



NEWSLETTER

Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association

August 2013

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

Meetings

Next BUMBA Meeting

Thursday, August 1, 7:30 PM!

Watkins Park Nature Center

Our next meeting will have two topics. **BUMBA** President, **Bob Greenwell** will review and provide examples of different types of Freeman beetle trap bottom boards. Bob also has some expensive German-made Schley Instrumental Insemination (II) equipment, as well as a microscope, and anesthesia equipment. He will be taking an intensive three day training course to learn II techniques from Joe and Leah Latshaw. Bob will walk through a mock demonstration of honey bee instrumental insemination and discuss the history, science, uses, and limitations of instrumental insemination. This is a rare opportunity see how II is performed and to its importance to individual hobbyist beekeepers.

The President's Smoker

The month of August has crept up on me and once again I am surprised by how fast time is passing. This year many of the old benchmarks on the Maryland beekeeping calendar seemed to have been shuffled like a deck of cards until I have been continually taken

by surprise. Bloom dates have been rearranged somewhat, and temperatures have been abnormal, at least it seems to me like this has been a different sort of year in beekeeping than the norm. I have heard from some of our members of wondrous harvests of honey this season, while continuing to hear woes from others concerning colony build-up and queen failures. I know that for me it has been a very slim year for making honey, but on the other hand I have increased up to 100 colonies while continuing to purge and cull out queens and whole colonies that just aren't performing well. It is pretty much a fact of life in bee husbandry that you are either making bees, or making honey. There are ways to accomplish both, but that might be a future meeting topic. I hope that many of you brand new first and second year beeks that received bees late in the year have been successful in getting them started and keeping them growing. The **BUMBA support forum** has been a tool for a number of folks, providing guidance and support, and I do hope that it will grow and be a useful tool in our arsenal. I would like to invite all of you to participate if you are not already involved. There is right now, a smorgasbord of information available and we've only been in operation since April.

As I just mentioned, I have continually had to purge colonies this year as I have made increase splits, and I believe that I have had colonies that have suffered recurrences of Nosematosis, caused by *Nosema ceranae*, probably from my practice of supplying some combs from last year's dead outs that did not go through enough freeze-thaw cycles or hard freeze time to eradicate the Nosema spores. It used to be common practice among commercial beeks to give frames right back to the bees as long as there was no evidence

of American Foulbrood (AFB). But since the current scientific analysis seems to be that *Nosema ceranae* has by and large replaced the less troublesome *Nosema apis* in the United States, we may have to re-think the practice of handing over dead out frames directly into new hives until the researchers have the data necessary to affirm that this is, or is not, a desirable practice. I can say, I think, from personal observation, that my best looking colonies are the ones that I built on new foundation, and those few that wintered 2012 and did not receive any replacement frames from dead-outs. This does not hold completely true over-all, there are exceptions..., but it does seem to be a majority factor. I also noticed that most of the hives seem to reject the frames that had been compromised by beetle larvae, no matter how well I cleaned them and washed them out with the garden hose. The hives that did re-occupy some of those frames would fill them with nectar but would not use them for brood frames, and there were a few abscondings in nucs housed on reclaimed (washed) "beetle frames".

It is August 1st and I need to get mite counts done on a great number of hives to see what the loading is looking like, and I've ordered Freeman bottom board beetle traps hoping they will add a greater security against the small hive beetles. They are really getting out of hand in some of these hives, and are a very real danger to small starters, nucs, mating nucs, and in fact any stressed hive. Keep strong hives!!...but don't rely on that to keep the beetles at bay either, I think we are going to have to take a proactive approach to beetle control using whatever method seems most adept at providing a defense against invasion and seizure of our hives.

Hot off the presses, is also a new research study published by **Dennis vanEngelsdorp** and **Jeff Pettis** of the UMD and Beltsville Bee Lab. It shows some very surprising findings concerning the collection of pollen from cultivated North American native plants, like watermelons, squash, pumpkins and others, as well as enlightening data on fungicides used universally in agriculture. Traditionally, the fungicides were thought non-harmful to pollinators, and a correlation between these findings that shows how

a honeybee's immunosystem can be compromised to leave a colony hyper-susceptible to morbid infection by *Nosema ceranae* that just might be a silver bullet in the mystery of Colony Collapse Disorder. There is also new evidence from another study published in this month's ABJ, that is revealing that the use of Fumagillin can cause an actual period of increased susceptibility during the sub-lethal after period of the dosing regimen, to *Nosema ceranae*, during which the cure becomes the procreator. Amazing stuff that we simply have to keep ourselves attuned to.

I am always saddened as we lose members to attrition, health problems, and moves. I will miss **Helen Loughrey** who is moving to New York, she has become a good beekeeping friend. And there are rumors of others who may be moving out of the area, who will be missed when they are gone. It is important as people move in and out of our arena for whatever reason, that we continue to encourage and attract other new wannabees to keep our club growing and continuing to be a leader among beekeeping organizations within our region. Already, we are seeing tremendous growth of knowledge and experience from the class of 2013 and one would think that some of those folks from the class of 2012 and 2011 had been keeping bees for decades the way they have blossomed and grown with their bees. Please do not be shy and step up to answer the call to help produce and staff the **BUMBA Outreach** events that **Linda Thompson** so effectively develops for us. If you have not participated, you will be amazed by what a satisfying experience you will have talking to the non-beekeeping public about our hobby, and find that you sometimes leave wiser than you came from all the interaction between the other beeks. We are still short on help for the **MD State Fair honey sales booth**, if you can spare a few hours on **Thurs, August 29th**, [please sign up](#). There is absolutely nothing wrong with having more than enough help, but being shorthanded is a real bummer.

Many thanks to those that give sacrificially of their time, to maintain these club events, or serve as a club officer, or help to provide refreshments for our meetings, or present a topic at a

meeting, or lead the charge to change a regulation or public opinion about beekeeping in your community, or mentor someone, or post an answer to a question on the forum, or host a field day, or help an aging or ailing beek to lift boxes in the field, or forgive a club president like me when he falls short on great meeting presentations or timely overhaul of the club swarm patrol...Thank you all, for everything you do.

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

Bob Greenwell

MSBA Fall Meeting, Elections and Honey Show

9:30AM – 4:30PM

Md. Dept. of Agriculture Hqtrs

50 Harry S Truman Blvd, Annapolis, MD

The Maryland State Beekeepers Associations will hold their Fall meeting in Annapolis at the MD Dept of Agriculture Headquarters. Annual Elections will be held during the business meeting. All positions are eligible for nominations. Make your nomination to **President Wayne Esaias** 301-854-3180, wesaias@verizon.net, or **Prince George's VP Linda Thompson**, 301 352-3663, l.m.thompson@comcast.net

The MSBA **Annual Honey Show** will be held during the meeting. See the MSBA web site for specific entry rules and classes. Here is some general advice. **The Children's Division has seen almost no entries for several years.** There are three entry classes; Honey, Arts and Crafts, and Cooking. Have your children take a photo or draw a picture related to beekeeping and enter it in the Crafts Class. Have them take an easy, 100%, honey sweetened recipe from the National Honey Board web page at www.Honey.com and

help them cook the entry. If they help you extract and can put honey in their own jars, show them how to clean the honey and jar and enter them in the show. First prize is \$15!

EAS 2013

West Chester, Pennsylvania

August 5-9, 2013

Swarm to West Chester University for the 2013 **Eastern Apicultural Society Conference** and Short Course hosted by the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers' Association.

Located 25 miles northwest of Philadelphia International airport, EAS 2013 will feature local, regional and national experts giving lectures and workshops, plus a long list of other beekeeping activities.

During the 2013 program we will focus on our relationship with honey bees and how they connect us with the environment and other people. We engage growers and gardeners, educators, and other beekeepers beekeeping organizations both at home and abroad.

Well-known speakers such as **Tom Seeley, Dave Tarpy, Dewey Caron, Michael Palmer, Dennis vanEngelsdorp, Debbie Delaney, Warren Miller, Mark Winston**, plus a long list of local, regional and national experts highlight EAS 2013.

In addition to the usual program, we've added a special event on Wednesday evening that's geared toward the general public, both adults and children.

Three-day Short Course with Core & Electives, Including:

- o Queen Rearing
- o Top-Bar Hive Management
- o Natural Beekeeping

- o Sideline Sessions
 - o Train the Trainers
 - o Microscopic Explorations in Beekeeping
 - Three-day Conference with Multiple Symposia
 - Vendor Booths of Beekeeping Supplies
 - Live Auction & Honey, Wax, and Photography Award Dinner
 - Friday Banquet
 - Hands-on Bee yard
 - Master Beekeeper Certification
- Get more information and register at

<http://easternapiculture.org/conferences/eas-2013.html>

Club Happenings

2013 Schedule of Outreach Events

Linda Thompson, Outreach Coordinator

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

BUMBA has only 4 outreach events left and we need *your* help to make them successful. Each event is an opportunity to be ambassadors for the bees, sell our products, recruit beekeepers, & promote club membership. Can you help?

8/29 Maryland State Fair

12 - 10 State Fair Grounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium

marylandstatefair.com/index.cfm?page=info

This event is on a Thursday!

10AM - 2PM: have 4 for this shift, could use 1-2 more

2PM - 6PM: have 6 for this shift; *it is full*

6PM - 10PM: have 3 for this shift; could use 2-3 more

9/21 MSBA Maryland Honey Harvest Festival

9 - 3 Patuxent Research Refuge National Wildlife Visitor Center
10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708
www.patuxent/fws.gov

10/6 Bostwick Harvest Festival

1 - 4 Bostwick House, 48th Street, Bladensburg
battleofbladensburg1812.com/?page_id=280

11/9 Trash To Treasure Green Craft Fair

10 - 4 Watkins Nature Center, Upper Marlboro
http://www.pg parks.com/Things_To_Do/Nature/Watkins_Nature_Center.htm

An Appeal to Fun!

Free Admission to the Maryland State Fair

Work at the Honey Sales Booth

BUMBA has a rather rare opportunity to work a day at the MSBA honey booth at the Maryland State Fair. A flyer about the event is attached to the newsletter. Our BUMBA day is **Thursday, August 29**, and the table needs to be covered for the entire day.

Volunteering involves selling honey and hive products, offering the public tastes of the honey for sale, and stocking the table. There is an observation hive which attracts a lot of attention and prompts many questions. Volunteers are provided free admission to the Fair and aprons are provided for work at the table. You can arrive early or stay late and view the Fair and its shows. What is special about this event, is that in exchange for covering the honey sales table for 1 day, BUMBA receives 1/11 of the proceeds earned at the table during the entire 11 days of the fair.

Volunteers are asked to work a 4-hour shift. The shifts in the morning, **10AM - 2PM**, and evening **6PM - 10PM**, still need volunteers: I know Timonium is a hike and a work day, and may be

difficult for most and impossible for some. However, **Gerry Jones, David & Jutta Dunaway, and Brion Burk** are signed up for the morning 10 – 2 shift and we still need 1 or 2 more folks. **Leigh Walton, Tony Drake, and Linda Thompson** will work the evening, 6 – 10, shift and we need 2 or 3 more volunteers. The mid-day shift is covered by **Bob Greenwell, Michele Tucker, Cheryl Evry, and Mike & Kim Mehalick**. Please contact Linda Thompson to volunteer (lmtpublic@comcast.net; (h)301-352-3663; (c)301-943-4368.

There are still additional events which we can support, if there is interest. If you have a favorite event or venue that is not listed above which you would like to support, let me know and we'll make it happen! Some potential events include:

- Croom Farmers Market in August
- Maryland Honey Harvest Festival in September
- Bowie-Crofton Garden Club Fall Plant Sale in September
- P.A. Bowen Farmstead - Annual Pasture Party for Land Conservation in October
- Avalon Farms in October

Maryland State Fair - Beekeeping Display Entry

Part of the reward for BUMBA's participation in the Honey Sales Booth is the opportunity to enter a Maryland Beekeeping Organizational Display. Only two associations are permitted to enter. First prize is \$100 and second is \$85; another money-earning opportunity for BUMBA. The display must "fill up a table that is 8' long by 3' wide with a backdrop." **Debby Heyes** is organizing this. If you can help, please contact either her at 301-855-0071 or dbheyes@comcast.net, or **Linda Thompson**.

Bees in the News

News from the MD Apiary Inspection Office

From **Jerry Fischer, State Apiary Inspector, MDA**
Phone: 410-841-5920, Fax: 841-5835, Cell: 410-562-3464,
Jerry.Fischer@Maryland.Gov

Roundup of news on chemical controls:

- **Hopguard** has received Section 18 approval for 2013
- **ApiLife VAR** has received Section 3 approval until December 2013 This approval has to be sought each year by the Maryland Department of Agriculture
- **Apivar** has Section 3 approved for use in Maryland as of March 11, 2013.

Reminder: ALWAYS USE CONTROLS AS PER DIRECTIONS OR LABEL! Overuse will not result in better results, and failure to obey application and removal instructions may result in *Varroa* mite resistance.

MDA will participate again in the USDA Honey Bee Pests and Diseases Survey Project for 2014. This national survey will allow us to identify honey bee pests, to inform and guide the direction of honey bee parasite, disease, and pest research, and to help provide mitigation recommendations.

News from "Catch the Buzz" at BeeCulture.com

Tariff on Chinese Honey to Increase?

The United States has proposed \$2.63 a kilogram (\$1.19/lb.) as its preliminary rate for renewed anti-dumping duties against Chinese-made honey.

It is the second renewal of the tariffs on all Chinese honey

exporters first imposed in 2001.

In 2008, the Commerce Department's International Trade Administration set the rate at \$2.06 a kg (93.4c/lb.).

The dumping duties were first imposed in 2001 when it was found Chinese exporters were shipping honey to the U.S. at prices below the cost of production.

The tariff extension comes after the International Trade Commission ruled in November that U.S. beekeepers and packers would likely suffer material injury if the U.S. lifted duties on Chinese honey.

The International Trade Administration says the products covered by the order are natural honey, artificial honey containing more than 50% natural honey by weight, preparations of natural honey containing more than 50% natural honey by weight and flavored honey.

The preliminary findings are open for public comment for 30 days and the Department of Commerce says it intends to issue the final results of its review, including the results of its analysis of the issues raised in any written briefs, in no later than 120 days.

This ezine is also available online at

<http://home.ezezine.com/1636/1636-2013.07.02.13.33.archive.html>

Cheap Chinese Honey Overwhelms EU

By Alan Harman

Cheap Chinese honey is flooding the European Union and the continent's beekeepers are crying out for help.

Copa-Cogeca, the umbrella body for EU farmers and co-ops, is calling for the European Commission to act.

In a letter sent to EU Trade Commissioner Karel de Gucht, Copa-Cogeca says the cheap Chinese honey does not have the same production or labor costs as the European product.

Etienne Bruneau, chairman of Copa-Cogecas' working party on honey, is urging the EU Commission to step up controls and look into the possibility of establishing anti-dumping measures against the

shoddy imports.

Bruneau says that in the last five years, there has been a 50% jump in honey imports from China coming into the EU, mainly due to their low prices.

Copa-Cogeca Secretary-General Pekka Pesonen says with the low import prices and with such a big difference between the Chinese and European prices, production costs and labor costs, European honey producers can no longer earn a decent income.

"In these conditions, they would need three times more hives than the current average of 400 hives which are necessary for them to earn a decent income and make a living from their activity, which is simply not feasible," Pesonen says.

This ezine is also available online at

<http://home.ezezine.com/1636/1636-2013.07.23.11.57.archive.html>

Pollinator Decline Signals Food Decline

Floral Fidelity Out The Window When Species Decline

Alarming' trend suggests global declines in pollinators could have a bigger impact on food crops than previously realized.

Remove even one bumblebee species from an ecosystem and the impact is swift and clear: Their floral "sweethearts" produce significantly fewer seeds, a new study finds.

The study, to be published by the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, focused on the interactions between bumblebees and larkspur wildflowers in Colorado's Rocky Mountains. The results show how reduced competition among pollinators disrupts floral fidelity, or specialization, among the remaining bees in the system, leading to less successful plant reproduction.

"We found that these wildflowers produce one-third fewer seeds in the absence of just one bumblebee species," says Emory University ecologist Berry Brosi, who led the study. "That's alarming, and suggests that global declines in pollinators could have a bigger impact on flowering plants and food crops than was previously realized."

By Alan Harman

During the past decade, however, scientists have reported dramatic declines in populations of some bee species, sparking research into the potential impact of such declines.

Some studies have indicated that plants can tolerate losing most pollinator species in an ecosystem as long as other pollinators remain to take up the slack. Those studies, however, were based on theoretical computer modeling.

Brosi and Briggs were curious whether this theoretical resilience would hold up in real-life scenarios. Their team conducted field experiments to learn how the removal of a single pollinator species would affect the plant-pollinator relationship.

The researchers conducted their experiments at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory near Crested Butte, Colorado. Located at 9,500 feet, the facility's subalpine meadows are too high for honeybees, but they are buzzing during the summer months with bumblebees. The experiments focused on the interactions of the insects with larkspurs, dark-purple wildflowers that are visited by 10 of the of the 11 bumblebee species there.

Across the steps of the pollination process, from patterns of bumblebee visits to plants, to picking up pollen, to seed production, the researchers saw a cascading effect of removing one bee species. While about 78 percent of the bumblebees in the control groups were faithful to a single species of flower, only 66 percent of the bumblebees in the manipulated groups showed such floral fidelity. The reduced fidelity in manipulated plots meant that bees in the manipulated groups carried more different types of pollen on their bodies than those in the control groups.

These changes had direct implications for plant reproduction: Larkspurs produced about one-third fewer seeds when one of the bumblebee species was removed, compared to the larkspurs in the control groups.

This ezine is also available online at
<http://home.ezine.com/1636/1636-2013.07.23.10.54.archive.html>

Honey Bee Genes Changed By Pesticide? Seems so.

New research by UK scientists finds exposure to neonicotinoid insecticides causes changes in honeybee genes.

The University of Nottingham study, published in the scientific journal *Plos One*, was conducted under field realistic conditions and showed that a very low exposure of just two parts per billion has an impact on the activity of some of the honeybee genes.

The research, led by Reinhard Stöger, associate professor in epigenetics in the university's School of Biosciences, is the first comprehensive study to look at changes in the activity of honeybee genes linked to one of the recently banned neonicotinoids, imidacloprid.

The researchers found that cells of honeybee larvae had to work harder and increase the activity of genes involved in breaking down toxins, most likely to cope with the insecticide. Genes involved in regulating energy to run cells were also affected.

Such changes are known to reduce the lifespan of the most widely studied insect, the common fruit fly, and lower a larva's probability of surviving to adulthood.

“Although larvae can still grow and develop in the presence of imidacloprid, the stability of the developmental process appears to be compromised,” Stöger says. “Should the bees be exposed to additional stresses such as pests, disease and bad weather then it is likely to increase the rate of development failure.”

This ezine is also available online at
<http://home.ezine.com/1636/1636-2013.07.03.10.03.archive.html>

Members' Corner

After mass bumblebee die-off, activists call for new pesticide rules

Supplied by Meme Thomas

After customers at a Target department store in Wilsonville, Oregon, complained of sap dropping on their cars parked under the large basswood trees in the parking lot, the company had the trees sprayed to kill the aphids. The commercial pesticide applicator used a neonicotinoid. Immediately following the application thousands of bumble bees began dying in the parking lot. Estimates for the bee loss as high as 59,000 bumble bee foragers. It is estimated that 300 bumble nests were killed as a result of this application. To staunch further environmental damage, the basswood trees were covered with bee-proof netting. Environmental activists used this unnecessary pesticide application event cosmetic purposes to call for a ban on neonicotinoids pesticides in Oregon. The Xerces Society, www.xerces.org, which is headquartered in Oregon, has some very good articles on the event.

Read the article : <http://grist.org/news/after-mass-bumblebee-die-off-activists-call-for-new-pesticide-rules/>

Scientists discover what's killing the bees and it's worse than you thought

Supplied by Charles Walter

As we've written before, the mysterious mass die-off of honey bees that pollinate \$30 billion worth of crops in the US has so decimated America's *Apis mellifera* population that one bad winter could leave fields fallow.

Read more at: <http://bit.ly/18CZImm>

A synopsis of the scientific article written by by Todd Woody @greenwombat and published July 24, 2013, is available at <http://qz.com/107970/scientists-discover-whats-killing-the-bees-and-its-worse-than-you-thought/>

The above original article written by **Dr. Jeff Pettis** of the **Beltsville Bee Lab**, **Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp** of the **Univ. of Maryland**, is published by the on-line scientific publishing site "PLOS One" and can be found at <http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0070182>

This article deserves a fuller explanation due to the significance of its findings. So I am providing my own synopsis of the article.

Crop Pollination Exposes Honey Bees to Pesticides Which Alters Their Susceptibility to the Gut Pathogen *Nosema Ceranae*.

By David Morris

In an important study just released by the University of Maryland and the Beltsville Bee Lab, researchers show the heretofore unrecognized negative impact of fungicides on honey bees and its potential relationship to **Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)**. Further, it shows a direct correlation between two pesticides used to control *Varroa destructor* and increased susceptibility to *Nosema ceranae*. This research showed no relationship between neonicotinoids and *Nosema ceranae* infection. This is the first research where honey bees were laboratory tested with collected pollen containing real-world pesticide loads and actual chemical combinations found on crops. A significant finding is that fungicides may be harming pollinators in ways never previously found or anticipated; fungicides have no application restrictions to protect pollinators because it has been assumed they do not negatively affect pollinators.

The researchers collected pollen from commercial hives rented out to pollinate seven different crops. The samples were tested for pesticides, herbicides and fungicides. The researchers found that bees foraging on Old World crops (apple and almond) brought in significant amounts of pollen, but bees foraging on New World crops (watermelon, cucumbers, cranberries, pumpkin and blueberry) collected little pollen from the paid for pollination crop and collected pollen mostly from weeds. This raised two concerns: what effect is spray drift onto surrounding plants having on pollinators; and second, are honey bees effective pollinators for New World crops.

Healthy, infection free, honey bees were obtained from the Beltsville Bee Lab and fed one of three diets: commercial pollen substitute (MegaBee™); natural pollen collected from the desert

Southwest and tested to be chemical free; and, natural pollen collected from the commercial hives used in for the research.

The chemicals showing the highest risk for honey bee susceptibility to Nosema infection when compared to the risk rate of other treatments were the fungicides Chlorothalonil (more than double) and Pyraclostrobin (nearly triple).

An unexpected result of this research was the discovery of *Varroa* control pesticides (Amitraz and Fluvalinate) in field collected pollen! There also was an increased (doubled) risk that hives treated with these two chemicals would be susceptible to *Nosema ceranae* infection! The route is unknown by which these chemicals came to be collected in commercial pollen traps for foragers returning from the field.

Neonicotinoid pesticides were only found on apple crops. Test honey bees fed with neonicotinoids did not show increased levels of Nosema infection

This research shows that significantly more work needs to be done on the synergistic effects of the combinations of chemicals (pesticides, herbicides and fungicides) found in real world crop conditions and how they harm bees. It undermines the attacks on neonicotinoids and raises the question of the direct harm done to our hives when using some of the stronger Varroa controls!

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

BUBMA 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 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

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

Maryland State Fair

Maryland State Fairgrounds
2200 York Road
Lutherville-Timonium, MD 21093

starts: **Friday August 23**

ends: **Monday September 2 (Labor Day)**



BUMBA's day is Thursday August 29

three 4-hour shifts:

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

- mostly worked by the Central Maryland Beekeepers Association
- each year 3 days are offered up to other clubs; 2013 is BUMBA's turn
- we work the beekeeper's table one day and get 1/11 of all the proceeds
- volunteers sell honey & honey products, stock tables, offer honey tasting; aprons are provided
- volunteers get a discount on purchases
- to sign up, please contact Linda: lmtpublic@comcast.net



BUMBA can enter a display and win up to \$100
We won the Blue Ribbon the last time we entered!

6th Annual
Maryland Honey Harvest Festival

Saturday September 21, 2013 9 AM - 3 PM

National Wildlife Visitor Center at the Patuxent Research Refuge

10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708* 301-497-5763 <http://Patuxent/fws.gov>



Tram tours of the refuge
Interactive exhibits
Gift shop



Watch beekeepers:

- inspect a hive
- extract & bottle honey
- make beeswax candles
- compete in smoker-lighting & bee-catching contests



Live bees in a glass-enclosed hive
Beekeeping equipment
Presentations in the auditorium
Honeybee films



Face painting
Kids arts & crafts
Door prizes
Local honey, hive products,
& light lunch for sale



Sponsors: Maryland State Beekeepers Association (founded 1908), *Friends of Patuxent*, Patuxent Research Refuge, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service*. Proceeds of sales benefit wildlife research & education, beekeeping education, & pollinator protection.

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING

*just off Powder Mill Road between the Baltimore-Washington Pkwy/MD 295 & MD 197. *Wheelchair accessible.*

MSBA Honey Harvest Festival

This event is cosponsored annually by the Maryland State Beekeeper Association (MSBA) and the Friends of Patuxent at the lovely Patuxent Research Refuge National Wildlife Visitor Center. This year it will be held on **Saturday, September 21, from 9AM - 3PM**. A flyer is attached to the newsletter.

The MSBA chairperson is Steve McDaniel and it is supported by beekeepers from several local clubs. Most will be from BUMBA, Anne Arundel Beekeepers Association (AABA), and Central Maryland Beekeepers Association (CMBA). This is a great opportunity to meet new beekeepers!

If you have never been to the center, you should bring your family and plan to spend the day there. It is an amazing venue with Smithsonian-quality interactive displays, hiking trails and tram rides through the refuge, and a gift shop. And while you are there, you could donate a couple hours of your time to educating the public about bees and beekeeping. Folks come from as far away as Delaware to attend this event. It takes a lot of beekeepers to make this a successful event and there is *plenty* to do:

- A screened tent is set up in the grassy area out front. Several times throughout the day a beekeeper (or a pair) dons gear, opens the hive, and shows frames, talking about what we do and why we do it; we need a hive and volunteers to do the live inspections.
- There is a honey extraction station and demonstrations occur throughout the day. We bottle the honey and sell it right there! We need folks to do the extraction and bottling; we also need frames of honey.
- The festival includes a mock apiary. We need equipment to display and volunteers to talk about how it is used.

- We usually have 2 observation hives. BUMBA can supply the hardware if you can supply 2 frames of bees; we also need beekeepers to sit with an ob hive, talk about the bees, and point out the queen.
- In the past a candle-making station has been included. I believe Steve McDaniel provides the equipment; volunteers are needed to melt the wax and pour the candles.
- This year we hope to have a movie room, where we show bee-related documentaries throughout the day (e.g., Tales from the Hive and Queen of the Sun)

Once in the afternoon there will be a beekeeper contest. If you want to participate, you will compete with fellow beekeepers to be the fastest to light your smoker and to gather the most bees in a mason jar by carefully plucking them off of a frame from the demo hive. Sign up, bring your smoker & some fuel, and show off your mad skills!

Set up and clean up help are always needed.

It is a really fun day! Please contact Linda if you can volunteer. (lmpublic@comcast.net; (h)301-352-3663; (c)301-943-4368

"More Than Honey"
"We Have a Real Need for Bees"

by David Morris

A Bee Movie!!!

Full disclosure, I have not seen this movie, but I intend to.

The July 19 Washington Post Weekend Guide offered a review by Michael O'Sullivan of the movie. This weekend National Public radio ran a program interviewing the director of the movie, Markus Imhoof, an experienced Swiss beekeeper. The reviewer writes that movie provides "gorgeous cinematography", "frequent close-ups" and that the bees "... actually start to look kind of beautiful after a while...", The film explores Colony Collapse Disorder, what we've done to bees, their importance to agriculture and thus our own self-interests to continue to have a healthy and varied diet.

Currently showing at the Landmark E Street Cinema. "Contains brief images of bee sex and a naughty German word. In English and German with sub-titles."

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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

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 **2013 BUMBA** Calendar:

June 6, 7:30 PM BUMBA Meeting
 August 1, 7:30 PM, BUMBA Meeting
 August 28, Wed., Md. State Fair, Timonium
 October 3, 7:30 PM, BUMBA Meeting
 October 6, Bostwick Harvest Festival, Bladensburg

November 9, 10AM, Trash-to-Treasure Green Craft Fair, Watkins Park Nature Center
 December 10, Tuesday, 6:00 PM, Holiday Party

Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association Officers

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