



The **BEE CAUSE**

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

<http://www.geocities.com/ve4tg/>

October 2002

Free to Members

Volume 6: Issue 1

Important Dates:

Next Meeting Date is:

8 October 2002

7:30 PM Upstairs Meeting Room

Program: Ted Scheuneman and Ron Rudiak will give a presentation on preparing for Over Wintering of Honey Bee Colonies. In addition, we will be looking for volunteers to staff the display for the October Honey Show.

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**.

Web Site at: <http://www.geocities.com/ve4tg/>

President's Comments

It seems that when we begin to feel we can handle the issues with our bees, another thing pops up. With the find of the small hive beetle near Macgregor, we may have to deal with this pest sooner than we would have liked. This news is causing major concern for several large beekeepers within about 20-30 miles of the find.

In my discussions with some of you over the last month, it became quite obvious that fall feeding and medication talks are still desired. Some colonies are going into the cool season with little stores and even smaller amounts of pollen than I remember. The sudden drop to cool weather during September created another issue for us all. In addition, for those finding varroa in their hives, it is very important to do a quick count. The few days of warm weather during early September made it much easier to use the Apistan strips and have good evaporation during the 20 degree days.

Some of you have reported disastrous honey crops due to the hot dry weather in June and July, causing a very short access to canola flowers. Hopefully you still can set aside some for our Honey Show. RRAA is again providing glass jars for your entries, as we did last year.

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Your executive will seek helpers at the October meeting. This may be a good time to get involved and have a great time meeting and assisting the public. Last year at St. Vital we had over 3000 people stop to see the bees.

As we move along into October, the scenery changes dramatically doesn't it. Most flowers are gone, yet our bees are still searching for more nectar and pollen, as our colonies cluster for over wintering. Seems hard to believe that with the zero degree temps in September clustering began already. Just a reminder again, air circulation is important for the hives, so make sure there is a top air vent for each colony when you do the winter wraps.

Our November meeting is typically a year end wind-up social type event. This year we plan to have a GADGET night. I invite you to bring along something for a "show and tell" session. Also, In November we will be establishing a nominating committee for the 2003 elections. If you have a desire to help out with the organization as we celebrate our 40th anniversary, let me know, and we will work at a plan to get you more involved.

Lets have a great October 8th meeting!!!

Jim Campbell

**Red River Apiarists' Association
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
November 15, 2001**

Sept 10

The regular meeting of the Red River Apiarists' Association was held at the River Heights Community Club on Sept 10, 2002 with 19 members and guests present.

The meeting was called to order by Ron Rudiak at 7:30 PM.

Motion: (Rhéal Lafrenière - Walter Wright) That the date of the honey show be corrected in the minutes and that the minutes be accepted with the correction. Carried Charles Polcyn's name was also omitted from the list of donated items for the Loonie draw in May.

Bee diseases:

Rhéal Lafrenière reported that varroa mite resistance appeared in Manitoba for the first time during October of 2001. Since that time more areas have been discovered where varroa resistance appears. These areas were publicized within an information letter to all beekeepers during the summer of 2002.

Small hive beetle has also been found at the wax rendering plant in McGregor (Manitoba). It is suspected that beetle larvae were introduced in a shipment of capping material brought to Manitoba from Texas in July. Since the initial discovery one beetle was found in a pollen trap on an active hive within one mile of the rendering plant. The rendering plant is working to exterminate the small hive beetle in its facility. SHB is a good flier and has been known to fly up to 15 miles to find a source of food (stored honey & pollen).

Spray damage by applications of grasshopper spray has been a problem in some

areas this past summer. If a major mosquito abatement program were to be used to control west nile virus carrying insects it could have a major impact on honey bee populations.

Honey Show:

A sign-up list for volunteers was circulated. Dennis Ross had cases of 500 gram jars available for honey show entries.

Meeting Adjourned

Loonie Draw: The hive tool donated by Manitoba Honey Co-Op was won by Ted Scheuneman and the bee hat, also donated by the Co-Op, was won by Audrey Jillette.

Ron Rudiak (Secretary - RRAA)

Scheduled Presentation:

Rhéal Lafrenière gave a report on resistant mites and what to look for when testing for mite resistance.

Feeding Collected Pollen

by Ron Rudiak

While supplementary feeding with sugar (sucrose) or corn syrup (fructose) is a proven and accepted practice to maintain honey bee colonies during times of nectar shortage, feeding pollen substitutes for brood rearing brings uncertain results.

Pollen substitutes have been manufactured from many substances which contain protein, including whey powder, pea flour, soy flour and other materials. Bees readily take up these substances from a patty, as substitute sprinkled over the tops of frames in

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the brood nest or rob feeding in the apiary. During times of protein shortage bees will also pick up sawdust, chop (animal feed) and bird seed from feeders to try and meet their nutritional requirements. Neither sawdust, chop or birdseed can be used as protein by honey bees. Because we use varroa screens with mite observation trays on all of our hives, we often see sawdust and bird seed in the mite trays after the bees bring it into the hive and accidentally drop it. When anything falls through the varroa screen, bees are unable to remove it, to either throw it out of the hive or move it into a cell for storage.

In the last days of summer, I made up some 5-frame nucs for wintering. Two or three frames of bees, brood and a caged virgin queen with attendants. An interesting note is that the virgin queens had been in their individual cages for nearly four weeks but were still accepted by the nucs and quickly mated. All of the queens are large and prolific, producing a solid brood pattern. One queen remained because I had no more 5-frame nucs made up. She was introduced back into our kitchen cupboard for a few more days of confinement. During extracting I keep our old Shop-Vac handy to pick up straggler bees from the windows, floor or from stacks of honey boxes where a patch of emerging brood is sometimes overlooked. On a recent day I had accumulated more of these vacuum cleaner bees than usual so I put them into a mating box and introduced the last queen. She quickly mated during one of the few remaining warm days and began to lay. Very soon the patch of cells contained newly emerged larvae. Unfortunately though, by this time the weather also turned cold and rainy which ended the opportunity for this small colony to find the much needed pollen for maintaining their newly hatched brood.

My first inclination was to mix up a pollen

patty, place it on the top bars, and observe what a tiny mating nuc might do under these conditions. Because I dislike mixing anything with syrup or liquid honey I came up with another solution. It seemed almost too simple. The first step would be to look for a patch of empty cells on the face of a comb containing feed in the form of stored honey. After finding the frame containing a suitable area (about 9 or 10 square inches of empty built out cells), I used a spray bottle filled with corn syrup and water to dampen the open cells, making them sticky. Next, I sprinkled dried pollen pellets into the open cells and sprayed them lightly with corn syrup to ensure that they did not fall out, then placed the comb beside the brood nest.

Curious to see what the bees were doing, two hours later, I removed the frame containing pollen pellets and observed that the bees had compacted many of the pellets within the cells. There were no wasted pellets on the bottom board likely because the corn syrup caused them to adhere firmly to the comb. It will be interesting to see if the bees are now able to raise the developing brood.

One word of caution, use only pollen which you have collected yourself from healthy colonies. Because pollen traps also collect hive debris, it is possible to have collected pollen containing American foulbrood spores.

Small Hive Beetle in Manitoba

This is confirm that the Small Hive Beetle has been found in Manitoba. It appears that the beetle was brought into Manitoba with a load of cappings from Texas in late July that was destined for a wax rendering plant near MacGregor, Manitoba.

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We were first advised of the possibility of Small Hive Beetle larvae at the plant on August 19, 2002 and were supplied with samples on August 20. On Aug. 23 Rhéal Lafrenière visited the plant and a local beekeeper where he found one suspect adult beetle in a pollen trap on an active honey bee colony. The samples were sent to Ottawa for identification.

We received confirmation of identification of the Small Hive Beetle larvae and adult during the week of September 2, 2002. The President of CAPA, Secretary of CHC and President of the MB Beekeepers' Association were immediately informed of, first the suspicion of the introduction and then the confirmation of identification.

The wax rendering operation has voluntarily ceased operation and has taken measures to process all remaining wax, remove and treat soil around the facility where larvae may have pupated and clean out the facility in an attempt to ensure no larvae or adults are present.

We have been in discussion with Brian Jamieson regarding future action and will be meeting with the Board of Directors of the MBA next week were this issue will be considered.

I will attempt to keep you informed in a timely manner of future developments with regard to this concern.

Don Dixon
Manager, Apiculture and Crop Diagnostics
Manitoba Agriculture and Food

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' Association

Ontario Beekeepers' Association

When: December 2 - December 7, 2002

Where: Sheraton Fallsview Hotel & Conference Centre Niagara Falls Ontario

What: 2 Day Apicultural Research Symposium (Dec 5-6)

Trade Show

Honey Competition

Business Meetings

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

\$104 Green View

\$124 Falls View

\$189 Whirlpool plus taxes, single or double, Canadian Funds.

Quote HONEY for these special rates.

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

Call for Gadgets

RRAA will hold a gadget Night at our regular meeting, November 12. All members are requested to look around their place and determine if they have any unusual items to bring. People will be asked to explain what the gadget is about, how it was designed, how it was/is used, and whether it worked the way it should. Let me know if you have something of interest.

Jim Campbell.

Canadian Western Agribition set for October 2002

The Honey Show dates have been set for the Regina, Saskatchewan competition. The Canadian Western Agribition has set a deadline for entries in the Honey and Beeswax competition for October 15, 2002. This show is sponsored by Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association, Saskatoon Beekeepers Association, and the Regina Beekeepers Association.

To enter any of the Honey Competition categories, one must first complete an application form and request jars for each entry. Entry forms are available from Alvey Halbwachs at 306-525-5871. Entry deadline is October 15, 2002. Judging takes place October 18th.

Some of the RRAA members have been successful in the past at this show. Charles Polcyn and Jim Campbell have some ribbons and awards in recognition of our Manitoba Honey quality. Why not give it a try this year.

Jim Campbell

Royal Winter Fair - 80th Celebration this November

The next Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is scheduled for November 8 - 17, 2002 at the National Trade Centre, Exhibition Place, Toronto, Ontario. The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair has been an unforgettable experience for millions and has brought Country to the city each November since 1922. Exhibit entries range from butter sculptures, to potatoes, to livestock. The Royal promotes excellence through world class competitions!

The 2001 edition of the Royal recorded more than 12,000 entries for its varied livestock and

agricultural competitions. And this third Royal of the 21st Century will again have ten days of competitions. The Honey Products Committee extends a welcome to all Beekeepers and Honey Producers to display or show their honey, honey products or bees wax under Section 812. Several Manitobans have entered this competition, with success. First place Rotettes, with the bright Red, White and Blue colours, are quite attractive hanging on your honey house wall. A Royal Ribbon is an indication of product excellence to our honey buying public.

Entry details and prize books are available by contacting the Entry Department at the Royal at 416-263-3418, or check the Web Site www.royalfair.org for information. You can also obtain entry form copies from me. **Deadline for entering is September 20.** Entries must be received by Monday November 4, 2002 as judging takes place on Wednesday 6th.

Jim Campbell

MANITOBA HONEY SHOW

**OCTOBER 18 - 20, 2002
ST. VITAL SHOPPING CENTRE
1225 ST. MARY'S ROAD
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA**

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

1. Competitions in Class 1 and Class 2 shall be open to residents of Canada who are bona fide beekeepers registered with the Department of Agriculture in the Province where their bees are kept. Class 1 and Class 2 entries must be 2002 production and from the exhibitors' own apiaries. Class 3: "Honey Baking Competition" is open to anyone.
2. An exhibitor will be allowed only one entry in each section of each class. An exhibitor is defined as one beekeeping operation, which in-

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- cludes other family members that share equipment or extraction facilities for entries in Class 1 and Class 2 only.
3. Exhibitors must state the name and complete address correctly on the entry form and must also attach a tag to each entry parcel giving the name and address of the exhibitor. The name and address tag will be removed before the entry is judged. To avoid confusion in case the tag becomes destroyed, a plain sealed envelope containing similar information should be placed inside each parcel. Parcels sent by mail should be marked **FRAGILE**. Entries will be cared for and entered in the proper classes.
 4. Honey entry deadline (for Class 1 and Class 2) is 4:00 P.M., Wednesday October 16, 2002. There is no entry fee. Honey entries should be sent to: **MANITOBA HONEY SHOW, c/o 625 Roseberry Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0T4. ENTRIES SHOULD NOT ARRIVE BEFORE OCTOBER 14, 2002.** Entries for the Honey Baking categories must be delivered directly to the St. Vital Shopping Centre by 9:30 A.M. on Saturday, October 19, 2002.
 5. Judging for Class 1 and 2 entries will take place before October 18. Judging for Class 3 entries will take place on Saturday, October 19, at the St. Vital Shopping Centre.
 6. The judges shall rule any contestant ineligible if the entry fails to comply with the exhibit rules or is not attractively displayed.
 7. Awards will be made by a scale of points and, in case of a tie, the highest score for flavour will be awarded the prize.
 8. Baked goods will be offered as promotional samples during the Honey Show. Winning entries in the honey classes will be used as prizes for the baking competition. One jar of honey from the winning entries may be returned to producers upon request. All other entries must be picked up by 4:00 P.M., Sunday, October 20, 2002 or they will become the property of the Red River Apiarist Association and will be do-
 9. nated to Winnipeg Harvest food bank.
- There are a limited number of openings for beekeepers (vendors) to sell honey or related beekeeping products. To be eligible, a vendor must be a member in good standing of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association or the Red River Apiarists' Association and also be registered with Agriculture Canada as a Producer-Grader and abide by the current Honey Regulations. Those wishing to be vendors must contact Jim Campbell (204) 467-5246 or Rhéal Lafrenière (204) 945-4825 by **October 11, 2002.**
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- ## MANITOBA HONEY SHOW
- ### COMPETITION CLASSES
- #### CLASS 1
1. Liquid Honey, White, totaling not less than 4 - 500 g glass or clear plastic jars.
 2. Liquid Honey, Sunflower, totaling not less than 4 - 500 g glass or clear plastic jars.
 3. Granulated Honey, White, totaling not less than 4 - 500 g glass or clear plastic jars.
 4. Beeswax - 2 kg in one cake or not more than 5 cakes.
- #### CLASS 2
1. Chunk Honey - totaling not less than 4 - 500 g glass or clear plastic jars, each containing one or more pieces of comb honey and the jars filled with liquid white honey.
 2. Buckwheat Honey - totaling not less than 4 - 500 g glass or clear plastic jars.
 3. Frame of Honey - one completely capped frame of white honey.
 4. Comb Honey - totaling not less than 4 pieces of either comb honey sections or cut comb honey in individual containers.

5. Sweet Taste - any color - totaling not less than 2 glass or clear plastic containers approximately 500 g in size. (Entries judged primarily for flavour and taste using simplified judging standards)

CLASS 3

1. Honey Baking Competition - 3 categories - each entry must have a typed recipe attached.
A) Cakes B) Cookies C) Other

The exhibitor winning the greatest number of points in the Honey Division (Classes 1 and 2) will be declared the CHAMPION EXHIBITOR of the Manitoba Honey Show. Points are awarded as follows:

PRIZE POINTS

FIRST 3
SECOND 2
THIRD 1

President's Comments-Oct Newsletter

It seems that when we begin to feel we can handle the issues with our bees, another thing pops up. With the find of the small hive beetle near Macgregor, we may have to deal with this pest sooner than we would have liked. This news is causing major concern for several large beekeepers within about 20-30 miles of the find.

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Jim Campbell

Editors Comments

My apologies for not getting out a Newsletter last month. Due to a fault in the power line coming into the house there was a power surge which damaged a lot of my equipment making it impossible to use my computer.

Doug

MANITOBA HONEY SHOW

2002 ENTRY FORM

DATE _____

Don Dixon, Secretary
Manitoba Honey Show
625 Roseberry Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3G 0T4

I hereby enter for competition, the exhibits herein described, at the Manitoba Honey Show. I am familiar with the rules and regulations of the Honey Show and agree to be governed by them. I understand there is no fee. I understand that the exhibits must be submitted by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, October 16, 2002.

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ POSTAL CODE _____

No. of Class Name & Number of Section

Exhibits must reach 625 Roseberry Street by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, October 16, 2002. All exhibits not picked up by 4:00 P.M., Sunday, October 20, 2002 will become the property of the Red River Apiarists' Association and will be donated to a charity.

MANITOBA HONEY SHOW

JUDGING STANDARDS

LIQUID HONEY

	POINTS	<u>CHUNK HONEY</u>	POINTS
Appearance and uniformity of containers	5	Appearance and uniformity of containers	5
Uniform level of fill	5	Uniform level of fill	5
Colour	5	Uniformity of honey - both liquid and comb	5
Freedom from crystals	15	Freedom from crystals in both comb and liquid portions	15
Freedom from foreign material	15	Freedom from foreign material	15
Freedom from air bubbles either in suspension or as froth	15	Freedom from air bubbles either in suspension or as a froth	15
Uniformity of honey	5	Flavour and aroma	10
Brightness	10	Neatness of cut edges of comb honey pieces	15
Flavour and aroma	10	Completeness of fill and completeness of cappings on comb honey pieces	15
Density	15		
TOTAL	100	TOTAL <u>100</u>	

GRANULATED HONEY

	POINTS	<u>COMB HONEY</u>	
Appearance and uniformity of containers	5	Quality and uniformity of wooden sections	5
Uniform level of fill	5	Cleanliness of wooden sections	10
Colour	5	Completeness of fill appropriate to section used	20
Firmness of set	15	Completeness of capping	10
Freedom from foreign material	15	Cleanliness and appearance of cappings	20
Freedom from froth and frosting	15	Quality and flavour	20
Uniformity of honey entry including texture	10	Uniformity of comb sections including honey	15
Flavour and aroma	10		
Texture of granulation (smooth and fine)	20	TOTAL <u>100</u>	
TOTAL	100		

SWEET TASTE

	POINTS	<u>BEESWAX</u>	
Flavour and aroma	50	Colour	30
Freedom from foreign material	20	Cleanliness (free from honey and impurities)	35
Moisture content	20	Uniformity of appearance	20
Freedom from froth	5	Freedom from cracking and shrinkage	15
Uniformity of colour	5	TOTAL <u>100</u>	
TOTAL	100		