



CARROLL COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.

THE CARROLL BEE

November 2015

Note – the “Contents” lines are links to within the Newsletter. Just point and click!

Contents

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE.....	1
ANNUAL CCBA POT LUCK DINNER & OFFICER ELECTION	2
MARYLAND STATE BEEKEEPERS’ ASSOCIATION FALL MEETING	3
DADANT AND MANN LAKE TO HAVE REPS, BRING DELIVERIES TO FALL MEETING.....	3
DIRECTIONS TO THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.....	4
MSBA NEWSLETTER.....	4
BEEES BRED WITH SOME SPECIAL GENES ARE KILLING IT.....	4
MID-ATLANTIC WOODLAND BEE PROJECT - DONLAR FARM WESTMINSTER REGION, CARROLL COUNTY	6
BRUSHY MOUNTAIN BEE FARM DISTRIBUTOR.....	7
FOR SALE - CCBA T-SHIRTS -\$20.....	8
CCBA FACEBOOK PAGE.....	8
APIARY MAPPING SITE.....	8
SAVE THE DATES.....	9

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

By Fred Sypher

It’s November already? What about all those little jobs I was going to do this year? I’ll do better next year, for sure. And there are a bunch of little CCBA jobs that still need doing: clearing out the Hashawa storage shed and organizing the bee gear; putting our event materials into labeled storage containers that we can easily load onto a pickup truck in the rain; editing our club handout so it better reflects our CCBA charter; revising the web site so it doesn’t need constant updating. On and on; it never ends.

I recently read an article about the Heartland Honey Breeders Cooperative, a group of queen breeders from eight states who joined together to breed honey bees that chew the legs off Varroa mites. This sounds reasonable; breed bees to fend for themselves and let beekeepers focus their time on pollination and honey production. I would love to stop worrying about Varroa mites. During the last open hive session at Hashawa one of the attendees spotted a bee with deformed wings. Seems the monitoring and treatment did not prove effective. I’ll add “constant mite monitoring and treatment at Hashawa” to the list of things to do next year. On and on; it never ends.

And yet, while we persevere in our efforts to become successful beekeepers, sometimes the magic does not work.

Continued on page 2

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

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Continued from page 1*

Not because we didn't do the right things, but rather, our timing was off. You see, honey bees do not read the text books or the magazines, and they don't listen to our advice or our suggestions. Honey bees have their own agendas which we are often unable to interpret in a timely fashion. "When should we (fill in the blank)?" is a common refrain at our monthly meetings.

Here it is November and I, like others, find there are bee-related things I should have done but didn't. Does this make me a bad beekeeper? No. It makes me a beekeeper who is improving year after year. That's why being an active member of the Carroll County Beekeepers Association is important. It's important to those interested in becoming

successful beekeepers, and it's important to the bees as we learn new and innovative ways to help them. I'm looking forward to having bees that chew the legs off Varroa mites. And you can look forward to CCBA providing a stronger focus on the temporal aspects of good beekeeping. One method we will use next year is active social media to distribute beekeeping information and news to all members in a timely fashion so there won't be any excuses for not knowing what to do and when to do it. Unfortunately, honey bees also ignore Facebook so you'll have to go out to the hives and tell bees what you are going to do for them and when. I know they'll appreciate it!

ANNUAL CCBA POT LUCK DINNER & OFFICER ELECTION

Wednesday, November 18th starting at 7pm at Bear Branch Nature Center

As before, the current membership roster was divided into thirds by the first letter of the LAST names on the roster and assignments for this year's dinner are:

A thru G - Desserts

H thru O - Main Dishes

P thru Z - Side Dishes

Please bring a SERVING UTENSIL for your dish.

See you there for an evening of great food, good fellowship, door prizes, and of course the election of officers.

What a great opportunity to pay 2016 dues

STILL ONLY \$15/FAMILY!!!

[Return to Page 1](#)

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

MARYLAND STATE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION FALL MEETING

November 14, 2015

Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis

8:00 am	Refreshments, Coffee, Donuts, etc.	
9:00 am	Opening and Welcome	Toni Burnham, President
9:15 am	Remarks from the Secretary of Agriculture	Joseph Bartenfelder, State of Maryland Secretary of Agriculture
9:30 am	Maryland Apiary Inspector's Report	Cybil Preston, Maryland State Inspector
9:45 am	Honey Bee Pathogens 101	Dr Michelle Flenniken, Montana State University
10:30 am	Shaking Package Bees for Fun and Profit	Lloyd Snyder, Snyder's Apiaries
11:15 am	The Beekeeping Regions of Maryland: The Eastern Shore Region	Dean Burroughs, EAS Master Beekeeper, MD Bee Inspector
12:00 noon	Lunch	
1:30 pm	Honey Bee Pathogen Detection and Discovery	Dr Michelle Flenniken, Montana State University
2:15 pm	MSBA Elections & Treasurer's Report	Paul Dill, Past President Bob Crouse, Treasurer
2:45 pm	George Imirie Education & Freestate Beekeeper Citizenship Awards Presentations, MSBA Honey Show Results	Toni Burnham, President George Wilson, Judge
3:00 pm	Ask Expert Beekeepers Your Anonymous Questions	Panel Discussion
4:00 pm	Adjourn	Toni Burnham, President

DADANT AND MANN LAKE TO HAVE REPS, BRING DELIVERIES TO FALL MEETING

Two vendors popular with MSBA members are sending sales representatives to the November 14 meeting. It is possible to place pre-orders with them, and potentially to benefit from savings on shipping and discounts. Please note deadlines for orders!

Patrick Ferrer of Dadant Lynchberg is coming is offering a 5% discount on all preorders. Email pferrer@dadant.com, Phone: (434)432-8461, (434)432-8463

Mann Lake will be taking pre-orders for pickup at the meeting, the last day to pre-order is November 12th. Placing a pre-order will give members an opportunity to order items that would normally not qualify for the free shipping; items like glass and bulky items. If there is anything specific a member would like us to bring please contact us at (800)880-7694. Danielle Mislinski, daniellem@mannlakeld.com.

[Return to Page 1](#)

DIRECTIONS TO THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Directions to the Maryland Department of Agriculture

Take Route 50 towards Annapolis. Take Exit 22 (Route 665) to Riva Road. Follow the exit in the direction of Riva Road South.

Continue 4/10 miles to Harry S Truman Parkway and turn right at the light.

Go straight 1.2 miles to 50 Harry S Truman Parkway; the Maryland Department of Agriculture building is on the right. Look for yellow “BEE MTG” signs and the cows at the entrance to the drive. Take the second entrance. You may park in the lot.

Enter at the front of the building; meeting is one floor down in the auditorium.

Photo: The Dancing Bee marking the entrance to MDA helps to welcome and amuse members and guests of the Maryland State Beekeepers!



MSBA NEWSLETTER

Want to get the e-newsletter? Just send an email to Bob Crouse at rlcrouse@gis.net and tell us your name and email address!

BEES BRED WITH SOME SPECIAL GENES ARE KILLING IT

Backyard breeders are creating a new kind of hero honeybee—one that chomps off the legs of mites and saves the hive.

[SUSAN COSIER](#) OCT 27, 2015

Reference: <http://www.psmag.com/nature-and-technology/bees-bred-with-some-special-genes-are-killing-it>

While the sight of a body missing one or more legs may cause most people to shudder, nothing makes Dan O’Hanlon happier—especially when the body belongs to a varroa mite. The tiny bloodsucking parasite has been terrorizing his beehives in West

Virginia—and many others across the country—for decades. So when he finds the sticky board he’s placed inside his hives littered with the amputees, it’s proof the experiment he’s been participating in is working

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

O'Hanlon is the leader of the Heartland Honey Breeders Cooperative, a group of queen-honeybee breeders from eight states stretching from Michigan to Tennessee. The co-op has teamed up with scientists to breed bees that are able to fight off mites—a good idea since the parasites are developing resistance to pesticides.

Each member selects the best queens (those whose hives have low mite levels), then breeds them with drones that have an affinity for chomping off mite appendages. The goal is to create swarms of pollinators able to defend their honeycomb homes from the destructive invaders.

When a mite latches onto a bee, she knocks it off and bites it. Even if a mite is simply scurrying nearby, a bee will chomp down and tear a leg or two off. A mite that can't crawl around and find a host doesn't survive long, typically dying within 48 hours.

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From his hives at Purdue University, entomologist Greg Hunt has handpicked bees that bite, and he's been raising drones and queens from those colonies ever since.

Breeders from the co-op have been traveling to his lab every June since 2013, carrying their prized queens, virgins waiting to be inseminated by carefully selected drones. The event's been dubbed the "Instrumental Insemination Fest." ("Beekeepers are weird," Hunt says affectionately.)

In nature, queen bees gather all the sperm they'll ever need in one go, usually mating with multiple drones in a single day. For the rest of her life, she simply taps those semen stores in order to lay eggs—as many as a million. As for the males, once they deliver their genetic packages, they die.

In Hunt's lab, the process goes down differently. He starts outside where he has 50 humming hives. One

by one, he locates each drone before it's ever taken flight and dabs its fuzzy abdomen with airplane model paint (each hive gets a different color). About two weeks later, the drones take mating flights.

When members of the co-op arrive, Hunt has someone fetch drones from good mite-biting colonies, nabbing them when they buzz back to the hive. In the lab, Hunt [collects their semen](#) in a capillary tube. Once he's gathered about 10 drones' worth of reproductive fluid, he knocks out the virgins with carbon dioxide, puts them under a microscope, and inseminates them. And that's how baby bees happen.

The beekeepers take their impregnated queens home to make daughters, a large percentage of which will have the leg-munching genes. They mate those offspring naturally with drones and distribute the queens to regional beekeepers, thus spreading resistance.

So far, the results are promising. Surveys found that in hives with "Purdue bees," 59 percent survived over the course of a year, compared to 22 percent in commercial hives. Because so many more buzzers lived, Purdue bees also produced more honey.

Co-op beekeepers are gathering hard data, placing sticky boards into the hives of queens with the leg-biting trait and those without, and then counting the number of mites that drop onto the surface. "We want to prove it; we don't want to just say it," O'Hanlon says.

In the meantime, the number of queens birthing biters is growing. Right now, about 40 breeders from the co-op bring home Purdue bees. O'Hanlon alone produced more than 500 queens from the Purdue lineage last year, double the number from the year before (which is double the number from 2012).

Click [here](#) to read more.

[Return to Page 1](#)

MID-ATLANTIC WOODLAND BEE PROJECT - DONLAR FARM WESTMINSTER REGION, CARROLL COUNTY

By Sam Droege, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

How interesting. There are super many bees in Larry Fritz's woodlot! It's not a big woodlot, and it certainly is not sitting in the middle of the wilderness (Carroll County is not a big wilderness county after all), but it does have a lot of bees and bee species.

We see some uncommonish species here such as *A. forbesii*, *A. dunningi*, and *L. versans* along with many of our favorites (41 *A. carlini*!!!). Lots of *A. nasonii* and *C. calcarata* which I, for some reason associate together. Also a fair number of honey bees (*Apis mellifera*), something that we see few of in these woodland surveys, but, if I recall correctly, Larry is a beekeeper and particularly early in the season honey bees would be using woodland flowers.

Row Labels	315	322	327	405	412	419	427	503	510	518	Total
<i>Agapostemon virescens</i>									1		1
<i>Andrena (trachandrena)</i>					1	1	1	1			4
<i>Andrena brevipalpis</i>							1	1			2
<i>Andrena carlini</i>		1	15	19	2	3	1				41
<i>Andrena cressonii</i>									1		1
<i>Andrena dunningi</i>						1					1
<i>Andrena forbesii</i>									1		1
<i>Andrena mandibularis</i>					1		1				2
<i>Andrena nasonii</i>						12	4	15	6		37
<i>Andrena perplexa</i>						3	1	6	1		11
<i>Andrena pruni</i>							2	5			7
<i>Andrena rugosa</i>				1				1			2
<i>Apis mellifera</i>	1		8	1	1					1	12
<i>Ceratina calcarata</i>						6		4	1		11
<i>Ceratina strenua</i>						1					1
<i>Halictus confusus</i>						1					1
<i>Halictus rubicundus</i>						1					1
<i>Lasioglossum abanci</i>						1					1
<i>Lasioglossum cattellae</i>								1			1
<i>Lasioglossum cressonii</i>				1				1	1		3
<i>Lasioglossum gotham</i>			1	1		1					3
<i>Lasioglossum hitchensi</i>		1						2			3
<i>Lasioglossum imitatum</i>						1					1
<i>Lasioglossum quebecense</i>				3		1	1	2			7
<i>Lasioglossum versans</i>								1			1
<i>Lasioglossum weemsi</i>									1		1
<i>Nomada bidentate_group</i>		1		2	2	1	1	1			8
<i>Nomada depressa</i>					1						1
<i>Nomada imbricata</i>					1			3	1	1	6
<i>Nomada luteoloides</i>						2					2
<i>Nomada pygmaea</i>						2		3			5
<i>Nomada sayi/illinoensis</i>					1			1			2
<i>Nomada species</i>						1					1
<i>Osmia collinsiae</i>									1		1
<i>Osmia cornifrons</i>							1				1
<i>Osmia georgica</i>						1					1
<i>Osmia pumila</i>				1		1					2
<i>Osmia taurus</i>						1					1
Grand Total	1	3	25	28	10	44	12	50	13	2	188

[Return to Page 1](#)

BRUSHY MOUNTAIN BEE FARM DISTRIBUTOR

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STORE HOURS:

SUNDAYS 10-4 TUESDAYS 12-5

[Return to Page 1](#)

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

FOR SALE - CCBA T-SHIRTS -\$20

(Navy Blue)

Available at CCBA meetings – see Anna



CCBA FACEBOOK PAGE

Check us out on Facebook by searching for **Carroll County Beekeepers Association**

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

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.

[Return to Page 1](#)

SAVE THE DATES

Nov 14 – Fall MSBA Meeting, Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland,

Nov 18 - CCBA Annual Potluck Dinner and Election of Officers

Dec 16 – NO MEETING

Jan 20 – CCBA Monthly Meeting at Bear Branch Nature Center

2016 Short Course at CCC - Wednesday, 2/10 with the following four Wednesdays - 2/17, 2/24, 3/2, 3/9. Snow Day 3/16. The Field Day at Hashawa is on 3/19.

CHECK OUT THE CCBA WEBSITE

www.carrollcountybeekeepers.org/

CCBA 2015 OFFICERS

President Fred Sypher frsy4@outlook.com

Vice President Larry Truchon ltruchon@comcast.net

Treasurer Jody King joseph.king2011@comcast.net

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[Return to Page 1](#)

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