

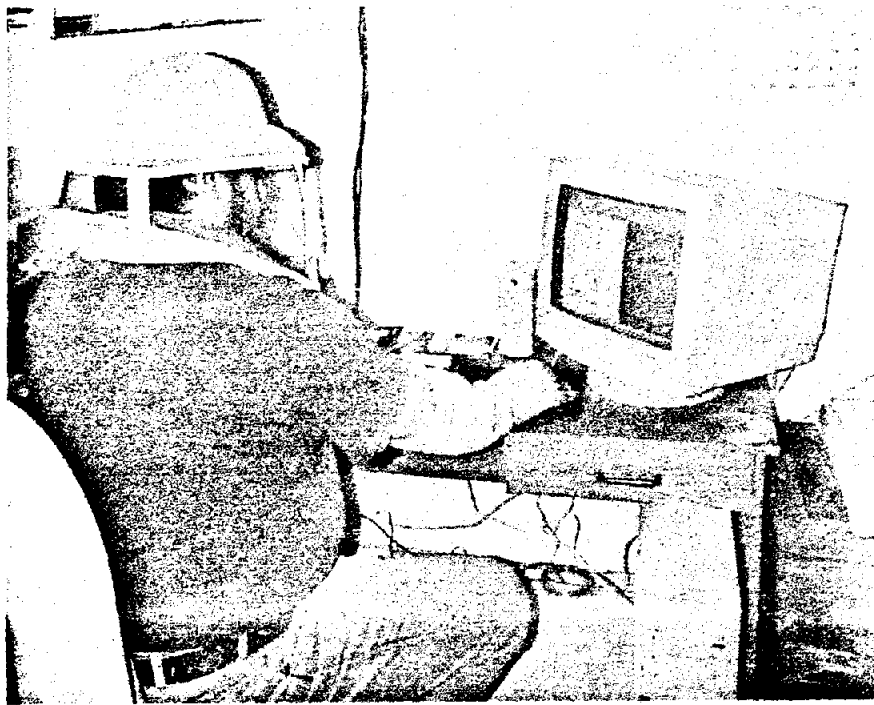
Red River Apiarists' Association

Bee Cause



Volume 2, Issue 4

April 2000



Ken Payne

*The Bee Cause editor hard at it creating
this months edition...*

Meeting Location

River Heights Community Center

**1370 Grosvenor St.
(intersection of Oak & Grosvenor)**

Meeting Date

April 11th

7:30 PM in the upstairs meeting room

Guest speaker(s):

Robyn Underwood

Topic(s):

Treating wintered colonies with formic acid
for mite control.

Guests are always welcome and coffee will be
served as usual, byob&b's :)

RRAA Website URL:

<http://www.granite.mb.ca/~rwayne/RRAA.html>

The *Bee Cause* newsletter is published by the *Red River
Apiarists' Association* eight times per year (monthly ex-
cluding June, July, August and December).

Membership in the *Red River Apiarists' Association* is
\$20.00 per year and includes a subscription to the *Bee
Cause*.

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President's message:

It is always nice to see a good turnout at our meetings. We have had about 30 attending the last few meetings. For those of you who attend regularly, it is a time to touch bases with our friends for some casual conversation. Then we can find out what each other is doing with the Bees. Then we move on to seeking advice on how to improve the way we get things done. Sometimes I feel that perhaps we should forego the official meeting and just let everyone talk! In any event, the social aspect of our meetings is what we are known for, so keep on talking, and I will let you know when the meeting will "officially" start.

As we move along into April, we are very anxious to see the snow leave and again check our colonies for successful over wintering. As Ted advised us back in February, Spring treatment is critical to get the upper edge on the health of our colonies. Hopefully you have already begun to treat with Terramycin. The recommendations for treatments were issued by Don and Rheal in January 2000. Make sure you follow the plans, as there has been some evidence that medication resistant AFB may be transported from the USA in empty honey barrels.

Thanks to Dennis Ross for the Super and frames, Rick Neilson for his Ontario honey, and Rod Boudreau for the sunglasses for our March meeting door prizes.

The news continues on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO). GMO is a term used internationally to describe the biotechnological technique of moving genes from one species to another. Many Canola growers are finding it difficult to settle on a specific seed variety until the marketplace settles down on what will be acceptable. It seems strange that for decades the genetics of some plants have been altered to provide input traits of either herbicide tolerance or insect resistance capabilities, yet now many seem to be getting nervous over the product. Crops such as Roundup Ready and Liberty

Link Canola are herbicide tolerant, while some potatoes and Bt corn are insect resistant. This angst has been compounded by the more recent GMO crops being developed that exhibit output traits, such as high laurate canola designed for specialty use, and tomatoes with longer shelf life. Lots of changes and debates to keep us thinking, huh!

Just a reminder, if you have a favorite topic for our meeting, let any of the Executive know. We can discuss how or when to fit it into our plans.

Keep watch for the news about the Pollination Workshop to be held April 11 (same day as our meeting) at Carman. Rheal has been working on this project for some time. The details will be confirmed soon.

See you at our April 11th meeting!!!

Jim Campbell

Editors note:

Good day to everyone, another newsletter just barely off the press in time to be delivered before the meeting!

This will be the last newsletter you will receive if your 2000 dues aren't paid before the next edition is due for release.

Please take notice of the web site address change, it is now:

<http://www.granite.mb.ca/~rwayne/RRAA.html>

The newsletter is up there for download to all whom are interested in getting a copy. I would hope all in the association will start to use this service eventually so we can start to put the association's money toward more beekeeping related issues instead of photocopying and postage fees which amount to close to \$800 per year.

Later Ron

Red River Apiarists' Association
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
March 14, 2000

The regular meeting of the Red River Apiarists' Association was held at the River Heights Community Club on March 14, 2000 with thirty-four members and guests present. 34

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Jim Campbell.

Minutes: Moved by Herb Schon and seconded by Emil Rekrut to pass the minutes as distributed to our members. Carried

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: - Dennis Ross reported that we currently have \$3319 in our bank account.

Jim Campbell introduced Rick Neilsen from Stratton Ontario. Rick gave a presentation on his queen breeding program. Seven Bends Honey Farm specializes in Buckfast queen stock.

Ted Scheuneman gave a presentation on the use of the screened bottom board for monitoring varroa mite levels in an apiary.

Draw prizes: Three draw prizes were given away to the following winners; a super with frames, donated by Dennis Ross, was won by David Greskiw; a pair of sunglasses, donated by Rod Boudreau was won by Emil Rekrut; and a 500 gram container of creamed honey, donated by Rick Neilsen, was won by Ron Rudiak.

Ron Rudiak (Secretary - RRAA)

Red River Apiarists' Association
EXECUTIVE MINUTES
March 28, 2000

Jim Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM at the Perkins restaurant, Kildonan Crossing, 1615 Regent Avenue. In attendance: Jim Campbell, Dennis Ross, Doug Henry & Ron Rudiak

Minutes:

Minutes of the March 14 regular meeting were distributed, a copy was sent by E-mail to Ron Wayne who was unable to attend.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Financial Report:

Dennis Ross reported that the balance was \$3319.00, the same as reported at the regular meeting. Memberships are coming in continually, this is why the balance has shown an increase. Dennis reported that he will issue payment for the coffee which was provided by the RHCC for our meeting in February.

A request was made to include a list of our current members in a future issue of the *Bee Cause*. Dennis agreed to work with Ron Wayne to ensure that the list was current and complete.

April 11, Regular Meeting

The topic will be "Medication". Several beekeepers have reported that some of their hives may have been lost due to infestations of tracheal mites. Formic acid is effective for controlling this parasite but very few of our members have been using it because it is difficult to work with. The presentation will include a demonstration on the use of "Mite Wipes" and other absorbers as well as safety issues involved with handling formic acid.

Loony draw prizes for April will be: Pair of sunglasses, donated by Rod Boudreau and a vest, donated by Jim Campbell.

May meeting - Picnic

A short discussion took place regarding the MBA Picnic which will be held at Terry Fehr's honey farm in June. We will get the information details to our members as soon as they are available.

Our Association will have a beekeeping field day, picnic and beekeeping workshop on May 13th. at Dennis Ross' honey farm. This event will take the place of our regular evening meeting. Dennis will provide a map showing the location for publication in the *Bee Cause*.

Ron Rudiak will provide the picnic food and drinks. There will be a nominal charge for the lunch. Auction sale items will be coordinated by a volunteer with 10% of the sale price going to the Barry Fingler Research Fund. The pollination workshop to be held in Carman was discussed. A notice will appear in the *Bee Cause*.

Honey Show:

Jim Campbell indicated that he has approached Polo Park, Kildonan Place and St Vital Shopping Center. Polo Park is booked up except for three days during the week in October. The St Vital Shopping Center marketing director, Cindy Shack, was not available to provide a firm date. Kildonan Place was pleased with the '99 Honey Show and would like to have us return this fall. A chairperson is required for the Honey Show event.

New Business:

Doug Henry volunteered to put together a folder which can be given to prospective beekeepers. He will use several folders provided to us by David Dawson for an outline.

Next Meeting: April 25, 2000

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Ron Rudiak (Secretary - RRAA)

KILD. PL
FRI 13-15
FRI 27 - SAT 29

Screened Bottom Boards, a Mite Management Tool

from a presentation by Ted Scheuneman

The screened bottom board consists of a wooden frame, fitted with a screen, which is placed between the brood chamber and the bottom board. The screened bottom provides the bees with a new front entrance as the original bottom board is reversed so that the old entrance now faces to the rear of the hive. The original entrance slot is blocked during cool weather to keep drafts at a minimum and stray bees from wandering in. The space of about 1/2 inches between the original hive floor and the screen of the screened bottom board allows some mites to fall through and because the bees walk above the original bottom the mites are no longer able to attach themselves to a passing bee. Mites do not climb and seem unable to find their way back to the combs in the brood chamber and will die within several days

To use the screened bottom for a mite survey, a piece of cardboard, metal sheet or plastic material is placed underneath the screen. The material is coated with Crisco or other vegetable oil to make a sticky board. Any mites, or hive debris, which falls through the screen, becomes trapped on the greasy surface. It is important to check the sticky board in 5 days or less because hive debris accumulates quickly in the spring without any bees to remove it. Normally the bees have access to the bottom board and will clean everything off of it.

An Apistan strip can be used to check for mites. The strip is placed within the cluster of bees for 24 hours and any mites which fall can be counted. With a screened bottom, any mites which die will fall onto the sticky board, and remain there until cleaned off by the beekeeper. If one fallen mite is counted during a 5 day observation period, it can be assumed, with a high degree of certainty, that there are 500 that are still alive in the hive. Three fallen mites equals 1500 in the hive, and so on. Mites which fall

during Apistan treatment are not dead but continue moving about for up to 7 days. In a hive with only a standard bottom board, these fallen mites go back up with a passing bee which may, in time, build up resistance to the chemical used to control them. In the spring and fall a large amount of hive debris will fall through the screen making observation periods longer than 5 days difficult.

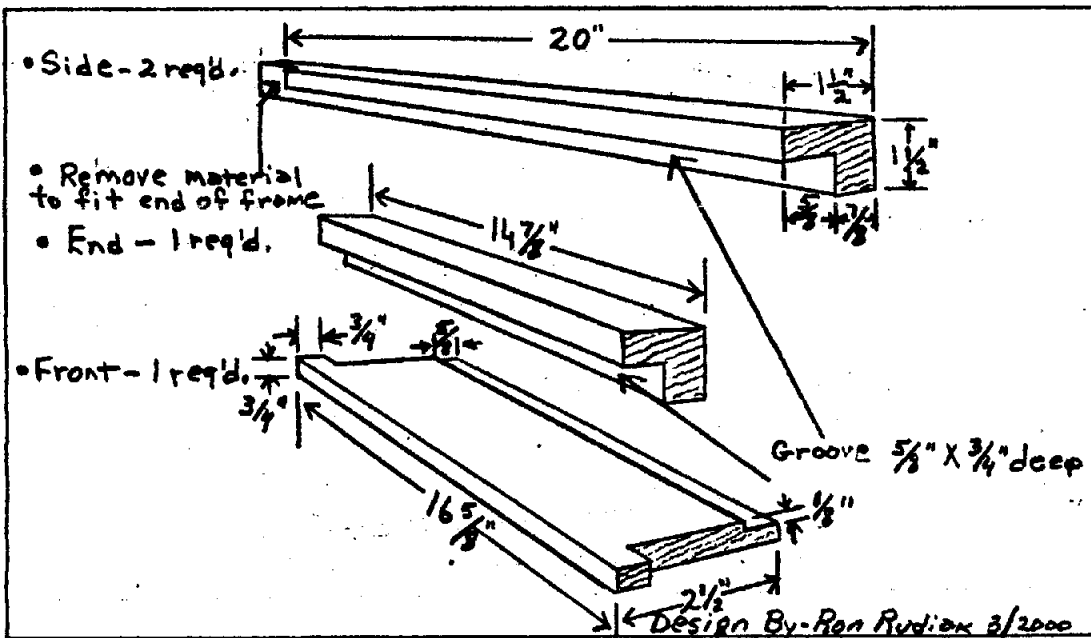
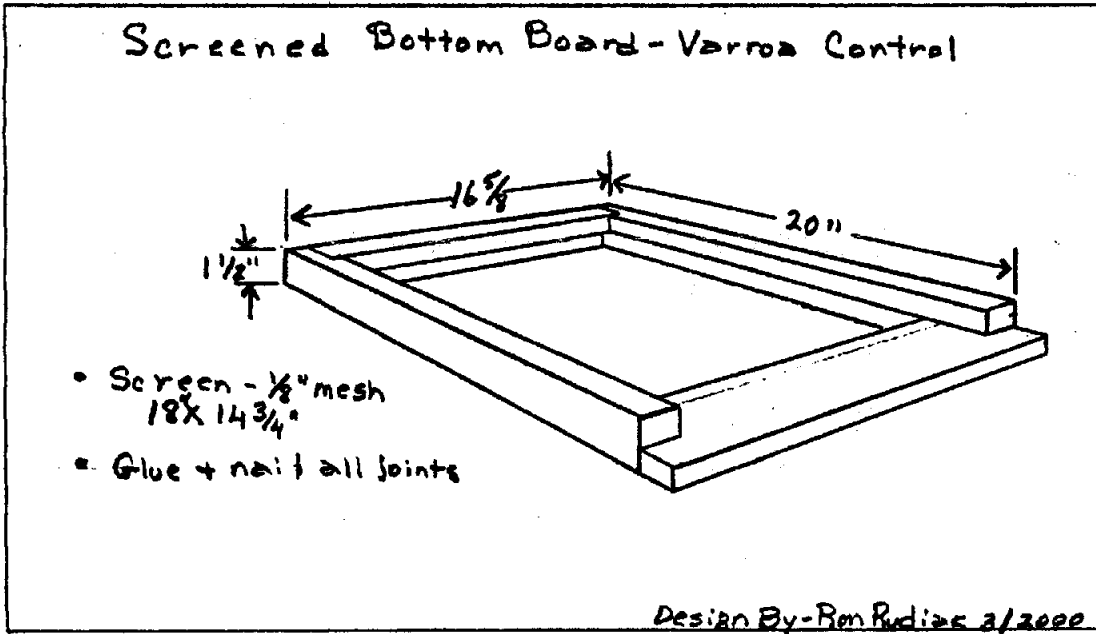
Sometimes bees will clean mites off of themselves or other bees and if a screened bottom is used these mites are put out of production. Screens should have no less than 8 squares per inch. While 6 squares to the inch will work, often the screen is unevenly woven and bees will go through. They cannot return because it is unlikely that they can find the large square again and will become trapped underneath the screen.

Drone combs are effective in attracting female mites and many mites can be destroyed by removing capped frames of drone brood. Even though screened bottoms and drone comb traps are used to remove mites it is still not enough to maintain viable colonies without the use of Apistan or formic acid. One chemical treatment per year in addition to the continuous use of a varroa screen and two cycles of drone comb trapping is sufficient to maintain varroa infestation at a low level. One varroa mite at the beginning of the beekeeping season can produce enough mites to cause the colony to collapse in the late fall. Mites only need 12 days to complete a reproduction cycle. Parasitic mites in wintered colonies of bees can be devastating.

See page 7 for a dimensioned design of this item.

The screened bottom board design

By Ron Rudiak



RRAA Family Picnic

The RRAA is planning its family picnic day for May 13th so mark your colanders. It will be held a Dennis Ross's place this year I'm told. There will be a beekeeping auction and workshops for various beekeeping topics also the usual food and fun. Bring your own lawn chair. There will be more on this at the meeting.

MBA Family Picnic

All Beekeepers and their families are invited to a Family Picnic to be held on Saturday 24 June 2000. The location of the picnic will be near the town of Gladstone.

Gladstone is adjacent to Number 16 Highway, just North-West of Portage la Prairie. Terry Fehr will have signs posted in town with directions to his farm site.

Invited to this picnic will be several political dignitaries, Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association members, local farmers, seed growers, aerial applicators, and a special speaker. The theme by Andy Sirski, editor for Grainews, will be "off farm investing". The picnic is to be a casual affair to meet others in a friendly atmosphere. Facilities will be available for all age groups, so bring the kids too. Picnic to start at about 1:00 p.m. and supper at about 5:00 p.m. Charge could be \$10.00 for each adult, however plans are continuing to get sponsors to cover costs. More information in later newsletters.

Red River Apiarists' Association member database as of April 3rd, 2000

I've listed the membership database as it exists on my system... This database was given a major re construction this last week by executive decision and could possibly have some errors in it so please don't blow a gasket if something is incorrect. Just get a hold of the appropriate executive officer for its correction.

For a dues problem contact: *Dennis Ross* at 878 2924

For corrections to name spelling or addresses contact: *Ron Wayne* at 755 3410

I've listed the 2000 unpaid dues members first, this will be your last newsletter mailing till you're current with your dues (hummmmm, I'm on it, this should be interesting). The balance of the 2000 paid up membership is listed on the next page.

Ron Wayne

Last name	First name	Address	City	Prov ince	Postal Code	Dues paid
Abell	Herb	74 Maybury Rd.	Winnipeg	MB	R2P 0E4	1999
Clemis	S	Box 17 Group 238 RR 2	Winnipeg	MB	R3C 2E6	1999
Currie	Rob W.	University Of Manitoba	Winnipeg	MB	R3T 2N2	1999
Dawson	David	Box 283	La Broquerie	MB	R0A 0W0	1999
Dyck	William	66 Normand Ave.	Winnipeg	MB	R2N 3Z2	1999
Esler	Pat	451 Kildare Ave.	Winnipeg	MB	R2C 2B4	1999
Fehler	Ken	968 Beach Ave.	Winnipeg	MB	R2L 1E4	1999
Jeraj	Alois	163 St. Andrews Rd.	St. Andrews	MB	R1A 3G2	1999
Jillette	Thomas	87 Fifth Ave.	Winnipeg	MB	R2M 0B3	1999
Levreault	Louis	Box 65	Baldur	MB	R0K 0B0	1999
Leys	Frank	Box 148	Dugald	MB	R0E 0K0	1999
McElheron	Gary	Box 65 Group 5 RR 2	Dugald	MB	R0E 0K0	1999
Medill	Jim	Box 61 Group 20 RR 2	St. Anne	MB	R5H 1R2	1999
Polcyn	Charles	845 Kebir Place	Winnipeg	MB	R3T 1X1	1999
Rohatynsky	Steve	32 Noble Ave.	Winnipeg	MB	R2L 0J4	1999
Senkow	Tim	204 Webster Ave.	Winnipeg	MB	R2C 3C9	1999
Swaliuk	Nelson	1017 Cathedral Ave.	Winnipeg	MB	R2X 1J6	1999
Vanderput	Neil	Box 988	Carman	MB	R0G 0J0	1999
Wayne	Ron & Diane	Box 43	Hazelridge	MB	R0E 0Y0	1999
Wiebe	Henry	5 Melmar Place	Winnipeg	MB	R2G 0P3	1999
Wright	Walter	1160 Downing St.	Winnipeg	MB	R2E 2R6	1999

Last name	First name	Address	City	Prov ince	Postal Code	Dues paid
Anderson	Albert	5530 Highway 9	St. Andrews	MB	R1A 2X8	2000
Argiriou	Chris	135 Harris Blvd.	Winnipeg	MB	R3J 3P3	2000
Boudreau	Rod	795 Pepperloaf Cres.	Winnipeg	MB	R3R 1G2	2000
Bridge	Paul & Eifrieda	Box 79 RR 1	Landmark	MB	R0A 0X0	2000
Bridges	Henry	718 Harbison Ave.	Winnipeg	MB	R2L 0Z2	2000
Buelow-Smith	Louise	21 Pheasant St.	Winnipeg	MB	R3T 1V7	2000
Campbell	Jim	Box 234	Stonewall	MB	R0C 2Z0	2000
Carpenter	Rick	427 Parkview St.	Winnipeg	MB	R0K 0B0	2000
Cherniak	Julian	455 Ottawa Ave.	Winnipeg	MB	R2K 1L1	2000
Chwist	George	186 Armstrong Ave.	Winnipeg	MB	R2V 1P5	2000
Edge	J	166 Lockwood St.	Winnipeg	MB	R3N 1R8	2000
Friesen	Jake	Box 278	Kleefeld	MB	R0A 0V0	2000
Gass	Dan	Box 51 Group 20 RR 2	Ste Anne	MB	R5H 1R2	2000
Genzelevich	Carol	Box 978	Stonewall	MB	R0C 2Z0	2000
Giguere	Larry	Box 2 Lot 10 Paul Blvd.	St. Germain	MB	R0G 2A0	2000
Gregory	Paul	Box 190	Fisher Branch	MB	R0C 0Z0	2000
Greskiw	David	756 Talbot Ave.	Winnipeg	MB	R2L 0S5	2000
Grysiuk	Stan	423 Rosseau Ave. West	Winnipeg	MB	R2C 0X6	2000
Gulakow	David	Box 25 Group 4	Lorette	MB	R0A 0Y0	2000
Henry	Doug	Box 6 Group 321 RR 3	Selkirk	MB	R0C 0H0	2000
Hourd	Ray	Box 8 Group 60	Anola	MB	R0C 0A0	2000
Isaac	PK	Box 94	Camp Morton	MB	R0C 0M0	2000
Iwoncxyk	Dmytro	563 Greene Ave.	Winnipeg	MB	R2K 0M4	2000
Jaques	Wilf	Box 10 Group 23 RR 2	Dugald	MB	R0E 0K0	2000
Kozak	Ray	Box 147	La Riviere	MB	R0G 1A0	2000
Lafreniere	Rheal	Ag. Serv. Bldg. 204-545 University Cres.	Winnipeg	MB	R3T 5S6	2000
Laird	Heather	18 Burning Bush Bay	Winnipeg	MB	R2J 2G1	2000
Lantagne	Gilbert	1018 Cavalier	Winnipeg	MB	R2Y 1E1	2000
Martin	Russell	1262 Corydon Ave.	Winnipeg	MB	R3M 0Z2	2000
Niazi	Javad	102-62 Shelmerdine Dr.	Winnipeg	MB	R3R 2Y2	2000
Nichol	Doug	Box 236	Selkirk	MB	R0E 0M0	2000
Otto	Warren	Box 39 Group 60 RR 2	Lorette	MB	R0A 0Y0	2000
Porter	Murray	146 Charter Dr.	Winnipeg	MB	R2R 1H9	2000
Proudlove	Wayne	Box 26 Group 10 RR 2	Ste. Anne	MB	R5H 1R2	2000
Rebenchuk	Ted	Box 1723	Beausejour	MB	R0E 0C0	2000
Rekrut	Emil	179 Waverly St.	Winnipeg	MB	R3J 3K4	2000
Ross	Dennis	Box 10 Group 125 RR 1	Vermette	MB	R0G 2W0	2000
Rudiak	Ron	Box 1448	Steinbach	MB	R0A 0Y0	2000
Scheuneman	Ted	780 Willis Rd.	West St. Paul	MB	R4A 4A3	2000
Schon	Herb	451 Oxford St.	Winnipeg	MB	R3M 3J1	2000
Sevcenko	Victor	Box 93	Minitonas	MB	R0L 1G0	2000
Shapiro	James	130 Greenview Rd. Box 160	St. Norbert	MB	R3V 1L6	2000
Shewfelt	Brian	Box 159	Balmoral	MB	R0C 0H0	2000
Smith	Brian	Box 423	Emerson	MB	R0A 0C0	2000
Speidel	John	64 Pike Crescent	Winnipeg	MB	R2K 3C3	2000
Stankevicius	Al	76 Wiebes Dr.	Winnipeg	MB	R2G 2G4	2000
Tuma	Erich	Box 4013	Oakbank	MB	R0E 1J3	2000
Van Leewen	John	59 Barrington Ave.	Winnipeg	MB	R2M 2A4	2000
Wityshyn	Steve	1191 Burrows Ave.	Winnipeg	MB	R2X 0S8	2000
Wollman	Joseph	Box 103	Balmoral	MB	R0C 0H0	2000
Zlobicki	Jan	1381 Pritchard Ave.	Winnipeg	MB	R2X 0H3	2000

MBA Executive named for 2000

by Jim Campbell,

A new slate of Executive for the Manitoba Beekeepers Association was confirmed on 29 February 2000. At their regular Directors meeting, recently held in Portage la Prairie, the MBA Board nominated their officers for the upcoming year. In addition to the Executive positions, all Committees were struck.

It was a busy day for the MBA Board, as the meeting was attended by a full contingent of the Board members. Welcomed, were the newly elected Board members consisting of John Clark, Wawanesa; Bill Bygarski Jr., Brandon; Art Bergman, Steinbach; and Abe Friesen, Morden.

Phil Veldhuis, Winnipeg, was elected Chairperson, with Lorne Peters, Kleeffield as Vice Chair; Abe Friesen, Morden as Executive Member; Merv Malyon, Brandon as Canadian Honey Council delegate; and Ted Turnbull, Elgin, as Keystone Agriculture Producers delegate. In addition, the following standing committees were formed; Research, Pollination, Promotion, Safety Nets, Pest and Pest Management, Annual Meeting and Convention, plus Newsletter. Don Dixon was appointed Secretary and Lois Simpson appointed as Treasurer.

The Board continues to work on items such as Skunk Control measures, a Family Picnic, and seeking a Newsletter Editor. Plans are also underway for a Pollination workshop to be held at the U of M Research Station in Carman on April 11, 2000. Stay tuned for details of this in future newsletters.

For Sale: Limited supply of healthy wintered nucs with 1999 queens, includes 4 brood frames with brood covering at least 2 frames. Available from mid April to mid May. \$100.00
Ted Scheuneman, evenings only please 338 6066

For Sale: Over-wintered hives in two brood chambers. 663 5550 Henry Wiebe

For Sale: Nucs 885 3344 Rod Boudreau

For Sale: 30 frame extractor 256 1644 Larry Giguere

For Sale: Bee hives, singles or 4 frame nucs
Brood, honey or Ross round comb honey supers.
Miscellaneous hive equipment (bottom boards etc.)
Well designed 100% cotton bee suits.
Reasonable prices 284 7064 Charles Polcyn

For Sale: Miscellaneous bee equipment; Cowan 2 reel extractor; Cowan jumbo uncapper and stand; empty supers \$4-5.50; many more items at low low prices 822 8004 Bruce Smith

Editor's note: If you mailed me an advertisement for this month's newsletter and it doesn't appear please accept me apologies, due to a clerical error (my wife did me a favour and cleaned my desktop) they was misplaced.