vanEngelsdorp**, a University of Maryland assistant professor who is the leader of the survey and director of the [Bee Informed Partnership](#). Although the survey, conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the University of Maryland Bee

Informed Partnership shows improvement, losses remain above the level that beekeepers consider to be economically sustainable. This year, almost two-thirds of the beekeepers responding reported losses greater than the 18.9 percent threshold.

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 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. The Board has established an extractor agreement, rules, and cleaning instructions. Copies are available from the managers. To reserve the equipment, call the managers, bring a \$50 refundable deposit (cash or check upon pickup), and sign the use agreement and inventory form. Please be sure to read what you are signing☺. The first 4 days are free!

www.BUMBAbees.com

Check out the club web site maintained by **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.

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**

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

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
 9309 Montpelier Drive
 Laurel, MD 20708-2553

Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association Officers			
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Treas.	Jutta Dunaway	301-464-1093	davejutta@aol.com
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