

## The Carroll Bee Newsletter January 2014

### President's Message

The coming year will be challenging for beekeepers. I'm thinking about shifting weather patterns that may result in another cold and rainy spring in the southern states. If the weather in the south goes goofy, it will again delay the delivery of packages. However, if Carroll County has an early, warm spring our bees will be out and about with little or no forage as plant bloom doesn't rely just on temperatures. We will have to pay close attention to the weather, and closer attention to our bees. Weather also affects the cycles of pests and parasites.

What to do, what to do? We all know beekeeping is hyper-local. What happens in my back yard will be different from what happens at the Bear Branch apiary. You'll get small hive beetles, I'll get Varroa mites, Frank will get wax moths and Larry will kill off a couple of queens. We'll all jump on-line and read about what other people are doing and maybe we'll try something that looks promising. Will these experiment work? Who knows, but I believe all of us would like to know the what, where, when, and why of the experiments. That's what our monthly meeting provides - a forum in which we can learn about our local beekeeping adventures, their successes and their failures. Maybe you'll hear an idea you now want to try, or were going to try and now you'll just wait and see what happens. It's all about communication and learning.

This year we are scheduling a formal presentation every other month starting in January when Master Beekeeper and MSBA Vice President Allen Hayes will talk about wax moths. February will be an open forum for discussing the weather and what we're going to do about it. We'll alternate so that in January, March, May, July, and September we'll have a speaker. February, April, June, August, and October we will have a presentation about products of the hive and talk about our adventures in beekeeping. We're also adding some special agenda items. Starting in January, Pete, former Master Gardener and beekeeper, will talk about seasonal flora in Carroll County so we know what to look for, when to expect it, and what we can plant to provide better bee forage. Larry Truchon will report on the CCBA calendar, Chris Gunther will report on bee forage planting on public land, Brad Criddle will keep us informed on our event schedule, and I'm sure there are other topics we'll want to hear about.

Jody King, our CCBA Treasurer who also faithfully provides snacks and goodies at our meetings finally broke down and bought two new coffee makers so we can continue to enjoy a cup of coffee at the meetings. Thank you, Jody!

See you all on January 15th.

Fred Sypher

### Upcoming Events

Next CCBA Meeting - January 15 at Bear Branch

Reminder:

2014 CCBA Dues

Still only \$15 per Family

Please pay at the January meeting.

Carroll County Beekeeping Short Course

Begins February 19th at Carroll Community College

Fred will be looking for volunteers at this month's meeting.

### Bee Lining: The Oldtimers' Way to Find Wild Beehives

by David C. Brown



Photo by Mark Benz

Honeybees have been domesticated for millennia, but they don't always rely on the housing beekeepers provide them in exchange for harvesting their honey. Honeybees remain wild enough to survive on their own, and they can do so miles from the orchards and other food sources with which we associate them. Often, they'll build their hive in a hollow tree deep in the forest.

Harvesting a "wild" bee tree was the way many local people used to get honey and new colonies of bees. In order to obtain the honey and the bees, the tree often had to be cut down and the honeycomb removed, in the process destroying the hive, so it's not something that should be done today. Honeybees have enough problems, what with mites and mysterious colony disappearances.

**Continue for the entire article.** (Will open in a new window.)