

# CARROLL COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

## THE CARROLL BEE

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

JUNE 2013

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Maryland has a wealth of geographic features including ocean beaches, eastern shore plains, a piedmont and lovely mountains. We also have four distinct seasons with all the glories that attend them. We who live here are fortunate, but things are changing. Drum fish overwintered in the Chesapeake Bay and ate so many small blue crabs that the predictions for this year's crab harvest are dire. A lot of our honeybee colonies did not make it through the winter and package and nuc providers have been unable to fulfill orders, including ours. Spring was long and chilly with a sudden snap to 90 plus temperatures. We, as individuals, have few opportunities to change these things with the notable exception of the honeybees.

We all have honeybees on our properties for various reasons, and we take it personally when something goes wrong with our colonies. Something we *can* do as individuals is learn more about honeybees and what the apiary scientists are working on. A good opportunity is the MSBA summer conference which convenes on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at the University of Maryland in College Park. I know the usual suspects from CCBA will attend, but there are lots of chairs in the conference hall and everybody is welcome. I encourage you to carpool down and listen to what's being done to help us help our bees.

Another opportunity is the general discussions at the regular CCBA meetings. Our meetings are a goldmine of local beekeeping lore, fact, opinion, and bull, some of which may be very valuable and all of it is worth hearing. At the meeting in May we circled the chairs and opened the floor for questions and, as usual, we had five or six conversations going on at once. That is how information transfer is supposed to work – people talking to people, asking questions, engaged in educating and learning. We, as early twenty-first century beekeepers, are in the midst of trying times, but while we may not be able to help the Chesapeake Bay blue crabs this season, we can improve the lot of our Central Maryland honeybees by becoming better informed and hearing about the latest techniques and methods for beekeeping in Maryland. Come to the MSBA meeting in June. You won't regret it.

**FRED SYPHER**

### CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

07/27/13 Carroll Co 4-H Fair Carroll Co Ag Center  
07/28/13 Carroll Co 4-H Fair Carroll Co Ag Center  
07/29/13 Carroll Co 4-H Fair Carroll Co Ag Center  
07/30/13 Carroll Co 4-H Fair Carroll Co Ag Center  
07/31/13 Carroll Co 4-H Fair Carroll Co Ag Center

### UPCOMING BEEKEEPING EVENTS

**6/15: 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM** [MSBA Spring 2013 Meeting at Univ. of Maryland College Park](#)

**6/19: 7:30 PM** CCBA General Meeting at Bear Branch Nature Center

**7/27 – 7/31:** Carroll County 4-H Fair

**8/5 – 8/9:** [Eastern Apicultural Society 2013 Conference](#)



### JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup> MEETING AGENDA

Old/new business

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 will end June 20. Feel free to bring any donations to the club meeting. 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 – May 15<sup>th</sup> 2013**

We had a new seating arrangement upon entering this month's meeting to better accommodate the round-table discussion. To begin, Fred informed us about the club's old and new business. At the board meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup>, members decided that a one day introductory beekeeping course held in October or November could be a good way to get new members. He also informed us that there will be an article in the Carroll County Times, possibly in the Neighborhoods section that serves the Manchester area, about local beekeepers. If you see it, please let us know so we can share the article with other members! Fred reviewed the club's financial report and let us know that we have 113 members! Brad made an announcement that he will be looking for volunteers for the Carroll County 4H Fair (which begins the last Saturday of July) and for the Westminster Fall Fest (held in late September). Volunteers will also be needed for our Pollinator Fest, which will be held in conjunction with the Monarch Festival on September 15. Fred gave us an update on the club's hives. One of the colonies in the bee yard is doing very well, while the other is struggling. The observation hive has made great progress from this winter, so it is doing well now! Volunteers will also be needed on or around June 1 to distribute packages that Short Course attendees purchased.

Before getting into the round-table discussion, members discussed the website in more detail. Pete informed us that the website now has a [forum](#) and a [blog](#). You will need to create an account to post on them, but these tools should be great for sharing information and ideas! Members decided that adding a page for classifieds would be beneficial to members as well as people who may want to buy beekeeping equipment, local bees or honey. Pete will work on getting that page added.

The round-table portion of the meeting proved to be very informative. We discussed the usage of brood comb for honey, using frozen honey at a later date, how long to use comb, what makes good smoker fuel, the benefits of smoking, when the point of no return is for packages, burr comb and small hive beetles. A lot of great ideas were shared and, as we often joke about, there were about as many ideas as beekeepers!

To close out the meeting, two door prizes were raffled off courtesy of Anna and Connie.

**Stephanie Krome**



### **Beekeeping Anecdotes of Note**

This is a photo of a swarm removal on May 22<sup>nd</sup> from the front yard of house on Gist Road in Westminster. The bees were on a new tree branch and top of the support post. I sprayed them with sugar water and gently tapped them off the branch and into the bucket. I used the bee brush to sweep the rest of the bees off the support post and into the bucket. I had to do this about five times to collect most of them. After they were in the bucket, I dumped them into a hive box with five frames. One frame had capped honey that kept them busy. The hive box was on a screened bottom board and covered with a ventilated inner cover. I strapped them up for the ride home. They make a nice addition to my hive stand and are enjoying the nectar flow.

The owner took photos and watched with amazement with her young children. I gave them a bottle of honey and thanked them for saving the bees. I also gave them our website and encouraged them to take the Short Course to learn more about honeybees.

**Gary Pohlner**

My name is **Katy Evans**. I am a graduate student at the University of Delaware under Dr. Deborah Delaney. I am currently working on a Master's degree and my project focuses on helping the local beekeeping community reduce and better manage mite populations and varroa vectored viruses in a non-chemical fashion. Specifically, I will be testing the efficacy of splitting and swarming of hives to keep mites below harmful levels while increasing the overall colony survivorship. If effective this strategy will be developed into an IPM practice for beekeepers in the mid-Atlantic region and it will greatly benefit the beekeeping community in that it will reduce the amount of time and costs beekeepers must spend on varroa control treatments and alleviate the need for additional control tactics. I will be hosting field days, training sessions, and creating web-based and printed material to share my data and IPM practices with the local beekeeping community. To better design the IPM practices, it is important to know how many beekeepers currently treat for mites, and I have composed a survey to find out the strategies beekeepers are using to control for mites. I have uploaded a survey to the UDEL sponsored survey website Qualtrics [https://delaware.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_6Sxa0ON8nGm80Lj](https://delaware.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_6Sxa0ON8nGm80Lj), and would greatly appreciate it if you would participate.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me and I will be happy to answer them.

I appreciate your help,

**Katy Ciola Evans**

386-216-2418 [kciola@udel.edu](mailto:kciola@udel.edu)



**Julia Glendenning**

Thank you for your May newsletter. I really appreciated the "New Beekeeper Checklist." It is very helpful!!! I ordered my bees last year and they never came. I ordered from a larger company this year and they were delayed, but they *did* arrive. My bee mentor Rich Boger walked me through, over the phone, how to put the bees in the hive. It has been almost a year since my family took the course

given by the club. I had confidence because of the open hive demonstration and hands-on participation the club gave to us at Hashawa Apiary last year.

So, Thank you for all the club does to help teach beekeeping techniques.

**Julia, Gavin and Marell Glendenning**



## Basic Honeybee Facts

(Courtesy of [2 Cs and a Bee Beekeepers' Association](#))

### Pollination

Agriculture depends greatly on the honeybee for pollination. Honeybees account for 80% of all insect pollination. Without such pollination, we would see a significant decrease in the yield of fruits and vegetables.

### Pollen

Bees collect 66 lbs of pollen per year, per hive. Pollen is the male germ cells produced by all flowering plants for fertilization and plant embryo formation. The Honeybee uses pollen as a food. Pollen is one of the richest and purest natural foods, consisting of up to 35% protein, 10% sugars, carbohydrates, enzymes, minerals, and vitamins A (carotenes), B1 (thiamin), B2 (riboflavin), B3 (nicotinic acid), B5 (panothenic acid), C (ascorbic acid), H (biotin), and R (rutine).

### Honey

Honey is used by the bees for food all year round. There are many types, colors and flavors of honey, depending upon it's nectar source. The bees make honey from the nectar they collect from flowering trees and plants. Honey is an easily digestible, pure food. Honey is hydroscopic and has antibacterial qualities. Eating local honey can fend off allergies.

### Beeswax

Secreted from glands, beeswax is used by the honeybee to build honey comb. It is used by humans in drugs, cosmetics, artists' materials, furniture polish and candles.

### Propolis

Collected by honeybees from trees, the sticky resin is mixed with wax to make a sticky glue. The bees use this to seal cracks and repair their hive. It is used by humans as a health aid, and as the basis for fine wood varnishes.

### Royal Jelly

The powerful, milky substance that turns an ordinary bee into a Queen Bee. It is made of digested pollen and honey or nectar mixed with a chemical secreted from a gland in a nursing bee's head. It commands premium prices rivaling imported caviar, and is used by some as a dietary supplement and fertility stimulant. It is loaded with all of the B vitamins.

### Bee Venom

The "ouch" part of the honeybee. Although sharp pain and some swelling and itching are natural reactions to a honeybee sting or most, a small percentage of individuals are highly allergic to bee venom. "Bee venom therapy" is widely practiced overseas and by some in the USA to address health problems such as arthritis, neuralgia, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and even MS.

*Stella Fouts, editor*

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