



The **BEE CAUSE**

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

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

January 2003

Free to Members

Volume 7: Issue 1

Important Dates:

Next Meeting Date is:

14 January 2003

7:30 PM Upstairs Meeting Room

Program: RRAA Annual Meeting,
marking our 40th anniversary in 2003.

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 avail-
able.

The Bee Cause Newsletter is published by the
Red River Apiarists' Association eight times
per year excluding June, July, August and De-
cember.

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

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

President's Comments

As we begin another new year, it seems strange that December has been so mild. An even stranger event is the fact I finally got around to wrapping my bees on 28 November when the temperature was 5 C. This is certainly the latest I can remember doing this. The bees were nice and cozy, with lots of feed close to the cluster. Kind of nice to have a mid year check, yet not a good time to be disturbing them is it! What memories we have of two years ago when we were getting the coldest season in many years and worrying about the survivability of our colonies. Makes us glad that our bees don't have to go through that every year doesn't it? Welcome to another new year folks!

We will begin the year 2003 with our Annual Meeting on the 14th. By this time we should have recovered from the Christmas events. Looking forward to getting together again as we begin the 40th year for RRAA. We still have an active group, with lots of ideas and questions to make the meetings interesting. Thanks to all those who have helped during the past year, making it a Great Success, with our Field Day, Honey Show, Gadget Night, plus the invigorating meetings.

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Special thanks to Doug Henry for collecting and distributing our meeting notes in the newsletter.

Our Annual Meeting will begin as usual with a few formalities, then we'll hear from the Nominating Committee, headed by Rheal. Although by the time you read this article, it may be too late to add your name to the list, I would encourage you to think about helping out anyway. If you would like to be on the executive of our organization, give Rheal a call at 945-4825.

I don't have any specifics on the Research Symposium at Niagara Falls this past December. I had arranged to attend and planned taking honey from several people to the competition. However, my dad was taken to hospital and passed away on December 3rd, so obviously I was at home during that week. Fortunately we had time to send the honey. Preliminary information sounds like a busy time with lots of reports overloading everyone's minds. I will try to get some preliminaries as soon as possible. Some good news though, as some of RRAA people captured ribbons at the show. Thanks to those entering.

Keep in mind that The Manitoba Beekeepers Association will be holding its Convention out west in Brandon again this year. Usually it's bitterly cold for these days as well. In any event, some great speakers are being lined up, so mark your calendar for February 3 & 4, 2003. For those attending the AGM, there was a lively debate on the issue of permitting imports of packages and queens. The MBA will be presenting some of the research findings presented at the November Can/US symposium in Niagara Falls. Also a Congratulatory note to those members sending Honey entries to the competition. Several Ribbons were captured by the Manitoba entries.

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Once again your executive will prepare various programs for your education and enjoyment, however as we demonstrated in the past, we will be responsive to the desires of the membership.

See you at our A.G.M.

Jim Campbell

RRAA Proposed Budget 2003

Revenue	
Memberships	1200
Raffles/Sales	125
Miscellaneous	450
Total Revenue	\$1775
Expenses	
Anniversary	50
Picnic	00
Research (Fingler,etc)	50
Newsletter	700
Meeting & Office	400
Insurance	400
Total Expense	\$1600
Net Profit (Loss)	\$175

Nominating Committee Seeks Names

Our Nominating Committee has been busy contacting members of RRAA. It's Election time again!! As we approach our annual meeting on January 14, 2003, a slate of officers is needed for presentation to our members. At the November general meeting two executive and two members at large formed the Committee. Rhéal Lafrenière, Ron Rudiak, Fred Jones and Dan Gass are the members of the 2003 Nominating Committee.

During 2003, the RRAA celebrates 40 years as an organization. To assist in the celebrations, a full slate of candidates for the officers is being sought. If you feel you would like to contribute by serving on the executive, let Rhéal know. Call him at 204-945-4825. Although Rhéal will not be at our annual meeting, other committee members will present names for our election time. Perhaps this will be a good year for you to join our team.

Red River Apiarists' Association

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Oct. 08, 2002

The **regular meeting** of the Red River Apiarists' Association was held at the River Heights Community Club on Oct 08, 2002 with 21 members and guests present.

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

Motion: (Dennis Ross- Herb Schon) That the date of the regular meeting be corrected in the minutes and that the minutes be accepted as printed in the newsletter, with the correction. Carried

Bee pests:

Jim reminded the group of the article regarding the Small hive beetle find at the wax rendering plant in McGregor. 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). Herb Schon suggested a picture of SHB be distributed at next meeting so we would know what to look for. (Refer Rhéal article in MBA newsletter Summer 2000).

Jim reported the MBA had a second review of the price of honey and had recommended an increase. It was noted that our last newsletter was printed well before the honey price review was completed.

Honey Show:

A sign-up list for volunteers was circulated. Jim and Ron agreed to phone people also.

Dennis Ross had cases of 500 gram jars, provided by RRAA, available for honey show entries. Jim noted that Charles had a bee display at St. Vital Hort show on Aug 15.

It was noted that the MBA had completed a survey of Manitoba beekeepers, and that once this was reviewed at the next board meeting, our group would be apprised of the results. (possible handout at Nov meeting).

meeting adjourned, coffee served

Loonie Draw: Jim Campbell donated some "Bee" drinking glasses for the draw.

Ron Rudiak (Secretary - RRAA)

Scheduled Presentation:

Ron Rudiak gave a report on preparing for over wintering and what to look for when fall feeding. Ted was also scheduled for a talk, however was away sick tonight.

MANITOBA HONEY TAKES TOP PRIZES

Manitoba Honey once again comes out on top in two recent Competitions. Congratulations to several Manitobans from the RRAA entering the 2002 Canada/United States honey competition held last December in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Entries included Ron Rudiak, Dennis Ross, Judith Roe, Charles Polcyn and Jim Campbell. These people came away with some First, Second and Third place Ribbons.

In addition, Charles Polcyn and Jim Campbell competed in the Royal Winter Agricultural Fair in Toronto.

Again Manitoba entries captured Grand Championship and Premier Exhibitor Awards. A GREAT showing by our members.

Red River Apiarists' Association

Minutes of the Executive Meeting

November 21, 2002

The **executive meeting** of the Red River Apiarists' Association was held at Perkins restaurant, Kildonan Crossing, 1615 Regent Avenue with Jim Campbell, Dennis Ross, Rhéal Lafrenière, Gilles Lantagne, Doug Henry and Ron Rudiak present. Jim Campbell called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Old and New Business

Nominating Committee

Rhéal presented the nomination committee report.

The executive committee also discussed the necessity for re-instituting the following chairpersons

- (1) Entertainment - Social Events and
- (2) Honey Show, as provided for by the constitution.

Ron Rudiak will provide latest copies of the RRAA Constitution for the Association

2003 is the 40th Anniversary of the Red River Apiarists' Association:

Jim Campbell suggested several ideas under consideration for celebrating this milestone event. Our members suggestions are requested so we can make 2003 a year to remember.

Some of the ideas suggested so far.

Mead/wine & cheese evening social.

Compile an inexpensive book of honey recipes what can be used for promotion for the honey show or used within our own home sales area.

Produce a honey pamphlet promoting local honey, floral sources and uses.

Produce a honey recipe booklet for summer cuisine, BBQ, refreshing honey drinks baked goodies etc.

Host a beekeeping field day

Write about the rich history of the RRAA. Your Association has achieved many outstanding accomplishments of interest to others.

Newsletter:

Doug Henry presented a bill for \$572.87 for printing and distributing the Bee Cause.

Moved by Ron Rudiak and Seconded by Gilles Lantagne that Doug Henry be reimbursed for the amount of the bill presented. Carried

Ron Rudiak will inform several other beekeeping associations of Doug's address so that he will receive their publications in a more timely manner.

Coming Events:

February 3 & 4, 2003 - Royal Oak Inn, Brandon, MB - MBA Annual Convention

February 21 & 22, 2003 - Royal Oak Inn, Brandon, MB - Direct Farm Marketing Conference

The date of the next regular meeting is ~~September 10, 2000.~~ *JAN 14, 2003*

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM

Ron Rudiak (Secretary - RRAA)

LONG TERM EFFECTS OF BOTTOM BOARD SCREENS FOR CONTROL OF *VARROA DESTRUCTOR*

By T.C. Webster, F.E. Vorisek and E.M. Thacker of Kentucky State University

In one study, hives either with or without screened traps on the bottom board were monitored for 14 months to determine their effectiveness in controlling the mite *Varroa destructor*. A second study compared flouvalinate sensitivity in live mites that had fallen to the hive bottom both before and during flouvalinate (Apistan®) treatment.

For the first study, bottom board traps were constructed of corrugated plastic and wire mesh screen (3 openings/cm). Nearly all of the mites falling from the bees in a hive would pass through the screen to the trap. Twenty-four hives with equivalent mite infestations were monitored for 14 months beginning June 2001. Twelve of the hives were fitted with traps and the remaining 12 were without traps. All hives were treated with coumaphos (Checkmite+®) during October – November 2001.

Sticky boards were used periodically for 10-day sampling periods to estimate mite infestations. By 2-12 August 2002 the colonies with traps had a daily mite fall of 3.5 ± 1.3 (mean \pm std. error) while those without traps had a daily mite fall of 11.7 ± 2.8 . This 70% reduction is highly significant ($p < 0.05$). Our results are consistent with those of Pettis & Shimanuki (1999) and Ellis *et al.* (2001). The large effect we found may be due to our inclusion of two summers and one acaricide treatment. Earlier work (Webster *et al.* 2000) indicated that live mite fall, and hence the efficacy of the traps, is especially high during very hot weather and during acaricide treatment.

In our second study, mites were collected from an apiary known to harbor flouvalinate-

resistant mites, during October and November 2001. Shallow, screen-covered traps were inserted on the bottom boards of the hives, and retrieved the following morning. Live mites were collected from the traps, and placed into individual glass vials coated with flouvalinate. Four and 24 hours later the mites were examined to determine their survival. This procedure was conducted for 6 days before and 7 days during flouvalinate treatment. We found that live mites collected during flouvalinate treatment were less sensitive to flouvalinate than those collected before flouvalinate treatment. This suggests that many of the live mites which fall during flouvalinate treatment are an incipient flouvalinate-resistant population. These fallen mites are easily eliminated with a screened bottom board trap.

Both of the above studies support the use of screened bottom board traps (or bottom boards open and screened) in routine beekeeping. By slowing the growth of the mite population, acaricide treatments can be greatly reduced. Furthermore, such bottom boards should slow the development of acaricide resistance in two ways. First, selection for resistant mites will be reduced because the treatments will be less frequent. Second, the bottom boards may eliminate many of the mites that are somewhat resistant to the acaricide, while the hive is treated with that acaricide.

Ellis, J.D., K.S. Delaplane & W.M. Hood. 2001. Efficacy of a bottom screen device, Apistan, and Apilife VAR, in controlling *Varroa destructor*. Amer. Bee J. 141:813-816.
Webster, T.C., E.M. Thacker & F.E. Vorisek, 2000. Live *Varroa jacobsoni* (Mesostigmata: Varroidae) fallen from honey bee (Hymenoptera: Apidae) colonies. J. Econ. Entomol. 93:1596-1601.
Pettis, J.S. & H. Shimanuki. 1999. A hive modification to reduce varroa populations. Amer. Bee J. 139:471-473.

SOUTH AFRICA TO VASTLY INCREASE HONEY PRODUCTION

A project that aims to push up South Africa's honey production to 10,000 tons from the present 2000 tons has been launched by the Bee Foundation. Currently, domestic demand is met largely by imports, but this project would aim to meet this demand and to produce honey for medicinal purposes such as treating tuberculosis. This extra production would also have considerable export potential being organically produced said Jean-Marie Julienné of the Bee Foundation. The project aims to increase the number of hives from the current number of around 90,000 to somewhere in the region of 5 million and the intention would be to provide honey production units to communities around the country and to provide them with a guaranteed offtake market. The Bee Foundation would provide the necessary funds to equip the bee farmers with high tech injection molded hives, each unit having 15 of these and each hive producing around 20 Kg of honey annually. (Although in some more favourable areas this could reach 60Kg). The report also adds that each hive would be equipped with a global systems mobile device providing such information as owner details and geographical position. The Bee Foundation is working with the University of Pretoria on this project which is called Inyosi. (The source of this news story is <http://allafrica.com/>).

UGANDAN BEEKEEPERS TO STEP UP PRODUCTION

Ugandan beekeepers have stepped up production to meet the increased demand from Western Europe following the ban on Chinese honey. "Honey prices have risen steadily ever since the EU banned the import of Chinese honey in which health officials found traces of banned antibiotics". Ramsey Owott the president of the Ugandan beekeepers Association said. (The source of this story is <http://allafrica.com/>).

(Both of the above articles were copied from Apis-UK News Letter Sep 02 Edition)

Items for Sale

Sears Craftsman 10" Table Saw with Stand, in good working order: \$125.00 or best offer. Call Ted Scheuneman at 338-6066.

Editor's Comments

Happy New Year to Everyone. I hope the New Year will be a safe and prosperous one for all.

If you have any items for sale please let me know and I'll be happy to post them for you.

Bee Jokes 101

Q: Who is the bees favorite singer?

A: Sting!

Q: Who is the bees favorite pop group?

A: The bee gees!

Q: What do you get if you cross a bee with a skunk?

A: An animal that stinks and stings!

Q: What does a queen bee do when she burps?

A: Issues a royal pardon!

Q: How does a queen bee get around her hive?

A: She's throne!

Q: What does the bee Santa Claus say?

A: Ho hum hum!

Q: Why do bees hum?

A: Because they've forgotten the words!

Q: What kind of bees hum and drop things?

A: A fumble bee!

Q: What did the bee say to the flower?

A: Hello honey!