

THE CARROLL BEE

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

SEPTEMBER 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September is the cruelest month, not April, as Robert Burns famously wrote. A lot of Maryland's fairs and fests are crowded into September. The weather's fine, the farmers' labors have borne fruit (and vegetables) and the kids are in a new school year. Yes, it's a busy month. For Carroll County Beekeepers, there's something happening nearly every weekend. The 8th is an open hive session at Hashawa. The 15th is the Pollinator Fest at Bear Branch. The 21st is the Honey Harvest at the Patuxent Wildlife Center. The 28th is the Fall Fest in downtown Westminster, and, of course, we have our regular meeting on the 18th.

As we can see, the month of September is a great opportunity for us to meet people interested in honeybees and maybe interested enough to become a beekeeper. We can talk up the introductory course in October, the Short Course in February, the club meetings each month and the general benefits of keeping bees. Usually the same club members do the setup, staff the booth, sell the honey and do all the talking about bees. But we have 130 people in our club, so a lot of our members are missing out on these interesting events. I believe everyone should have the opportunity to join in the fun! So let me present you with the upcoming opportunities.

September 8th at the Hashawa Apiary – A group of Daisy Girl Scouts will be there around noon because they want to learn more about the importance of honey bees. It would help if a couple of CCBA beekeepers who have not volunteered before could help answer questions from the Girl Scouts. It will only take an hour or so.

September 15th Pollinator Fest at Bear Branch Nature Center – The Monarch Madness and the Honey Fest are combined this year into one event that lasts from noon to four o'clock. We need volunteers to staff the booth, other CCBA members to

introduce visitors to our little colony in the observation hive and to talk about bees at 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30, and others to hang around the apiary from noon to four to educate people about bee hives and beekeeping. Contact me (Fred Sypher) at 443-564-3496 if you can spare an hour or two to help out.

September 18th Club Meeting – As usual, everyone is cordially invited to attend and participate in the discussions.

September 21st Honey Harvest at the Patuxent Wildlife Center – This is a major commitment. This event runs from 8am to 5pm and can be rather busy. Volunteers are needed for specific activities and demos such as open hive, candle making, honey extraction, sales and generally answering questions about beekeeping. If you can help, contact Steve McDaniel at 443-507-6367.

September 28th and 29th Westminster Fall Fest – Brad Criddle is our organizer for this event. He needs people who will spend a couple of hours staffing the booth, selling honey and answering questions about bees. Contact Brad Criddle at 410-935-7260 if you can help.

How hard is it to volunteer at these events? Well, it can be tiring to stand for a couple of hours and answer some of the same questions over and over, but the delighted reactions you get when people learn a fascinating fact about honeybees makes the aches go away. Being a beekeeper today is special. There are far fewer beekeepers in America now than just a couple of decades ago, and a lot of people are very interested in you and your bees. So come out and join in.

Now, I saved the best part for last. When you participate in one of these events, you get to talk nothing but beekeeping for hours and hours on end with other club members. It's great! We always learn new tricks and techniques, and best of all . . . nobody ever says, "That's enough talk about bees."

Fred Sypher

SEPTEMBER 18TH MEETING AGENDA

Old/new business

CCBA Meeting – August 21, 2013

Fred called our August meeting to order and, since there was no old business to discuss, we moved right into new business.

Jody gave an update on the club's financials and told us that we are in good shape financially. We also received an update on the club's four hives that Dave has been helping with. They are doing well although one hive was vandalized. As a result, Fred will be getting signs to put up in the apiary. Brad gave a report on the very successful fair week in which we sold *a lot* of honey. We were able to cover the cost of the booth and educate many people on beekeeping!

Don't forget that the Pollinator Festival will be held on Sunday, September 15th, from 12-4 PM. If you would like to volunteer, we will have a booth and the demo hive there. Volunteers are also needed for the Honey Harvest Festival on September 21st at the Patuxent Wildlife Center. This is an all-day event and many volunteers are needed. Please contact Steve McDaniel if you are interested in helping out! Another volunteer opportunity is on October 12th from 10-2 for our Intro to Beekeeping Class. Volunteering at the class is a great way to prepare for the short course which will be in February again. Coming up at the end of September is the Westminster Fall Festival on September 28th and 29th. This is an all-day event on both days, so we will need a lot of volunteers to man the booth. Contact Brad if you are interested.

After discussing new business, Larry talked about his experiences at the EAS Meeting at the beginning of August. He took a number of core classes and learned a lot of valuable information about managing your hives (but not over managing!), pest management and much more. If you want to check out some of the presentations, many will be posted on the Eastern Apiculture Society's website.

Following Larry sharing his experiences, Fred reviewed fall management of bees. Now is the time to prepare for winter, so you should be feeding your bees. In order to survive winter, a hive needs 60-80 pounds of food stored (one full medium is 30-35 pounds). While discussing fall management, we talked about nosema and whether or not to treat for it (as usual, opinions varied!) and discussed different types of queens.

Stephanie Krome



Julia Glendenning manning the CCBA Booth at the Carroll County 4-H Fair

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.

CATCH THE BUZZ

New Pesticide Labels Will Better Protect Bees and Other Pollinators

WASHINGTON – In an ongoing effort to protect bees and other pollinators, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed new pesticide labels that prohibit use of some neonicotinoid pesticide products where bees are present.

“Multiple factors play a role in bee colony declines, including pesticides. The Environmental Protection Agency is taking action to protect bees from pesticide exposure and these label changes will further our efforts,” said Jim Jones, assistant administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention.

The new labels will have a bee advisory box and icon with information on routes of exposure and spray drift precautions. Today’s announcement affects products containing the neonicotinoids imidacloprid, dinotefuran, clothianidin and thiamethoxam. The EPA will work with pesticide manufacturers to change labels so that they will meet the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) safety standard.

In May, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and EPA released a comprehensive scientific report on honey bee health, showing scientific consensus that there are a complex set of stressors associated with honey bee declines, including loss of habitat, parasites and disease, genetics, poor nutrition and pesticide exposure.

The agency continues to work with beekeepers, growers, pesticide applicators, pesticide and seed companies, and federal and state agencies to reduce pesticide drift dust and advance best management practices. The EPA recently released new enforcement guidance to federal, state and tribal enforcement officials to enhance investigations of beekill incidents.

More on the EPA’s label changes and pollinator protection efforts:

<http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/ecosystem/pollinator/index.html>

View the infographic on EPA’s new bee advisory box:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ecosystem/pollinator/bee-label-info-graphic.pdf>

Kim Flottum

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Brad Criddle and **Gary Pohlner** demonstrated honey extraction at the Maryland State Fair. Brad and audience member spin honey frames in the extractor.

Award-winning Honey Display

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Stella Fouts, editor



