

# CARROLL COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## THE CARROLL BEE

<http://www.carrollcountybeekeepers.org/>

November 2014

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ..... by FRED SYPHER

Winter closes in on us. Now what do we do? I spent last Sunday afternoon going through the hives of a beekeeping couple whom I mentored through the year. Their three hives were doing great with lots of bees, lots of brood, and lots of food. Still, the beekeepers worried that they had not done enough to prepare the bees for winter. I found our conversation interesting because it highlighted what I consider a growing concern in our modern lives. That is, asking "What should I do next?" rather than asking "What options do I have?" Our once simple lives are being overwhelmed with having to make decisions about everything. Look at the choices we face for laundry soap, peanut butter, windshield wipers, cookies, shoes, cars, and so on. I think we are suffering from decision fatigue. Don't tell me about all the options, I don't want to hear about what I can do, just tell me what I should do! This certainly exists in beekeeping. Please, just tell me what to do next! Well, as the beekeeper it's really up to you.

They say that forty years ago beekeeping was much simpler. Today there are so many more things we have to worry about, so much confusion, and so many choices. However, I think beekeeping is simple. There's no "best way" to keep bees. There is only your way, and your way is best because it fits your lifestyle. Beekeeping is not a competitive sport; it is an agricultural activity that benefits both you and the planet. You should keep bees because you want to, not because you feel obligated to.

If you find that beekeeping is becoming an onerous chore, take a deep breath and think about what you

want from your honey bees and how much you are willing to do to achieve your desired result. Write that down. Then sit back and think seriously about whether or not you are going to enjoy working toward that goal. Consider time, energy, cost, schedule, storage space, and all those other things. Okay? Now, get out your calendar and mark dates for the next year on which you are going to go outside and fool around with your bees to realize your goal. If you are overwhelmed by what you just mapped out for the next year, maybe you ought to dial back the intensity and slow down. Left alone, your bees know what to do, but they'll do it their way, sometimes successfully, sometimes not. We're just here to help them along.

Not too long ago I helped a beekeeping couple who installed two colonies on their farm and had not touched them for years. I had to work to pry the hives open. The propolis was as thick and as tough as industrial adhesive. The bees were in pretty good shape. I know beekeepers in Carroll County who are in their hives every week. Their bees are in pretty good shape. My advice? Be the beekeeper you want to be, help others become the beekeepers they want to be, and tell people how much you enjoy being a beekeeper. That's what I do.

**November's meeting is our annual pot luck dinner and officer election.** It's a meeting focused on celebrating what we, as beekeepers, have accomplished during the year and what we are going to do in 2015. CCBA did well this year and I hope to see you at the meeting.

**Carroll County Beekeepers Association meets at 7:30PM on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Bear Branch Nature Center | 300 John Owings Rd | Westminster, Maryland 21158 | (410) 848-2517**

To contact us or to become a member, e-Mail - [carrollbeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:carrollbeekeepers@gmail.com)

**Family membership is still only \$15 per year. Lifetime membership is still only \$150.**

## NOVEMBER POT LUCK DINNER

November's pot luck dinner, Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM at our regular meeting place in the Bear Branch Nature Center, is an opportunity for us to show off our culinary skills, do some serious socializing, and eat some good food.

Last year we divided the membership into thirds. This year we shift the divisions so we get to bring something different. The division is by the first letter of our last names.

A thru G - Salads and Sides

H thru O - Desserts

P thru Y - Main Dishes

**Don't forget to bring a serving spoon!**

Families and guests are welcome

## LONG SLEEVE CCBA T-SHIRTS HAVE ARRIVED

For those ordering shirts, they may be picked up at the pot-luck dinner meeting on Wednesday the 19th.

## NOVEMBER TO-DO LIST

- Install wind break to protect from strong north and north-west winds
- Mouse Guards installed
- Screened bottom boards reduced but NOT closed
- Provide top ventilation
- Inner cover notch facing forward and up
- Consider putting foam insulation inside the top telescoping cover
- Read Winter Preparation by Allen Hayes on page 3 of the October Newsletter



# BEELINE/NEWSLETTER OF THE MSBA, FALL 2014, AND NOVEMBER MEETING DETAILS

Maryland State Beekeepers Assoc. <msba@mdbeekeepers.org>

Hi fellow beekeeper!

Summer is over, the Fall *BeeLine* Newsletter is posted, our final meeting and honey show of the year is coming in a couple of weeks, it's time for annual members to renew, and we hope you and your bees are well as winter approaches. It has been an honor to share this year's season with you.

On Saturday, November 15th, the Maryland State Beekeepers Association will hold its Fall Meeting at the Maryland Department of Agriculture at 50 Harry S Truman Parkway in Annapolis. We will also host the last Honey Show of the season, as well as the annual elections and awards ceremonies. This year we are serious about making this a real honey show: judging will be complete by 1 PM, you will be able to check out all the winners over lunch, and we hope to see your name among them...we also want to give you a chance to listen to one of the foremost voices in the animated discussions of honeybee health: Jerry Hayes. We look forward to seeing you there.

The October 2014 Beeline Newsletter (560K) is posted to the web at:  
<http://www.mdbeekeepers.org/downloads/BLine201410.pdf>

Hope to see you at the meeting,

Toni Burnham, President/MSBA

## DADANT TO TAKE ORDERS FOR PICKUP AT NOVEMBER 15 MSBA MEETING

Because Dadant is sending speaker Patrick Ferrer to our November 15 meeting, if you call in advance orders (please try to do this a few days or more before the meeting) meeting attendees can pick them up in Annapolis that day.

There will be no sales tax (because transactions will be in Virginia) and no delivery charge (because Patrick is bringing everything up in his trailer)

To order, call in pre-orders to the **Virginia branch** of Dadant via the toll free number:

[1-800-220-8325](tel:1-800-220-8325)

and tell the nice people on the other end of the phone that this is for the Maryland State Beekeepers Meeting.

# TESTS SHOW MOST STORE HONEY ISN'T HONEY

## *Ultra-filtering Removes Pollen, Hides Honey Origins*

BY ANDREW SCHNEIDER | NOVEMBER 7, 2011

More than three-fourths of the honey sold in U.S. grocery stores isn't exactly what the bees produce, according to testing done exclusively for **Food Safety News**.

The results show that the pollen frequently has been filtered out of products labeled "honey."

The removal of these microscopic particles from deep within a flower would make the nectar flunk the quality standards set by most of the world's food safety agencies.

The food safety divisions of the World Health Organization, the European Commission and dozens of others also have ruled that without pollen there is no way to determine whether the honey came from legitimate and safe sources.

In the U.S., the Food and Drug Administration says that any product that's been ultra-filtered and no longer contains pollen isn't honey. However, the FDA isn't checking honey sold here to see if it contains pollen.

Ultra filtering is a high-tech procedure where honey is heated, sometimes watered down and then forced at high pressure through extremely small filters to remove pollen, which is the only foolproof sign identifying the source of the honey. It is a spin-off of a technique refined by the Chinese, who have illegally dumped tons of their honey – some containing illegal antibiotics – on the U.S. market for years.

Food Safety News decided to test honey sold in various outlets after its [earlier investigation](#) found U.S. groceries flooded with Indian honey banned in Europe as unsafe because of contamination with antibiotics, heavy metal and a total lack of pollen which prevented tracking its origin.

Food Safety News purchased more than 60 jars, jugs and plastic bears of honey in 10 states and the District of Columbia.

The contents [were analyzed for pollen](#) by Vaughn Bryant, a professor at Texas A&M University and one of the nation's premier melissopalynologists, or investigators of pollen in honey.

Bryant, who is director of the Palynology Research Laboratory, found that among the containers of honey provided by Food Safety News:

- 76 percent of samples bought at groceries had all the pollen removed, These were stores like TOP Food, Safeway, Giant Eagle, QFC, Kroger, Metro Market, Harris Teeter, A&P, Stop & Shop and King Soopers.
- 100 percent of the honey sampled from drugstores like Walgreens, Rite-Aid and CVS Pharmacy had no pollen.
- 77 percent of the honey sampled from big box stores like Costco, Sam's Club, Walmart, Target and H-E-B had the pollen filtered out.
- 100 percent of the honey packaged in the small individual service portions from Smucker, McDonald's and KFC had the pollen removed.
- Bryant found that every one of the samples Food Safety News bought at farmers markets, co-ops and "natural" stores like PCC and Trader Joe's had the full, anticipated, amount of pollen.

*Read more . . .* <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/11/tests-show-most-store-honey-isnt-honey/#.VFGhJGK9KSN>



# WHOLE FOODS GROCERY BAG . . . . . by CONNIE YOUNG



Columbia Whole Foods Store Grocery Bag Photo by Connie Young

"It's a gorgeous store with a honey bar! You choose the honey you want and fill a bear but the sign says local. It comes from NJ. It's a step..."

**Svetlana Piskounova (MA KMQ) <Svetlana.Piskounova@wholefoods.com>**

Thank you for your note, Larry. We are very committed to saving the bees and educating our customers on the issue. Below are some additional info we have on our website as well

<http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com/sharethebuzz>

<http://media.wholefoodsmarket.com/news/bees>

Sincerely,

**Svetlana Piskounova**

Store Team Leader  
Whole Foods Market Columbia  
10275 Little Patuxent Parkway  
Columbia, MD 21044  
[240.865.1827](tel:240.865.1827) store

*From: Larry Fritz ([lfritz44@gmail.com](mailto:lfritz44@gmail.com))*

*To: [customer.questions@wholefoods.com](mailto:customer.questions@wholefoods.com)*

*Store: KMQ/Columbia, MD [Mid-Atlantic]*

*Message:*

*As a Beekeeper and VP of the Carroll County (MD) Beekeepers Assoc, I was delighted to see your "Give Bees a Chance" message on shopping bags in your Columbia, MD store. THANKS - our bees need all of the help they can get!!*

Published on Friday, October 17, 2014 by [Common Dreams](#)

# EPA Analysis Evidence Notorious Neonics Should be Suspended, Watchdog Groups Say

Analysis 'has confirmed what farmers, beekeepers and scientists have been saying all along: neonicotinoids do more harm than good'

By [Andrea Germanos, staff writer](#)

A new U.S Environmental Protection Agency analysis of neonicotinoid pesticides on soybean production offers further proof that they should be suspended, environmental watchdog groups say.

This class of pesticides, often referred to as neonics, has been linked to the decline of bees and other environmental harm.

The agency's analysis, released Thursday, found that there was little to no benefit to using

neonicotinoid seed treatments on soybean yields. Such neonic-treated seeds, first registered for use in soybeans in 2004, were applied on an average of 30% of soybean acres between 2008 and 2012, EPA states. The analysis notes that some growers report having difficulties in obtaining non-treated seed.

It also states that "much of the observed use is preventative and may not be currently providing any actual pest management benefits."

Read more . . .

<http://www.commondreams.org/news/2014/10/17/epa-analysis-evidence-notorious-neonics-should-be-suspended-watchdog-groups-say>

**CATCH THE BUZZ . . . . . BY KIM FLOTTUM**

**ONE BEEKEEPER'S STORY - WATCH, AND LISTEN**

<http://youtu.be/Sn-fQndtC2c>

Music is "Stars of The Country Down"

Artist is Ring of Kerry

# CATCH THE BUZZ . . . . . BY KIM FLOTTUM

## STILL TWO, MAYBE THREE YEARS FOR DECISION AFTER SEVEN YEARS OF STUDY

COPIED FROM: [HTTP://LIVE.EZEZONE.COM/EZONE/ARCHIVES/1636/1636-2014.10.22.16.32.ARCHIVE.HTML](http://live.ezezone.com/ezone/archives/1636/1636-2014.10.22.16.32.archive.html)

From eeneews.net

U.S. EPA will make a decision on how to regulate neonicotinoids in 2016 or 2017, Jim Jones, the agency's head of chemical safety and pollution prevention, and who oversees EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs, the body that approves and regulates pesticides said this today.

Jones said EPA will begin analyzing and releasing data from its long-term study on the effect of neonicotinoids on honey bee populations next year, with a conclusion on the pesticides expected one to two years later. This moves the date up from a earlier time frame of 2017 to 2018.

Neonicotinoids, a class of insecticides to control chewing pests, have been linked to widespread bee deaths. Discussion on EPA's regulation of neonicotinoids has become central to efforts to restore bee colonies. Jones acknowledged the lengthy process the agency has taken to reach a conclusion on the chemicals.

"We are frustrated with the pace," he said. "But at the end of the day we need to recognize the science."

EPA is conducting a multi-year study on the effect of low levels of neonicotinoids on bee health. The agency formed a working group more than seven years ago on bee health.

Last week, EPA found that neonicotinoid treatments on soybean seeds provide little added benefits to the crops. The review did find that the seed treatments provided more benefits to corn, Jones said.

While environmental groups have long pressed EPA to restrict neonicotinoids, scientists maintain that the pesticides are but one of many factors that have contributed to honeybee declines. Other stressors include the parasitic Varroa mite that transmits bacteria and viruses to bees and loss of forage plants on which bees feed.

There are several theories on how neonicotinoids affect honey bees, including that the insecticides wear down bees' immune systems, leaving them susceptible to disease.

EPA is also looking to develop an approach that would coordinate contractor-provided services to avoid pesticide exposure when bees are out. For example, the agency would work with almond growers to plan a pest control schedule with commercial beekeepers during pollination season. Several states, including Mississippi, Colorado and Florida, are working to develop plans to protect pollinators.

## WORKSHOP ON CREATING YOUR IDEAL LANDSCAPE

Join the Carroll County Extension Office and the Carroll County Forest Conservancy District Board on January 17, 2015, from 8:00 to 4:30, for a workshop on creating your ideal landscape. Do you wish to create a healthy, low-maintenance landscape but you don't know where to start? This course will teach you how to make your property water-wise, wildlife friendly, and both beautiful and functional. For more information or to register for "Beyond the Lawn: Landscaping with Nature," click on this link:

<https://extension.umd.edu/news/events/sat-2015-01-17-0800-beyond-lawn-landscaping-nature>.

## CCBA T-SHIRTS -\$20

(Navy Blue)

Available at CCBA meetings – see Anna



## CCBA WEBSITE FORUM ..... BY THE CCBA FORUM TEAM

Anyone interested in joining the CCBA forum, please reply with your email address to mailto:[carrollbeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:carrollbeekeepers@gmail.com). If desired, couples may each have their own access. If you have forgotten your password and can't successfully

You are only a click away!! <http://www.carrollcountybeekeepers.org/db/>

retrieve it, you can reply and a new password will be sent. Any members not signing on at least every 365 days will be purged but can rejoin at any time. Join and sign in to the forum.

## APIARY MAPPING SITE ..... BY LARRY TRUCHON

We are building an apiary mapping site for our club members. It will show the appropriate location of participating member's apiaries with one, two and three mile rings. Only participating members will have access.

To join please send:

- Apiary name (example: Wild Acre Apiary)
- Closest cross streets
- Number of colonies (not Nucs)
- Zip Code

Send above data to [larrytruchon@gmail.com](mailto:larrytruchon@gmail.com)

If you are a first year member without bees this year, send info with 0 number of colonies.

You will be sent log in info after you are entered into the database.



## SAVE THE DATES

**November 15** – Fall Meeting of MSBA, 8 AM at Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis

**November 19** –Pot Luck Dinner and election of officers (7:30 PM)

**January 21** – CCBA monthly meeting (7:30 PM)

**February 18** – Beginning of Short Course at CCC

### CCBA 2014 OFFICERS

**President** Fred [Sypher frsy4@starpower.net](mailto:Sypher frsy4@starpower.net)

**Vice President** [Larry Fritz lfritz44@gmail.com](mailto:Larry Fritz lfritz44@gmail.com)

**Treasurer** Jody King [joseph.king2011@comcast.net](mailto:joseph.king2011@comcast.net)

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***The Carroll Bee* editor** Larry Fritz [lfritz44@gmail.com](mailto:lfritz44@gmail.com)

Check out the CCBA Website

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

To join the CCBA forum, please reply with your email address to [carrollbeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:carrollbeekeepers@gmail.com)