

The Bee Cause



Volume 14, Issue 2

February 2017

Next general meeting is 7:30 Tuesday, 14 February 2017 at the **The Elmwood Legion 920 Nairn avenue , Winnipeg.**

Speaker: David Dawson queen raising

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Making Hive Splits (or Give 'em a Chance)

By Ted Scheuneman



After a long winter, beekeepers are anxious to see how their bees survived. Sometimes we find the boxes loaded with bees. Other times we find very few bees, and this begs the question "What is to be done next?"

Honey Bee colonies can be manipulated in the spring-time, after they have had at least three (3) days of good flying weather, or cleansing flight days. There are always some colonies that are really strong, with 8 full frames of bees, and there are some that may have bees on only 1 or 2 frames, yet appear healthy with a live queen. Without some kind of support, weak colonies will not be able to take advantage of the summer honey flow.

When weak colonies are boosted with a frame or 2 of brood and bees from a strong colony, chances are, some of the new bees will fly back to their original colony. At this time, brood on the transferred frames could get chilled and die. To prevent absconding, the colony could be moved to another bee yard however, often beekeepers underestimate the number of bees required to keep brood warm on cold April or early May nights. This could lead to weakening of the original strong colony, and prove disastrous to the boosted colony.

Although tempting, combining weak colonies merely means having a larger weak colony, plus one queen will likely be lost. Weak plus weak still equals weak. Better to aim at creating a strong colony.

A method I have successfully used is merely placing a weak, but otherwise healthy colony, on top of a strong colony of 8-10 frames of bees and brood. The key here is to save both queens by placing a queen excluder between the two boxes.

Most of the time, a weak colony has surplus food. It is best to leave 4 frames of food and pollen, with two on each side of the box. The remaining frames are removed and replaced with empty brood frames. The top box with bees with empty brood nest is to go directly above the bottom box brood nest. If using an inner cover, close off the top entrance, or turn over the cover, in order to conserve energy in the top box.

Prior to placing the weak colony on top, spray the bees with warm 1:1 sugar syrup, containing 4-5 drops of anise per 1 litre of mixture. About 100cc is sprayed equally into the top and bottom box.

(Continued on page 4)

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Presidents Comments for February, 2017

Greetings to the beekeepers.

February is here and many people are thinking of the bees and how they are surviving the cold time of the year. I believe there are 3 factors that determine the survival of your bees.

1. Health.

Sick bees do not survive. Nosema, mites, viruses, you can find lots of info on how too treat and approach the subjects. It is up to the beekeeper to do the job on time and with the right meds.

2. Feed.

Starving bees are dead bees. Feeding on time and sufficient is the key for the bees to be able and store the feed into the frames and cap it for the winter.

3. Genetics (Local survivors)

Local bees are a product of imported stock. Selected through breeding from a stock that is doing well in our climate. Honey bees are not native in North America. The honey bees have been introduced with the European settlers in Virginia 1622. The original distribution of honey bees included Europe, Africa, and parts of Asia, there were as many as 28 subspecies recorded. Between 1622 and 1922 different subspecies have been added to the mix of the North American bee pool. In 1922 further imports were restricted.

Crossbreeds of Ligustica and Carniolans, or the clean form of both species are the preferred bees in the US. Gentleness and honey gathering are the most looked after trades. The US does not have to deal with -30C and wind-chills at -45C. Imports from those warm weather countries are not yielding the bees that are needed to survive in Manitoba and build population in timely fashion for a good honey flow.

The local stock selected over many years for hardiness and honey production will outperform the imported bees. The imported packages are failing at a 65% rate.

So in order to have a chance of success in your beekeeping endeavour you have to stop buying bees from faraway places and "Buy Local".

The rest is up to you to do the labour and care for your hives in timely fashion

So far I have no reports on winter losses. Usually end of February is when the beekeepers report to have most of the winter kill. Europe is reporting above average winter loss but it is also the coldest winter on record in the last 30 years.

I will miss the meeting so my wishes to are for a good meeting see you all in March.

Waldemar

**Red River Apiarist's Association
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
January 10, 2017**

**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 December 8, 2016 be accepted

**Moved: Armand St. Hilaire
Seconded: Jim Campbell
Carried**

MBA Report

Margaret was not in attendance to present a report verbally but a written report is in the Bee Cause Newsletter.

The Bee convention will be held on Feb. 24 and 25th. There is a workshop with free attendance for new beekeepers on the Saturday.

Treasurer's Report

Current bank balance is \$1100.00 but there is an outstanding cheque to be paid for \$1200.00, however membership renewals will replenish the bank account.

Executive Search committee

John Russell reported that all members of the current executive except the second vice president have agreed to let their names stand for office for the upcoming year. There were no challenges from the floor to contest these positions.

Motion: That the current executive, except for the second vice president, stands for the upcoming year.

**Moved: Jim Campbell
Seconded: Monica Wiebe
Carried**

Motion: That RRAA Executive be empowered to appoint someone to fill the VP position vacancy.

**Moved: Jim Campbell
Seconded: Giles Lantagne
Carried**

Coffee Break

Presentation – Do Bees Hibernate by Waldemar Damert

Contrary to general thought, hive activity is not completely absent during the winter. There is some brood activity although the queen may stop laying eggs for some of the time. A lot of egg laying is not good since 1 cm square of brood requires 4 kg of food. According to some Alberta research there is some brood activity all through the winter although the least chance of brood is at the end of

November. A minimum temperature of 8 degrees is required for survival. The bees constantly circulate around the cluster in order to warm up and also to distribute the moisture that builds up in the hive. Brood also requires some moisture. Because of climate differences there are differences in brood activity between Europe and North America. Some other findings are: there is less carbon dioxide in the centre of the cluster; darker bees brood less and yellow bees brood more. A higher moisture content in the hive can lead to more bacteria present that can result in more nozema. For proper ventilation the vent holes can be 3.5 inches maximum and top and bottom holes must be the same size. Snow should be left covering the hives until mid-March. Food should be added quickly the 3rd week of March. If bees are stored indoors they should not be moved outside too early.

Children's bee suit information

Veronica showed two children sized bee suits that she had ordered from Simon the Beekeeper in Britain. There are several children's sizes and they come with child sized gloves as well. Price is \$65.92, shipping included.

Loonie Draw

A large number of prizes including items such as: soap with honey, tea towel, homemade jam, CD case, cookies, home bread by Alex Remkes. Thanks to everyone who brought items for the draw and for everyone who bought tickets. Congratulations to everyone who won something. The list is long and does not need to be included here.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on February 14, 2017 at the Legion on Nairn Avenue. Time is 7:30 pm.

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**MBA Report FEBRUARY 2017
Margaret Smith, RRAA MBA Representative**

MBA Convention, Friday, February 24 - Saturday, 25, 2017, at the CanadInns, Polo Park. FREE workshop for Early to Intermediate level beekeepers, to follow, Saturday afternoon, sponsored by Manitoba Agriculture. Deadline for Early Bird Registration is February 13, 2017.

At The most recent MBA Conference Call, Executive meeting, the following topics were discussed:

MASC Wildlife Damage and Overwinter Loss compensation (meeting coming up in March - stay tuned for more

Front of Package Labeling and Skunks (meetings coming in mid-February - stay tuned)

Improved testing of foreign and (cont'd on Pg 4)

(from Pg 3) domestic honey for adulteration and trans-shipment - talk of the National Lab in AB being considered for this kind of upgrade in their testing abilities.

Maintaining the closed border for bees on comb, but keeping the border at status quo for queen importation.

Meeting with Wax Renderers with a view to coming to help- formulate best Practises Methods, yet to take place.

Policy Framework for Growing Forward III, consultations are taking place, meeting March 21st.

Changing the year end for the MBA from June 30th, to December 31st, needs membership approval, so there will be a Special Meeting at the beginning of Convention to ratify that situation. The Bylaws state that the AGM must be held within 5 months of the year end. Changing this to the end of December, would mean that the AGM can be held during Convention. Province-wide notice was sent out for this special meeting, so if you are a member of the MBA, then please attend.

Please be aware: Resistance to Apivar is present in the USA. It is only a matter of time until this arrives here. If you are using this product for the control of Mites, please make sure that you are using it in rotation with other products, and not every time you must treat. There are a number of beekeepers who are already reporting high winter losses of hives, this winter, due to high mite counts in the Fall.

That's it for now!
See you at the meeting.
Sincerely,

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(from pg 1)

Uniting the two boxes should be done late in the day, preferable about 1 hour before dark. Bees are most tolerant in the evening and night, and they have all night to greet and lick each other. The next morning, it is business as usual, with no biting and pushing at the entrance. Acceptance and support of the upper box with the weak colony is astonishing, plus you still have both queens!

In 7-10 days, check your newly created hive. If a

half box full of bees, or more, can be seen, everything is OK! Should you find only a few bees in the top box, likely the queen was not strong or healthy enough, and she has been killed. This happens in about 5% of cases. If this is the case, remove the queen excluder to permit the bottom queen to expand the brood nest into the top box. By about the middle of May, this hive should have 2 boxes full of bees and brood, and can be split at that time, if desired.

Where everything went as planned, check at 4 weeks from the day the 2 boxes were united. Both upper and lower boxes should be full of bees and about 6 frames of brood. At this time you need to decide whether to leave the bees for another 6-10 days (i.e. if weather is cool), or whether the top box should be removed and taken to another bee yard about 5 km away to avoid bees back drifting.

Should the boxes not be filled with bees, reverse the inner cover to create a top entrance. This permits drones to leave the colony to fly; otherwise the queen excluder traps them inside.

If the boxes are left together for too long, the bees may become overcrowded, with the risk that both boxes of bees may swarm. Remember, bees are being produced at about 4000 per day at this time in your hive. To put this in perspective, about 4000 bees is about one 2-pound package of bees, every second day in your two-story hive.

The next step is mandatory! As soon as the boxes are separated, a second box **MUST** be added to each. Otherwise, you will crowd the bees, and they will swarm! As stated before, move the new two-story hive to another location.

This method has proven to be a win-win situation, as it doesn't cost any money (i.e. for a new queen), you make use of the equipment you already have, and it takes very little time and effort. The best part is, colonies you save reward you with a honey crop!

What I've discovered, in my many years as a keeper of bees, is that we as beekeepers are likely making mistakes that brought about the weak colony situation. Although often it is hard to admit, beekeepers must acknowledge the fact that bees never do something wrong, or make a mistake. That's why I say, "Give 'em a chance"!

Note: This article originally appeared on page 7 of March 2011 issue of The Bee Cause.

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New Bacterium that my Kill Honey Bees, Catch the Buz - January 3, 2017

University of Wisconsin-Stout biology professor and his students may have made an important discovery in the effort to determine why honey bee hives are dying out during the winters in the Upper Midwest.

Biology Professor Jim Burrirt and his students have published research about a new strain of the bacterium called *Serratia marcescens strain sicaria*. With evidence of its killing power, they chose the name *sicaria*, which means assassin and SsI for short.

“Our results indicate that SsI may contribute to the wintertime failure of honey bee colonies. We believe this is important because most beekeepers in our area lose over half of their hives each winter. In Dunn County, the percentage of winter hive failure rates has been as high as 80 percent recently,” said Burrirt, himself a longtime beekeeper.

The bacterium came to light under a microscope at UW-Stout as researchers looked for a different organism in blood drawn from sick bees in Dunn County. They saw something unexpected.

“It was clear we were looking at something different. As we did more testing on the organism, we began to realize we may be working with a new threat to honey bees. We then collaborated with experts in bacterial genetics and biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who used mass spectrometry and three independent, whole-genome methods to confirm this organism had not been previously described in the literature,” Burrirt said.

With evidence of a possible new disease in bees, UW-Stout then recruited beekeepers in eight west-central Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota counties and received support from the Wisconsin and Minnesota beekeeping associations to provide samples from 91 hives for testing.

Burrirt and his students tested 3,219 honey bees and 1,259 Varroa destructor mites, found in the hives, between December 2014 and September 2016. SsI was found in bees and mites from every participating county.

Of the hives sampled for bees, 48 percent tested positive for the new bacterium, including one package of bees shipped from another region of the country. Of the hives sampled for mites, 76 percent tested positive. Of the hives that died during the winter, 73 percent had the bacterium.

The UW-Stout discovery is a positive step toward a possible solution. “Though our study does not provide information on how winterkill can be stopped, we believe it will create a clearer picture of the diseases and challenges that honey bees face. This view will be important in eventually developing strategies to help bees survive the long months of winter,” Burrirt said.

“The well-being of honey bees and other pollinators is crucial to our ecosystem, a wholesome environment and our economy,” he added.

Along with finding the new strain of bacterium, also groundbreaking within the study is confirmation that Varroa destructor mites carry the SsI bacterium, Burrirt said. Previously, mites were known only for transmitting viruses to honey bees.

The eight-legged Varroa mites are about the size of a poppy seed, Burrirt said. “With the help of the students, we developed a method to efficiently obtain culture information from many individual mites,” he said.

Students play key roles

The research, with student co-authors Anna Winfield, of Bloomer, and Jake Hildebrand, of Menomonie, was published Dec. 21 in *PLOS One*, a peer-reviewed, open-access, online publication for science and medicine research. The study, “Sepsis and Hemocyte Loss in Honey Bees,” can be found online.

Winfield developed two screening tests to identify SsI based on its biochemical properties. She graduated with honors in May 2016 in applied science and is a microbiology graduate student at UW-La Crosse.

Hildebrand, a senior, led the testing of bee blood, hemolymph, for infection and identified proteins in the blood that are important to their immune system.

Five other UW-Stout students are recognized in the published research. They are Morgan Ingold, of Waterford; Matheus de Jesus, of Brazil; Viviane Oshima, of Brazil; Brooke Sommerfeldt, of Park Falls; and Amber Thums, of Butternut. Professor Steve Nold provided help with bioinformatics.

“The honey bee studies at UW-Stout have required the research ideas, interest and hands of a lot of students, and we had plenty of each,” Burrirt said.

The research also found that the SsI bacterium has 65 genes not found in other strains of the *Serratia* genus, suggesting SsI has been successful borrowing genetic information from other bacteria. (Cont'd on pg 7)



Editor's Note & musings by Ken Rows

Spring thinking and what should you beekeepers be considering. If you hadn't already its time to pencil plan. If you need equipment or bees locate your sources and consider local.

Winter snow cover has been depleted at least 50-60% which we hope translates into a dryer spring & great for hive build ups.

The exec., meeting Feb 4. A spring / fall ad-hoc management classes was discussed as a possibility for our beeyards this year. Is there an interest?

The City Park bee yard is still in limbo. The bees will be maintained either way.

Some ideas for thought:

I think it worth while for members to letting the RRAA executive know what you would like to learn, have more understanding about and the editorial would appreciate articles on your beekeeping experiences that you are willing to share. It would also benefit the RRAA members to publish a price pulse on honey in the stores as well as bee equipment and building supplies. The RRAA at one time would provide bulk purchases on antibiotics and sugar arranging up front payment and immediate pickup once goods were obtained. Bulk purchases would reduce overall costs at that time and meant a lot of volunteer assistance.

For those who would like to be listed on the Manitoba Bees for sale you can forward [Name, contact #.(s), town, nucs, singles or doubles, when they will be available, and price] note only beekeepers with no restrictions for selling will be posted.

Contact:

Rhéal Lafrenière M.Sc. P. Ag or
www.manitobabeekeepersassociation

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I For Sale: ABBEY ROAD DISTRIBUTION LTD ABBEY ROAD 400 Oak Point Highway Winnipeg, MB R2R-1V1 PH: (204)694-6800 FX: (204)697-1335 info@abbeyroaddistribution.com 25 years of supplying the Bee Keeping Industry with a knowledgeable staff having an in house service department with a large inventory of parts. We carry a wide range of fasteners, tooling, shipping supplies and packaging materials suited for your industry: Staples · Nails · Bulk Screws · Coil Nails · Strip Nails · Plastic & Steel Strapping Stretch Wrap & Tapes Service on most makes of stapling and nailing equipment.

The Bee Cause is the official publication of the Red River Apiarists' Association for distribution to its members and their colleagues in the beekeeping 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 Nairn 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

2. For Sale: For Sale:

Quantity of 40 Standard Deep Supers made of unpainted plywood with metal frame rests. May be ideal for nuc sales. \$10 each. One unpainted pine shallow super (9 5/8") \$10. One new Dadant 4"x10" Smoker with shield, \$50. One new Sherriff S-41 Honey Rustler size "M" Bee Jacket with Hood, \$100. Nine (9) new non stainless Varroa-Nator screen insert, \$5 each. Five (5) white and Five (5) black Pierco plastic foundation, \$0.50 each. Jack's Scale Honey Colour Grader \$30. Used Electric Uncapping Plane \$100. New Extra Copper Blade for uncapping plane \$10. Ten (10) new wooden frames with Pierco white plastic foundation, \$2 each. Two (2) new 10" hive tools (red painted end), \$5 ea. One (1) new 7.5" hive tool (red painted end) \$3. Contact Jim Campbell at 204-467-5246 or e-mail jaycam@mymts.net

3. For sale: Local bee stock:

**Taking orders for 2017 spring.
4 frame @\$240 per Nuc, and Queens @\$38. Also for sale wax foundation moulded from clean capping wax.
Contact Waldemar under, text-ph. 204 266 2277 or e-mail wdamert@yahoo.ca**

3. Wanted: Honey wanted :contact: John at

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

4. Wanted ads are welcome

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(from pg 5) In 2014 Burritt and his students published another study in PLOS One describing their new technique of hemocyte profiling of the blood cells of honey bees. The latest research builds on the previous effort by using the new profiling method; bees infected by SsI were found to have fewer of the blood cells that defend against bacterial infections, suggesting SsI may weaken bees' immune systems.

The honey bee project at UW-Stout, led by Burritt, is in its sixth year and has involved hundreds of UW-Stout students doing research in microbiology classes, courses within the applied science major and in locations beyond the classroom.

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Urban Bee Expansion Report delayed

Jim Campbell, RRAA member

An anticipated report due January 2017 dealing with expanding beekeeping beyond Downtown Winnipeg area has been deferred for the time being, and is still under review by city officials.

At its meeting of January 17, 2017, The Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development, met to review over 30 items on their agenda.

An item of interest to Red River Apiarist Association members was the anticipated proposal considering city-wide bees. The proposal was expected to build on the current by-law, 100/2004, approved 24 February 2016, permitting Urban Bees in the Downtown area of Winnipeg.

The Winnipeg Urban Bee review, initiated last summer, initially resulted in a web based survey, along with "pop-up" events during June 2016. Several members of RRAA joined other interested community residents in the pop-up events at either Kildonan Place, Grant Park or The Forks.

City representatives appeared encouraged by participation and positive feedback from these public contact activities, plus the lack of opposition to an expansion proposal.

The Director of Planning, Property and Development has been granted a further extension of up to 60 days, for the Winnipeg Public Service to report back on city-wide beekeeping, including recommendations for amendments to the Winnipeg Zoning By-law No. 200/2006. This is expected to result in a report between now and March 17.

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EPA Finalizes Steps to Better Protect Bees from Pesticides

EPA's is releasing a final policy which describes methods for addressing acute risks to bees from pesticides. Applications of acutely toxic pesticides would be prohibited under certain conditions when bees are most likely to be present. While the restrictions focus on managed bees, EPA believes that these measures will also protect native bees and other pollinators that are in and around treatment areas. New label language will protect managed bees under contract to provide crop pollination services.

The final Policy to Mitigate the Acute Risk to Bees from Pesticide Products<<http://americanbeejournal.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5fd2b1aa990e63193af2a573d&id=3a6695c5ac&e=eb5c04b656>> is more flexible and practical than the proposed policy. For example, a product that retains its toxicity to bees for a shorter time might be allowed to be applied under certain circumstances. Also, in some cases, pesticide application would be allowed when it is unlikely that pollinators will be foraging for crops that have extended bloom periods. The EPA will begin implementing this policy in 2017 by sending letters to registrants describing steps that must be taken to incorporate the new labeling.

EPA continues to encourage efforts by states and tribes to reduce pesticide exposure to bees and other insect pollinators through locally-based measures, such as through Managed Pollinator Protection Plans (MP3s). EPA will continue to assist the American Association of Pest Control Officials in developing performance measures for MP3s and will continue to monitor the progress and effectiveness of pollinator protection plans in reducing bee exposure to pesticides. EPA has also engaged the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee in examining the best ways to measure the effectiveness of MP3s.

For more information on the proposal, its supporting documents, and comments received, please see regulatory docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0818<<http://americanbeejournal.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?>

EPA's Actions to Protect Pollinators<<http://americanbeejournal.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?>

Pollinator Protection at EPA<<http://americanbeejournal.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?>
Rhéal Lafrenière M.Sc. P. Ag.

We can look forward for a similar policy in Canada, the editor. There is wind of a petition to save the bees from neonics in Canada.

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The exceptional value of local queens, bees and wax makes for a better chance of beekeeping success. The following is an article published in 2011.

Wax Foundation

Process of Ted Scheuneman

In January I had the pleasure of observing the wax foundation process of Ted Scheuneman. The Unique reuse of your own beeswax from cappings has grown in popularity in response to reducing the transfer of disease and other pathogens in the wax from other sources. Ted Scheuneman, an advanced beekeeper and RRAA long standing member, has under taken the reuse approach to foundation wax renewal.



With a small wax press and a wax melter he has improved his hive development and well being.

Bees have a greater tendency to build comb on new wax foundation.

Hot wax is poured onto the Teflon type mould.



The mould is closed and held for a minute or so.



The press is cooled by running ice water through a water jacket.



The sheets are peeled away from the mould and flattened and stacked in sets of 10s between light tissue paper.



Sheets being flattened



Then sheets are stored in sets of 10



A sheet of wax will weigh near 8.5 grams or more.



First published October 2011

Health and Safety around Honeybees

© 2010 Edinburgh and Midlothian Beekeepers' Association.

Health and Safety in Beekeeping should be approached, like any other activity, by using your common sense to think about what's involved in the job before starting. In Health & Safety terms this is known as carrying out a Risk Assessment, the purpose of which is to identify any hazards and the likelihood of something or someone being injured by those hazards. Once these have been identified a plan of action can be devised for minimising the risk of accident or injury, and what action should be taken in the event of such an occurrence. The most common hazards connected with beekeeping are from procedures and products used in normal hive manipulations such as slips trips and falls, stings, back strains, fire, burning, poisoning and asphyxiation. It all sounds very dangerous when put like this but in reality accidents don't happen very often, all you have to do is apply just a little common sense!

Where Risks Occur

Apiary Location – proximity to other people, animals and property

Access in and out of the apiary

Opening & Examination of Stocks

Transporting Hives

Use of Potentially Harmful Substances

Visitors to the Apiary

Health Concerns

Sting Reactions

Honey Extraction and Preparation

Collection of Swarms & Observation Hives

Risks from Bees

Honeybees like bumblebees, wasps and hornets have a stinger at the posterior end of their abdomen. The sting which is connected to a venom sac, is a modified egg-laying tube. So if you are stung, it was a female insect that did it. In general wasps are involved in about 70% of the stings to humans and they are often mistaken for bees because of their yellow and black bodies.

Most stinging insects can sting more than once,

the exception is the honeybee (the female worker bee) which has a barbed sting. When the worker bee escapes after stinging a person, the sting and attached venom sac are ripped out of the bee and stay in the victim's skin; the bee will die shortly afterwards.

Hazards of being stung

Generally, most stings only result in a temporary injury - pain, swelling, redness and itching around the sting site. However, sometimes the effects can be much more severe – and can even be life-threatening, depending on where you are stung and whether the injured person has allergies. Summon medical help if the sting is near the eyes, nose or throat.

Normal Reaction - Most people experience local effects like pain, swelling, itching, and redness around the sting site. Painful stings in the mouth and throat can result if you accidentally swallowed a wasp or bee (e.g., drinking a soft drink from a can that a wasp had entered).

Mild Allergic Reaction - Some people will experience swelling in a larger area, not just immediately around the sting site. They may develop hives but no systemic effects (effects in the body away from sting site like effects on breathing and blood flow). This mild allergic reaction can last a few days. The area will be sore and uncomfortable but one should not give in to the temptation to scratch the stung area. Scratching may cause a break in the skin which could lead to an infection.

Severe Allergic Reaction - In rare cases, a severe allergic reaction can occur. This situation is serious and can cause "anaphylaxis" or anaphylactic shock. Symptoms of anaphylaxis may appear immediately or within the first 30 minutes. The symptoms include:

- hives, itching and swelling in areas other than the sting site,
- swollen eyes and eyelids,
- wheezing,
- tightness in the chest and difficulty breathing,
- hoarse voice or swelling of the tongue,
- dizziness or sharp drop in blood pressure,
- shock,
- unconsciousness or cardiac arrest.

The "anaphylactic reaction" can occur the first time someone is stung or with subsequent stings. Death can occur within 30 - 45 minutes of being stung. If you see any signs of this reaction, or even if you are not sure, get medical help immediately.

People, who have had severe allergic reactions to insect stings in the past, will probably have a similar or worse reaction if stung again. Bee sting kits may be available to allergic people through their Doctor.

(Editorial note: one can possibly slow the allergic reaction with Benadryl Allergy elixir and a After Bite Xtra topical ointment both available on the drug store shelf).

The Risks

To You The Beekeeper - There is always a risk of being stung when working around honeybees, for beekeepers it

is an occupational hazard. In general honeybees, bumblebees, wasps and hornets will not attack and sting unless provoked or physically attacked (or think they are being attacked). Normal hive manipulations creates a great disturbance in the colony making the bees tetchy and prone to sting anyone in close proximity.

Honeybee colonies differ in temperament some are well behaved and will tolerate fair amounts of disturbance, while others are ready to meet the beekeeper at the apiary gate, will harass them all the time they are there, and then escort them out to the car!

To Other People – As well as the risks to the beekeeper in the apiary, there are risks to other people and property in the vicinity of the apiary. Flight paths are often quite direct and may take bees straight into areas where people are going about their normal business. Stinging occurs when individuals try to wave away bees in a manner that looks threatening. There is always a risk to humans when apiaries are sited near to public areas such as pathways where adults, children and animals pass. The latter two are often inquisitive and may get closer than is safe.

To Property - Honeybees must void their bowels the same as any other living creature. They do this mostly in the relative vicinity of the apiary (up to 50 metres or more) and can cause soiling of laundry, windows and vehicles.

Note: Any sting to a member of the public will be from your bees, even if it was a wasp!!

Risk Management

The risks involved in beekeeping can be minimised to an acceptable level by following a few simple rules.

Bee Prepared!

Site apiaries well away from areas where people and animals will be in close proximity.

Keep the apiary tidy and free from debris, and maintain clear access ways.

Lift only what you are comfortable lifting, get assistance if necessary.

Always wear the correct PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) such as hat, veil, suit, gloves and footwear when working in the apiary. Make sure you maintain them in good condition and ensure you are completely bee-proof before entering the apiary.

Ensure there are barriers to lift bee flight paths above areas where people and animals will be.

Avoid working on hives when bees are not likely to be in good humour e.g. too cold, colony structure upset, wrong time of day, recent disturbance.

Avoid working on hives when there is a risk of members of the public being in the vicinity.

Exercise care when using a lighted smoker particularly during long dry spells.

Always follow manufacturer’s instructions and approved codes of practice when using chemicals and products for disease control and hygiene, and only use approved products.

Know what you need to do in the event of an accident, and Bee Prepared!

Be prepared for all eventualities and assess the risks before working with honeybees. If in doubt please contact the the provincial apiarists for advice. Website: <http://www.manitobabeekeeperassociation> or the Red River Apiarist Association. —//\—

**Red River Apiarists’ Association - Winnipeg, Manitoba
2017 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) @ \$65.00/year + PST \$5..20 = \$70..20

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