



CARROLL COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.

THE CARROLL BEE

September 2016

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

By Fred Sypher

The State Fair in Timonium is a great opportunity for Maryland beekeepers. Any Maryland beekeeper can enter the various honey bee related competitions and usually win a ribbon, as unfortunately, only a small percentage of beekeepers participate. It’s even difficult to convince county beekeeping associations to support staffing the sales booth and observation hive, but Carroll County beekeepers stepped up once again and the Bee Booth was well served by our volunteers. My sincere thanks to those who came to the fair and worked the booth for five or six hours, selling honey or answering questions about bees at the observation hive. CCBA cannot survive without volunteers and each year there are additional demands made on us both inside and outside the association. This year’s Westminster Fall Fest will challenge our volunteer resources as the rules have changed and we have more activity going on at our booth. I’m sure I will see you there.

The queen in our backyard hive appears to have disappeared or gone off duty. *Sigh*. At our last check, we found that though our five medium boxes were filled with bees, we had ten frames of capped brood, but no larvae, and no eggs. We did not look for the queen. The bees are taking a gallon a day of sugar syrup from a hive top feeder, which we did not put on until we saw that the bees were busily consuming their honey stores. Could she have stopped laying as a result of the colony being unable to bring in nectar after the major flow?

Continued on next page

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'll wait a few days then see if the gallon of sugar syrup a day has stimulated queenly activity. If not, we buy another queen. We also installed Hop Guard II for Varroa control even though our sugar roll exams have showed no mites—unlikely!—and the 48-hour sticky boards have showed only two or three. Twenty four hours after we put on the Hop Guard, the sticky board we installed was covered with dropped mites. The moral of the story for us? **Treat for Varroa irrespective of sampling results.**

The Bear Branch observation hive is going great guns. All five medium frames are packed with bees; there are more than two frames of capped brood as well as lots of eggs and larvae, but absolutely no honey. Each week we pull the hive out of the nature center building and install a full frame of honey and a feeder jar (which they ignore). Obviously, the observation hive queen doesn't care if there's a nectar flow; she just keeps on laying eggs. Slow down, queeny! Don't you know it's September and according to our bee books the colony's worker population should be on the down slope and beekeepers should be treating for Varroa mites? Well, we are treating for Varroa. What are *you* doing for your bees this September?

See you at the September 21st meeting.

Fred



State Fair Honey Extraction Demo
Gary Pohlner and Brad Crittle

AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

By Terri Hemelt, Secretary CCBA

The monthly meeting of the CCBA was called to order at 7:30 on August 17th in Bear Branch Nature Center by President Fred Sypher.

Club News:

- The 4H Fair Westminster Agriculture Center
 - CCBA 10% Commission Total \$191.40
 - CCBA Event Gross Gain \$319.20
 - Gross Event Sales \$2,041.80
 - 9 Venders
 - Carroll County Map was added to the display showing location of venders apiaries
- EAS Conference held at Stockton University, Galloway, NJ
 - Several members attended and talked about what they learned
 - Larry Truchon took and passed the Master Bee Keeper Exam, Ice cream cake was served in his honor.

Upcoming dates to remember:

- September 23-25 - Westminster Fall Fest, Longwell Park, Westminster MD
 - 20' x 20' space
 - Volunteers are needed Friday September 23rd, 6-10 PM, Saturday 24th 10AM - 4 PM and 4 PM - 10PM, and Sunday 25th, 12PM – 6PM
 - Games will be played and prizes given away
- Oct 9 – Monarch Madness, Bear Branch Nature Center, Westminster MD
 - Educate public about bees
- November 12 – MSBA Meeting Howard County Fair Grounds, Howard MD
 - Honey Show and other bee product competition
 - Label contest
 - Vendors with equipment for sale
- Members studying for “Master Bee Keeping Test” to meet every Monday at Carroll Community College Library at 7:30 PM. All are welcome!
 - Master Bee Keeper Larry Truchon will provide an exam to find out participants level of knowledge
 - Dewy Caron;s book will be used as a study guide
 - *Langstroth on the Hive and the Honey-Bee A Bee Keeper's Manual* book will also be used and can be downloaded off the internet
 - Another good book to read is “What-You-Know” By Clarence Collison

Continued on next page

Tired and you're not working. Should I. We had to electric the knives? Does the club to the two electric to electric uncapping knives? Read all fall Fest I bred I read. Would you please send me something about the fall Fest meeting volunteers but in the newsletter

Meeting Minutes, continued

Varroa Mites renamed "Varroa Destructor" aka "VD" per Fred Sypher. TREAT YOUR HIVES!!

Small Hive Beetles - If frames become infested with Small Hive Beetles, remove frames and freeze them or place them in soapy water

CCBA will open a library of Bee Keeping information at Bear Branch Nature Center. Donation of reading material will accepted and appreciated,

The next **general meeting will be at 7:30 on September 21, 2016**, at Bear Branch Nature Center.

SEPTEMBER TO-DO LIST

You do not have to join dropbox in order to view the referenced articles.

- **The primary nectar flow is over and large colonies like to rob weaker colonies**

Robbing, by Phil Craft

Click [here](#) to read Phil's article and see photos of robbers in action.

Anti-Robbing Screen, by Billy Davis

Billy Davis describes [an inexpensive homemade screen](#) to deter robbers.

- **Properly store your honey supers to prevent wax moths from destroying valuable comb**

This *Brushy Mountain Bee Farm* article tells [how to protect valuable honeycomb from wax moths](#).

- **Monitor for Varroa mites and treat if necessary**

Tools for Varroa Management, A Guide to Effective Sampling and Control, by the Honey Bee Health Coalition Feb 2016

This [very informative booklet](#) tells how to monitor for mites and discusses various treatments (how to apply, when to apply, pros and cons).

- **Consider feeding your bees to build winter stores, stimulate comb building and stimulate egg laying**

On Feeding Bees, by Joe Lewis

Joe discusses why we should [consider feeding](#) in the spring and in the fall.

- **Winter preparation starts NOW!**

Master Beekeeper Allen Hayes [shares ideas](#) that work for him in preparing for winter.

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VARROA TREATMENT

by Mann Lake, September 2016 calendar

“This month is the latest you can check for Varroa and get treatments in before it’s too late to protect those winter bees. REMEMBER – TAKE CARE OF BEES THAT TAKE CARE OF THE BEES THAT GO INTO WINTER. A damaged house bee can’t take care of larvae the way she should, so those she is responsible for aren’t healthy when they finally emerge and they are the bees that are supposed to live long and winter. If they are damaged, they don’t live long enough, and you end up with a dead colony next spring.”

PROVIDE ADEQUATE HIVE VENTILATION

Are your bees and bearding on the front of the hive? In this sweltering heat keep in mind that larvae can be killed by excessive heat. Consider adding a [ventilation hive box](#) to the top each hive.

HONEY EXTRACTORS

Club members may borrow honey extraction equipment owned by the club. This consists of a two-frame manual extractor, a four-frame manual extractor, two sets of 2 strainers (course and fine), one electric-heated uncapping knife, and one honey bucket with gate valve. As Long as the equipment is returned in clean condition there will be no charge to club members.

Contact Brad Criddle by email: bradsbees@comcast.net

Editor Note - several club members, including myself, have found that a serrated kitchen knife works very well for uncapping.

SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY INADVERTENTLY KILLS MILLIONS OF HONEY BEES

Bees have turned out to be an unexpected casualty in the fight against Zika virus. After Dorchester County, South Carolina, dispensed a pesticide by plane Sunday targeting potential Zika-carrying mosquitoes, honey bees started dropping dead by the thousands. At one bee farm in Summerville, South Carolina, **46 hives containing a total of about 2.5 million bees died almost immediately** after the area was sprayed.

Upon investigation, officials concluded that what some beekeepers are calling a “mass killing” was

caused by the insecticide intended for mosquitoes. While the county has sprayed the insecticide, Naled, by truck before, Sunday was the first time the county has dispensed the insecticide by airplane, prompted by the four Zika cases in the county.

County officials insist they gave residents plenty of heads up, but beekeepers say they did not have adequate notice to shield their hives from the insecticide, which is “highly toxic to bees,” *The Washington Post* reported. “They passed right over the trees three times,” said beekeeper Juanita

Stanley, describing an eerie silence in the farm's usual buzzing after the plane had gone by. She added: "My bee yard looks like it's been nuked." **Becca Stanek**

Dorchester County officials apologized Tuesday for unintentionally killing millions of honeybees when it failed to notify local beekeepers about its mosquito spraying over the weekend.

"Dorchester County is aware that some beekeepers in the area that was sprayed on Sunday lost their beehives," County Administrator Jason Ward said Tuesday. "I am not pleased that so many bees were killed."

Dorchester County officials apologized Tuesday for unintentionally killing millions of honeybees when it failed to notify local beekeepers about its mosquito-spraying operation last Sunday. On Friday, when four travel-related cases of the Zika virus were confirmed in the Summerville area, according to the state Department of Health and Environmental Control, the county announced plans to spray for mosquitoes over the town between 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. Sunday. It was the first time the county sprayed from the air, officials said.

By Sunday afternoon, thousands of bee carcasses dotted Andrew Macke's Spring House Lane property. A hobby beekeeper, he's had two hives for about two years.

The Summerville fire captain was at work when he spotted the plane flying over.

"My wife called a short time after the flyover and said, 'We have a mass killing,'" he said. " 'We have thousands and thousands of bees dead all around our pool deck and our driveway, just everywhere.' "

The county usually sprays for mosquitoes by truck from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. weekdays, Ward said.

"I am not aware of any other situations where bees, humans or pets were harmed," he said. "We usually call registered beekeepers prior to spraying in their zone."

But this time, Dorchester officials failed to alert them, Ward said.

"I can assure you that having a better relationship with the beekeeping community is paramount in avoiding this type of situation," he said.

Flowertown Bee Farm and Supply on Pinehurst Avenue, lost more than 2.3 million insects from 46 hives, according to co-owner Juanita Stanley.

"My bee yard looks like it's been nuked," she said.

Flowertown Bee is Stanley's income and passion, she said. She often holds workshops and teaches others how to raise bees.

"It's not about the honey. It's about saving the bees," she said. "Because of my mission with my business, this is so much more devastating. I am trying to do the opposite of what just happened. They are in a sanctuary where I can protect them, and now they are destroyed."

She doesn't know what, if anything, can be salvaged, she said.

"I don't know where to go from here," Stanley said. "I can't just go out and buy more bees, and right now I'm focused on how do I clean up all this mess? What can be reused and what can't? What steps do I take?"

Dorchester County issued a statement saying aerial spraying will help reduce the mosquito population, which has increased after a year that brought historic rains and floods, a mild winter, and extreme heat and humidity over the summer. Such spraying allows officials to target areas that cannot be addressed with ground spraying and larval control alone, according to a county press release.

Dorchester County used an insecticide called Naled, which has been registered for use in the U.S. since 1959 and is used primarily for controlling adult mosquitoes, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Naled can be used for mosquito control without posing risks to people, and would be effective in controlling mosquitoes carrying Zika and other diseases, according to the EPA.

But it is highly toxic to bees, according to the Extension Toxicology Network, a project of the extension offices at Cornell University, Michigan

State University, Oregon State University and University of California at Davis.

To protect bees, the EPA suggests spraying between dusk and dawn, while bees are not typically foraging. It also says beekeepers can reduce exposure by covering colonies, preventing bees from exiting colonies during treatment periods, or relocating hives to an untreated site.

Berkeley and Charleston counties and Joint Base Charleston also spray for mosquitoes from the air, officials said. Berkeley also sprays Naled, while Charleston and Joint Base Charleston use Trumpet EC, a water-washable form of Naled. All three also keep databases of beekeepers to notify before spraying.

People who are sensitive to chemicals, those with pre-existing respiratory problems and anyone especially concerned about exposure to pesticides

can take the following steps to help reduce exposure:

Stay indoors with the windows closed during spraying.

If you are outdoors during spraying operations and you can see the spray, avoid contact with it. If you can't avoid contact, rinse your skin and eyes with water.

Wash fruits and vegetables from your garden before storing, cooking or eating.

Cover outside items like furniture and grills while the spraying is occurring. Bring pets and items like pet food dishes and children's toys indoors. Rinse any items left uncovered outside before using.

If you think you have had a reaction to the mosquito spray, talk to your doctor or call the regional Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

MOSQUITO CONTROL ACTIVITIES IN CARROLL COUNTY

Westminster, September 7, 2016 —

The Carroll County Health Department and the Maryland Department of Agriculture are working cooperatively to conduct mosquito control activities in Carroll County.

When mosquito response activities are conducted across the State, it is due to mosquito prevention, detection, or because a human case of mosquito-borne disease was identified and mosquitoes are present. The reason cannot be specified due to concerns about confidentiality.

It is mosquito season, and we are working to protect the health of our residents, out of concern for

diseases transmitted by mosquitoes, including West Nile virus, Zika virus, and others.

If you have questions concerning this information, please call the Carroll County Health Department's Health Officer Ed Singer at 443-375-1243, or the Deputy Health Officer Dr. Henry Taylor at 304-610-1139.

For information on how you can control mosquitoes in your yard and prevent mosquito bites, please visit the Health Department's Fight the Bite web page.

FALLFEST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The upcoming Westminster Fallfest is just over 2 weeks away at Longwell Park in Westminster (behind the old Armory building) and we will need MANY volunteers to assist in honey sales, talk with the public (answer their many questions about honeybees), and help spread the word about our club, its activities and upcoming events. This year we have a larger booth site 20 x 20 and are planning on having a honey bee inspired corn hole game set up so we can offer folks a chance to toss the honey bee in the hole and win a small prize. If anyone would like to donate some stuff for the prizes please contact me. What we would like to see are items that are made-collected from the hives such as small candles, lip balm, small soaps, scrubs, ointments, small 2oz +/- jars of honey.

The shifts are outlined below.

Friday, September 23 (we begin setting up 2 hours before the event starts)

4 pm - 6 pm (2 or 3 people with me to set up the tent, displays, etc.)

6 pm - 10 pm (we already have 2 volunteers so we need 3 more people to staff the booth)

Saturday, September 24 (5 people per shift)

10am - 2pm

2pm - 6pm

6pm - 10pm

Sunday, September 24 (5 people per shift)

10pm - 2pm

2pm - 7pm

5 pm - 7 pm (1 additional person, with a big truck, to help us tear down and transport the stuff back to Bear Branch)

Please pick out the date and times you prefer and contact me DIRECTLY at bradsbees@comcast.net with that information so you can reserve your spot.

Over the years I have found these public outreach events to be very rewarding and I have learned much more about beekeeping from the other individuals that I'm volunteering with. I would really encourage the new beekeepers to participate if you can spare 4 hours.

In addition, if anyone has honey or other honey bee byproducts to sell please consider letting the club do this for you. Contact me and I will be glad to let you know what we need on labeling, what sizes sell best, etc. and walk you through the process.

Because we are offering the game this year we will need to have 5 people per shift so we make sure everyone is taken care of. Honey sales at this festival usually equal in 2 days what the 4-H Fair does for the entire week.

BRUSHY MOUNTAIN BEE FARM DISTRIBUTOR

MARYLAND HONEY COMPANY, Inc.

BRUSHY MOUNTAIN BEE FARM DISTRIBUTOR

FULL SERVICE BEEKEEPING SUPPLIER

WOODENWARE

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

FOUNDATION
(PLASTIC OR WAX)

PROTECTIVE GEAR
(BEE SUITS, VEILS, GLOVES)

BEEKEEPER TOOLS
(HIVE TOOLS, SMOKERS, ETC.)

FEEDS & MEDICATIONS

EXTRACTING EQUIPMENT
(EXTRACTORS, UNCAPPING TANKS AND TOOLS)

HONEY CONTAINERS
(PLASTIC AND GLASS)

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STORE LOCATION:
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GAITHERSBURG, MD 20882
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marylandhoneycompany2011@gmail.com

Pricing is Brushy Mountain Catalog + 8% mark-up and sales tax

STORE HOURS:

Now:

SUNDAYS 10-4
TUESDAYS 12-5

Starting March 1
SUNDAYS 10-5
TUESDAYS 12-7

FOR SALE - CCBA T-SHIRTS

(Navy Blue shown)

Short-sleeved navy blue club t-shirts will still be available at meetings or by arrangement with Anna Prior if you can't make it to the meeting. However, some members have expressed interest in having other colors to choose from. To make these alternate colors available with as little fuss as possible, Anna will have a sign-up sheet where you can choose one of two colors (or both!) and your size. Payment will be in advance. Cost depends on how many shirts are ordered but it should be around \$20-22.



Long-sleeved options are also available.

The special order color choices are as follows:

Short-sleeve - Heather Cardinal <http://www.customink.com/lab?PK=04661> and Prairie Dust <http://www.customink.com/lab?PK=04625>

Long-sleeve - Navy (same as our short-sleeve club shirts) and Military Green <http://www.customink.com/lab?PK=06133%20> (a darker version of Prairie Dust)

Anna will have samples of the Prairie Dust and Heather Cardinal with the sign-up sheet.

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.

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SAVE THE DATES

Saturday, September 17 – Honey Festival at Brookside Garden & Nature Center

Wednesday, September 21 - CCBA Monthly Meeting at Bear Branch Nature Center
Speaker Steve Cook Beltsville Bee Lab

Sept 24, 25 – CCBA booth at Westminster Fall Festival

Wednesday, October 19 - CCBA Monthly Meeting at Bear Branch Nature Center
Speaker Bill Sprenkle Log Cabin Bee Farms

Saturday, November 12 - Maryland State Beekeepers Association Fall Meeting,
Elections and Honey Show

Wednesday, November 16 - Pot Luck Dinner and CCBA Annual Elections

HEPTACODIUM TREE

More commonly known as the Seven Sons Flower Tree, this **late summer to early fall blooming tree** is an excellent source of nectar for honey bees, Monarch Butterflies, and Hummingbirds. The blooms are fragrant and quite attractive.

“Heptacodium miconioides, (seven-son flower) is a little known member of the honeysuckle family that is certain to become a household name. Although its name may be slightly unattractive, it has all the ornamental features necessary to be a prized, useful and well accepted landscape plant. Besides being rare, what makes this large shrub or small tree so desirable is that it shines at a time of the year when most other plants are at their worst. Seven-son

flower blooms in the late summer - early autumn. Its 10-15 foot arching frame is covered with creamy white, fragrant flowers to create a unique and memorable show. And just when you think that this plant has reached its pinnacle of ornamentation, the flowers fade and are replaced by stunning cherry red, flower-like sepals. It's as if the darn thing is blooming again, but in a different color! This unique floral display provides effective and welcome garden color from late August to until mid-November. Although Heptacodium has little to offer in fall foliage color, it does have attractive brown exfoliating bark that provides appreciated winter interest.”

Click [here](#) to read more about this attractive non-native tree

Editor Note: I recently saw three of these beautiful trees near my home in South Carroll. They were alive with bees and butterflies. The owner purchased the original tree and then grew two more from cuttings.

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CHECK OUT THE CCBA WEBSITE

www.carrollcountybeekeepers.org/

Send emails to: carrollbeekeepers@gmail.com

CCBA FACEBOOK PAGE

Check us out on Facebook by searching for **Carroll County Beekeepers Association**. Join the page to post photos, articles, ask questions, etc. Anyone can view.

CCBA 2016 OFFICERS

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