

The Bee Cause



Volume 12, Issue 8

November 2015

Next general meeting is 7:30 Tuesday, 10 November 2015 at the **The Elmwood Legion 920 Narin avenue , Winnipeg.**

Speaker: Last meeting before the New Year.

November will be the usual gadget night, updates on the RRAA beeyard project, urban beekeeping and comments on wintering at this time Nov., any last minute question before freeze up!

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It is always a pleasure and of great interest to hear and read of the innovative beekeeping endeavours of local apiculturists. Here is another study from south-eastern Manitoba with the intent to understand the ins and outs of the Top Bar Hive. It is apart of a two part document. I know you will enjoy.

Experiences with a Top Bar Hive

by David Dawson

Introduction. This year (2014) a beginner that I have been mentoring wanted to have a Top Bar Hive (TBH). Although I tried and tried to discourage her she was determined to go ahead. She lent me a book about TBH beekeeping from which I latched onto two possible positive features. These were, firstly, since the bees make all their own natural comb one does not use manufactured foundation that could include accumulated agricultural chemicals. And secondly, the natural cell size is 4.9 mm as opposed to the 5.3 mm commonly used by commercial foundation manufacturers. The 4.9 mm cell size is said to shorten the time from egg to emergence by a few hours and also to hinder the development of varroa mites.

To satisfy my curiosity I decided to make a TBH so we could test it out together.

Design. Unlike Langstroth or National hives there is no standard TBH size or design. You can find many different shapes and sizes on the internet/You Tube but none of those seemed to fit my ideas. Considering brood area, possible honey crops and many other factors I came up with what could be called a hybrid design. Essentially I made the length of the TBH to be the same as two Langstroth honey supers side-by side and the width to be the same as the length of a Langstroth super. Thus if we had a big honey flow (highly likely) two queen ex-

cluders and two supers would fit perfectly on top of the TBH. This necessitated making the top bars themselves narrower in the middle so the bees could get up into the supers. The narrow top bars then needed an inner cover under the roof, and an old canvas sack fitted perfectly.

Photo 1



The side walls of the hive body itself were

at 15 degrees (said to be more than adequate) and the depth of the hive calculated such that each TBH comb when drawn down was equivalent to one Langstroth brood comb. There was space for 21 bars as well as a half-bar at each end. The idea for the half-bar was that it could be easily removed to facilitate getting the first comb out. I made three entrances – one at each end and one in the middle. I also made 2 division boards so in theory it would be possible to have three separate colonies, each flying out of a separate entrance. Finally I made a vertical queen excluder.

I decided to have short legs on the hive so that it could be lowered to the ground for easier protection during our cold Canadian winters.
(cont'd on pg 5)

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Presidents Comments for November, 2015

Greetings to all fellow beekeepers,

Hope you all finished with feeding, it is not much left to do for the bees.

October was great for temperature. Bees that hatch from the last brood still had the chance to go for a cleansing flight. My bees have clustered and are sitting quietly. The entrance is fully open and the cooler weather keeps them in clusters and brood free. As the temperature will drop next week and it becomes drier I will put the entrance reducer in and wrap the hives.

Some update on the Styrofoam Hives Finland Bee Box:

1. They took more syrup.
2. Had two more frames of brood than the average hive.
3. Still sitting loose on the frames-not clustered.

So, the behaviour of the bees in that box is changing. We will see what will happen through the winter! I have visited a commercial beekeeper south of Steinbach, he is still feeding. In my opinion it is too late and not good because the bees can't go for a cleansing flight. They go with a full gut into the winter. That will cause some to die later or go out when it is cold and not return. So you lose bees unnecessarily by not doing things on time. Timing is very important with bees!

On a different topic: Honey price on the open market has dropped and is not moving. Buyers and packers have bought a lot of honey from Ukraine and other foreign markets. While our local honey crop was not great we still have to compete with countries that don't have the same rules nor regulations and they have less cost in their productions, leaving Beekeepers cash strapped with a smaller crop still on their hands. So much for Global Market - is our Government looking out for their farmers and producers?

In the meantime Winnipeg council is working on some guidelines to be implemented for urban beekeeping. November 4th is the first meeting. MBA and RRAA representatives are invited to give input and direction to the bylaw.

Our next meeting is Nov 10th. It will be gadget night, so bring all your handy innovations and inventions and bring some door prizes. Looking forward to see you all!

Waldemar Damert

Red River Apiarist's Association
Minutes of the Regular Meeting

October 13, 2015

Chairman: Waldemar Damert
Recording Secretary: Art Quanbury

Approval of the Minutes of the previous general meeting
Motion: That the minutes of the general meeting held on September 13, 2015 be accepted

Moved: John Badiuk

Seconded: Margaret Smith

Carried

Financial Report

John Speer reported that the association has \$4,870.00. Membership fees are due at the beginning of the calendar year.

MBA Report

No report

General News

Small hive beetles have been found again in some areas. Quarantine areas have been set up again. Seventeen cases have been found in Ontario outside the quarantine zones. They include two very large operators who send their bees to the Maritimes to pollinate blue berries. They have also been found in Quebec in the same area as before, very close to the US border. Seven cases have been found in small operators in the Fraser valley of BC. The Fraser Valley is used as a wintering area for many operators (8,500 hives go from Manitoba to BC.) The big question is how to treat it; don't leave wax lying around, process honey frames promptly. It is not currently a big problem in Manitoba.

It is important to not become complacent about Varroa mites. You must monitor them using whatever method you wish. Need to mix up treatment methods to avoid build up of resistance to one treatment. Apivar is still 90% effective. It can be used in spring or fall but treatment time is 42 days under ideal conditions. In cool weather you should add another 14 days to treatment period. Strips must be put in hives correctly so bees can walk over it. Use 4 strips in double brood chambers. Pay attention to the best before date on the package. Once opened the shelf life is shortened. Do not expose stored strips to sunlight. Next year there will be an opportunity for operators to dispose of old strips at disposal sites at no cost.

Honey Show

Armand reported that attendance was good with an increased interest in adults about bees and their plight. There were a lot of school groups on Friday. The Forks are very positive about the Honey Show. It takes a lot of time, organization and the help from volunteers is essen-

tial. Volunteer turnout was high this year with both new and experienced beekeepers taking part. Armand thanked them for their time. The honey contest requires a lot of organization but is a popular part of the honey show.

Coffee Break

Nominating Committee

John Badiuk explained that the election of officers requires a nominating committee consisting of one executive member and two general members. Natasha Klapouski agreed to be on the committee along with the executive member.

RRAA Bee Yard

Many bee clubs (particularly in Europe) have their own bee yard that can be used for hands on training for beginners, queen rearing so members have access to local queens and for nuc generation. It can also be a place where swarms can be taken. A number of possible locations for a yard were discussed: floodway, Fort Whyte Centre, Zoo, Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) or private property. Various members agreed to explore these options. Money is available for a Bio Security training course on queen rearing. \$2,500.00 is available from the government.

A discussion followed on queens, including supply, stock, characteristics, etc. There are regulations around shipping queens to Canada and not many queen breeders do it. Some breeds are vicious as a result of cross breeding with African stock. Rhéal mentioned that he was preparing a training manual for queen rearing and it could be used in a training program.

Loonie Draw

Only one prize, a squash, won by Natasha Klaponski.

The next meeting will be held on November 10, 2015 at the Elmwood Legion on Nairn Avenue at 7:30 pm.

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A homemade wood preservative for hive pallets etcetera.
as per Recipe # 4 on page 8.

1 oz	paraffin and bees wax
3 ½ quarts	Turpentine
2 litres (cans)	
½ cup	linseed oil
1 oz	paint of choice so that you can tell where you are applying

Grate beeswax and fill one jar 3/4 full. Grate Paraffin wax and add to the beeswax until jar is nearly full (about 2 inches from top). Empty the grated wax in a double boiler and melt.

Remove from heat then add turpentine and linseed oil. Stir to mix then pour into glass jars. Seal tightly and allow to cool before using.

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MBA Report November 2015

Jim Campbell, RRAA MBA Representative

Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) are pleased that British Columbia Honey Producers Association is working closely with Alberta Beekeepers Commission, and Manitoba Beekeepers' Association to establish appropriate inspection standards and protocols for interprovincial movement of bees. Spring colonies are in demand for Blueberry and Cranberry crops in the Fraser Valley, well before hives are moved outdoors across the prairies. The economic well being of BC industries could be in jeopardy should pollinators be unavailable due to the Small Hive Beetle incursion in several apiary sites in and around Langley and Richmond. Paul van Westendorp, Provincial Apiculturist, BC Ministry of Agriculture, issued a statement that the local Quarantined Zones and Hold Orders issued to beekeepers within the zones will be rescinded effective Wednesday, October 07, 2015 as a result of in-depth inspection and surveys being completed.

In Manitoba, Daryl Wright is well into the MBA secretarial role, attending his first board meeting on 26 October. The next event will be the 110th Annual General Meeting taking place on Wednesday 18 November 2015, in Neepawa. He plans to have financial and board reports into member's hands at least a week before the meeting, so there will be ample time for feedback and discussions during the meeting. At this AGM, terms of office expire for 4 board members and there is one vacancy, thus 5 names are required. Directors with expiring terms are eligible for re-election if they desire.

MBA is continuing developing arrangements for the 110th Annual Convention February 27-28, 2016. Confirmed speakers include Ernesto Guzman, University of Guelph, Ontario, Pierre Giovenazzo, University of Laval, Quebec, and Samantha Brunner, Department of Agriculture, North Dakota. More details will be announced later this year on MBA web and Winter issue of Manitoba Beekeeper.

Blacklegged Ticks continue to be a concern for the industry. Dr Kateryn Rochon, University of Manitoba reported ticks are still active during October. Beekeepers are being reminded to wear protective clothing, such as long pants and long sleeved shirts, plus tucking in clothing, in and around tree lines and long grass apiary sites. Check yourself thoroughly for ticks after you've been working outside. Provincial Health Officials are warning that the black-legged tick is expanding its habitant northward and westward, including the Interlake area. Information about Lyme Disease, its symptoms and how to prevent it are found on www.manitoba.ca/health/lyme/

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Cholinergic pesticides cause mushroom body neuronal inactivation in honeybees

Mary J. Palmer, Christopher Moffat, Nastja Sarazewa, Jenni Harvey, Geraldine A. Wright & Christopher N. Connolly

Nature Communications Volume: 4, Article number: 1634 DOI: doi:10.1038/ncomms2648 Published 27 March 2013

Abstract

Pesticides that target cholinergic neurotransmission are highly effective, but their use has been implicated in insect pollinator population decline. Honeybees are exposed to two widely used classes of cholinergic pesticide: neonicotinoids (nicotinic receptor agonists) and organophosphate miticides (acetylcholinesterase inhibitors). Although sublethal levels of neonicotinoids are known to disrupt honeybee learning and behaviour, the neurophysiological basis of these effects has not been shown. Here, using recordings from mushroom body Kenyon cells in acutely isolated honeybee brain, we show that the neonicotinoids imidacloprid and clothianidin, and the organophosphate miticide coumaphos oxon, cause a depolarization-block of neuronal firing and inhibit nicotinic responses. These effects are observed at concentrations that are encountered by foraging honeybees and within the hive, and are additive with combined application. Our findings demonstrate a neuronal mechanism that may account for the cognitive impairments caused by neonicotinoids, and predict that exposure to multiple pesticides that target cholinergic signalling will cause enhanced toxicity to pollinators.

For definition : Wikipedia states,

In general, the word **choline** refers to the various quaternary ammonium salts containing the *N,N,N*-trimethylethanolammonium cation. Found in most animal tissues, choline is a primary component of the neurotransmitter acetylcholine and functions with inositol as a basic constituent of lecithin. It prevents fat deposits in the liver and facilitates the movement of fats into the cells. The richest sources of choline are liver, kidney, brain, wheat germ, brewer's yeast, and egg yolk. Neurologically, **cholinergic** is the abbreviated term referring to acetylcholine. The parasympathetic nervous system, which uses acetylcholine almost exclusively to send its messages, is said to be almost entirely cholinergic. Neuromuscular junctions, preganglionic neurons of the sympathetic nervous system, the basal forebrain, and brain stem complexes are also cholinergic. In addition, the receptor for the merocrine sweat glands are also cholinergic, since acetylcholine is released from postganglionic sympathetic neurons.

Thus the manufacture of pesticides focus on targeting impediments to the choline system of never communications, altering the functions in insects, amphibians, fish and other animals.

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(from pg 1) Installing the bees into the TBH was another problem. One option was an imported package but the beginner had enough colonies already. Another option was to wait for a natural swarm, but we were too impatient for that. So we opted for a 'shook' swarm. First I modified a couple of the top bars with some 15-degree pieces of wood that would fit into a regular Langstroth brood box. I attached sheets of foundation made from my own old cappings wax and put them in the brood box of a regular hive. When these were drawn out and filled with brood, we removed the pieces of 15-degree wood and transferred the combs to the TBH. Then we shook in the rest of the bees in and closed up. Over the next few days, as they had lost all their stores, I gave them about 4 litres of syrup to encourage them to draw down new combs, which they did very well with lots of worker cells but also lots of drone cells.

Photo 2



Manipulating. Inspecting the TBH is very difficult. One has to work from the side leaning over to pick up the other side of the top bar, and then it is only possible to look at one side. To look at the other side it was necessary to put the comb back in the hive and switch hands. You cannot turn the comb over.

Photo 3



Checking for queen cells to stop them swarming was almost impossible because one cannot shake the bees off the combs to get a decent look. Even with two people checking, one on each side, we must have missed some queen cells and the colony swarmed. Common manipulations such as an artificial swarm or hiving the swarm on the parent stand seemed impossible. Nevertheless we made a small nucleus colony at the back end of the TBH from a comb of brood with a queen cell. At the time of writing, both units have a laying queen so the queen in the small nuc can be held as a reserve.

Photo 4



Performance. In spite of what the books say about the combs not being stuck to the sidewalls, they do, and had to be cut free at every inspection. Compared with other colonies in the same apiary the colony seemed to be progressing well, especially bearing in mind they had a major setback when they lost the majority of their brood. Then they lost the swarm.

The vertical queen excluder was a complete waste of time and unnecessary. The bees tended to have all their brood at the front and the honey at the back without the need for a queen excluder. The colony did not build up sufficiently to put queen excluders and Langstroth supers on top and this lack of build up may have been due to developing horizontally instead of vertically. Or maybe an older queen.

The bees drew out the brood combs perfectly but the honey combs were a mess. Some were 2 inches thick whilst others only one inch and all stuck together with brace comb. This may have been because we put new top bars between partly drawn older ones instead of at the end of the occupied combs. The thinking was that if they had to build new combs between two existing ones they would at least be straight, but it didn't work that way.

Photo 5



As for the apparent advantage of the natural cell size being 4.9 mm this was not true. Measurements of a number of cells showed them to be the standard 5.3 mm. Any advantage there might have been for fewer mites in 4.9 mm cell size was negated by there being lots more drone comb than one normally sees when full sheets of commercial foundation are used. Note: new research has shown that with Africanized bees and 4.9 cells there are fewer varroa mites but with our European bees

(cont'd on pg 7)



Editor's Note & musings

by Ken Rowes

This fall has been nice at times and wet at others. I noticed some hives covered all ready. My bees were still foraging at my clean up tables on wax and honey pails up until the dip to -6 C. At the same time I had skunk problems at two apiary sites. Live traps did not work so opted to use Jim Campbell's method with stucco wire and voila, no more skunk at my beehive doors!

In September's issue I mentioned the incidence of greater wax moth (photo below), well I went through all boxes even honey supers and found more, they sure are buggers! So I feel I am clean for winter and the bee bottom boards are looking well with two of 32 being wet, I suspect from feeding.

It is the first year I have been a head of my wax rendering so the Honey house is looking cleaner and more in order. I projected excessive honey storage this winter but sales have made the day and I am much better than other years.

Pardon the photos in the Top Bar Hive article, they have all been re-photo-ed to be used in the this publisher program - it's a long story of an editors nightmare.

If anyone has wants or items to sell please send to editor for inclusion in the classifieds here. Fall's end is in and its time to use my frozen garden, the freezer, except for the last bit of kale stuck in the dirt but growing well. Bee Well, Merry Christmas and pray you have just enough of everything in the New Year.

Next meeting 12 January 2016

CLASSIFIEDS

1 For Sale: Plastic queen excluders \$3.50 each.
Contact, Lance W. Phone # 712-6783, Email;
lancewld@gmail.com

2 For Sale: One 525 gallon water tank, in very good condition, excellent for mixing and transporting sugar syrup. \$390.00 OBO

One upright scale, like you would find in a Doctor's office, in good condition. Good for weighing larger containers of honey. \$150.00 OBO

One 4-drawer metal filing cabinet. \$30.00 OBO
Contact Ted Scheuneman: 204-338-6066

The Bee Cause is the official publication of the Red River Apiarists' Association for distribution to its members and their colleagues in the bee-keeping industry. It is published eight times a year on a monthly basis except December and the summer months of June, July, and August when membership meetings do not occur.

Articles can be best submitted in word documents as email attachments. Though they may be edited for spelling and basic grammar, no changes will be made to their contents, message and opinions. They are those of their originator and not of the Red River Apiarist Association.

Deadline for any submission to this newsletter is the second Saturday preceding the membership meeting to allow for publishing and mailing delays. Regular membership meetings are normally scheduled 7:30 PM on the second Tuesday of every month at the **Elmwood Legion 920 Narin Avenue** in Winnipeg except the months as noted above.

The Red River Apiarists' Association, formed in 1963, represents the beekeepers of the Red River Valley and environs in southern Manitoba. The association provides a forum for the promotion of sound beekeeping practices through education, networking opportunities, meetings, field days, workshops, presentations by local apicultural experts, as well as the dissemination of this monthly newsletter.

We are on the web!

www.beekeepingmanitoba.com

3. For Sale: Brood boxes, hive stands, cobana boxes, fences, smokers, queen excluders, nuc boxes, plastic honey pails, inner feeder covers, bee blowers, plain bottom boards, electric uncapping planer, beekeeper's suit, gloves, hats, and veils—all in excellent condition. Pre-cut wood pieces for assembly of frames and supers, frame building jig, wiring jig, pure beeswax foundation. **Contact Charles_polcyn@ymail.com or Charles 204-284-7064 Wpg. Or farm 204-348-2506.**

4. Wanted: Honey contact: John at

204-943-0166 Email:honey@mymts.net

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Greater wax moth damage

(from pg 5) and 4.9 cell size there are MORE mites.

Conclusion. I expect some people will think one year's working with a TBH isn't enough to make a fair judgment but having kept bees for 55 years I think I can say I have considerable experience. In my view the Top Bar Hive for the investment in time and money is totally unsuitable for keeping bees. They are too difficult to manipulate. They will swarm. And they will produce very little honey. They may be more suitable in Africa where they were developed as an alternative to the traditional log hives that local people could make without sophisticated tools or nicely planed boards of wood.

My advice to anyone thinking about getting a Top Bar Hive is, don't. Similarly the Warre hive: don't. If you want to have chemical free combs, spend your money on a foundation press and make your own foundation using your own cappings wax.

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An Ontario Superior Court has upheld a provincial regulation

To dramatically reduce the number of acres planted with corn and soybean seeds coated with a class of pesticides known as neonicotinoids, which are toxic to bees an Ontario superior court has upheld a provincial band . CBC NEWS (<http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/grain-farmers-neonics-1.2389326>)

In a decision reached Oct. 23, the court rejected an attempt by the Grain Farmers of Ontario to enact a stay on the seed treatment regulations passed into law in July.

- **Decline in birds, not just bees, linked to neonicotinoid pesticides**
- **Bee researchers raise more warning flags about neonicotinoid pesticides**

The regulations demand that farmers plant only half their acreage with neonicitinoid-treated seeds in 2016.

Starting in the 2017 planting season, farmers must complete a pest assessment report to prove they need the neonicotinoids before any use will be allowed.

"We are extremely disappointed that the judge did not rule in

our favour, leaving the grain industry in a very difficult situation as farmers try to arrange seed orders this fall," said Mark Brock of the Grain Farmers of Ontario.

- **Bee-killing pesticides: The fight ramps up**

"We are currently reviewing our legal options and will continue to protect the rights of Ontario's grain farmers."

Farmers are concerned they may face losses to insects or see their crops become less productive if they stop using the pesticides.

Close to 100 per cent of Ontario's corn and canola seeds and about 60 per cent of soybean seeds are treated with neonicotinoids, nicotine-based insecticides that contain neurotoxins that make all parts of the plant harmful to insects feeding on them.

Neonics remain in the soil and can be transported to rivers and lakes by runoff. Research shows the insecticides leave bees disoriented and unable to find their way and play a role in the disappearance of pollinators.

In addition to bees, the insecticides affect birds and bats.

Neonicotinoid pesticides are already banned by the European Union. An outright ban in Canada would have to be issued by Health Canada.

A potential alternative to antibiotics

Lund University (Sweden) published news that scientist found bacteria in bees which shows a **potential alternative to antibiotics**. BeeTime – Beekeeping News in the Eu

It's fascinating with everything new we found out about the bees. When we think we know almost everything, scientist are going one more step forward. For now they tested in lab a group of bacteria, found in stomachs of bees, and they were fighting antibiotic-resistant superbugs.

Why do we need an alternative to antibiotics?

If you didn't hear. World Health Organization (WHO) released in April 2014 first warning: global report on antibiotic resistance that reveals serious, worldwide threat to public health. They are saying with 100 % proof that bacteria are more and more resistant to antibiotics and this is not prediction it is a fact. Not all bacteria are the same, still resistance to antibiotics are found by bacteria responsible for serious diseases such as

- Bloodstream infections (sepsis),
- Diarrhea,

- Pneumonia,
- Urinary tract infections and
- Gonorrhoea.

So next time don't be surprised if antibiotics will not work as they should.

How bees can help?

Scientist found **13 lactic acid bacteria in the honey bee stomach** and for now this bacteria "have shown promising results in a series of studies" they said at Lund University.

They mixed the bacteria into a honey and use it on horses, results was successful and has healed horses with persistent wounds. So it's great potential for an **alternative to antibiotics**.

"Antibiotics are mostly one active substance, effective against only a narrow spectrum of bacteria. When used alive, these 13 lactic acid bacteria produce the right kind of antimicrobial compounds as needed, depending on the threat. It seems to have worked well for millions of years of protecting bees' health and honey against other harmful microorganisms. However, since store-bought honey doesn't contain the living lactic acid bacteria, many of its unique properties have been lost in recent times", explains Tobias Olofsson in press release few days ago.

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Another same deadly chemical -- sulfoxaflor

A US court just ruled in favour of the bees: **a Dow Chemical insecticide that is killing the bees should never have been approved.** Taren S-K, SumOfUs.org <us@sumofus.org>. 29 October 2015

But the EU approved that same deadly chemical - - sulfoxaflor -- this summer. And to top it all off: EU legislators rubber-stamped the new insecticide using flawed data from Dow itself.

Up until now, the EU has been a trailblazer when it comes to protecting the bees - they were the first to put in place a two year ban on neonicotinoids.

Evidence against the neurotoxins is piling up -- but huge corporations like Dow Chemical and Bayer are stepping up their game as well: **Just this summer Bayer's lobbying efforts made the UK government suspend an EU-wide ban of neonicotinoids.**

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Homemade Beeswax Furniture Polish Recipes

In my files I came across some furniture polish information I used to treat some walnut and spruce wood as well as several diamond willow walking canes. I am not sure of the source, however , you may have come across them. The treated wood looks spectacular.

- Use wide mouth jars or containers for storage so you can get your hand in easily.
- Apply finished furniture wax with a coarse cloth and buff.
- While melting the wax, do not leave stove unattended.
- The solvents are flammable, do not add them while wax is heating on the stove.
- Look for odourless turpentine or mineral spirits if the smell is too strong for you. They're more expensive, but turn out an equally nice furniture wax.
- Recipes can be adjusted slightly for personal preference, if you desire a thicker wax, just add more beeswax or carnauba wax. If a paste is too hard, add more solvent (turpentine).

Recipe #1

Ingredients:

2 1/2 cups Turpentine

4 oz Beeswax

2 TBS Carnauba Wax

- Melt the wax in a double boiler then remove from heat.

- Add the turpentine and stir well with a wooden spoon. Pour into jars, seal and allow to cool before use.

Recipe #2

Ingredients:

2 Pints Turpentine

1 Pint Linseed Oil

5 oz Beeswax

1 TBS Carnauba Wax

- Melt wax in a double boiler and remove from heat. Add linseed oil, stir well. Add turpentine, stir well. Pour into jars, seal.

Recipe #3 – Paste

50/50 Beeswax and Turpentine

- Melt beeswax first then remove from heat and add the turpentine.

Recipe #4 – Paste Recipe

Ingredients:

Beeswax

Paraffin Wax

2 Wide Mouth Mason Jars

Mineral Spirits or Turpentine

- Grate beeswax and fill one jar 3/4 full. Grate Paraffin wax and add to the beeswax until jar is nearly full (about 2 inches from top). Empty the grated wax in a double boiler and melt.
- Remove from heat then add an equal amount of mineral spirits or turpentine (nearly a jar full)*. Stir to mix then pour into the two glass jars, dividing evenly. Seal tightly and allow to cool before using.
- *For a less firmer paste, use a full jar of solvent instead of a nearly full jar. For a firmer paste, add some carnauba wax to be melted together with the beeswax and paraffin wax in the first step (no more than 20%).

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Beekeeping for the Hobbyist - Non Credit Course

[http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/afs/dept/entomology/
Beekeeping.html](http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/afs/dept/entomology/Beekeeping.html)

Offered by the Department of Entomology at the University of Manitoba in collaboration with Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

Instructors:

R. Currie, Professor, Dept. of Entomology, University of Manitoba

Phone: (204) 474-6020 Email: Rob.Currie@umanitoba.ca

R. Lafrenière, Provincial Apiarist, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

Phone: (204) 945-4825

D. Ostermann, Extension Apiarist, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

Phone: (204) 945-3861

Date: Wednesday, January 20 to Wednesday, March 30, 2016 (i.e. 9 Wednesdays), including an apiary demonstration in April or May 2016.

Time: 7:00-9:30 p.m.

Location: 219 Animal Science/Entomology Building

Fees: \$190 (course fee) including text: Honey Bee Diseases and Pests, Third Edition \$30 (optional) recommended text "Beekeeping in Western Canada"

Note: The class will be capped at 60 students.

Overview:

Honey bees can be managed with ease by urban people. Besides the honey and bees wax they produce, and their value as pollinators of various crops, their highly developed social organization provides fascinating material for study. This series of lectures and demonstrations will deal with the nature of beekeeping; the life history, anatomy, and social behaviour of bees; economics; how to manage colonies of bees; equipment and site selection; pollen and nectar producing plants, nectar flows; seasonal management ; pests, parasites diseases and their control; regulations; honey houses; extracting equipment; grading and marketing honey and beeswax.

The University reserves the right to cancel any course and refund full fee, and to reschedule classes cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.

*No classes January 27 or 17 Feb, University of Manitoba Reading Week

** Apiary session in April or May is weather dependent

Registration:

Click here to register - <http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/afs/dept/entomology/Beekeeping.html>

If you are registering using the mobile site - You will need to click on the link "Register for Event" displayed under the Events title "Beekeeping for the Hobbyist".

If you are registering using the full site - You will need to click the "register" tab. It has a pencil icon associated with it and is located beside the words "Remind me about this

event".

Payment must be made separately - Cheques are to be made payable to "University of Manitoba" and can be mailed to:

Rachel Sydor
School of Agriculture
University of Manitoba
160-66 Dafoe Rd.
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Note the comments about the fact that Fall varroa counts are at higher risks of increasing in areas with a high density of bees and beekeepers.

Unfortunately this info is late but worthy of concern, if necessary a Oxalic acid drip can be done if other methods have not yet been used as the bees are now clustered-the editor.

FYI –

Salut!

Rhéal Lafrenière M.Sc. P. Ag.
Industry Development Specialist - Provincial Apiarist
Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
Ag. Services Complex Bldg. 204-545 University Cres.
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Phone: (204) 945-4825 Fax: (204) 945-4327 Cell (204) 791-0124

e-mail: Rheal.Lafreniere@gov.mb.ca

From: Fran Bach [mailto:febach3@gmail.com]

Sent: October-20-15 10:44 AM

Subject: Special Item for beekeepers October 20

Too bad I didn't get this in time for yesterday's mailing of "Items..." or last week's. Critical timing and a great chance to clock into a vital program.

Fran

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA BEE SQUAD - VARROA MITE CHECK CHALLENGE

<http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/?u=71f1bdb1c173d4742f560369a&id=7be9be57dd>

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**Red River Apiarists Association
New Location
September 8, 2015**

New location is **The Elmwood Legion 920 Narin avenue west of the Crossroads on the south side:**

- Regent Avenue west of Lagemodier (59 HWY).

Important Notice:

**Volunteer needed for RRAA
MBA Representative**

A volunteer from the RRAA membership is needed to fill a position on the Executive for 2015. The job description for MBA Representative is fairly simple and outlined in the RRAA By-Laws (published on beekeeping-manitoba.com under "Resources") as follows:

The MBA Representative shall represent the Association views, recommendations, questions, requests and opinions at the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association director's meetings. The representative may provide verbal or written reports of director's discussions during regular or executive Association meetings.
Outside of the by-laws, specifics of the role include attending semi monthly meetings of the MBA Board, typically held in Neepawa on the second or third Thursday of a month. The exact dates will vary according to the busy schedule of commercial operators thus April, July, August and September are usually avoided. The representative may participate in discussions of the board, yet are excluded from voting. The role is to act as a liaison between the concerns of the hobbyists and the directions of the commercial operators. In addition the rep typically provides a monthly report for publication in the RRAA newsletter BeeCause with supplemental information at regular club meetings. The our MBA report can give you an idea of position reporting.

Volunteers should contact Waldemar, RRAA President, if you are interested.

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**Red River Apiarists' Association
Winnipeg, Manitoba
2015 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

I apply for membership in the Red River Apiarists' Association. Membership includes one-year subscription to the newsletter "The Bee Cause" (8 issues)

RRAA membership fee (cheque payable to RRAA or Red River Apiarists' Association) @ \$25.00/year
NEW: Optional Beekeeper Liability Insurance (**details on RRAA web, Links, Insurance**) @ \$45.00/year

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED.....\$_____

Name _____ Tel. _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

E-mail address _____

Signature _____

New Member [] Renewal [] Student U of M Beekeeping course [] [free 1st year]

Other. Please specify. _____

Newsletter Delivered in electronic pdf via e-mail [] or on paper via Canada Post []

This completed form may be brought to the meeting or mailed with your cheque to :

**John Speer, RRAA Treasurer
Box 16, Group 555, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2C 2Z2.**

Please do not send cash in the mail