



NEWSLETTER

Our Next Meeting

Thursday, April 5, 7:30 PM!

Watkins Park Nature Center

Annual Elections; Final Class

Our next “regular” meeting is April 5, 2012, and concludes the spring short course classroom sessions with a “**Meet the Beekeepers**” night. We will also hold **Annual Elections** for officers at this meeting. All incumbents have indicated a willingness to remain in office for another term, and that’s usually a good thing. If there is someone who wants to nominate someone or themselves for office, they must notify current President, Bob Greenwell, by email prior to the meeting, so that a screening can occur as to willingness and ability to serve. Please do not make a nomination for a candidate that you have not approached beforehand and have determined their willingness to serve.

The President's Smoker

As I write this, the last regular class of the short course was completed last night. It has been a good class, well attended, and many new aspiring beekeepers have taken the plunge and are anxiously awaiting the arrival of their bees. Packages from Dennis

Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association

April 2012

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

Miller arrived yesterday and packages from **Dave Polk** are expected to arrive next weekend. This year the short course registration was 64 students, and nightly attendance has averaged over 60 people. This may put us in cramped quarters for the April meeting, due to the room capacity quota. It may be necessary for “in and out” movement between the room and the lobby for some of the regular members if we get upwards of 100 in attendance. Please cooperate if needed.

New this year, will be a column in the newsletter on **Top Bar Hives and Beekeeping** written by our own **Lynn Thorson**, who began keeping bees via the Top Bar Method last year and has graciously offered to share her experience with the group. The TBH method continues to grow and interest many within the beekeeping venue, and there is room to include its methods and philosophy along with the Langstroth type methods; after all, they are the same bees, as I heard David Morris say. Thank you Lynn for your commitment, we look forward to your series of articles! If anyone wishes to contribute information, please be sure to forward it on to Lynn.

Thank you to **Linda Thompson** who has agreed to serve as **Outreach Coordinator** for the 2012 event cycle. She did a great job last year, and is already striving for improvements to the program for 2012. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for her article on the event at **Behnke’s Nursery**, which was our first of 2012. Linda is always looking for help to staff the events, and that means you! A PhD is not required, just an enthusiasm for the bees, and a little of your time

shared, is all it takes. Linda can't do it alone, so jump on board; it's a whole lot of fun!

Thank you to all the people who worked hard and long to make the 2012 short course successful! A great group of volunteers...you have made a mark on beekeeping by paying it forward and helping to introduce a great group of newbees to our fascinating hobby. Everyone put it a lot of time and effort, but none more so than **Jutta Dunaway**, BUMBA Treasurer, who had, what at times was a confusing and frustrating pile of paperwork, non-existing files, and killer deadlines that made the job seem impossible. She shined! Thank you Jutta, and to everyone else who gave freely of their time and talents!

The Field Day for the short course is scheduled for April 14th, once again hosted by **Scott Seccomb** at his spacious yard in Clinton, MD, on Woodyard Rd. We will hold the field day regardless of weather, other than hard steady rain. If you have a pop up fly or canopy, please bring it along in case we need it. Several have agreed to do so, and more would be better if we have to ward off a light rain. Also bring a folding lawn chair for yourself. The time and directions are posted elsewhere in this newsletter. There are specific instructions for parking. The winning ticket for the raffle hive and bees will be drawn and awarded to a lucky newbie at the field day. Tickets will be sold up to the time of the drawing. Only registered 2012 BUMBA short course students are eligible to win.

There will be a catered Southern style Bar-B-Que lunch available, featuring Ribs, Chicken, Pulled-Pork, Corn, Beans, Slaw, etc. If you wish to partake, you must sign up by the April 5th meeting so we can provide a head count. Cost of the meal will be \$10 per plate, payment at field day. Drinks will be provided by the club. You are certainly free to bring your own bag lunch if you like. Be certain to bring your protective clothing, you will be handling bees. All BUMBA members are welcome at the Field Day and can

purchase a lunch if they sign up for one by the meeting.

Stay tuned throughout the year and attend your club meetings. There are some interesting topics as well as guest speakers coming up in months to come. If you have not yet joined the BUMBA Yahoo Forum, you should do so right away... it is our best, and sometimes only, mentoring tool available. Bee careful, bee helpful, and bee happy!

Bob Greenwell

BUMBA Field Day, April 14, 10AM-5PM

7804 Woodyard Road, Clinton Md. 20735

(rain or shine, unless it's a typhoon - then 21 April)

The **BUMBA 2012 Beginning Beekeeping Course** concludes on April 5. This was another very successful class, with over 60 students attending. Our thanks and appreciation for all who made this a successful course. Speakers: Bob Greenwell, Tony Drake, Scott Seccomb, Jeff Forbes, Nikki Thompson, Toni Burnham, David Morris, Greg Gochnour, and Leigh Walton. Volunteers: Linda Thompson, Jutta and David Dunaway and Debbie Heyes.

The class concludes with the **BUMBA Beekeeping Field Day**, an opportunity for students to see real hives, handle live bees, and engage with active and experienced beekeepers in the club. If you have a veil, bring it, and if you have a spare, consider offering its use to someone who hasn't purchased one yet. The drawing for the hive (with bees) will be held this day, but you don't have to be present to win. The Field Day will be held at **Scott Seccomb's** apiary. Directions to the field day are below.

Beekeeping Field Day Catered Lunch

There will be a catered Southern style Bar-B-Que lunch available, featuring Ribs, Chicken, Pulled-Pork, Corn, Beans, Slaw, etc. If you wish to partake, you must sign up by the April 5th meeting so we can provide a head count. Cost of the meal will be \$10 per plate, payment at field day. Drinks will be provided by the club. You are certainly free to bring your own bag lunch if you like. Bring your own folding lawn chair!

Directions to Scott's Apiary

(H 301-868-2086 C 301-580-8031)

PLEASE PARK IN THE FIELD, NOT IN THE DRIVEWAY

From Route 301

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

From Md. Route 5

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

Drive through the gate and come back by the house and park anywhere you want.

New Top Bar Hive Column

*We have a new column beginning this month. **BUMBA** member **Lynn Thorson** has volunteered to write an occasional column on her experience with Top Bar Hives. This is what this newsletter is for; member participation and sharing. Thank you, Lynn!*

Top of the Bar

Lynn Thorson

This will be a regular column in the BUMBA newsletter, providing an exchange of information on how BUMBA members manage their top-bar hives. I've volunteered to provide this column to the newsletter editor, but I am reaching out to all BUMBA members who have, or have had, a top-bar hive to provide their first-hand experiences.

What's a top-bar hive? It is not a standardized size or shape, like the Langstroth. You won't see it in the common beekeeping-supplier catalogs. At the end of this column, I've listed some of the Internet sites which describe current top-bar hives, so you can see the variation in top-bar hives.

The characteristics that are critical to the definition of top-bar hive are:

- The bars (similar to frames) are placed against one another, with no bee-space between. This configuration will eliminate the need for the inner cover. (although there are some exceptions)
- Bars do not have the side and bottom pieces of a Langstroth frame. They have no foundation or a minimum amount of foundation as a comb-guide. There's no standard for their size

or their shape.

- The brood area in the hive is one-story and expands only horizontally. Honey storage can be horizontal or, as in the case of Meme's Thomas Hybrid Hive, vertical into supers.
- Follower boards, solid partitions attached to a top bar used to separate the hive space from unused space in the hive box, are not characteristic only to top-bar hives. Vertical partitions in Langstroth-type hives are used to partition hives or provide insulation space when over-wintering.

Some of the variable features of the top-bar hive are:

- Shape of the hive box - Because of the shape of the naturally-produced comb, many top-bar hives narrow at the bottom. Hives with this trapezoid-shaped end are labeled Kenyan. Top-bar hives without this narrowing, with rectangular sides, are labeled Tanzanian. Claims of less attachment to the side of the hive-box are made for the trapezoid shape, but many pictures of the combs in this type of hive show attachment to the side.
- Size and shape of the bars - Variations include the width of 1¼ inches to 1½ inches, which is explained as matching the size of the type of bee. A future article will describe the variations, to include a survey of top bars in use by BUMBA members and at some Internet sites.
- Length of the hive box and number of bars - Top-bar hive boxes can be as long as 4 feet with over 30 bars to a nuc-sized box of 5 or 6 bars. Several Internet sites claim that a hive can only extend to 3 feet (24 bars approximately), citing a limit of pheromone distribution. The hive area used by the bees is controlled by follower boards. In the longer hive boxes, a second, separate

hive can be placed in the same box, separated by follower boards or by a common honey store.

- Hive entrances - Entrances to a top-bar hive are one of the most variable features. Some entrances are drilled holes, 3/4 inch wide. Several are provided for the hive, either on the end faces or on the sides. The amount of entrance is controlled by closing off these holes with corks. Other top-bar hives have a slot-type entrance at the ends.

The following are a list of resources, including the Internet sites where they can be accessed. I have found many other useful sites by searching

Gold Star Bees www.goldstarhoneybees.com

Bush Farm Top Bar Hives

www.bushfarms.com/beestopbarhives.htm

"The Barefoot Beekeeper" by Phil Chandler

<http://biobee.com>

Meme Thomas's Hybrid Hive <http://thomashybridhive.com>

Watch for this column in the next BUMBA newsletter.

Lynn Thorson

lynn_and_peter@yahoo.com

A Spectacular Queen Bee

By Bob Cory

(BUMBA Bee Master, Bob Cory has contributed some observations of a remarkable hive. the editor)

Winter 2008/2009: I sell most of my 25 colonies. I keep seven colonies in my Dunkirk, MD, backyard. I look forward to the joy of working with only a few colonies.

Spring 2009: Only three of seven hives survive. Fifteen pounds of honey produced. Things are not looking good.

Winter of 2009/2010: Colony increases were made by splitting off three frame nucs with eggs and brood from the strongest of the colonies that had survived this winter.

Spring 2010: Two of six hives survive. Forty pounds of honey produced.

May 21, 2010: The first split.

June 17, 2010: Hive has produced a nice looking yellow (Italian) queen that was laying a nice solid pattern of eggs. Two frames of partially drawn comb were added to make a five-frame nuc and the colony was relocated to my tree farm four miles away in Southern Anne Arundel County.

August 23, 2010: Four frames of bees and brood were added to the five-frame nuc. The new queen was gone but had left two frames of capped brood, one of which had a large supercedure cell. A gallon of 2 to 1 sugar water was fed at this time.

September 22, 2010: A new queen was out, mated, and laying eggs. A second gallon of sugar water was fed and the colony was treated with Apiguard for *Varroa* and a menthol grease patty for tracheal mites. The new queen, a supercedure of the yellow emergency queen, was very dark and looked very much like a Carniolan or Russian queen.

December 20, 2010: This colony was transferred to my home yard and a feeder box with about eight frames of capped honey was placed on top, making a two deep colony. The feeder box of honey came from a swarm given to me on May 22; it had built up rapidly in May, produced about 50 pounds of honey, and then died in early December. I do not know why.



January 1, 2011: Of four colonies going into winter, only three survive.

Colony A, with the new dark queen, was very strong;

Colony B was very weak; and,

Colony C was moderately weak.

February 17, 2011: An inspection showed colony A had already produced a good quantity of brood. The queen bees in colonies B and C had just begun to lay.

February 28, 2011: A frame and of bees and a half frame of brood were transferred from the strong colony A to the very weak colony B.

March 18, 2011: The transfer was too early, at least one-half of the brood had died from chilling but the extra bees had helped and

colony B was now producing its own brood and was bringing in nectar and pollen. At this time, two frames of bees from colony A were shook into colony B.

April 4, 2011: Colony A is still very strong while colony B is still weak. More bees from Colony A were shook into colony B.

April 6, 2011: A second deep brood box is added to colony B. This box, a dead-out from previous winter, has four frames of honey and six empty frames, which were exchanged with six frames full of brood from colony A. At the same time, a new box of 6 5/8" frames with all new foundation was placed under the queen excluder with the hope that this super queen would fill it with brood. This was a good idea but instead of brood, the bees filled it with 10 frames of capped honey! This box full of honey was removed, frozen, and then stored for winter-feeding.

April 6-11, 2011: A second shallow box was put under the excluder. After five days all the combs were partially drawn out and honey was being stored. The box was removed. A search for the super queen was conducted. In this search, a single swarm cell with an egg was found and the queen was resting on an outer frame and shut down from egg laying. The super queen was removed from colony A and placed in the shallow super, which was placed on top of colony B, over a double screen divider board. After five days the queen was laying again and then returned to colony A. After her removal, the now queenless bees constructed F1 queen cells and after six days they were capped over. To reinforce this rather weak colony, frames of bees from colony A were shook in. Of course, I was careful not to shake the super queen in, but not careful enough. The queen went in and promptly tore down the queen cells and laid some more eggs. After several days my error was discovered, the super queen was removed, and restored to colony A. No harm done but his was a minor setback in time for producing a laying queen in the shallow brood box. During this time, once she started laying

again, the super queen bee filled those six empty frames in colony A with brood.

June 4, 2011: Mike Sanchez and his mother, Toni Sanchez, helped me remove five Illinois supers and one shallow cut comb super from Colony A. The yield was about 200 pounds of extracted honey and 21 pounds of comb honey. Meanwhile, colony B, which had benefited from six frames of brood and several shook frames of bees from colony A produced about 40 pounds of extracted honey. Ninety-six pounds of extracted honey and comb honey sold wholesale for \$8.00/pound netting \$1,216.00.



August 2011: Colony A broke down with a severe case of Varroa mite. One of the bee inspectors recommended killing the super queen on the idea her offspring were overly susceptible to the Varroa mite and deformed wing virus. I could not do it. All her brood and most of the workers were destroyed.

September 9, 2011: A five frame nuc made up from four colonies and the super queen expanded into an eight frame nuc with a fair amount of honey and as of February 8, 2012, is bubbling over with bees. With the permission of my wife Jane, I named this super queen bee Jane. The first time in my 46 years of beekeeping I ever named a queen bee.



In summary: this one spectacular queen bee produced enough worker bees to:

- 1) Keep a very weak colony alive in early spring;
- 2) Donate six frames of brood to the weak colony, enabling it to produce 40 pounds of honey;
- 3) Start a 6 5/8" colony and produce a new queen; and
- 4) Produce 240 pounds of honey.

UMD Experiments with Tower Hives and Chemical-Free Varroa Control

*By Toni Burnham
MSBA Vice-President*

Most beekeepers have never even seen a **Tower Hive**, and beauty is not its selling point. What it may be, however, is an interesting approach to Varroa control via easy (or *easier*) drone brood removal. And you might end up with a bumping honey harvest, to boot.

UMD is looking for beekeepers with four (or a multiple of four) hives, some curiosity, and some time to gauge whether this approach to Varroa control might be valid and valuable for beekeepers in Maryland. UMD needs beekeepers to be able to provide 4 hives in a single apiary: two to be used in a Tower configuration, one to be managed as usual, and another to be managed with the standard hive configuration using drone brood removal. As much work as this is, creating an experiment with valid controls is one of the missing pieces as most of us share our lessons from beekeeping success and failure, and merely participating in such an exercise can actually help your ability to analyze and manage your results.

As you probably know, Varroa preferentially infest drone brood in their reproductive process, and both creating specific areas in the hive for drone brood creation and timely removal of the drone brood before it hatches are known chemical-free methods of Varroa control. Getting down to those drone brood frames in a honey-loaded summer hive can be one heck of a chore around here, though, and failure to dig in and remove drone brood can actually balloon the mite population in your colony.

The **Tower Hive** is a design which seeks to make easy access to the brood nest possible even while leaving honey supers in place and

minimally disrupting hive functions. By pairing two brood nests and having them share honey supers, beekeepers even get the superior honey production benefit of a two queen hive.



Tower hives consist of two brood areas (either two deeps or three mediums each) placed right next to each other, with shared honey supers overlapping the area where the two colonies touch. A queen excluder sits under the honey supers, making sure that the two queens never meet. Modified telescoping hive covers (or nuc covers) protect the remaining exposed top of the brood areas. Underneath those modified covers are frames of drone comb. Instead of plowing through two or more honey supers, the beekeeper can just lift a half-cover for direct access to drone brood for easy removal.

The bees do not fight in the honey supers: they are carrying nectar and stores (which always makes a bee popular), and their scents are all mixed from the brood nests below. The protocol

available from UMD (email Jennie Stitzinger at jnstitz@gmail.com or call 215-901-3857) includes both instructions for making the Tower Hive and detailed management and reporting requirements for this project.

A document from the UMD detailing the hive can be found on the BUMBA Yahoo site at

http://f1.grp.yahooofs.com/v1/kI14T9auM5Vf8VTPEh4CdJBhSEYuZx1AizDs_o20tKj_OQQVgEgb47SNgTyxgw9WeS7OwPIh5TSoYYWcdA8Q4w/Tower_Protocol_draft_32012.pdf

Bees in the News

TED Conference “The Beauty of Pollination”

A stunning video presentation on pollination, bees, bats, butterflies and birds, and their decline.

www.ted.com/talks/louie_schwartzberg_the_hidden_beauty_of_pollination.html

Ted Conference: A Pleas for bees (2008)

Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp, newly appointed to a position at the University of Maryland, gave a TED talk in 2008.

www.ted.com/talks/dennis_vanengelsdorp_a_plea_for_bees.html

The Honey Bill Passes!

The Honey Definition bill passed **unanimously** in both houses in Annapolis. The House Bill is HB 159, the Senate Bill is 193

<http://mlis.state.md.us/2012rs/billfile/hb0159.htm>
<http://mlis.state.md.us/2012rs/billfile/sb0193.htm>

Effect of sub-lethal doses of Neonicatoid pesticides on Honey bees; Washington Post, 29 March.

www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/new-bee-research-details-harm-from-insecticide/2012/03/29/gIQAZrnGjS_story.html

News from "Catch the Buzz", BeeCulture.com

Annual USDA Colony Count and Honey Production Report

Honey production in 2011 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 148 million pounds, down 16 percent from 2010.

<http://home.ezezine.com/1636/1636-2012.03.30.16.02.archive.html>

Free Beekeeping Webinars from Ohio State

Beekeepers (in Ohio and other states) are invited to attend a free, monthly educational webinar series taught by Ohio State University experts, starting April 18.

<http://home.ezezine.com/1636/1636-2012.03.29.12.26.archive.html>

Promiscuous Queens Mean Healthier Hives

...genetically diverse populations of worker bees, a result of the highly promiscuous mating behavior of queens, benefits from diverse symbiotic microbial communities, reduced loads of bacteria from pathogenic groups, and more bacteria related to helpful probiotic species...

<http://home.ezezine.com/1636/1636-2012.03.12.17.02.archive.html>

MSBA Meeting

June 16, 9:30AM

Plant Sciences Building

Univ of Maryland, College Park, Md

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Rick Fell

Recent Developments in Honeybee Research

www.mdbeekeepers.org/meetings.html

Social insect programs at **Virginia Tech** are led by **Dr. Richard Fell**. A graduate of Cornell University, Dr. Fell studied apiculture under **Dr. Roger Morse**. He has been at Va. Tech since obtaining his PhD in 1979. Recognized by Va. Tech and the Entomological Society of America for teaching excellence, Dr. Fell instructs on a variety of insect related topics including beekeeping, insect behavior and insect biology. Currently, the research group members are involved in teaching, extension, and research, with interests ranging from beekeeping to forensic entomology.

MSBA: Directions to the Parking Garage from Campus Drive:

From Route 1 (Baltimore Blvd.) enter the University of Maryland via the main entrance, Campus Drive, getting immediately in the left lane. When you come to the circle with the University of Maryland "M" logo and a yield sign, veer right onto Regents Drive. You will go over a few speed bumps and after passing the Geology Building on your left, you will come to a 3-way stop sign. At the stop sign, turn left onto Field House Drive, which is the street between Plant Sciences and the Parking Garage. Then turn right into the Regents Drive Parking Garage. The numbered parking spaces are

towards the right.

National Winter Hive Loss Survey

By the Bee Informed Partnership

30 March through 20 April 2012

If you kept bees last year, consider going online and taking a 5 minute survey on your hive survival. This national survey is important for several reasons: 1) it documents hive loss and helps estimate economic impact; 2) it provides justification for continued research into the loss of managed bees; 3) it shows beekeepers read, listen and care! Keep bee research alive! The link below will take you to the survey letter.

http://app.bronto.com/public/?q=preview_message&fn=Link&t=1&ssid=9318&id=7zgvknq3ujlfsnb5jjwqqkd1vjvay&id2=ijex5f5ywpok5fahxp70r96mht4dd&subscriber_id=bbyoedupmmbfstgfztgxmwdebgfsbid&delivery_id=caecvmvtpjhtjzpuhcuzvpzxpvsbbio&messageversion_id=bdikdvgzdboecomngzmtwfyawabnp&tid=3.JGY.BtTD1A.Cg8r.MsaY..UxRB.b..l.BAaT.a.T3Yzpa.T3Y6rA.LZ1Mew

EAS Summer Conference, Honey Show

August 13-17, Burlington, VT

**You Can Do it Too! Improve your Marketing Skills:
Enter a Show**

by Anne Frey

How good are your honey, candles, mead, photos and baked goodies? Bring your efforts with you to EAS in Burlington and show them off! Have you ever had a customer tell you, your honey was the

best he had ever tasted? Are you proud of your candles? Join in with others this summer and strut a little.

Don't worry if you're unsure of how to get ready to enter a Honey Show. The Honey Show Committee has made a new page on the EAS website. It includes everything from why not to use smoke when harvesting comb honey (tiny bits of soot end up on the comb surface) to how to transport your jars of liquid honey (not in a carry-on bag on a plane). The education that is gathered together on the EAS Honey Show page has many uses. Learning to get hive products ready for a show is the same as learning how to prepare them for market. By investigating and using the material collected for you on the site, you'll develop skills that improve all your hive products.

Just how are great candles made, including finishing the bottoms? How long should a bottling tank or bucket of honey be allowed to settle before you bottle? Not only will you learn to improve your products for market and for the EAS Honey Show, but it's also fun exhibiting at County Fairs, or State Beekeeping meetings.

Check out the EAS website for this new Honey Show page and get answers to these and many other questions. There are contributions from former judges, as well as webinars from Brushy Mountain Bee Farm, links to high quality websites, a list of the best books and more. The website could be used as part of a meeting, by connecting a laptop to a projector. If your club has someone who has judged shows, or enjoys entering shows, perhaps those people will give a presentation at a spring or summer meeting, and more members will enjoy entering the next competition.

Be sure to read the rules carefully. I didn't before my first EAS show, and only brought one jar of honey for each class (three are needed). At our local County Fair, a new exhibitor was saddened to find she couldn't enter her honey because it had her own label on it.

Later, I was so proud to see my entries among the others at another EAS show, and that teenage beekeeper won first place the next year at the fair.

Learn more, have fun and let's bring our entries to EAS and show everyone what we've got!

<http://www.easternapiculture.org/conferences/eas-2012/2012-honey-show.html>

CLUB PROGRAMS

BUMBA has several programs initiated over the years and we are always looking for members to get involved not only for assistance, but to better your knowledge as well. Please get in touch with a club officer if you would like more information on about a program. Program participation always makes you a better beekeeper. They are like additional classes for free and serve the beekeeping community in so many important ways.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM SPONSORS NEEDED

BUMBA now has several educational events that we host during the course of the year. This is without a doubt the most important activity any grass roots organization can provide. If you have ever volunteered at one of these events, I am sure you were amazed at how little the general public knew about honey bees and how amazed they were when you answered a couple of their questions. Through these events, we educate the public, grow the clubs in the area and provide for the future of the honey bee and the continued existence of ourselves.

The BUMBA 2012 Outreach Season

By Linda Thompson

Outreach Coordinator

This year got off to a great start with our first event on **March 18**, at the **Behnke Nursery Spring Open House** in Beltsville. This is an indoor event, which makes it a favorite, and our table was in its usual prime location. As this event was held earlier than usual this year, we scrambled a little and our previous Behnke's team was not available. But our club is full of great volunteers and, as usual, folks stepped up to help. **Gerry Jones, Cheryl Evry, Nikki Thompson, Bill Mussenden, Sydney Vallentyne and Linda Thompson** did a fabulous job of representing BUMBA and the honeybees. Gerry brought an observation hive, which always draws a crowd; we actually watched the Queen lay eggs! Gerry sold lots of honey; we answered lots of questions; and we talked, talked, talked to the public about our bees!

2012 Outreach Events

BUMBA outreach events are popular with the public, especially kids, who are fascinated with honey bees and think beekeepers are just amazing people! **BUMBA** has already received its first event request for 2012, a return to **Maryland Day** at the **Univ. of Maryland, College Park**! These events allow us to get the story of our valuable, amazing and beloved honeybees to the public. Remember, if you have attended a short course and opened a hive, you are a beekeeper, and an expert in the eyes of the public! Spend one morning or afternoon sharing what you know about honey bees.

Our schedule of **2012 Outreach Events** is included as a separate attachment to the email. **Mark your calendars!** I am looking for a coordinator for each event, meaning someone to be a contact for the event host and the BUMBA volunteers, to ensure volunteer coverage for the entire time, and to be responsible for the BUMBA supplies. I will solicit volunteers and provide to you a list of those who have signed up. I will arrange to get the BUMBA supplies to you, and to

get them back when the event is over. We have an active club and you will absolutely have support - no need to fear that you'll end up at the event alone. If you can help as a coordinator, please let me know ASAP. Also, a huge THANK YOU! to all those loyal volunteers who will show up and make all our events a success!

Our next event is the **Bowie Green Expo** and, unfortunately it falls on **April 14**, our club's annual Field Day. It is a short event, only 1-4PM; I will be working it. If you were not planning to attend the Field Day and can help, I'd appreciate your company so much. Last year it the skies opened up and washed out this event, so we are hoping for better (and bringing a canopy as insurance!)

BUMBA 2012 Public Events Schedule (*coordinators needed*)

April 14, 1-4PM, **Bowie Green Expo**, BowieGreenExpo.org,
Bowie Lion's Club Linda Thompson

April 28, 10-4PM **Maryland Day**, UMD, College Park; Nikki
Thompson

May 5, 11-4PM; **Spring Farm Festival**, Alice Ferguson
Foundation, Accokeek; *coordinator needed*

May 19, 12-4PM A-May-Zing Animal Fest, Bladensburg
Waterfront Park, PGParks.com/page42117.aspx; *coordinator
needed*

May 19, 11-2PM Mount Ranier Day, MountRanierMd.org;
coordinator needed

Sept 15, 9-3PM MSBA Honey Harvest Festival, Patuxant
Wildlife Visitor Center, Laurel; *coordinator needed*

Nov 5, 10-4PM Green Craft Fair, Watkins Park Nature Center,
PGParks.com/page33505.aspx; *coordinator needed*

BUMBA Educational Librarian Needed

With all the educational programs we have running throughout the year, it seems prudent to have a club member in charge of

overseeing our educational materials. This includes the observation hive, educational billboards, our club displays and other small materials. We need someone centrally located around the Bowie / Greenbelt / Lanham area to house these materials. If you have a little room to store these items where they won't be damaged and can pass them out to our members when they are hosting an event, it would much more convenient for our members instead of driving all the way to my house to pick them up. Thanks, Scott Seccomb.

BUMBA Web Site!

Check out the club web site maintained by **Toni Burnham**, www.bumbabees.com. You will find meeting schedules, newsletters, and now have a membership short course application forms and information (payments are still by mail or at a meeting.) We need content, pictures, ideas, suggestions and help with administration. If you have any interesting photos to add to the photo gallery, send them with a short description or story to Toni at phang@tonitoni.org. Please be mindful of the file size and resize any large files before you send them.

YAHOO News Group

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

Sign up, check it out, see how much help it can really be. Make it better. Add materials. Post questions, photos, links to web pages or files you would like to share with your fellow beekeepers. **Members receive automatic email notices of meeting and the BUMBA newsletter.**

Electronic Newsletter

As with all organizations cost cutting is always on the table. One way we reduce our expenses is by eliminating the printed newsletter mailed 6 times a year at a cost of roughly \$1 per newsletter. I am sure some of us use it as a reminder to come to the meetings. People

who don't have email, of course, continue to receive it. If you are willing to depend on email delivery, please inform our editor, David Morris, via email. Help keep club \$\$'s in the bank for club activities.

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

Free State Bee Supply

New products for 2012

The *NEW* "The Beekeeper's Handbook", 4th ed., is for sale at \$20 (tax included). List price is \$29.95!

I am selling Bee Garden seeds (the package includes 8 varieties of flowering plants) for \$10. For more info see www.houseofbees.com/products/The-Bee-Garden-Seed-Collection.html

What are Your Bees Doing This Month

by David Morris

Readers are invited to send their beekeeping questions to beefriend@verizon.net

Reports of swarms from beekeepers and the public are already being received, and it is not even April. Batten down the hatches, boys, the swarm season is fully upon us! There are several ways to watch for swarm preparations, the most obvious being queen cups being prepped along the bottom of the frames. Less noticeable is a reduction in egg laying as the queen preps herself for departure. Also, watch for crowded hive conditions. Is the hive "congested", i.e., running out of room for brood and nectar? Congestion and reduced queen pheromones are two major factors given as causes for swarming.

Congested hives are initially relieved with brood box reversal. If you haven't already done so, weaker hives may still benefit from this, but for the stronger hives it will be too late. They will be occupying both brood boxes now.

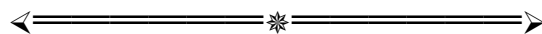
The next step in relieving congestion is transferring capped brood to a weak hive. The weak hive gets a population boost that does not require feeding; the strong hive gets more open cells for the queen, more brood for nurse bees to tend, and a short stop in population increase.

The next, more drastic measure, is to remove the queen to a nuc box with several frames of capped brood, food and one frame of open brood. Allow the queenless hive to produce queen cells and use the cells to requeen the one hive and start a second nuc. Before the start of the major nectar flow, combine the first nuc back to the original hive to boost the population for nectar gathering; let the

second nuc develop into a new hive. Alternately, you can purchase a new queen for the now queenless donor hive and allow the one nuc to become your second hive. This process takes care of the reduced queen pheromone by introducing a new, vigorous, queen into the hive. The nuc will replace the older queen during the year and finish the year with a young queen.

Emergency swarm control is called for when you find multiple queen cells on the bottom of frames, well-formed, or capped. Your first step is to find the queen! Is she still there? Your next step depends on equipment inventory and whether or not you want to increase your hive count. If you don't have equipment, don't want more hives, and don't know someone who does, you need to take a risky move. With queen found and safely set aside, cut out the queen cells, put whatever empty frames and sealed brood you find in the bottom box, open brood up top, add supers. Check back in three days to make sure you did not miss any queen cells, add supers, and keep your fingers crossed you make it to the Black Locust flow.

David

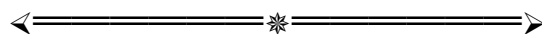


Ask and ye shall receive!

Many thanks to Lynn Thorsen, Bob Cory, Linda Thompson, Toni Burnham (MSBA) and Anne Frey (EAS) for filling in the dangerous newsletter "white space".

There is always room for your article in the **BUMBA Newsletter**. Tell us *why you became interested* in beekeeping, or *how your family reacted* to your announcement that you were interested in bees. *What has been the most interesting thing(s) you have learned* from keeping or studying bees (other than the given, beekeepers are all *slightly crazy*)? What has been *your favorite or most memorable experience*?

The editor



- One Last Word: DUES are due, again!
- Please be sure to send your membership renewal to BUMBA Treasurer, Jutta Dunaway.

Notice of your dues will either be on your label or in your email message

Every club needs a little money to keep it going. Although **BUMBA** is solvent, dues are needed to cover meeting room rental, speakers, refreshments and the newsletter. **BUMBA** has raised its annual dues to **\$15**. So we hope you'll remember to bring your cash or check to the next meeting. Jutta loves to find checks in the mailbox. Send your dues check to:

Mail \$15 to Jutta Dunaway, **BUMBA** Treas., 11814 GALAXY LANE, BOWIE, MD 20715

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

- Check if you are willing to help out with a club activity or program
- Check if you do not want your name and address published in a **BUMBA** member directory.

BUMBA Meeting Location – Watkins Park Nature Center

BUMBA annual dues are \$15. Our regular meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of the even months (except December) at the Watkins Park Nature Center, 301 Watkins Park Drive in Largo. From Route 301 or I-495 take Central Ave. (Rte 214) to the intersection with Enterprise Rd. (Rte 193). Turn south onto Watkins Park Dr. and go ½ mile to the park. Follow the road all the way to the back to the Nature Center. We thank the Nature Center Staff for their assistance. For information about the Nature Center, please call **301-218-6702**

Put these dates on your **2012 BUMBA** Calendar:

April 5, 7:30 PM, BUMBA Meeting, Elections & Beekeeping Short Course 6

April 14, 10:00 AM, BUMBA Beekeeping Field Day

April 14, 1-4PM, Bowie Green Expo,

April 28, 10-4PM, Maryland Day, UMD,

May 5, 11-4PM, Spring Farm Festival, , Accokeek

May 19, 12-4PM, A-May-Zing Animal Fest, Bladensburg

May 19, 11-2PM, Mount Ranier Day,

June 7, 7:30 PM, BUMBA Meeting

June 9, 9:30 AM, **MSBA Summer Meeting**; Univ. of Maryland

August 2, 7:30 PM, BUMBA Meeting

Sept 15, 9-3PM, MSBA Honey Harvest Festival, Laurel;

October 4, 7:30 PM, BUMBA Meeting

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

Nov 10, 9:30 AM, **MSBA Fall Meeting**, Md. Dept of Agriculture, Annapolis

December 11, 6:00 PM, Holiday Party

Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association Officers

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Pres. | Bob Greenwell | 410-867-3251 | rfgreenwell@aol.com |
| VP | Leigh Walton | 301-577-3088 | leiwal@verizon.net |
| Treas. | Jutta Dunaway | 301-464-1093 | davejutta@aol.com |
| Sec'y | Debby Heyes | 301-855-0071 | dbheyes@comcast.net |
| Event Coordinator | Linda Thompson | 301-352-3663 | lmtpublic@comcast.net |
| Editor | David Morris | 301-725-6185 | beefriend@verizon.net |
| Inspector | Jerry Fischer | 301-261-8106 ext. 5920 | fischeje@mda.state.md.us |
| MSBA Pres. | Wayne Esaias | 301-854-3180 (H) | wesaias@verizon.net |

David Morris
 BUMBA Editor
 9309 Montpelier Drive
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