



# NEWSLETTER

## Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association

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[www.BUMBAbees.com](http://www.BUMBAbees.com)

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### *Next BUMBA Meeting & Elections*

*Thursday, June 1, 7:30 PM*

*Watkins Park Nature Center*

### Guest Speaker: Dr. Jay Evans, USDA Bee Lab

Our June speaker is **Dr. Jay Evans**, Research Leader for the USDA-Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Bee Research Laboratory (BRL) in Beltsville, MD. Dr. Evans will be presenting on "Current Research at the Bee Lab." He will also discuss the future of the lab itself.

**Jay Evans** has served as Research Leader of the BRL since October, 2014. Since joining ARS in 1998, Dr. Evans' research has focused on identifying and managing threats to honey bee health, from microbes and mites to chemical stress. Along with the other scientists at the BRL, his goal is to develop new ways for bees and beekeepers to reduce these threats. He was an early proponent of the Honey Bee Genome Project and has helped recruit and lead scientists interested in applied genomics for bees. He has received the James Hambleton Bee Research Award from the Eastern Apicultural Society (2011), the BA Early Career Scientist Award (2002), and is on the Council of Fellows for the International Bee Research Association (IBRA). He holds an AB in Biology from Princeton and a PhD in Biology from the University of Utah.

The Beltsville Bee Lab, the oldest of the federal bee labs, dating back to 1891, and, except for a short break in 1896-1897, has been continuous for more than a century. Continuity of leadership has been a distinguishing feature of the Beltsville lab. Only seven scientists have led the lab in its more than 100 years of operation: Dr. Benton, Dr. Phillips, Mr. Hambleton, Mr. Michael, Dr. H. Shimanuki, Dr. Mark Feldlaufer, Dr. Jeffery Pettis and currently, Dr. Evans. Research on the identification and control of honey bee diseases has always been the major thrust of the lab.

## The President's Smoker

Whoa! What a spring 2017 has been! Regionally, we experienced an early spring and an early swarming season. Some of my colonies began drawing swarm cells in late March. My practice has been to immediately split colonies as swarm cells get eggs/larva. While this compromises honey production, it seems a good trade-off. You see, I live in a very urban location just outside the DC line and most of my bees stay on a property which doesn't belong to me. My full-time DC job doesn't allow me total flexibility to retrieve swarms and I am very sensitive about swarming hives as they create a tremendous hardship to neighbors when/if they move into attics or walls of houses. I also know most swarms don't survive in the wild. My first splits started on March 25th. I remove the overwintered queens and install her in a nuc box with 2 – 2.5 frames of brood, a partially empty frame and 1.5 to 2 frames of open nectar and pollen. These nucs build up for a few more weeks and then go out as overwintered nucs. They may have wintered in a double deep hive or a 5-10 frame nuc box, it just depends. Frequently, these nucs are able to produce a honey crop. I recently received a report of a nuc that went out in mid-April which has already filled 2 brood chambers and a super and swarmed before a 2nd super could be installed. Clearly, a good spring for bees. I sold a record number of Nucs this spring and recently made a few more available. My honey supers are packed and I have ordered 25 additional supers this season. I'm excited, but feeling a bit of stress knowing I will need to harvest as soon as possible. My storage space was already fairly limited, so I'm not sure where those extra 25 supers will live once I pull them for the season! Typically, I try to cut costs by building and painting my own equipment and even building my own frames, but not this season. The additional supers came assembled and painted and I'm happy for the break as I am holding on by a thread!

I really thought I was ahead of the game with early splits in March and April, but now those full-size production hives which were set back by 30 days being queenless want to swarm, AGAIN! Last weekend I started pulling "brood bombs" to install with queens raised in my queen castles. These colonies will benefit from the Linden/Basswood flow which is right around the corner. In my area, this flow provides 1/3 to 1/2 of my honey. Last year, it was about 3/4 of my harvest due to the washout of Tulip Poplar and Black Locust. I do love the Linden crop, which is said to have a slightly

"minty" flavor.

Each season I make a major mistake which haunts me, but this season it seems my only regrettable decision was not harvesting in early May when supers started getting capped. I would have loved to put back the drawn comb so the bees could fill it up again and I wouldn't need to store all of these extra supers! But, I can just do the best I can and an early harvest wasn't in the cards for me.

Currently, I have about 30-35 production hives and about 20 nucs "cooking". After the Holiday weekend, I'll start splitting again and installing grafted queen cells in nucs which will overwinter. My fingers are crossed that these splits will be done before the Linden finishes blooming so I don't have to feed them in the Fall. It really has been a whirlwind season for me.

If you haven't already registered for the **2017 Eastern Apiculture Society** meeting in Newark, DE (July 31-August 4). I encourage you to take a look at the conference list and consider making a trip to the conference. For newer beekeepers, I would suggest attending Monday through Wednesday and attending the "**Short Course**" classes, which offer a number of "tracks" sure to capture everyone's interest. I attended my first **EAS** conference in my 2nd year and I learned so much, including hands on grafting. Once I mastered queen rearing, my apiary really took off and I have not needed to purchase bees since. Admittedly, I purchased a dozen packages from a local supplier for insurance to make sure my nucs were adequately strong. I was also curious how successful this would be, and frankly, it was a disappointment. The vast majority of the "package" queens were superceded. This slowed things way down, but allowed me to introduce my own local, Northern and Hygienic stock. Because my bees did so well this spring, I didn't really need the insurance of extra bees and I found it was more trouble than it was worth (especially since I needed to keep the package bees fed). Oh well, beekeeping is all about trial and error!

I would like to offer my personal **Thanks** to everyone who volunteered at the **April Field Day**. This was my first experience overseeing the event and only the 2nd Field Day I participated in (my first as a student of the 2012 class). My heart was full at the end of the day – the generosity of **Scott Seccomb** who opens his beautiful property for 70+ people to experience great food, conversation and hands on experience with bees. **Vic**

**Curtis** and his family who donated their time and equipment to cook the most amazing food ever! The members – **Gerry Jones, Leigh Walton and Bob Greenwell** who brought in colonies the day before the event so we had plenty of inspections (by **Bob, Leigh and David Morris**) to do with our students. The members who ran errands for me to pick up ice and water and food items (**Tracy Velazquez** and the **Jacksons**, and others I am most certainly forgetting). The donation of bees from area suppliers (**Free State bees and Wood Camp Farms**). I can't thank you all enough!

See you all next week!

Peace, Love and Bees -

*Maggie Mills*

## Message from the VP

*Tracy Velazquez*

*What is that squeaking noise? The sound of 100,000  
beekeepers*

Just about three years ago this June, I went over to my neighbor's yard, where, as new brand new beekeeper, I had set up two colonies from packages. One package I'd gotten in early April and then decided I should get a second package, which I installed in early May. Both had gotten off to a great start, with the April package really flourishing. Like many new beeks, I was very excited by my first year; and on that sunny early summer day, I'd strolled over before work just to marvel at how busy they were. But as I walked up to the hives, I could see something was wrong. The landing board of the April colony was covered with bees – some dead, some twitching and falling into the grass. There were hundreds more dead and dying in front of the hive.

I was horrified. I went home, and remembered from the **BUMBA** short course I'd just taken that there was a **bee lab up in Beltsville** that diagnosed bee problems. I looked them up and called them, and **Bart Smith** answered the phone. I imagine I wasn't the first hysterical beekeeper he'd had to calm down. He calmly explained that I was welcome to mail or bring by a sample, and told me what to collect and how. I went back to the hive, collected about a hundred dead bees from in front of the entrance, and also took a video of the hive entrance, where bees were still exiting, twitching and falling into the grass.

After calling my boss and telling her I'd be late, I raced up to Beltsville. Bart had given me his cell number, and so I called him when I got there, and he met me outside the lab. I described again what I saw, gave him a history of the colony and the suddenness of the onset of the tragedy, and showed him my phone video. "It looks like pesticide poisoning to me," he said. He told me a little about signs of pesticide exposure, said that unfortunately the lab couldn't test for this because it was too expensive, but that they'd test for everything else so other causes could be ruled out. Then, probably because I looked so stricken, he added, "Maybe the colony will make it. I've seen colonies recover."

Mine didn't; but, after some angst and tears, I did, a testament to the incredible lure and joy of keeping bees. I will always remember the kindness of **Bart Smith**, now retired; the feeling I had when I got my "test results" back with no signs of other disease; and, how glad I was that in our own backyard we had such an awesome resource available not just to commercial beekeepers with hundreds or thousands of hives, but to first-time hobbyists with two colonies like myself.

For beekeepers and bee industry regulators, not only in the United States but around the world, "**Beltsville**" has long been designated as the place they can send bee and brood samples for diagnoses. The bee disease diagnostic service has been a part of the research program at the BRL almost since its inception. However, when I went onto the lab website a few weeks back, in bright red letters, was the message, "**Due to a staffing crisis, the USDA-ARS Bee Disease Diagnostic Service in Beltsville, MD will be on hiatus, effective immediately. Please do not send any samples.**" That note is still up today.

Without a doubt, these are challenging times. The Administration's proposed federal budget was just released. The budget reduces funding for the Agricultural Research Service – where the USDA Bee Lab is housed, by \$360 million, or 26 percent. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/omb/budget/fy2018/agr.pdf>. According the NPR, "This would mean closing the doors at 17 research centers." <http://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2017/05/23/529685787/congress-and-farmers-are-shocked-by-proposed-usda-cuts>. *Would one of these centers be the historic **Beltsville Bee Lab**?* Might other federally-funded honeybee research being done around the country also be on the budget chopping block?

Congress, of course, can do whatever they want with the administration's proposed budget, so in no way are the proposed cuts a done deal. As more information becomes available, we will need to make sure we stay engaged, and be willing to explain to the general public and our elected officials why services like *the USDA bee labs are important not just to us as hobbyists and commercial beekeepers, but to everyone*. As they say, the squeaky wheel gets the grease. Depending on how this all starts to play out down the street in Washington, DC, we may have to get ready to do a lot of squeaking.

*{Editor's note: In addition to Beltsville, the USDA has honey bee labs in Baton Rouge, LA, and Tucson, AZ, as well as a non-honey bee lab in Utah. All could be at risk. dm}*

## **MSBA Summer Meeting**

**June 17, 9:30AM – 3:30PM**

University of Maryland  
College Park, MD

[www.mdbeekeepers.org](http://www.mdbeekeepers.org)

*Featured Speaker: Dr. Jay Evans, USDA*

The **Maryland State Beekeepers Association** Summer Meeting will be held at the University of Maryland in College Park. Doors open at 8AM and morning refreshments will be available. The featured speaker will be **Dr. Jay Evans**, Research Leader at the **USDA Beltsville Bee Lab**. His talks will focus on "*Bee Disease and Stress Tests at the USDA Bee Lab*" and "*Found in Translation: New Frontiers in Bee Research*". We also will have the latest report from Cybil Preston, the MDA Apiary Inspector; Tim McMahon will talk about the Upcoming **2017 EAS** meeting in **Newark, DE**; **Logan Yeardsly**, from the **Maryland State Fair Board** will talk about how the Fair Board provides funds for ribbons and prize money at the agricultural fairs and shows around the state; and, we also will hear from the **Bee Informed Partnership** and the latest work at College Park.

The schedule and exact location to be announced later. Check back with

the MSBA website for future announcements

## **DC Beekeepers' Alliance**

[www.dcbeekeepers.org](http://www.dcbeekeepers.org)

The **DC Beekeepers Alliance** monthly meet ups are scheduled for third Wednesday of each month at the Hill Center ([www.hillcenterdc.org](http://www.hillcenterdc.org)) at 921 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20003 (Capitol Hill), 6:30 PM to 8 PM. Monthly meetings always include member discussions and speakers on topics of relevance to local beekeepers. For directions and other meeting information, visit [www.dcbeekeepers.org](http://www.dcbeekeepers.org).



## **EAS 2017**

**University of Delaware**  
**Newark, Delaware**  
**July 31 to August 4**

*by Timothy McMahon*  
*Maryland EAS Director*



Have you ever considered taking a "Beekeeping Vacation"? Well now is the time to make your plans as **EAS 2017** will be taking place at the **University of Delaware in Newark, DE**. EAS (Eastern Apiculture Society) is one of the largest non-commercial 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 the **University of Delaware in Newark, DE**, from **July 31 to August 4**. 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 over 100 different talks about all aspects of beekeeping including classes on Queen rearing, Mead and Beer brewing and on IPM (Integrated Pest Management).

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. You can't get much better than that. Maybe the best thing about the week-long EAS was that I get to talk "bees" all week long and no one says 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 <http://www.easternapiculture.org/>.

I hope to see you there.

**EAS 2018 is scheduled for Virginia.** Come and join the fun!



## CLUB HAPPENINGS

### BUMBA Outreach Calendar

*Frank Fennell, Event Coordinator  
Bumba.Outreach@gmail.com*

#### ***BUMBA Outreach Update - here's the buzzz....***

Hello fellow apiarists! The 2017 BUMBA Outreach events have thus far been a resounding success. We have supported four events, two were canceled because of weather, and there are three more on the calendar. As usual the bees are the rock stars. To observe the queen laying eggs and the

workers busily managing the hive really changes peoples perception of bees. It's also a great opportunity to provide valuable information to the public about bees, beekeeping, their importance to the environment, and the issues affecting them and other pollinators.

At most events we get a nice location with plenty of foot traffic so we are always engaged and the time passes quickly. A simple hive box and tools, two or three frames (with wax) from the hive for people to touch and smell, and a few of our BUMBA materials is all that is needed to support these events. We've had as few as two hundred stop by (**Mt. Rainier Festival**) to over a thousand (**MD Day at College Park**) so all support is welcome. Having at least three volunteers allows us to properly engage all participants. People ask many questions and the more members we have to provide answers the greater the engagement. Only two hours of your time will help support these important opportunities.

I want to thank all the volunteers who have supported the events so far this year. Without your help and energy they would not be the success that they are. A special thanks to **Gerald Jones** who has been kind enough to bring an observation hive to every event supported.

There is still time for you to support one of our remaining events on the **2017 BUMBA** calendar:

#### **Behnke's Spring Open House**

**June 3rd, from Noon - 3pm**

Behnke Nurseries Company, 11300 Baltimore Ave, Beltsville, MD 20705

There will be a walking tour at 11 am that will highlight "What's in Bloom at Behnke's" (conducted by our beekeeper, **Christopher Lewis**) and a talk at 2 pm, "Planting for Pollinators." We can sell honey!

#### **MD Honey Festival**

**August 26 or September 9th from 9am-3:30pm**

USFWS Patuxent Research Refuge

National Wildlife Visitor Center

10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708

Join the **Maryland State Beekeepers Association** to celebrate the Annual Maryland Honey Harvest Festival! Discover the busy world of bees and other pollinators while enjoying arts and crafts, honey tastings, candle making demonstrations, refuge habitat shuttle tours and much more!

## Bowie Health Fair

September 16 from 11am - 3pm

14999 Health Center Drive, Bowie Maryland

**BUMBA** had a table last year and was very pleased with the traffic. To see more about the event, visit [BowieHealthFair.com](http://BowieHealthFair.com). Since it is a health event, information on medicinal uses of bee products would be appreciated. Last year there was just general information about beekeeping...and that is welcome, too! The **BUMBA** table will be under the Grand Tent.

If you would like to support any event or have questions please contact me a [bumba.outreach@gmail.com](mailto:bumba.outreach@gmail.com).

Thanks - Frank

## Members' Corner

This is *your* space for *your* story. Tell us why you started beekeeping, what you enjoy most, or least? What have you learned? What do you want to share?



## 2016-2017 Colony Loss and Management Survey Results!

The **Bee Informed Partnership** conducted their annual survey during April and has just announced their preliminary results. Their initial report is:

“For the 2016-2017 winter season, 4,963 beekeepers in the United States provided validated survey responses. Collectively, these beekeepers managed 363,987 colonies in October 2016, representing about 13% of the country’s estimated 2.78 million managed honey producing colonies. An estimated 21.1% of colonies managed in the United States were lost over the 2016-2017 winter. This represents an improvement of 5.8 percentage points compared to the previous 2015-2016 winter, and is below the 10-year average total winter loss rate of 28.4%.

Beekeepers not only lose colonies in winter (October – March) but also throughout summer (April – September). The 2016 summer colony loss rate was 18.1%. When all the survey results were combined, beekeepers lost 33.2% of their colonies between April 2016 and March 2017. This is the second lowest rate of annual colony loss recorded over the last seven years.”

Maryland had enough beekeepers fill out the survey so that we will get a specific analysis for our state. Here are the preliminary results.

TOTAL LOSS: “treats each colony the same or more simply stated, **“One colony one vote.”** This means that the total loss rate is more representative of commercial beekeeper loss as they manage a large majority of the colonies in the survey.”

Annual loss: 55%

Winter loss: 41.6%

Summer loss: 23.4%

**AVERAGE LOSS:** “is an unweighted rate where we calculate the loss rate for each responding beekeeper and average these rates. So average loss, more simply stated is, “One beekeeper, one vote.” As there are many more backyard beekeepers than commercial beekeepers, average loss rates are more influenced by these smaller beekeepers.”

Annual loss: 48.6%

Winter loss: 41.9%

Summer loss: 14.8%

Learn more about the **Bee Informed Partnership** and their management recommendations at [BeeInformed.org](http://BeeInformed.org)

## ***Inside the Box***

*By Bob Greenwell*

### **Trends- Spring 2017**

Hey all! What is up with the bees? For the second spring in a row, I am observing some trends that are rather confounding and seem to be outside of the normal spring protocol. In the springs of both 2016 and 2017, we had, in the mid-Atlantic region, very mild temperatures early in the spring. True that 2016 included extreme drops (polar vortex with sub-teen temps the last 3 weeks of March) followed by incessant rain...29 days of it during April and May which washed out the black locust flow entirely and severely limited the tulip poplar flow. 2017 looked like it might turn out for the better, but then the black locust began blooming 3 weeks early with tulip poplars also coming in early and the two major flows occurring simultaneously before the bees were built up to strength enough to take real advantage of it and store a surplus. While the hives came through winter exceedingly strong this year, the swarm urge was also early with my first swarm occurring on March 16, 2017.

Day job schedules made it difficult to spend enough time performing cut-down splits, and many swarms occurred. I recorded 41 swarms actually seen, recovered 36 between myself and the farmer that catches quite a few of them for me when I am not there, and of those, I had 33 stick with their new abodes. The hives that didn't swarm have filled 2 supers and the hives

that swarmed have filled none. The ones that swarmed need looking after as those are the ones having difficulty getting a mated queen into place. Spring temperatures, while mild, have annoyingly hovered continually just below the magic 70F needed for good mating flights, and I have noticed hives that have swarmed and/or splits that are having trouble getting a queen mated. I have discovered several cases of laying workers, and one recovering hive that did manage to make a queen, succumb to beetle larvae. Yes, SHB adults do winter over in the colony, and can take advantage of a weaker colony much earlier in the season than most beeks are expecting them. I saw writhing masses of beetle larvae in sugar patties in early March of 2016, on the top bars of overwintering nucs.

For 2017, I did all my feeding in the fall 2016, and did not emergency or winter feed any colony or nuc, in fact did not even crack a lid until 2<sup>nd</sup> week of March this year. My hives came through the winter with zero losses in full size hives, and only minor losses in overwintering nucs, and I easily fulfilled my nuc sales obligations without having to sacrifice any of my production colonies this year. On the other hand, making a lot of honey this year is going to be another story, I fear. I think... that had I been able to devote adequate time to swarm management on the front end, rather than the from the rear, I should have made a decent harvest for 2017. As it is looking, my honey crop is going to be scant. The good news is that I was able to recover as many of the swarms as I did. That helps greatly to replace the 300-400 drawn frames that go out with the nuc sales each year, repopulate the nuc stocks for overwintering, and begin the cycle for 2018.

I have recently been hired by the MDA as a field apiary inspector for Southern MD, replacing **Lindsay Barranco**, who has moved and is handling the north central counties. I will cover Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, and Saint Mary counties, so I may get a chance to see some of our members' apiaries in those counties from time to time. I am looking forward to adding this avenue of expanding my interest in beekeeping to my repertoire, and hopefully being able to help out my fellow beekeepers via this venture. I will get to make an impact by participating in some of the surveys and screenings that the MDA conducts, for instance, by setting traps and collecting data to monitor for invasive pests not yet officially known to be present in MD, to try and determine if there is in fact a presence.

Interesting stuff!

## BEES IN THE NEWS

### American Bee Journal "Extra"

#### **Bee Informed Survey Results: 33% Annual Hive Loss**

Beekeepers across the United States lost 33 percent of their honey bee colonies during the year spanning April 2016 to April 2017, according to the latest preliminary results of an annual nationwide survey. Rates of both winter loss and summer loss--and consequently, total annual losses--improved compared with last year.

Total annual losses were the lowest since 2011-12, when the survey recorded less than 29 percent of colonies lost throughout the year. Winter losses were the lowest recorded since the survey began in 2006-07.

The survey, which asks both commercial and small-scale beekeepers to track the survival rates of their honey bee colonies, is conducted each year by the nonprofit **Bee Informed Partnership** in collaboration with the **Apiary Inspectors of America**. Survey results for this year and all previous years are publicly available on the **Bee Informed website**.

"While it is encouraging that losses are lower than in the past, I would stop short of calling this 'good' news," said **Dennis vanEngelsdorp**, an assistant professor of entomology at the **University of Maryland** and project director for the **Bee Informed Partnership**. "Colony loss of more than 30 percent over the entire year is high. It's hard to imagine any other agricultural sector being able to stay in business with such consistently high losses."

Beekeepers who responded to the survey lost a total of 33.2 percent of their colonies over the course of the year. This marks a decrease of 7.3 percentage points over the previous study year (2015-16), when loss rates were found to be 40.5 percent. Winter loss rates decreased from 26.9 percent in the previous winter to 21.1 percent this past winter, while summer loss rates decreased from 23.6 percent to 18.1 percent.

### **Report Showed 21.1 Percent of U.S. Managed Colonies Were Lost Over 2016-2017 Winter**

KEYSTONE, CO, May 25, 2017 — The **Honey Bee Health Coalition**, a diverse group of more than 40 organizations working to support pollinator health, urged continued cross-sector collaboration following **the release of a national survey** showing "an estimated 21.1 percent of colonies managed in the United States were lost over the 2016-2017 winter." These losses, tracked by the **Bee Informed Partnership**, were an improvement over the past winter as well as the 10-year average loss rate of 28.4 percent.

Since its inception, the Coalition has focused on finding collaborative, science-based solutions to improving the health of honey bees and other pollinators. Through this approach, based on finding common ground, the Coalition has developed a wide array of **resources and tools for beekeepers and others**, including:

- Resources to support the development and implementation of **Managed Pollinator Protection Plans** at the state and tribal levels.
- **A comprehensive guide to help beekeepers monitor and control Varroa mites**, which can devastate bee colonies if left untreated.
- **Demonstration videos** and **a bee club evening program** to enhance understanding and use of the Tools for Varroa Management Guide.
- Recommendations for policymakers for improving the pollinator value and cost-effectiveness of USDA private land conservation program practices.
- The Bee Understanding Project, **an innovative job-swap** and **film** to help identify specific opportunities for improving honey bee health.
- **An incident reporting guide** to promote and improve beekeeper incident reporting regarding crop pest management-related bee health incidents.

### **Bee Culture - "Catch the Buzz"**

#### **North Dakota Offers Money for Honey Bee Research**

North Dakota is the top honey-producing state in the U.S., so what



happens with bees here matters greatly to the industry as a whole. The North Dakota Department of Agriculture has announced it is seeking applications for ideas on research and promotion of honey bees.

Approximately \$110,000 is available, and proposals are due to the department by June 5. The five priorities to be considered are colony collapse cause and management, varroa mite control, understanding honey bee viruses and effects on honey bee health, correlating pathogen presence to management practices and other problem-solving ideas of interest to the beekeeping industry.

While there have been problems with keeping bees alive in recent years, **Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring** said bee numbers have increased in North Dakota. Part of that may be due to better record keeping, he said, but at least part of the increase is due to better honey bee health.

### ***Montana Beekeeper Gets Back Stolen Hives***

A Montana beekeeper reported 488 of his hives stolen in January after he transported them to Yuba City, Calif., for the almond population season. Most of the hives have been recovered and they were returned to the beekeeper last week. (AP)

The Fresno County Agricultural Task Force's investigation into the theft picked up after they received a tip from a Missouri beekeeper.

An employee at a Ukrainian-Russian-operated bee farm noticed a hive that looked similar to a picture of a hive his friend in Missouri reported stolen. The tip led Fresno County authorities to find \$170,000 worth of stolen hives in a rented bee nursery space, a cow pasture and hidden in a drainage along the freeway.

Fresno County Detective Anders Solis said there were 10 victims in seven California counties in all. Two men have been arrested and charged with possession of stolen property. There may be more arrests as the investigation unfolds, Solis said.

Law enforcement suspects that Ukrainian-Russians are stealing bee hives to finance organized crime rings.

"This has been going on for about three years," Solis said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

## **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 **Gerry Jones** in Mitchellville (gejones486@verizon.net, 301-577-1365) and **David Clark** in Dunkirk (dadicl.clark@gmail.com, 443-871-0494, seven days a week from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm). 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 manager, 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](http://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](mailto:phang@tonitoni.org).

### **www.BUMBAbees.com/forums**

Check our web forum for questions, answers, opinions and help. Thanks to **Scott Seccomb** and **Toni Burnham**, our private web forum on the BUMBA web page is available 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 a printed copy. Help keep club \$\$'s in the bank for club activities.

## **Sentinel Hive Project**

In the past, **BUMBA** has participated in the **Bee Informed Sentinel Hive Project**. This is an ambitious undertaking with the University of Maryland to intensively study honey bee hives to better identify the reasons for high hive losses across the country. Volunteers are needed to organize **BUMBA's** participation as well as to perform the inspections and record keeping. This is an opportunity to participate locally in a significant, national scientific study of apicultural science. Contact **Maggie Mills** (contact info on back page) for more information.

*FREE STATE Bee Supply*

*Your local bee supply dealer*

**Crownsville Gardens**

**1241 Generals Hwy, Crownsville, MD 21401**

**Phone: 410-923-9800 (store); 443-336-1411 (cell)**

**Email: [dedelmann30@gmail.com](mailto:dedelmann30@gmail.com)**

Call or email if you have any questions.

Store hours M-S 9-6PM, Sun 9-5PM

As always, thank you for your continued support!

*Delia Edelmann*

**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** annual dues are **\$15**. Please remember to bring your dues (**checks preferred**) to the next meeting. Consider paying for two years, as a commitment to beekeeping. Larry loves to find checks in the mailbox, so you can mail your dues to:

Larry Prikockis, **BUMBA** Treas., 6701 44<sup>th</sup> Ave, University Park, MD 20782

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you are willing to help out with a club activity or program

Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association Officers			
Pres.	Maggie Mills	301-683-8853	<a href="mailto:maggie.m.mills@gmail.com">maggie.m.mills@gmail.com</a>
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Treas.	Larry Prikockis	703 981-1796	<a href="mailto:thirstycat@gmail.com">thirstycat@gmail.com</a>
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MSBA Pres.	Allen Hayes	410-489-2835	<a href="mailto:Thehayeshouse4@aol.com">Thehayeshouse4@aol.com</a>
P.G. MSBA VP	David Morris	301-725-6185	<a href="mailto:beefriend@verizon.net">beefriend@verizon.net</a>

David Morris, BUMBA Editor  
9309 Montpelier Drive  
Laurel, MD 20708-2553

**BUMBA Meets at  
Watkins Park Nature Center**

**BUMBA** annual dues are \$15. Our regular meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

**Club Calendar**

Put these dates on your **2017 BUMBA** Calendar:  
June 1, 7:30PM, **BUMBA** Mtg.  
June (17), **MSBA** Summer Mtg  
July 31- Aug 4, **EAS**, U. of Del, Newark, DE.  
August 3, 7:30PM, **BUMBA** Mtg.  
October 5, 7:30PM, **BUMBA** Mtg.  
November 4, 9AM **MSBA** Fall Mtg/Honey Show  
December 7, 6:00PM, **BUMBA** Holiday Party