



The **BEE CAUSE**

*The Official Publication of the Red River
Apiarists' Association*

APRIL 2002

Free to Members

Volume 5: Issue 4

Important Dates:

Next Meeting Date is:

9 April 2002

7:30 PM Upstairs Meeting Room

Program:

1. Scheuneman/Rudiak - Heat Treatments using Formic acid.
2. Rhéal Lafrenière - Preparing for Spring.. Medications, mixtures, management.

Door Prize: a ham roast and some ham sausage, the roast is cured with honey maple and the sausage also has honey in it

Meeting Location:

River Heights Community Centre

1370 Grosvenor St.

(Intersection of Oak & Grosvenor
Door Prizes will be offered, Guests are welcome and free coffee will be available.

The Bee Cause Newsletter is published by the **Red River Apiarists' Association** eight times per year excluding 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**.

President's Comments - April Newsletter

Thanks to Don Dixon for teaching us about two major issues threatening our industry. We must be diligent in removing equipment infected with AFB. In addition, if you have mite problems, send a sample in for testing also. Both of these areas have indicated resistance to treatments. This resistance could have a serious affect on beekeeping.

Ted Scheuneman continues his observations of his favourite bees. His two bottom boards reflected a phenomenon where both strong and weaker hives appear to be eating the same amount of food. We do have to ensure we are looking at the right kind of information as we near the spring time.

It is great to see a good turnout at our meetings. We have had over 30 attending the last few meetings, including several guests. 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

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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 sun shine and again check our colonies for successful over wintering. As Don advised us, Spring treatment is critical to get the upper edge on the health of our colonies. Hopefully you have already begun to treat with Terramycin. Treatment recommendations were issued by Don and Rhéal in January 2002. Make sure you follow these plans, as we heard at our last meeting, there has been some evidence that medication resistant AFB may be transported from the USA in empty honey barrels. Manitoba, along with Saskatchewan and Ontario have banned bee equipment from Alberta and BC, where this problem has surfaced.

Thanks to Ted Scheuneman for the door prize. The winner will no doubt be cosy warm with their winnings. Thanks also to Dennis Ross for the snacks.

Charles Polcyn indicated he would invite Barry Fingler's sister to our next meeting. Apparently she was pleased to hear we are supporting the Research Fund established in memory of her brother.

See you at our next session in April!

Jim Campbell

Red River Apiarists' Association

Minutes of the Regular Meeting - February 19, 2002

The regular meeting of the RRAA was held at the River Heights Community Club on February 19, 2002 with 26 members and guests present. Ron Rudiak called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Minutes:

Moved by Murray Porter and seconded by Walter Wright that the minutes be accepted as circulated. Carried

Treasurer's report:

Dennis Ross reported that the RRAA account is presently \$2900.44

RRAA and MBA Planning Joint Field Day & Picnic

The field day is planned to take place on June 15th at the Vieldhuis' farm in Star-buck. Some of the suggested events were:

- 1) Leafcutter field tour and nest display,
- 2) Queen rearing demonstration including grafting and incubator,
- 3) Extracting line,
- 4) Salvaging scrap equipment,
- 5) Wintering building, 6) nuc production.

Discussion:

Convention update; Book signing at McNally Robinson at the Grant Park Shopping Centre

Loonie Draw:

John Watson won the barrel scraper.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Collecting and Harvesting Pollen and Propolis:

John Dolinski of Libau and his wife presented information on their experiences in harvesting and processing these valuable crops.

Ron Rudiak (Secretary - RRAA)

Red River Apiarists' Association

Minutes of the Regular Meeting - March 12, 2002

The regular meeting of the RRAA was held at the River Heights Community Club on March 12, 2002 with 32 members and guests present. Jim Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM,

Minutes:

Swarm sign up list was circulated. Fourteen beekeepers placed their names on the list, a copy will be forwarded to Don Dixon's office.

Loonie Draw totals \$24.00 - The "Bee Socks, donated by Ted Scheuneman, were won by John Zubatik.

Don Dixon gave a presentation on bee pests and AFB. Don detailed the methods by which we can check for resistant mites and what to do in case we suspect resistant AFB.

Minutes:

Moved by Walter Wright and seconded by Murray Porter that the minutes be accepted as read. Carried

Web Site:

The RRAA web site now has a short history of the RRAA as well as several articles on it.

Meeting Topics for April 9.

Spring Management by Rhéal Lafrenière. Evaporator device for the treatment of varroa and tracheal mites by Ted Scheuneman and Ron Rudiak

Barry Fingler Research Fund: Charles Polcyn brought a message of appreciation from Karen Karlberg for the support of the BFRF by the Red River Apiarists' Association.

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Discussion:

- Several guests were introduced.
- Killer bee video to be aired on TLC , Thursday March 15, at 7:00 PM
- The Red River Ex is looking for a honey-bee display during the week of June 24 to 30
- The St Vital Horticultural Show is also looking for a display Aug. 16 & 17.
- Ads for the "Manitoba Beekeeper" can be sent to Jim Campbell or Heather Laird. The Spring issue should go to press at the end of March.
- Bruce Fallis encouraged all beekeepers to send honey to the Royal winter Fair. He also encouraged us to select our own bee stock for best characteristics. He lost all of his good stock in the flood of '97.

Mite Trays: Ted Scheuneman described what can be observed on mite trays. He presented two examples which showed that there was as much activity on a small colony as a large one by the capping debris left on the tray. Small colonies consume as much food as colonies on ten frames. There were no bee droppings on the trays and only a few mites (all dead) which indicates that they could have been killed during treatment with formic acid and only recently cleaned out by the bees. Most of the debris was at the front which indicates that there is plenty of stored food at the rear of the hive.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Ron Rudiak (Secretary - RRAA)

Raisin Drop Cookies

1/2 cup butter	2 cups flour
1/2 cup shortening	1 tsp. Baking powder
1 cup honey	1 tsp. Baking soda
2 cups rolled oats	1/2 tsp. salt
1 1/2 cups raisins	1 -1/2 tsp. cinnamon
2 tbsp. Milk	1 tsp, Vanilla

Cream butter & shortening, blend in honey, add oats and raisins. Sift dry ingredients and stir alternately with milk. Blend thoroughly. Drop by tsp. on greased cookie sheet. Cook 14-15 min at 350.

When cooking with honey, it has a tendency to burn or darken the bottom of the cookies, bread or cakes - try using Parchment Paper (at the supermarkets) -- you don't have to grease your pans and you don't get any burning.

Donna Hourd

Editors Note: the above recipe won 1st prize at last year's honey show so be sure to give it a try.

Sampling Honey Bee Colonies For Resistant Mites

From a presentation by Don Dixon, Provincial Apiarist and information provided by Dr. Rob Currie, U of M Entomology

Most Manitoba beekeepers are using fluvalinate strips (Apistan) with good results as this material provides up to 99.9% control. Formic acid is not recommended for fall treatment because cooler temperatures will not allow adequate evaporation for proper mite control.

As most beekeepers are aware, a few colonies with fluvalinate resistant mites have recently been discovered in Manitoba. It was predicted that mite resistance to fluvalinate would appear around this time based on the US experience. Presently a proposal is being formulated for registration of a new control material, coumaphos, in Canada.

Equipment and materials to check for varroa mite levels (percent infestation)

- Honey straining cloth (available from Manitoba Co-operative Honey Producers)
- Large plastic pail (15 or 30 lb. plastic honey pail) and tight fitting lid
- Small standard size container with lid (calibration marks for 100; 200; and 300 bees).
- Metal strainer with 10 - 14 mesh per inch screen

To do this test, take a sample of bees from the comb face, using the standard container, being especially careful to avoid capturing the queen. When approximately 100 to 200 bees are in the container, as observed by looking at the calibration marks, the lid is placed tightly on the container. The bees will rapidly become anaesthetized due to the build-up of CO₂ in the closed container. Fill the large plastic pail one-half to three-quarters full with wind-

shield washer anti-freeze solution and place the straining cloth well down into the pail securing the excess cloth to the rim of the pail with clothes pins or a large elastic band.

The anaesthetized bees are quickly shaken into the metal strainer which has been submerged in the alcohol solution above the straining cloth (the bees will be killed instantly in the alcohol). The strainer, containing the bees, is then agitated for about 1 minute to dislodge any adhering mites which will fall through the strainer screen onto the light colored straining cloth. With the strainer containing the dead bees removed, the straining cloth is pulled taut and any mites which were dislodged may be counted at this time. In a 200 bee sample if 6 mites were counted, the infestation would be 3 mites per 100 bees or 3%. This test is useful when mite resistance is suspected because it is possible to do a large number of samples quickly and accurately with this set-up.

This test can be used to check hives for mites before treatment begins and again after treatment to ascertain that the treatment has been effective. After treatment the mite population should be reduced to below 1% if there is no mite resistance to fluvalinate. Anyone who suspects that they are dealing with mite resistance are urged to contact Don Dixon at (204)945-3861 or Rhéal Lafrenière at (204)945-4825 for assistance.

**CANADA/UNITED STATES 2002 JOINT
APICULTURAL MEETINGS**

**American Association of Professional
Apiculturists
Apiary Inspectors of America
Canadian Association of Professional
Apiculturists
Canadian Honey Council
Empire State Honey Producers' Asso-
ciation
Ontario Beekeepers' Association**

When: December 2 - December 7, 2002

Where: Sheraton Fallsview Hotel & Confer-
ence Centre Niagara Falls Ontario

**What: 2 Day Apicultural Research Sym-
posium (Dec 5-6)
Trade Show
Honey Competition
Business Meetings**

**Reservations: Sheraton Fallsview
(www.fallsview.com), Niagara Falls, On-
tario, 1-877-353-2557 or 905-374-1077,**

**\$104 Green View, \$124 Falls View, \$189
Whirlpool plus taxes, single or double, Ca-
nadian Funds.**

Quote HONEY for these special rates.

**Details at www.honeycouncil.ca or
www.ontariobee.com**

Items for Sale:

Presenter Wanted:

Roma Falsarella, teacher at Precious Blood School, St. Boniface, 233-4327 is looking for a French speaking Beekeeper to do a presentation on Bees and Honey for her class. If you can help, please call her and arrange a time. Please let Jim Campbell (467-5246) know if you agree to help her, so he will stop looking for a presenter.

Desperate Requirement for Buckwheat Honey:

Pierre Charbonneau desperately wants 8 to 10 barrels of buckwheat honey. Please pass this message on to anyone who may be interested in making a sale. Pierre may be reached at 1-450-295-2667.

Bee Keeping Equipment For Sale:

Bottom boards and lids - \$2.00 each.
Styrofoam hive inserts - \$0.50 each.
Brood frames with bees - \$25.00 each;
available late May.

Call Paul Gregory at Interlake Forage Seeds (204) 372-6920 or
email:info@interlakeforageseeds.com

Bee Keeping Equipment For Sale:

Nucs for sale.
Over wintered hives for sale.
2-Frame Extractor (Hand Operated).
Marine Type storage containers; one 8 x 40
holds up to 1200 supers, one 8 x 20 holds
up to 600 supers. For further info call Rod
Boudreau at (204) 885-3344 or email:
ggoldrod@shaw.ca

Bee Keeping Equipment For Sale:

Total equipment for a 5 colony apiary (no
bees), in good condition. Many extras. Will
sell individually or as a package. Prices ne-
gotiable. For further info contact Jack Edge
at 166 Lockwood Street, Winnipeg MB,
R3N 1R8. Phone 204-489-7561 or email at
edgej@bytebenders.com

Bees and Equipment For Sale:

New standard screened bottom boards, hot
dipped in paraffin to prevent wood rot for
years, with entrance reducer and metal
mite tray for easy mite counts, reduces
waxmoth as well. With galvanized screens
\$45.00, with stainless wire mesh \$57.00.
Limited number of healthy nucs from April
15 to end of May. Bees on 4 very good
frames with brood on at least two of them.
Each nuc comes with a 2001 over wintered
Manitoba queen; only \$100.00 Contact Ted
at (204)338-6066 between 1800 and 2100
hours.

Bee Keeping Equipment For Sale:

34 pollen traps for sale at \$5.00 ea. and a
Cowan 15 frames per minute uncapper at
\$2000.00. Contact Alex Remkes at (204)
866-3234.

Bees, Bee Keeping Equipment and Bee Suits for Sale:

Overwintered hives and new queen nucs
for Sale. Also equipment for Sale from
bottom boards up to top covers with
everything needed in between. Complete
100 % cotton bee suits for Sale, along with
bee tight veils. Contact: Charles Polcyn at
(204) 284-7064 or email at
charlespolcyn@Yahoo.com

Editor's Comment

Well, this is it for another month. The snow
is finally starting to melt and the first few
geese are back. Spring is here and the
bees will be outside again shortly. Thanks
to Donna Hourd for submitting the honey
recipe.

Doug