



The **BEE CAUSE**

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

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

April 2003

Free to Members

Volume 7: Issue 5

Important Dates:

Next Meeting Date is: **8 April 2003**

7:30 PM Upstairs Meeting Room

Program: Increasing Bee Populations - A lesson in making splits and nucs. Presentations by two beekeepers with tips on how to increase bee populations and hive counts in Manitoba, from Rod Boudreau and Dennis Ross.

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

Thanks to Don Dixon for reminding us about several things to do as we manage our Manitoba colonies from spring to the nectar flow. As he pointed out we must be diligent in removing equipment infected with AFB. In addition, if you suspect mite problems, send a sample in to Don or Rhéal for testing at the lab. Both of these areas have indicated resistance to treatments. This resistance could have a serious affect on beekeeping.

As we move along into April, we're all 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. Don issued treatment recommendations at our meeting, however he noted the recommendations were the same as those in 2002, so members needn't worry about not having a copy his handout this month. Don also advised caution when purchasing natural pollen from places such as Alberta and BC, where the problem of medication resistant AFB

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RRAA Executive Members

President: Jim Campbell
Ph 467-5246
Box 234
Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0
Email: jaycam@mb.sympatico.ca

1st Vice President: Heather Laird
Ph 475-2307
1003 Jessie Ave.
Winnipeg, MB R3M 1A1
Email: hlaird@mb.sympatico.ca

2nd Vice President: Gilles Lantagne
Ph 885-6047
1018 Cavalier
Winnipeg MB R2Y 1E1
Email: lantagne@mb.sympatico.ca

Secretary: Ron Rudiak
Ph 326-3763
Box 1448
Steinbach, MB R0A 2A0
Email: manbeekr@mb.sympatico.ca

Treasurer: Dennis Ross
Ph 878-2924
Group 40, B0x 20, RR2
Lorette, MB R0A 0Y0
Email: rosskr@mb.sympatico.ca

MBA Delegate: Jim Campbell
Ph 467-5246
Box 234
Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0
Email: jaycam@mb.sympatico.ca

Reporter: Ron Rudiak
Ph 326-3763
Box 1448
Steinbach, MB R0A 2A0
Email: manbeekr@mb.sympatico.ca

Past President: Ron Boudreau
Ph 885-3344
795 Pepperloaf Crescent
Winnipeg, MB R3R 1G2
Email: goldrod@netcom.ca

Newsletter & Website: Doug Henry
PH 757-4694
Group 321, Box 6, RR3
Selkirk, MB R1A 2A8
Tel: 757-4694
Fax: 833-2566
Email: ve4tg@rac.ca

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has surfaced.

Thanks to Ted Scheuneman for donating a pollen trap for the door prize. As he joked, it can also become a mousetrap if you leave the shelf open for too long. Congratulations to the door prize winners, with Steve Rohatynsky, Rhona Porter, and Judith Roe. Thanks also to Dennis Ross for fetching the coffee.

It is great to see a good turnout at our meetings. We have had about 30 attending the last few meetings, including some 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 are doing with the Bees. Most of us are quite anxious to check the food stores in the hives. As Don pointed out later in the meeting, even colonies kept indoors can die of starvation at this time of year.

Your executive appreciates the feedback on our initial plans for fundraising. We will have another look at prizes that might be more suitable to our group. In addition, we will continue our efforts on a recipe booklet.

Our plan is to have tickets available at the April meeting for the upcoming 40th Anniversary Wine and Cheese Party. Ken Fehler has done a great job of getting things organized for this event. Watch for the ad in this newsletter. We trust the May 2nd party will be well attended.

See you at our next session on 8th April!

Jim Campbell

Anniversary Celebration in May

All Beekeepers and people related to the beekeeping industry are invited to join the Red River Apiarists Association, as they celebrate their 40th Anniversary this year.

A special Wine and Cheese Anniversary Party is slated for Friday May 2nd, 2003 at North Kildonan Community Centre, 1144 Kingsford Place, Winnipeg, Manitoba. The celebrations will start at 7:30 p.m., with tickets at \$10.00 each. Each ticket entitles you to one free glass of wine, along with cheese, meats, dainties, and coffee. Additional wine tickets can be purchased during the evening. Several different wines will be on hand for your enjoyment.

To reach the N.K. Community Centre, turn east off Henderson Highway (a few blocks South of the Chief Peguis Trail bridge), at Kingsford Avenue. Proceed to the end of the avenue, where it turns into Kingsford Place.

To order your tickets before April 30, please call Ken Fehler at 204-667-9013.

Jim Campbell, RRAA Chair.

Association History Needed!

Red River Apiarists Association is celebrating our 40th anniversary during 2003. The Celebration Committee desires to record the Past and Present, and to collect photographs and articles to include in a planned publication. Our theme is "Proud Heritage-Learning for Tomorrow".

We would like individuals to prepare articles or provide photographs and mementos about designing equipment, members of our group, interesting characters in the industry, special events

and celebration memories, picnics of the past, growing the family business, promoting honey, over-wintering experiments and trials, managing the colonies, removing honey, moving bees, plus any other stories that may be of interest to our group.

If you are interested in helping preserve our past, could you please prepare an article for the publication? The article draft would be appreciated by July 28, 2003 if possible.

If you are prepared to collect and provide information, or have leads on people who could, please call Jim Campbell, at 204-467-5246, or write Box 234 Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0,

Heads up for an upcoming MBA SUMMER PICNIC

Picnic hosted at Bee Xing Honey Farm (Abe Friesen) - medium sized operation at Morden, Manitoba

Directions: Drive west from Morden on Hwy #3, ½ mile past the large Coop Grocery store. Turn right (North) on Road 30 W. drive ¾ mile and turn left (West) into the yard (blue house and garage with tall roofs). Follow the trail between the house and double detached-garage to the back of the yard to the honey house.

Date: June 21st, 2003
Start Time 1pm, B-B-Q Supper
Meal Tickets \$5 per adult, kids eat free.

Activities include: Tour of Honey House, Research Auction, Food and Friends.

Beekeepers Celebrate Centennial

In 2003, the Manitoba Beekeeper's Association celebrates its' Centennial. The organizational purposes centered around mutual help and protection, for encouraging people to keep bees, and for making knowledge of beekeeping available. We'll draw on these ideals as we look at 100 years of beekeeping in Manitoba. Your Centennial Committee has developed a slate of plans to celebrate this special event using the theme **"Celebrating our Strengths-Past and Present"**.

The pre-celebrations "Heads up" activity began at the Annual Meeting in November 2002, in Portage la Prairie, with an announcement of our anniversary year, request for story writers, and a display highlighting the centennial.

The Celebrations 'Kick Off' event occurred at the February 2003 Convention, in Brandon, where posters were placed around the conference room, and a pictorial and honey tin display helped identify the origins and past events of the association. A decorated centennial cake, prepared by Prairie Grains Bakery, Brandon, was included at the conference banquet. In addition, Lorne Peters made a presentation on the "Brandon" honey tin, followed by excerpts from our history as documented in "Prairie Gold".

Our next event will focus on "Foods from the Past", and be in the form of a picnic, at apiary sites of Abe Friesen and Phil Froese, Morden. Also planned is a tour of their operations plus a display of antique equipment. See the notice elsewhere in this newsletter.

For the fall theme of "Building for our Future" we hope to have a bus tour running through Ontario and into Quebec around mid October. Plans are still being formulated for touring the University of Guelph, a mead operation, and "old Montreal". We will see what the next beekeeping generation is doing.

For "Encouraging our Youth", at the October Honey Show, the plan calls for promoting school student tours of bees and equipment at the display in St. Vital Shopping Centre, in Winnipeg. The plan also includes new display and competition area signage promoting the Centennial Year

We plan to wrap up the "Year long" Centennial Celebrations with joint beekeepers meetings, by looking at "Strengthening our Heritage". At the

combined Canadian Honey Council and MBA meetings in January 2004, we will celebrate the Winnipeg origins of the Canadian Honey Council in July 1939, (Legislative Bldg, Winnipeg). At the MBA Meeting, we should have a display of memorabilia from several beekeepers collections (Books, Equipment, Magazines, Photos, etc).

We hope that you enjoy the year with us as we seek to document our past while we look to the future.

Jim Campbell, for Centennial Committee.

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To order your tickets before April 30, please call Ken Fehler at 204-667-9013.

Jim Campbell, RRAA Chair.

Items for Sale

Equipment for Sale:

Sears Craftsman 10" Table Saw with Stand, in good working order: \$125.00 or best offer.

Call Ted Scheuneman at 338-6066

Lumber for Sale:

Planed Spruce Boards, 7/8 inch thick x 10 inch wide x 8 ft long, price \$0.80 per foot, will cut to any size required.

Contact Dennis Ross at 878-2924

Bee 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 wax moth as well. With galvanized screens \$45.00, with stainless wire mesh \$57.00. Call Ted Scheuneman at 338-6066 between 2100 and 2200 hours.

Bees For Sale:

Limited number of nucs for sale in May. Bees on 4 frames with brood on two of them. No tracheal mites, no AFB, varroa not detectable. Each nuc comes with a 2002 Manitoba raised queen. Contact Ted at (204) 338-6066 between 2100 and 2200 hours.

Storage Tubs For Sale:

Large heavy white plastic tubs for sale. Good for honey storage or other uses. Size is approx 4 feet square by 4 feet high. \$60.00 each. Delivery available if required. Contact Ken Fehler at (204) 667-9013

Complete Outfit For Sale:

Complete 100+ Colony Operation, Bees, hives, carts, 32 frame SS Dadant D. C. extractor, SS Sump, sump pump, Cowan Uncapper, uncapping trays, storage tanks, electric fencers, frame filler, boxes, frames, foundation, queen excluders, escape boards, trailers, new uniforms, veils, gloves, miscellaneous beekeeping and frame making equipment.

Contact Charles Polcyn at (204) 284-7064 or Email: charlespolcyn@yahoo.com

Editor's Comments:

If you have any items for sale let me know and I'll list them for you. This is the last month the membership renewal application form will be printed this season. So if you haven't renewed your RRAA membership this year, please take a moment to do so now.

Doug

Beekeeping Story Writers Needed!

During 2003, we are celebrating 100 years of Beekeeping in Manitoba. The Centennial Committee desires to record the events of Past and Present, and to collect photographs and articles to include in a publication. Our theme is "Celebrating our Strengths-Past and Present".

If you are interested in helping preserve our past, could you please prepare an article for the publication? The article draft would be appreciated by July 28, 2003 if possible.

Articles and pictures could cover areas such as: Beekeeping Inventions, Family Stories of early beekeeping, Exporting or Importing stories. (hauling bees/equipment), Overwintering methods (past and present), Interesting neighbours. (unusual events/activities), Overcoming adversities (weather, places, war, changes), Research trials and results (successful or not), Organizations or co-operatives within the province, Other topics related to our industry/history.

For more options in the photograph area, some suggestions include: Extracting equipment or set-up, Transporting Bees, Equipment, or Honey, People involved with the Industry, Promotion Activities or Events, or Other pictures related to our industry/history.

If you are prepared to collect and provide information, or have leads on people who could, please advise any of the following:

Jim Campbell, Box 234 Stonewall, MB
R0C 2Z0, phone 204-467-5246

Lorne Peters, Box 98 Kleefeld, MB R0A 0V0,
phone 204-377-4242

Don Dixon, 204-545 University Cres.,
Winnipeg, MB R3T 5S6, phone 204-945-
3861

Cameron Jay, 615 Patricia Ave., Winnipeg, MB
R3T 3A7, phone 204-269-2242

Should you have any questions about our celebrations, please call me.

Jim Campbell, Centennial Committee.
(mar. 2003)

**RED RIVER APIARIST'S ASSOCIATION
2003 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM**

Please complete and mail with your cheque, for \$20.00, payable to: The Red River Apiarists' Association

Mail to: **Red River Apiarists' Association
Dennis Ross, Treasurer,
Group 40, Box 20, RR2
Lorette, MB
R0A 0V0**

NAME: _____

PHONE No. _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____

EMAIL: _____

NEW MEMBER [] RENEWAL []

THANK YOU

RED RIVER APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION

1963



2003

Anniversary ~ ~

Wine & Cheese Celebration

7:30 p.m.-May 2nd 2003

**N. KILDONAN COMMUNITY CENTRE
1144 Kingsford Place, Winnipeg**

tickets (\$10 ea.) call Ken Fehler at 667-9013