

# CARROLL COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

## THE CARROLL BEE

[thecarrollbee.org](http://thecarrollbee.org)

DEC 2012/JAN 2013

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, this is another fine fix I've gotten myself into. I was looking forward to at least another year working with Rich Boger, our club president, but fate presented Rich with an offer he could not refuse—the opportunity to live in Florida, something he has wanted to do for many years. I wish him luck and good fortune. Rich did a great job as president for the last few years and he will be missed.

As we enter the New Year with a new president (me), and new vice president (Larry Fritz), our first big order of business is getting organized for the spring short course, which starts on February 20<sup>th</sup>. I will discuss the short course at the meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup>, but I would like those of you who are interested in presenting a portion of the course to think about it now and be ready at the January meeting to volunteer. Last year we had three new presenters who did a great job for us. Remember, you don't have to be an expert presenter, just be interested in sharing your knowledge with the soon-to-be beekeepers. We'll also need volunteers to help with administrative functions during the classes. These short courses are one of the best ways we have to get more people interested in beekeeping in Carroll County. Your help, in any capacity, will be greatly appreciated.

The next challenge is lining up speakers for our meetings. Inasmuch as this year will most likely have the same seasons as last year—spring, summer, fall, and winter, we will make every effort to have timely and informative presentations to help you and your bees through the seasons. To this end, I am looking for suggestions on topics that will appeal to our club members. If you have ideas, or specific topics you want discussed, please be ready to shout them out at the January meeting.

I look forward to 2013, and I hope the Carroll County Beekeepers Association will meet your needs and expectations in the New Year. Most importantly, CCBA can be successful only if we all participate in some way. This will be a busy year, but I believe 2013 will be another good year for us. I look forward to seeing you, and hearing from you, at the next meeting.

**Fred Sypher**

### WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING WITH MY BEES?



If the weather is nice, fifty degrees or higher and no wind, pop the top of your hives and take a look to see how the bees are doing. The cluster should be near, or at the top of, the upper frames. Inspect to see if the frames next to the cluster have any honey stores. If not, emergency feed with sugar directly on top of the frames or use fondant. Once you start feeding, you must continue to feed until the bees are able to bring in their own pollen and nectar. Check the entrance to be sure dead bees are not blocking it. Keep the hive entrance clear. This is also a good time to clean and repair old equipment (and to order and build new) to get ready for spring – it just might come early this year. It is also a good time to do some reading about beekeeping.

### JANUARY 16<sup>TH</sup> MEETING AGENDA

Old/new business

Guest Speaker Bill Troup – *A Slideshow Down Memory Lane*

To help keep costs down, and keep *The Carroll Bee* green, please sign up for e-mail delivery of the newsletter. Also, please share your beekeeping experiences with the club by submitting articles/pictures each month to Stella Fouts at [mfouts@carr.org](mailto:mfouts@carr.org) or contacting Fred Sypher at [frsy4@starpower.net](mailto:frsy4@starpower.net).

## BEEKEEPING NEWS OF NOTE



**The Maryland State Beekeepers Association** winter meeting is February 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM @ Howard County Fairground. Speaker: Dr. David Golden, Johns Hopkins, world expert on insect sting allergy.

**The Carroll Community College Short Course *Beekeeping Basics*** will be taught by CCBA at the Washington Road campus from February 20<sup>th</sup> to March 20<sup>th</sup> in room K100A – four Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 PM – and culminate with a hands-on lab at the Hashawha Apiary on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, from 9 to noon. Volunteers are needed.

### CCBA Meeting – November 2012

The potluck dinner, and last meeting for 2012, were successful despite our inadvertently displacing the Carroll County Astronomy Club. Our decision to move the November meeting up a week unknowingly put us in contention for the Bear Branch meeting area. The Astronomy Club members graciously ceded their space and politely passed on the desserts we offered as compensation. More for us! The desserts were delicious, as were the other dishes. A sincere thank you is extended to those who brought the food.

Tradition marks our last meeting of the year as a social gathering, but Club rules require that we also hold elections for club officers for the



upcoming year. With Rich Boger heading to Florida, we needed a nomination for president. Fred Sypher was nominated and approved by acclamation. That left the vice presidency vacant. Larry Fritz was nominated and approved. Jody King continues as the treasurer and Stephanie Krome continues as secretary. The club officers for 2013 are in place and the club schedule is filling up quickly.

As I type this article the first snowfall of winter is blanketing the woods, and I wonder what surprises the weather will bring us in 2013. Will spring be early and warm or late and cold? Will this summer be wet or dry? We won't know until it happens but as beekeepers, we'll have to accommodate. To help, we'll have monthly CCBA meetings during which you have opportunities to learn and share. Hope to see you there. Don't forget, there are cookies, too!

Happy New Year!

**Fred Sypher**

Please consider mentoring new beekeepers from the Short Course whether you started keeping bees recently or many years ago. You are a valuable asset to the club, and to new beekeepers, and we'd like you to help them as they start their own beekeeping adventure. Those of you with less experience can tap into the knowledge and experience of older CCBA members as you mentor the newer people – a win-win situation for everyone! Sign up as a mentor at the meeting/call Fred Sypher at 410-857-9876.

*Stella Fouts, editor*

### CCBA 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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