



THE CARROLL BEE

CARROLL COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION (CCBA)

October 2017

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Fred Sypher

The last two weeks have been a beekeeping adventure for Darla and me. Moving the Bear Branch observation hive into its winter nuc is a long story. Working on the Hashawa Apiary is another long story. Rearranging the big hive in our back yard is a long story. None of these will be recounted here. Let’s just say that I now have to write out a check list of tools and equipment needed and things to accomplish long before I put on my bee suit. Yelling and ranting at the vagaries of the universe and my stupidity don’t seem to bother the colonies, but they disturb my Queen Bee, so I must mend my ways. Those of you who, after a 40-minute drive, arrive at your out-yard apiary with everything required at hand and a good mental outline of the day’s beekeeping activities, I salute you.

The next project for us is to assemble and load up candy boards for the hives and put them on at the right time. There’s a wide variety of recipes and designs for candy boards. We need to choose one that will work well here in central Maryland where our winter weather is becoming less predictable than ever. Today is October 10th but the outside thermometer shows 80 degrees and the forecast is for 83 degrees. Are you feeding your bees 2:1 or did you take Steve McDaniel’s suggestion made at the last meeting to feed 1:1 and keep the queen laying brood as long as possible?

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

Message from the President, *Continued*

We experimented with two jars of 2:1 and two jars with 1:1 on our quad quart jar feeders to see if the bees have preference. Of course they don't! What were we thinking? However, we are feeding the Observation Nuc only 1:1 to stimulate the queen to build up the population. It's a long story, but enough of that.

Our November meeting will be the annual potluck dinner and election of officers. I remind you that there are club positions open to anyone who wants to help keep CCBA a valuable beekeeping resource in Carroll County. Backyard beekeeping is popular and growing. We, the members of CCBA, should make every effort to help anyone who wishes to try their hand at beekeeping to become a successful beekeeper, not a successful swarm raiser or Varroa farmer. To that end, your willingness to share what you know and what you have experienced as beekeepers is a valuable resource for new beekeepers. I

encourage you to consider participating as part of the CCBA leadership team. We have a strong beekeeping association here in Carroll County and we are fortunate to have three Master Beekeepers, one of whom will be our next president. With Larry Truchon's knowledge and leadership, supported with your assistance, we can keep CCBA a strong and influential beekeeping resource. I expect to see you on October 18th with your arm up, volunteering to be part of something special – CCBA.

Fred



MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER MEETING

By Larry Fritz filling in for Terri Hemelt, Secretary

The regular meeting of the CCBA was called to order at 7:30 on September 20th in Bear Branch Nature Center by Fred Sypher

There was a discussion about the State of Maryland requirements for labeling food products such as jars of honey. There is a state law that goes into considerable detail about such things as font sizes, net weight, nutrition, etc. In addition a statement may be required that indicates that the product was made by someone in the cottage food industry. Fred Sypher volunteered to investigate further and fill us in at the October meeting.

CCBA member Dave Gallegos gave an excellent talk on Winter Preparation. I will attempt to summarize the key points of Dave's talk and supplement with additional information, some from the CCBA digital library is accessed here:

<http://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B4uCC3CyQd7kNIIWXzhacV9vSkk?usp=sharing>

- The top 3 keys to winter survival are (1) mite control, (2) adequate feed, and (3) ventilation

- Check out a **Brushy Mountain Webinar** titled "Winter Preparation": <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2xRs7u6WUg> The first part on Mite control is long, but the last two parts are shorter.
- Hive Insulation – Dave discussed some of the pros and cons and shared that he no longer insulates. He stressed that providing an adequate wind break is very important, as well as adequate hive ventilation.
 - Check out this **Bee Culture** article in the *Digital Library* that makes a case for insulating, and stresses proper hive ventilation. "Winter Prep - Insulation.pdf"

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September Minutes, continued

- Fall feeding
 - Feed 1:1 sugar:water (by weight or volume, they are essentially the same) to simulate a nectar flow. This fools the queen into laying eggs that will produce the bees necessary to over-winter.
 - In early to mid-October, switch to 2:1 to build up sugar-honey stores for the winter. *[Editor – I inspected all 6 of my colonies last week and found only a few eggs. There was empty comb and the honey and pollen stores were too light for the on-coming winter. On Columbus Day I will switch to 2:1 and add a small amount of pollen patties.]*
- Emergency feeding
 - Dave adds “bee candy” to his colonies as soon as it’s too cold to feed sugar syrup. He takes advantage of a warmer day at the end of the year to open his hives to install emergency food. If there is prolonged cold weather after the 1st of the year, he doesn’t want to have to open the hives to add emergency food.
 - *[Editor’s Opinion: I don’t like to feed commercial fondant because it may be made from corn fructose rather than sugar. Although corn fructose is cheaper than sugar, many argue that it’s not healthy, even toxic, for humans and I would then conclude it’s not healthy for bees. We have too much time and money invested in our bees to save a few bucks on sugar (48 cents/pound at BJ’s in 25 lb bags and 50 cents/lb in 10 lb bags. Also, what other chemicals, etc have been added to fondant?]*
 - **Bee Culture** had an excellent article explaining why sugar is superior to corn fructose. Read “Feeding - Sugar.pdf” from the Digital Library.
 - There is a very easy way to make no-cook bee candy from sugar and a small amount of water. The recipe is in the Digital Library and is titled “Feeding - No Cook Bee Candy Recipe.pdf”.
 - There will be a potluck dinner and election of officers on Wednesday, November 15th.
 - No December meeting.
 - The first regular meeting in 2018 will be on January 17th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 by Fred Sypher. The next general meeting will be at 7:30 on October 18, 2017, at Bear Branch Nature Center.

SAVE THE DATES

Wednesday, October 18 – Monthly Meeting at Bear Branch Nature Center

Saturday, November 4 – Fall MSBA Meeting at the MDA headquarters in Annapolis.

Wednesday, November 15 – Potluck dinner and election of officers for 2018

Wednesday, December 20 – **NO MEETING**, only 4 more shopping days until Christmas

Wednesday, January 17, 2018 - Monthly Meeting at Bear Branch Nature Center

Wednesday, February 7, 2018 – The 1st of 6 Wednesdays at CCC for the Short Course

Wednesday, February 21, 2018 - **NO MEETING** because of the Short Course at CCC

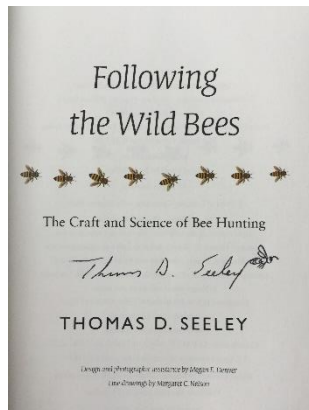
August 13-17, 2018 – 2018 EAS in Virginia

30-PAGES AT EAS

By Russell Sprangel

Not knowing what to expect going to EAS for the first time, I went with an open mind. The only wisdom I was given was “don’t talk to me the entire week” from another club member. It ended up being excellent advice, as you got out what you put into it. If I didn’t follow this advice, I would have not met Sarah an award winning contestant in the honey show. I would not have gotten out of bed for yoga at 6:30 a.m. each day and met Jean, who had the award winning pecan bars. She shared of bunch of them with us on the last day of yoga. I also wouldn’t have got an invitation to NC State’s Research Apiary the next time I drop my son off at college. Yes it was good advice.

What I needed was someone to direct me through the 120 or so presentations across the 5 days. Of all of those, I could only attend a small subset of what I wanted to attend. When attending what I thought was a beginner’s presentation on Wintering hives, I turned around and said to myself, “you look familiar”. This person’s face was on the book jacket of some of my recommended readings. So I did what I thought I should do and just say, “Hi Tom”. Thomas Seeley is the most down to earth person you will ever meet and boy he likes bees. I at least wanted to be at the author signing for him to sign one of my books, and he embossed it with a personal honey bee.



My understanding is that if you ask Tom to sign his “Honeybee Democracy” book, you get a small swarm of

bees. I will add that as I was close to the first in line for the book signing, there were 30 or more folks behind me and Tom stayed until he signed every book and he spent a couple minutes talking with each person.

On the Mead making tour, I sampled a large variety of Mead with Justin (vender), Sarah (award winning honey producer) and her mom (really miss her mom), and the other Justin, (a beekeeper from NC with 40 hives). Samples of really good Mead kept coming and coming, and a lot of laughs were had throughout the night. *[Editor – Russ probably didn’t attend yoga the following morning]*

I still have no idea how Yoga and Beekeeping work together, but someday I might figure that out. Stuck with yoga all week and the instructor keep pushing us more each day. Everything was good till Friday when something popped. Sounds like a bad thing, but it actually felt pretty good. I think it scared a couple people close to me. Those award winning Pecan bars helped the healing process.

This article was named, because I took 30 pages of notes and could have taken a lot more if I could only get Mike Palmer to tamper down his enthusiasm. Tips, tricks, more articles, presentations and websites for even more information were all just jammed in the pages of my notebook. It was a good EAS and I plan on being in VA next year to attend as well.

P.S. I never knew a 30-30 rifle with a scope was standard beekeeping equipment and dreams about Martha’s hairy legs and big butt are perfectly fine even if you are married. It is amazing what you learn at EAS.

AMAZON ECHO APP HELPS PREPARE FOR MASTER BEEKEEPER EXAM

By Russell Sprangel

The next step in the book signing line at EAS, was to get my copy of “Honey Bee Biology” signed by author Dewey Caron. I spent a few minutes talking to him about the book and he seemed excited to hear that I used that book as my primary reference to create the questions for my son’s Amazon Echo App. Since Dewey has an Echo he was interested to hear that my son wrote the app and got it certified by Amazon and it was up and running just before I went to EAS. I told him all you have to say is

“**Alexa Open Beekeeping Quiz**” and it will ask you 10 random multiple choice questions. I told him I was writing the questions to help study for the Master Beekeeping test and he then invited Justin and I, to the MB exam review on the last day of EAS. I’ll be interested the next time I see him if he remembered to try it out and see what he thought. Well and honestly, see how well he scored!

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THERE COULD BE PESTICIDES IN YOUR HONEY

By Mahita Gajanan Oct 06, 2017

<http://time.com/4973279/honey-pesticides-bees/>

About three-fourths of honey from around the world contains some pesticides, according to a [study published in Science](#) Friday, October 6th.

The study found that 75% of honey samples collected from nearly 200 sites across the globe contained at least one of five kinds of pesticides called neonicotinoids. Researchers tested 198 samples of honey from every continent, excluding Antarctica, and found that 45% of the samples contained two or more of the compounds that make up the pesticide and that 10% had at least four or five compounds.

"Our results confirm the exposure of bees to neonicotinoids in their food throughout the world,"

researchers wrote. "The coexistence of neonicotinoids and other pesticides may increase harm to pollinators."

Previous studies have found that neonicotinoids, which are a common type of insecticide, can impair the [brain function of bees](#) and slow down the growth of their colonies. The recent findings in *Science* suggest that bees throughout the world are exposed to neonicotinoids at a massive scale. Of the honey sampled, North America had the highest proportion of samples that had neonicotinoids at 86%, followed by Asia at 80% and Europe at 79%

CCBA DIGITAL LIBRARY

By Larry Fritz

Over the years I have collected a bunch of beekeeping articles that I found helpful. Some of my collection is now available on the CCBA Google Drive and can be accessed here: <http://drive.google.com/open?id=0B4uCC3CyQd7kNIIWXzhacV9vSkk>

Articles can be read online and/or downloaded to your PC. File names were assigned to function as a table of contents. Each month I will reference pertinent articles for our enlightenment. If you have articles that should be added, please let me know.

To change the way the list is viewed, click the icon on the top right side of the page to the left of the lowercase i in the circle.

Relevant Articles:

- How to make a candy board feeder: "Equipment - Candy Bd Feeder.pdf"
- Which pollen substitute comes the closest to the real stuff? – Mann Lakes UltraBee
 - <http://scientificbeekeeping.com/a-comparative-test-of-the-pollen-sub/>
- Winter preparation articles written by the experts. Take the time to read these and then decide which tips will work best for you. **The hives you save could be yours!**
 - "Winter Prep - Allen Hayes_2015.pdf"
 - "Winter Prep - by Phil Craft.pdf"
 - "Winter Prep - Frame Arrangement_ABJ 2016.pdf"
 - "Winter Prep - Lawrence Conner.pdf"
 - "Winter Prep - Randy Oliver.pdf"

JOIN THE MARYLAND STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

As well as belonging to an association of fellow beekeepers of all ages, backgrounds and experience, there are a number of tangible benefits to this membership:

- Several (FREE) association meetings each year where experts from across the country make presentations on a diverse range of subjects including beekeeping, bee biology and genetics as well as a host of other related topics.
- Regular publications of the association's newsletter, the '*Beeline*', keeping you up to date with beekeeping news and events

The cost is \$10/year. Click [here](#) for the membership application. The application also gives us an opportunity to donate to MDA's Apiary Inspection Fund. Donations will help to cover the expenses of our state honeybee colony inspectors who work long hours for low pay. These folks are a beekeeper's friend! Many other states charge us for their services, but in Maryland it is still free of charge. Our contributions demonstrate to the MDA how we feel about this valuable service, and encourages MDA to retain state funding



SUBSCRIBE TO AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

One year-\$28. Mention that you are a member of CCBA and the discount price is \$23. This applies to renewals as well as new subscriptions. Stop by the Carroll County Public Library for a look at this excellent magazine.

Phone 888-922-1293 <http://americanbeejournal.com/>

SUBSCRIBE TO BEE CULTURE MAGAZINE

1 year of the print edition for \$25. Stop by the Carroll County Public Library for a look at this excellent magazine.

Click [here](#).

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 login info after you are entered into the database.

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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.

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)



CHECK OUT THE CCBA WEBSITE

(Under Construction)

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 2017 OFFICERS

President	Fred Sypher	frsy4@outlook.com
Vice President	Larry Truchon	ltruchon@comcast.net
Treasurer	Jody King	joseph.king2011@comcast.net
Secretary	Terri Hemelt	themelt58@gmail.com
<i>The Carroll Bee Editor</i>	Larry Fritz	lfritz44@gmail.com

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