



CARROLL COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.

THE CARROLL BEE

September 2015

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

Contents

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE.....	1
MSBA HONEY HARVEST FESTIVAL.....	2
SMART ON PESTICIDES MARYLAND.....	3
WESTMINSTER FALLFEST.....	4
HELPING OUR BEES GET READY FOR WINTER.....	5
BRUSHY MOUNTAIN BEE FARM DISTRIBUTOR.....	7
FOR SALE - CCBA T-SHIRTS -\$20.....	8
CCBA WEBSITE FORUM.....	8
APIARY MAPPING SITE.....	8
SAVE THE DATES.....	9

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

By Fred Sypher

August was very hot and very dry, and September is starting out to be the same. This weather is not good for honey bees. Make sure your bees have water. Check for Varroa mites and treat, if necessary. See if the hive has adequate food stored. Is the queen laying eggs? Wait, I’ll let **Master Beekeeper Allen Hayes** tell us all about preparing our colonies for autumn at the meeting September 16th.

Darla and I have been feeding the bees at the Hashawa apiary. To prevent robbing we bought three new robbing screens, only to discover that the bottom boards under the Hashawa hives are homemade and have no provision for attaching commercial robbing screens. So, off we go again to buy three new bottom boards. At this rate the Hashawa apiary will soon be mostly Bushy Mountain gear. The goldenrod is in full bloom at Hashawa and the hives are exuding that pungent fall aroma that panics new beekeepers into thinking their hives are diseased. So much to learn and so many things to know. Modern beekeeping is challenging, and good beekeeping takes time. It is important that we know why we are keeping bees so we can rationalize the expense and the effort.

The bees in our backyard have been taking down a gallon of sugar syrup every 24 hours for weeks and they are finally getting some food stored. We are also actively treating for Varroa mites.

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*

We won't see a drop of honey until next year from these colonies. However, I got to do a honey extraction demonstration at the Maryland State Fair for a fairly large group that was interested in where honey comes from. The state fair booth sold over \$3,500 worth of honey and hive products on opening day. Here in Carroll County we will support Monarch Madness at Bear Branch Nature Center on September 13th, and Brad Criddle and the crew are getting ready to work our CCBA booth at the Westminster Fallfest Saturday and Sunday, September 26th and 27th. If you have honey to sell please contact Brad ASAP.

Following the Westminster Fallfest, the Oregon Ridge Nature Center in Baltimore County will have

their 34th annual Honey Harvest Festival on October 3rd and 4th. This is two days of all things honey, including harvesting, mead making, honey ice cream making, open hive demonstrations, etc.

We have three more meetings in 2015. The last meeting of the year is November 18th which will feature our annual potluck dinner and election of officers. If you are enthusiastic about beekeeping and are willing to share your enthusiasm with our beekeeping community, consider becoming an officer of the club, or volunteer to help maintain the Hashawa apiary and the Bear Branch observation hive. Like the honey bees, we accomplish more when a lot of us share the load.

MSBA HONEY HARVEST FESTIVAL

Next weekend people from all over the state will gather to learn from beekeepers from across Maryland. Please come along and participate!

Only once a year do the beekeepers of Maryland come together to talk about the wonder and importance of honeybees with the general public, and that event — The Maryland Honey Harvest Festival — will take place for the seventh year in a row on Saturday, September 19, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to be held at Brookside Gardens and Nature Center in Wheaton, Maryland. This festival started as a celebration of the MSBA's centennial in 2008, and has reached thousands of Marylanders since. It's a fun day that we would love you to share with your local community, but would also benefit from an hour or two of volunteer time if you can spare it.

It's a lot of fun, and there are a variety of ways to help out. There are observation hives, mock apiaries (where you can show folks empty hives and tools

and such), set up, take down, a sales table, bee information stations, open hive demos, candle making, and more. As beekeepers, we bring many valuable perspectives to our craft and science, your voice would be a tremendous example of that. Brookside Gardens and Nature Center provides us with beautiful facilities and access to a gorgeous setting. The "Wings of Fancy" Butterfly display will also be open during the festival, and this year - the Honey Harvest Festival will be held with the park's annual Children's Day, which this year has a pollinator theme.

To volunteer, or if you can make donations, please contact Lindsay Barranco at <mailto:lbarranco@comcast.net>. Festival info, including this flyer, is available on the website at www.mdbeekeepers.org if you wish to direct possible attendees to this great day out. Please also, feel free to distribute this flier in your geographic areas!

[Return to Page 1](#)

SMART ON PESTICIDES MARYLAND



As a Maryland House Environment and Transportation sub-committee launches its review of the science regarding the impact of neonicotinoid pesticides (neonics) on Maryland's honeybees and other pollinators for the 2016 Maryland General Assembly, recent studies and reports continue to underscore the seriousness of the crisis in our state.

A recent USDA report noted that in 2014, Maryland beekeepers lost 61% of their beehives, which is up from 50% in 2012 and the fifth highest loss in the nation. In recent past, many of these bee die-offs were attributed to cold temperatures in the winter, coupled with over-exposure to pesticides and combating varroa mites. However, beekeepers noted an average of 44% percent loss during the summer- normally a time when bees thrive. Maryland beekeepers cannot sustain such losses.

“A number of studies have found that neonicotinoid pesticides, widely used in farming and in home gardening products, may be linked to deaths of honeybees as well as wild bees and other pollinating insects. Even at doses too low to kill outright, the chemicals have been found to impair bees' performance” (Baltimore Sun 5/14/15).

Recent studies continue to support the 1,121 studies reviewed by 30 scientists from around the world who confirmed that neonics play a significant role in pollinator decline. The pesticide industry can't continue to dispute hundreds of studies – conducted by independent scientists- by saying that their neonic products don't contribute to the decline in bees and pollinator populations and health.

Bayer CropScience and Syngenta, the manufacturers of neonics, have been claiming that lab study doses of neonics do not reflect 'in the field' real life bee exposures.

A country-wide field study released this month by

the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) in the UK identifies that an increase in the use of imidacloprid, a neonic, leads to an increase in honeybee losses. Not surprisingly, Bayer CropScience, manufacturer of imidacloprid, claims that the results differ from the studies they conducted (The Guardian 8/20/15).

Also this month, the US Geological Survey (USGS) released a report noting that neonics were found in about half of sampled streams across the US (USGS 8/18/15).

And while not a science publication, this month's Rolling Stone article provides a comprehensive overview of the pollinator crisis from the personal perspective of a third generation beekeeper. ““These days, beekeepers often find dead bees in or near the hive, implying that whatever is killing them is doing so acutely or the colonies slowly dwindle until there is nothing left” (Rolling Stone 8/15/15).

This makes our work in Maryland even more critical. It is not sustainable for beekeepers to lose more than half of their colonies each year. Not only are bees vital to producing honey, but their pollination services are necessary for over 33% of our food supply.

The Smart on Pesticides Campaign will continue its efforts to protect Maryland's bees. We will keep you posted on the House subcommittee's findings and recommendations and how we can all work together to protect our Babies, Bees and the Bay.

[Return to Page 1](#)

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

WESTMINSTER FALLFEST

By Brad Criddle

First, a few words about the 4-H Fair. IT WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. The volunteers spent many hours talking to the public about honeybees, talking to each other about honeybees and selling 5 of our members local, raw, unprocessed honey, candles, lip balm and ointments. Gross sales were 22.45% higher than any other year since I have been handling this event (about 4 years) for CCBA. 3 of the 5 Apiaries sold out of honey. It is my hope that several more of you will come forward with your Apiary products so we will have a good representative sample of local Carroll County products for sale at the Fallfest.

Just wanted to let you know Fallfest is just around the corner and we are looking for volunteers to staff the booth there. The dates are September 26 and 27, Saturday and Sunday. This festival is much shorter but fast and furious (and typically the weather is a bit better than at the 4-H Fair). As many people stop by our booth at Fallfest in a 16 hour weekend as do throughout the entire week at the 4-H Fair. I will have the Volunteer sign up sheets at the September meeting or you can contact me any time to let me know your plans. Again we are looking for a minimum of 3 people for each 4 hour shift.

Saturday 9/26..... Staff the Booth

Morning 10 am - 2 pm
Afternoon 2 pm -6 pm

Sunday 9/27..... Staff the Booth

Morning 10 am - 2 pm
Afternoon 2 pm -6 pm

Additionally I will need 2 people (1 with a truck) to help me set up and tear down at the following times.

Saturday 9/26.Set Up
Morning 8 am - 10 pm

Sunday 9/27.Tear Down
Afternoon 5 pm - 7 pm

Anyone that would like to volunteer for any of these jobs please contact me [Brad Criddle]at:

office 410-751-9220
cell 410-935-7260
email bradsbees@comcast.net

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the meeting Wednesday night.

Thanks for all of your support at the Club's functions.

[Return to Page 1](#)

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HELPING OUR BEES GET READY FOR WINTER

by Phil Craft

As we remove our honey crop from our hives it is time to start thinking about assisting our bees prepare for winter.

We should start off with a good inspection of our hives. We do not need to look at every frame, but keep the following issues, and suggestions in mind as you look in your hives.

Is your hive “Queen - right”?

Concern: Queen Issues, meaning queen not present – that she has disappeared. It’s nice to see the queen, but it’s not necessary in order to know that she is there. If you see eggs, larvae, or even capped brood. Then you can conclude the colony has a laying queen. You do not need to see the queen.

Are you seeing “all stages” of brood?

- Eggs
- Larvae
- Pupae
- You should

Remember, our hives need to be strong to have the best chance for winter survival

- Colonies should be strong in the late summer, or fall, if not strong now - ask yourself why?
- Each hive will need at least 30,000 before the onset of cold weather. What is 30,000 bees? One deep hive body full of bees (most or all frames covered with bees) is about 30,000 bees.

[Ed – other references cite a minimum of 20 – 30K bees for successful overwintering, and estimate 2K bees on a full frame. Based on 2500/deep frame, a full medium frame contains ~ 1.7K bees, so 25K = 15 medium frames required to over winter]

Our hives need sufficient food stores to get them through the winter.

- *Suggested food stores needed? (Suggestion for the mid-west - Ohio River Valley, more further north, and less down south)*
- *Our hives will need 55-60 LB of stored honey (Or stored sugar syrup)*

How can we tell? Count frames filled with honey.

1 deep frame = about 6 LB.

1 shallow frame = about 2.5 LB.

10 deep frames = 60 LB.+

10 shallow frames = 25 - 30 LB.

[ED – other sources cite 3 to 4 pounds for a medium frame of capped honey, and state that an average of 60 pounds are required for over wintering. This would indicate a minimum of 20 frames of honey.]

Obviously, if top deep brood box is close to being filled with honey, not unusual by late fall, sufficient food stores are present (in the mid-west).

These suggested food stores are needed by the onset of cold weather. November?

Don't forget pollen – the other honey bee food group!

- *Do your brood frames contain much pollen? Remember: Pollen is especially important for brood rearing.*
- *Number of good protein supplements on the market.*
- *Feed in patties or dry, bees will store dry protein powder.*

Are your hives healthy?

Seeing multi frames of brood in the fall should be a sign of the fall nectar flow and likely a healthy hive.

Are your hives as free of parasites (varroa mites) & disease (Nosema disease?) as possible?

Continued on next page

HELPING OUR BEES GET READY FOR WINTER *continued from previous page*

Varroa mites – what are they?

- External parasite of brood and adult bees.
- Asian in origin.
- Still “PRIMARYLY” controlled by chemical methods.
- WILL kill ALL bees in colonies if not controlled.

Varroa mites - when to treat?

- When Infestations increase to high levels – learn how to monitor. See my handout on conducting alcohol washes, and threshold levels.
- If not monitoring or in doubt, treat in late summer or fall, especially new beekeepers

Nosema disease – what is it?

- A disease of honeybees caused by a microorganism that infests the bee’s midgut.

- The disease is spread as result of cleanup by bees, and can be spread by mouth to mouth contact of bees as they pass food.
- Symptoms can include the inability of bees to fly (crawling bees), fecal material both on the inside and outside of the hive, and dead bees on the hive entrance & in front of the hive.

However, these signs are not always present, and a laboratory test is needed to confirm infection, or if colonies are free of this disease, so ...

Send sample of bees for testing to your state bee or university lab or [USDA Beltsville, MD Bee Lab](http://www.usda.gov/ars/units/beltsville/bee_lab/)

- IF your sample is positive, seek advice about treatment with fumagillin-B from your state apiculture extension specialist, your state bee inspector, or the lab that conducted the testing.

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[Return to Page 1](#)

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BRUSHY MOUNTAIN BEE FARM DISTRIBUTOR

MARYLAND HONEY COMPANY, Inc.

BRUSHY MOUNTAIN BEE FARM DISTRIBUTOR

FULL SERVICE BEEKEEPING SUPPLIER

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WOODENWARE

(TEN FRAME OR EIGHT FRAME) (UN-ASSEMBLED OR ASSEMBLED)
(ENGLISH GARDEN HIVES)

FOUNDATION

(PLASTIC OR WAX)

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BEEKEEPER TOOLS

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FEEDS & MEDICATIONS

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(EXTRACTORS, UNCAPPING TANKS AND TOOLS)

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(PLASTIC AND GLASS)

WE DON'T STOCK IT ALL, BUT WE CAN GET IT

STORE LOCATION:

**6910 DAMASCUS ROAD
GAITHERSBURG, MD 20882**

301-518-9678

marylandhoneycompany2011@gmail.com

Pricing is Brushy Mountain Catalog + 8% mark-up and sales tax (cheaper than shipping)

STORE HOURS:

SUNDAYS 10-4 TUESDAYS 12-5

[Return to Page 1](#)

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FOR SALE - CCBA T-SHIRTS -\$20

(Navy Blue)

Available at CCBA meetings – see Anna



CCBA WEBSITE FORUM

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

Note: online registration is disabled. Please send in your request as shown above!!

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

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](#)

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SAVE THE DATES

Sept 16 - CCBA Monthly Meeting

Sept 19 – Open Hive Demo

Sept 19 – MSBA Honey Harvest Festival at Brookside Gardens and Nature Center in Wheaton, Maryland

Sept 26, 27 – Westminster FallFest – sell your honey & hive products – contact Brad

Oct 3, 4 - Honey Harvest Festival at Oregon Ridge Nature Center in Baltimore County

Oct 21- CCBA Monthly Meeting

Oct 24 – Open Hive Demo

Nov 18 - CCBA Annual Potluck Dinner and Election Of Officers

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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Webmaster Trace Orf tracyorf@gmail.com

The Carroll Bee Editor Larry Fritz lfritz44@gmail.com

[Return to Page 1](#)

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