

CARROLL COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

THE CARROLL BEE

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

MARCH 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Good news! The 2013 Spring Short Course has ushered 50 people into the world of beekeeping and if their questions are any indication, their interest level is high. The Short Course is the main way we recruit new beekeepers for the club, so it's important that we don't abandon them after the class. Those who are ready to get bees this spring will need mentors to help them get their colonies off to a good start. That's where you come in. Yes, we have master beekeepers in the club, but they can't mentor all of our rookies. So I encourage you to become one of our mentors. And if right now you're thinking "Well, I'm busy and I don't know if I'm qualified as a mentor and my wood pile needs straightening out and..." Yes, I agree. Your wood pile is important. Straighten it out, then put your name on the mentor list. We are not asking you to become solely responsible for the success of a new beekeeper. We need you as a resource to help someone who will soon be as puzzled and curious as you once were about the daily ins and outs of beekeeping such as, "I have hundreds of bees all over the front of the hive! What should I do?"

As a mentor, your primary task will be to reassure the new beekeeper that what's happening in their hives is normal, to offer your experience as a possible solution if needed and to get help from one of our master beekeepers if you think there's a serious problem. We rarely have serious problems, so I'm certain your beekeeping experience will prove more than adequate.

Beekeeping today is certainly more complex than it was 30 years ago, and there's no way to teach new beekeepers everything they should know in a ten-hour Short Course. As beekeepers, our mission is to help our honeybees prosper. As a mentor, your mission is to help a new beekeeper prosper. If you have managed colonies through a winter or two you are, by general acclamation, an experienced beekeeper. Congratulations! And now, as an experienced beekeeper, you are entitled to opinions about how to manage bees. Here's your chance to express those hard-earned opinions with someone who is eager to learn and will listen attentively to what you have to say about bees. It's not difficult; you just have to be a beekeeper who likes to talk about bees. Does that sound familiar? I thought so. Sign up to be a mentor; you'll have fun.

The March 20th meeting of the CCBA will be at 7:30 PM in room K-100 at the Carroll Community College where Bill Troup, our state apiary inspector, will talk to the Short Course (and the CCBA) about recognizing and treating bee colony problems he sees in the course of his inspections. Join us and meet our aspiring new beekeepers.

The April 17th meeting of the CCBA will be back at Bear Branch. Paul Dill will visit us from the Eastern Shore to talk about raising local queens.

FRED SYPHER

WANTED: MENTORS The current participants of the Short Course will need mentors after the class has been completed. We have all been where these students will be, so we know the excitement, and anxiety, of raising the first hive of bees. Please e-mail me at ggunther1@comcast.net if you are willing to help continue the participants' education after the Short Course ends. I will try to match you with people who live in your general area. Thanks.

Chris Gunther

**MARCH 20TH CCBA MEETING
TO BE HELD AT
CARROLL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ROOM K100A
7:30 PM**

**IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SHORT COURSE
BEEKEEPING BASICS
Guest speaker Bill Troup: Recognizing and Treating
Bee Colony Problems**

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 or 443-271-2047. 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

REQUIRED BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT

Allen Hayes 410-489-2835
thehayeshouse4@aol.com

For each colony the first year you will need

1 screened bottom board or regular bottom board with screened insert
1 inner cover
1 telescopic outer cover
1 entrance reducer
Nails for frames and other woodenware
Waterproof glue
Exterior paint
Feeder jar & "old" deep hive body to surround it

Bee bucket containing

Smoker
Smoker fuel (dry pine needles)
Kitchen matches
Standard Hive tool
Veil
Long gauntlet gloves

either
Mediums (Illinois, 6-5/8")

3 medium (Illinois) hive bodies
30 medium frames
30 sheets medium foundation

or
Deeps (9-5/8")

2 deep hive bodies
20 deep frames
20 sheets deep foundation

Deeps are **very heavy** to lift. It is cheaper to buy 2 deeps than 3 mediums and there are less parts to assemble. When looking for the queen you need only look on 20 frames not 30.

Mediums are lighter to lift than deeps. It costs more to buy 3 mediums than 2 deeps and there are 30 frames to search when looking for the queen. But they can also be used for honey supers and frames can be interchanged from brood chambers to the honey supers. If you are just starting I **strongly** recommend using only mediums for brood chambers and honey supers.

Package Bee and Nuc Suppliers 2013

prepared by **Allen Hayes**

- **Busy B Mark Baker** 304-671-3562 605 Diamond Ave. Martinsburg, WV (nucs and packages) Markbusyb@aol.com
- **Highland Honey & Apiaries Inc. Jim Fraser** 301-518-9678 (nucs and packages) 24228 Club View Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20882 jfraser71@aol.com
- **Jason Hough** 443-962-7226 Mt. Airy, MD (packages) expected delivery 3-16-2013* wcf.jason@gmail.com
- **Dennis Miller** 410-335-3424 Baltimore, MD (packages) millerbeesupplies.com beeveil@hotmail.com
- **Free State Bees Dave & Laura Polk** 301-580-9313 Waldorf, MD (packages) freestatebees@gmail.com
- **David Reese** 301-428-0176 Call before 8 PM Germantown, MD (nucs) no email
- **Snyder's Apiaries** 410-329-6671 White Hall, MD (packages) SnydersApiaries@zoominternet.net
- **Steve McDaniel** 443-507-6367 Manchester, MD (nucs and packages) steve@mcdanielphotography.com

*This early delivery date may not be suitable for beginning beekeepers with only foundation and no drawn comb yet. A later delivery date when the temperatures are warmer so the bees can produce wax is probably better.



Is Beekeeping Right for Me?

Master beekeeper Allen Hayes was a guest speaker at the Mount Airy Branch of the Carroll County Public Library on Monday, March 6th. He talked about the fun, exciting and rewarding occupation of beekeeping. He explained to the group why the honeybee is so important to our survival. He also talked about the basics of bee biology, their perfect society and the equipment needed to get started keeping honeybees. The group was attentive and asked good questions, so there's an excellent chance that many of them will go on to become fellow beekeepers.



Honey vs. Sugar – What are the Differences?*

Both sweeteners contain glucose and fructose. However, in the process of sugar manufacturing, the organic acids, protein, nitrogen elements, enzymes and vitamins in the sugar cane are destroyed. In contrast honey requires little, if any, processing, thus ensuring retention of certain beneficial antioxidant and antimicrobial properties.

Honey Nutrition Facts

One tablespoon of table sugar or sucrose contains 46 calories, while one tablespoon of natural sweetener honey has 64 calories. Though honey may have more calories, we actually need to use less of it since it is sweeter than table sugar. As a result, we may in fact consume even fewer calories than we would with sugar. So in the long run, even though honey is more expensive, it may be more economical than table sugar.

Table sugar is sucrose, which is made up of two molecules bonded together. When we eat table sugar, our stomach has to use its own enzymes to separate the molecules apart before we can use the sugar's energy. Honey is quite different. The bees have added a special enzyme to the nectar that divides the sucrose into glucose and fructose – two simple sugars our bodies can absorb directly. Hence honey, versus sugar, has a healthier Glycemic Index (GI), which measures the negative impact of a given food on the blood-glucose level. The lower the GI rating, the slower the absorption and infusion of sugars into the bloodstream will be, resulting in a more gradual and healthier digestion process.

Unlike honey, table sugar lacks minerals and vitamins (it's often been called empty calories). Consuming empty calories promotes obesity, malnutrition and other health-related problems. So the message is this: Honey is a smarter choice – for maintaining your weight *and* your health.

And even though both honey and sugar are sweet, honey's unique flavor is far superior. You can count on it.

*Article (modified) by Reinhold Sommerstedt courtesy of Dann Finch. (Thank you, Dann.)



CCBA - IMPORTANT UPDATES

The Carroll Community College Short Course ***Beekeeping Basics*** is being taught by CCBA at the CCC Washington Road campus through March 20th in room K100A from 7:30 to 9:30 PM.

CCBA Membership Dues If you haven't paid the \$15 Family membership fee, or the \$150 Life membership fee, it is now OVERDUE. Please pay the fee at the next meeting or mail a check payable to CCBA to

Jody King
1435 Uniontown Rd.
Westminster, Md. 21158

CCBA Meeting – February 20th 2013

This month's meeting was called to order by Vice President Larry Fritz as Fred and some of our members were at Carroll Community College teaching the Beginners' Beekeeping course. Although he could not attend, Fred sent some notes along with Larry. The notes included members sharing their beekeeping experiences at the State Beekeepers Association meeting last Friday, an encouragement for members to participate in [University of Maryland's Bee Informed](#) program and a reminder about the [Eastern Apicultural Society's](#) conference in August. Members were informed that Steve McDaniel has nucs for sale and Jodie is selling raffle tickets for \$5 each in conjunction with the Short Course. Our member, Gary, is looking for donations of honey to sell as part of a fundraiser for the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society. Any donations can be brought to the March meeting.

The club is looking for a member to serve as a liaison between the Carroll County Beekeepers Association and the Farm Bureau. By having a member involved with the Farm Bureau, we can participate in their events to inform more people about beekeeping and learn about pesticides used in the area. Anyone interested in volunteering should let Fred know.

The April meeting's speaker will be Paul Dill, and he will speak about queen rearing.

After Larry informed us of the goings-on, Bill Troup continued his presentation from last month. He had more great handouts to share with members and, once again, encouraged us all to register our bees. Bill also encouraged members to subscribe to either [Bee Culture](#) or the [American Bee Journal](#) (both can be checked out at the Westminster library) to keep up-to-date on what is happening in apiculture.

This time of year, bees have eaten through most of their stores of honey and are probably in the top box beginning to lay eggs and raise brood. As a result of the increased activity within the hive, March is a prime month for starvation in the hive, so carefully watch your bees and start starvation feeding if needed. Bill then showed members methods of requeening, which can best be described through the handouts. If you were unable to attend the meeting, we can get copies of them for you. Or you can watch, listen and learn because Larry video-recorded all of Bill's speech.

Stephanie Krome

To help keep costs down, and keep *The Carroll Bee* green, please sign up for e-mail notification when the newsletter is posted to CCBA's website 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.

Galanthus nivalis harbinger of spring

CCBA 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Stella Fouts, editor



