

# CARROLL COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

## THE CARROLL BEE

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

APRIL 2013

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is upon us, and I've been preoccupied with the Short Course to the neglect of the club's hives at the apiary at Hashawa. That was a mistake. During the Short Course field day we discovered one of the apiary colonies to be out of food, so I spent several hours on March 22<sup>nd</sup> working on the apiary and the Bear Branch observation hive. First I installed an eight-pound candy board on the hive that was out of stores. Then I checked the observation hive, which my wife and I had fed at the end of January with a deep of honey generously donated by Brad Criddle. Alas, Brad's honey had been consumed but the little colony was starving, with lots of bees in their death throes atop their fallen siblings. I did not have my bee gear with me—duhhh!—so as an immediate intervention, I poured some confectioner's sugar into the hive. That created a lot of excitement. Then I drove home to get my bee gear. I returned and found the bees had cleaned up the sugar, so I poured in some more. But it had become too cold and windy to take the hive outside to work on it, so I checked the forecast for Saturday and powdered the bees again.

The weatherman predicted 50 degrees for Saturday, so my wife and I drove to Bear Branch to salvage honey from one of the apiary's dead hives to feed the observation hive. We recovered 13 medium frames of lovely golden honey. We could have shared some with a hungry neighboring colony, but the fondant was covered with bees so I decided to store the honey for later. We cleaned up the observation hive, put in two medium frames of honey and crossed our fingers that we weren't too late. So, what's the point of this sad story?

*Our bees need our help.* The CCBA is collectively responsible for the bee hives at Hashawa and Bear Branch, so we need to spread the workload for inspecting and managing the hives on a regular basis. This is not a big commitment. We have open-hive days at the apiary scheduled for the second Sunday of each month through October. You could help! In fact, this would be a great hands-on learning opportunity for some of the Short Course students who are not quite ready to start beekeeping this spring. I will discuss this at our April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Bill Troup, our state apiary inspector, gave me his collection of George Imrie's Pink Pages, asking if I could

figure a way to make them generally accessible to our club members. For those who don't know who George Imrie was, let me simply say that he was a passionate beekeeper who got his first honey bees in 1933. In 2005—that's over 70 years later—he was still beekeeping and writing about how vital education is to managing bees in central Maryland. I did some searching and found that a lot of George's Pink Pages are already online. If you are interested in reading them—and you should be—google "George Imrie Pink Pages" and you will find a treasure trove of good information and STRONG opinions about beekeeping. Many thanks to Bill Troup for introducing me to George Imrie and his informative and entertaining Pink Pages.

Apparently, there were four or five CCBA members hovering outside Bear Branch the evening of March 20<sup>th</sup> when the meeting had been moved to Carroll Community College to hear Bill Troup finish up his lecture on swarming and present his Short Course lecture. I apologize to those who made the trip to Bear Branch only to find the building empty. Please check the CCBA website and newsletter for meeting information. Please check with our VP, Larry Fritz, to make sure your correct e-mail address is on the CCBA mailing list. If you are not a computer user, let me or Larry know and we will arrange a method for you to stay informed about CCBA activities. I value your participation and certainly don't want you hovering in the cold and dark outside Bear Branch Nature Center.

Paul Dill talks about raising our own queens at the next CCBA meeting on Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Bear Branch Nature Center. Remember, there'll be cookies.

**FRED SYPHER**

### APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup> MEETING AGENDA

- Old/new business
- Guest speaker Paul Dill – raising local queens

Please sign up for e-mail notification when the newsletter is posted at <http://www.carrollcountybeekeepers.org>. Also, please share your beekeeping experiences with the club by submitting articles/pictures/upcoming events by the last day of each month (for the upcoming month's newsletter) to Stella Fouts at [Newsletter@CarrollCountyBeekeepers.org](mailto:Newsletter@CarrollCountyBeekeepers.org).

I am involved with a spring fund raising campaign for the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society. I plan to sell honey and donate all proceeds to the campaign. The money is used for research for the cure for blood cancers: leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma. My goal is to sell 100 pounds of local honey. If you'd like to contribute any amount of honey, or want details, please contact me at [g7pohlner@gmail.com](mailto:g7pohlner@gmail.com) or 443-271-2047. The campaign runs from April 11 to June 20. Feel free to bring any donations to the club meeting each month. Let's all help take the sting out of blood cancers. Thanks for your consideration and willingness to make a donation for a good cause.

**Gary Pohlner**



### **CCBA Meeting – February 20<sup>th</sup> 2013**

This month's meeting was held in conjunction with the Short Course at Carroll Community College. Bill Troup was the speaker and presenter, which allowed him to finish his presentation from the previous meeting on hive/swarm management. He briefly described the double screen process (to review from last month) and then presented a slideshow on hive management and the various diseases bees can get. Bill reviewed how to treat the various diseases and what he, as a state inspector, looks for when he comes to view hives. It was a very informative lecture that members and students were all able to learn from.

Again, Bill emphasized the importance of registering your bees. An application can be viewed, and downloaded, at <http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Documents/bee-apl.pdf>. Just fill it out and drop it in the mail. It's that easy. Bill will be inspecting in Carroll County this year, so it is important that he have a current list of where bees are in the county.

While Bill encouraged everyone to register their bees, Fred encouraged members to become mentors to the new beekeepers the course has helped create. Anyone interested in becoming a mentor should contact him.

Our next meeting will be held on April 17<sup>th</sup> and we will be back at Bear Branch. Paul Dill will be speaking about raising queens, which is sure to be very interesting and informative.

### **Stephanie Krome**

#### **Beekeeping Anecdotes of Note**

I live in Eldersburg, started keeping bees in 2011 (that was the most adventurous first week of beekeeping I could have ever imagined) and my name is **Anna Poladian-Prior**. Below is an account of something I did with my hives a couple of weeks ago that didn't turn out very well.

I have two hives – an orange and a purple one. The purple one went into the winter with a very small number of bees and a deep box of uncapped nectar. I was worried about it all winter, so to shore it up I kept a patty of bee candy in there just to make sure they would always have *something*. Once the weather warmed up and I was able to move frames, I found the orange hive doing well, still loaded with honey and starting some brood. The purple hive had essentially NO stores in the frames though they still had some bee candy available, but the bees didn't appear to be consuming it very much. The purple hive also had NO brood, not a speck. So I took a medium frame with a little open brood from the orange hive and set it into the purple hive right over the cluster to attract the bees to the brood. I also added some partially filled frames of honey I had saved in the house.

I checked back in a few days, and the purple hive bees were on the brood – obviously caring for it. THEN we had a cold spell of several days where the temperatures dropped into the low 20s and it was very windy. I was afraid that the brood had chilled because the purple hive didn't have a large number of bees it could devote to protecting the brood. I finally was able to check last Friday and found the brood dead. All the open larvae had dried up, and there was emerging brood that appeared to have frozen in place trying to climb out :- ( I gave this frame of dead brood to the stronger hive to clean out and moved two more full honey frames from the stronger hive to the purple hive.

But there is good news! I found two frames with 1/2 side each full of brood in the purple hive. I suspect giving them the honey they really needed is what helped to get them started (they had their own pollen stores).



## Dadant & Sons, Inc. 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

by Allen Hayes

On March 15 and 16, 2013, Dadant & Sons, Inc. of Hamilton Illinois, the world's largest supplier of beekeeping equipment, held a celebration to honor the occasion of their company's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This totally free event was advertised in their magazine, *The American Bee Journal*, and brought out 785 beekeepers – mostly from the Tri State area of Illinois, Iowa and Missouri. The company was founded in 1863 by Charles Dadant, an immigrant from France who came to America to grow grapes and keep bees. The grape business didn't work out so well for him, but the bee business flourished. Today the company is still owned and run by 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> generation Dadants, with several members of the 7<sup>th</sup> generation waiting in the wings, although they are preoccupied with elementary school at the present time.



C. P. Dadant – just *one* of the 7<sup>th</sup> Generation Dadants who came to the meeting

The celebration was a two-day event with Friday allocated for folks to visit three of their plants in and around Hamilton. The metal plant in Dallas City, Illinois is where all of the smokers, extractors and other metal items are made. The candle factory is in Kahoka, Missouri, and the home office and plant is in Hamilton, Illinois. Their wood products are made in Montana and, therefore, they were not on the tour. Photography was not allowed in any of the plants. On Saturday we were treated to an all-day bee meeting.

### **The Metal Plant: Dallas City, Illinois**

My first stop on plant tour day was their metal facility. This is where 19 employees take 16 to 24 gage stainless steel sheet metal then cut, shear, stamp, punch, roll, bead, seam and weld it into just about anything we beekeepers could want.

They were in the process of fabricating a batch of 50 small wax melters. This inventory will last one to two years. It is more efficient to build a group of the same items all at once than to warehouse them until they are sold. We were able to watch as they assembled smokers and learned that they use an actual tapered coil bed spring to make the bellows work. They also make smokers for the Walter T. Kelley Company. In addition to beekeeping equipment, processing equipment for a chocolate company is also made here.

### **The Candle Plant: Kahoka, Missouri**

My next stop was the candle plant about one hour's drive from Dallas City, across the Mississippi River in Kahoka, Missouri. At this location, 45 employees turn out the prettiest and fanciest candles you can imagine. Their carved and painted religious candles are the nicest you'll find anywhere. OK, I admit that you either have to get married or die to get me in a church, but these candles are the nicest I have ever seen. The Catholic Church requires all of their religious candles to be at least 51% beeswax, thus becoming Dadant's biggest customer, which makes for a very stable customer base.

The plant uses three million pounds of paraffin per year in addition to a boat load of beeswax. The largest candle they make is 4" diameter x 58" long and sells for \$675.00. They also make many paraffin-only candles for the consumer market.



### **The Home office & Plant: Hamilton Illinois**

My last stop on the Friday tour was the home office located on the east bank of the Mississippi River. The business has been in this location since it was moved there from the family farm in 1924. Next to the parking lot, they maintain a small apiary that is used for research and development.

The bees were flying the day we were there and I don't think anyone worries about them finding a water source.

This day was sort of like being on a road rally where you drive your car from place to place and stop at pre-determined check points along the way. It occurred to me that for some unknown reason I was seeing the same faces at every stop. Somebody might think they were being followed. Not me, thank goodness, but somebody might.

On the guided tour, we were shown some of the wax foundation machines where a sheet of wax is embossed with the familiar hex cell shapes and wires are embedded. We were taken to a room where 250,000 pounds of wax was stored awaiting processing into candles and foundation. We were also shown a machine that automatically assembles 7,000 wooden frames per day. They run two 12 hour shifts on this machine and they operate another one just like it at their Montana facility. At one point we were turned over to Joe Gramm, editor of *The American Bee Journal*, who gave us a tour of their library. Here we could see arguably the largest and most complete collection of historical beekeeping books in existence. The library is also home to a large collection of smokers including many over 100 years old. Among this collection of significant books, they have every edition of *The Hive and the Honey Bee* (originally published by Rev. L. L. Langstroth in 1853) and every edition of *The ABC and XYZ of Bee Culture* (originally published as *The ABC of Bee Culture* by A. I. Root in 1877).

People who called in orders ahead of time for pick-up, like I did, were directed to a semi-trailer loaded with boxes that were just for pick-up at this event. A single path down the center provided access. All of the orders were well organized and handed to waiting customers promptly.

## Sullivan Auction Site: Hamilton, Illinois

On Friday evening we were invited to dinner at a spacious auction house in Hamilton. The food was quite good and with six serving lines, the large crowd was served in relatively short order. Dinner was followed with a talk by the ever popular Dr. Jim Tew. Nobody can keep a group of beekeepers laughing like he can.

Saturday Morning began with coffee and a huge stack of doughnuts. The program included first-class talks by Randy Oliver, Jerry Hayes and Jim Tew. Other presentations covered marketing hive products, outfitting a honey house, raising queens and making nucs. They gave a lot of door prizes away throughout the day and an outstanding lunch was provided, too. At one point Tim Dadant asked the crowd, "How many of you were here for the 100<sup>th</sup>?" This is no small feat considering that event was held in 1963. The gentleman sitting on my left raised his hand as did several others in the room. This gentleman's name is Leroy Roberts and he has worked for Dadant since 1951. He told me that he has done every job in the plant that there is and has trained scores of employees. Today, at age 80, he works a five hour shift every day. I had been wondering about something, so I asked Leroy this question: In 1971, when I began keeping bees, I would order bee equipment from the Montgomery Ward catalog. But like most things sold by Wards, there were no manufacturer's labels on the items to identify who they were made by. Did Dadant provide bee equipment for them? His response was yes, they supplied not only Montgomery Ward but also Sears and Roebuck at the time.

The event ended when they gave away a Dadant Ranger Extractor to one lucky participant. The Dadant family was very grateful that so many beekeepers came to their event. They thanked us repeatedly for coming and for supporting their company over the years. It was as well organized a bee event as I have ever attended. Just in case you are wondering which part of this very unique celebration was my personal favorite, it was without question being allowed to see the Dadant Library.

\*\*\*

Please note that **CCBA's May Open Hive Demonstration at Hashawa Apiary will be on Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, from 11 – 1.** This is a great hands-on learning opportunity for those of you who are still contemplating getting your own bees. However, if the weather prediction calls for rain/temperatures below 55 degrees, there will be no demonstration.

\*\*\*

**The Bee Informed Partnership**, a joint project among numerous universities and laboratories, is a project whose aim is to help beekeepers make better management decisions and thus reduce colony losses. To do this effectively, they need beekeepers, lots of beekeepers, to participate in their survey. They are asking you to please participate in two surveys. Both surveys are open only from 29 March through 15 April 2013. You can learn more about the Bee Informed Partnership at [beeinformed.org](http://beeinformed.org). To participate, click on the link at <http://10.selectsurvey.net/beeinformed/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=BIP2012>. The winter loss survey should take less than 5 minutes and the management survey should take less than 20 minutes.

\*\*\*

### CCBA 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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

Treasurer Jody King [kingbees@starpower.net](mailto:kingbees@starpower.net)

Secretary Stephanie Krome [skrome@gmail.com](mailto:skrome@gmail.com)

*The Carroll Bee* Editor Stella Fouts [mfouts@carr.org](mailto:mfouts@carr.org)



Stella Fouts, editor

