



The **BEE CAUSE**

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

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

September 2003

Free to Members

Volume 8: Issue 1

Important Dates:

Next Meeting Date is: **9 September 2003**

7:30 PM Upstairs Meeting Room

Program: General Discussion on Preparing Hives for Fall. Hear how some RRAA members get ready.

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

Wow what a great fall time! It's nearing the end of August and my bees are almost ready for winter. In the Stonewall area it is quite dry and the sunflowers are finished producing pollen and nectar. It is now time to put in Apistan strips to keep the mite population down for the wintertime.

Somehow with that busyness of summertime, it's hard to believe the next meeting is right around the corner. This has been a particular busy time for me this fall, as I have been held helping a neighbor with the harvest. This has made it complicated for me to extract honey and drive a grain truck at the same time. Perhaps its just being retired that affects my not watching the calendar, however, it still was a surprise to realize how many things have been completed since our last meeting in May. Hopefully by now you have heard of the recommended Honey price of \$2.50 per pound.

Our May 2nd Wine and Cheese party had an attendance of about 60 people. Guests came from as far away as Treesbank and Gladstone, to make it a success. At these 40th Anniversary celebrations, RRAA recognized Don Dixon for his 25 years of ser-

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vice to the beekeeping industry. We presented him with a bouquet of flowers, however I assume his wife appreciated them more than he did. Thanks again Don for speaking to our group many times over the past few years. During the later part of June a number of our members of attended the MBA picnic near Winkler. Over \$930 was raised for the Barry Fingler Research Fund. Abe Friesen distributed a number of queen cells to those people submitting articles for the auction. One of mine survived and is producing a healthy colony as we go into the fall time.

Charles Polcyn and I represented the beekeeping industry that the MBA display booth at the Red River Ex this past June. The lack of walk by traffic by the booth will cause us to evaluate whether this will be a worthwhile venture for 2004. Charles also has a display at the St. Vital Agricultural Fair. Charles is currently busy preparing for the fall Honey Show October 17th to 19, at the St. Vital Centre. Both of us would encourage as many entries as possible during our 40th anniversary celebrations. You may also wish to enter the Agribition contest in Regina as well.

As we move into September, and our bees are searching for that last bit of nectar and pollen, as are qualities prepare for over wintry, we need to remember the sultry. Fall treatment is critical to keep the upper edge of the health of our bees. Hopefully you are already feeding, pollen and syrup and medication. During extracting time I was pleased to see very few mites wander around my hives. This does not mean that none exist. It perhaps reflects my treatment in the fall and early springtime. I am interested in comparing my Russian stock to my regular stock to see if there is a difference in the presence of mites.

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See you at our September 9th regular meeting!

Jim Campbell

Red River Apiarists' Association
Minutes of the General Meeting May 13, 2003

Jim Campbell opened the meeting with 28 members and guests present.

Minutes: Herb Schon put forward a motion to accept the minutes as circulated. Seconded by Ken Fehler. Carried.

General: Several members noted that the newspapers carried an article about several stolen beehives in the Stonewall area. The hives, which had not been recovered, belong to John Amedick.

Canadian Beekeeping announced formation of a new organization, the Canadian Honey Producers Association (CHPA). The Honey Co-Op has informed beekeepers that there are no more queens available for this season. There may be some canceled orders which would place a few queens onto the market for sale.

40th Anniversary Wine & Cheese: Approximately 60 people attended this enjoyable event. Many door prize tickets were sold which may generate up to \$100 for research (depending on our expenses).
Bee Cause: Jim reminded the audience that the next meeting is scheduled for Tues., September 9th. and to submit any information to Doug Henry early enough for publication.

Manitoba Beekeepers' Honey Show: Charles Polcyn confirmed that the date for the Honey Show at the St. Vital Shopping

Centre is October 24 to 26.

Program: Phil Veldhuis shared with us much needed information on making hive increase by raising our own queens. Good honey crops start with good management.

Loonie Draw: A nest of large honey pails was donated by Charles Polcyn, Ted Scheuneman donated work gloves and Jim donated several miscellaneous bee items.

Ron Rudiak, secretary

Russians Ruled Field Day - by Jim Campbell

During the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association Centennial Year Field Day, the Russian Queen Bee stock took center stage for most of the discussion time.

At the June 21st Field Day and Picnic, held at Bee Xing Farms, just outside Morden, the more than 50 people attending enjoyed the comfortable temperature and surroundings. Clouds provided a great screen from the sun, wind kept most mosquitoes at bay until late afternoon, and tall trees provided an excellent setting for the Bar-B-Q and Bear Pit Session.

The Field Day began with a tour of Abe Friesen's Honey House. Abe demonstrated his desire to keep things simple by showing his wax handling system. The wax collector was mounted on castors so it could be easily moved around the honey house to the place where the cappings could be melted. Since the extracting line uses steam as the heat source, this steam is also used to melt the cappings. Prior to moving out to the Queen Rearing yard, Abe explained the mating boxes he used. As a side, he also experimented with some bottom boards that dispersed warm air when

drying honey supers.

Although the group was requested to bring veils to the field day, all were so anxious to see the Queen yards, rarely could a veil be seen. Fortunately the wind likely kept the bees attention. One by one, each of the four sections of the mating box was opened for all to see. As frames were passed around the curious onlookers, cheers of delight erupted whenever the mated queens were spotted. Once spotted, Abe's son, Mark was called upon for additional frames to complete the super, while the tour moved on.

In another area of the operation, the group was rewarded with a view of the original Yellow Line Russian Queen, the mother of those we had just seen. This Queen was a nice golden colour, and marked by a small yellow decorated disk on her thorax. Those who attended the MBA Research Auction this past February were reminded which beekeeper successfully bid for a sample from Tim Wendall's Russian Queens. Abe graciously offered queen cells to anyone bringing items for the research auction.

Rhéal Lafrenière hosted the research auction by agreeing to act as the auctioneer. It was clear he had gained experience at the recent MBA convention. The following items were auctioned of and all of the proceeds were donated to the Barry Fingler Memorial Research Fund:

Air compressor (donated by Abe Friesen) purchased by Hans Penner & Family
Table saw (donated by Abe Friesen) purchased by Hans Penner & Family
Cookie jar (donated by Ron Rudiak) purchased by Phil Froese
Gift pack (donated by Don Kitson) purchased by Jason Diehl
Bee blower (donated by Ray Hourd) pur-

chased by Hans Penner & Family
Smoker (donated by Bee Maid) purchased by Lorne Peters
Smoker (donated by Bee Maid) purchased by Alex Remkes
Book (donated by Bee Maid) purchased by Jason Diehl
Book (donated by Bee Maid) purchased by Ron Rudiak
Smoker (donated by Jim Campbell) purchased by Bruce Smirl
Pollen traps (donated by Alex Remkes) purchased by Doug Henry
Pollen traps (donated by Alex Remkes) purchased by George Chwist
Stuffed Honey Bear (donated by Phil Froese) purchased by Hans Penner & Family
Rocking chair (donated by Bill Bygarski jr.) purchased by Phil Froese

Overall, the auction was a tremendous success raising \$932 for research. A special thank you must go out to all those who participated in the auction, especially those donating items.

The Bear Pit session was hosted by Jim Campbell, who sought input on several areas of concern facing the industry: Doing More With Less - making full use of our inspection program, Benefits of Manitoba Queens, West Nile Virus, and Upcoming Beekeeping Meetings and Conventions. During this session Dr. Rob Currie provided a summary of preliminary research on Queens.

After the feast, the group extended thanks firstly to Abe, Lisa and Mark for hosting the Field Day and secondly to all those who help put on the meal (i.e. cooks, servers, etc). The cooks at the BBQ included Rob Currie, Rhéal Lafrenière, and others. Last but not least, I would like to acknowledge the corporate sponsors, BeeMaid Honey, Bee Basics Inc, & Medivet Pharmaceuticals Ltd for their contribution towards supporting the beekeeping industry in hosting events like this. **THANK YOU!**

Provincial Regulator Supports Meeting Postponement

At the request of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association, the Manitoba Farm Products Marketing Council (MFPMC) has agreed to postpone the "Special Business Meeting", which was to occur in early July, and to carry on until the regularly scheduled Annual General Meeting in November 2003.

In a recent letter, to the MFPMC, the MBA Board of Directors advised the council of the dilemma of holding a meeting in July and the importance of a good attendance at this meeting. "Beekeepers are extremely busy with honey production from June through August, and then are busy preparing their hives for winter during September and early October. There are many important business and policy issues to be addressed and it is important that decisions made at this meeting represent the views of Manitoba beekeepers". MBA further noted a postponement could provide opportunity for beekeepers unable to meet the original registration deadline of June 3, 2003, to now properly register.

This should be good news for some beekeepers, in that the registration deadline has been extended, allowing those who were not able to meet the original date, to now comply. It also should be good news for others, as they will not be inconvenienced with another meeting during prime production time.

In accordance with the association's Administrative Bylaws, the secretary shall prepare a list of registered producers and designated representatives within thirty days following the end of the fiscal year. As MBA's fiscal year ends on July 31st, the list is to be prepared by August 31st and will be posted for viewing at the secretary's office at Lot 19 Kingsway Kort, Brandon, plus at

the Ag Services Building, 204-205 University Cres., Winnipeg. It is important to note that to vote at the upcoming November Annual MBA Meeting, you must be on the list plus have paid membership fees.

Jim Campbell

Canadian Western Agribition set for October 2003

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 20, 2003. Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association, Saskatoon Beekeepers Association, and the Regina Beekeepers Association sponsor this show.

To enter any of the Honey Competition categories (fee \$5.00/class), one must first complete an application form and request jars for each entry. Entry forms are available from Alvey Halbgewachs at 306-525-5871. Entry deadline is October 20, 2003. Judging takes place October 22nd.

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

Canadian Honey Council activities

In the August issue of the Hivelights, Heather Clay, National Coordinator C H C, has identified a number of issues faced by the Canadian Honey Council.

Heather noted that the new Maximum Residue Levels being considered for honey is 0.3 parts per million or 300 parts per billion for residues of oxytetracycline. The current level of zero has caused a lot of problems because the enforcing group at Canadian Food Inspection Agency laboratory can detect residues as low as two ppb.

Varroa plus a bad winter has had a drastic influence on over wintered colonies specifically in Quebec, border areas of Ontario, and the Peace River area of Alberta. Losses range from 40 to 90%. As a result there's a big demand Coumaphos to treat mites next fall. The C H C is lobbying government to make the emergency use of coumaphos easier to obtain for those in need of an alternative miticide.

A Quebec company is pursuing the registration of two alternatives for treatment of varroa mites. One is oxalic acid using the vaporizer method, and other is a thymol-based product from Andermatt Biocontrol in Europe. C H C is supportive of any means that are effective against the target insect but not harmful to bees or produce residues in honey.

The cost of obtaining bar codes, sometimes called UPC codes, is a concern to beekeepers selling honey to supermarkets. Most sales outlets now require bar codes. There is an annual fee of \$695.50 charged by the Electronic Commerce Council of Canada for the use of a bar code. There is no reduction for small businesses. C H C is lobbying to have another category and a reduction in fees for small businesses un-

der \$1 million in sales.

Plans are already underway for the next Annual General Meeting to be held in Winnipeg at the Fort Gary Hotel January 26th to 30 of 2004. Details will be posted on the CHC web site www.honeycouncil.ca.

Jim Campbell

ITEMS FOR SALE

Beekeeping operation for sale, consisting of 10 hives of bees, 10 frame Maxant extractor, bee blower, tanks, knife, pails, etc. Call Ted Rebenchuk at 204-642-1338, Gimli for details.

Dates to Remember

August 20-21 Ag. Display, St. Vital Agricultural Fair

October 17-19 Manitoba Honey Show, St. Vital Centre

October 22 Canadian Western Agribition, Regina

Oct 31 – Nov 2 Honey Display, Kildonan Place

November 7-16 Royal Ag. Winter Fair, Toronto

November 17 MBA Annual Meeting, Neepawa

January 26-30, 2004 CHC & MBA meetings, Winnipeg

Editor's Comments

I hope your honey harvest is going well and everyone experienced a productive year.

Doug

MANITOBA HONEY SHOW

MBA CENTENNIAL HONEY SHOW-OCTOBER 17 - 19, 2003
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 2003 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 includes 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 15, 2003. 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 15, 2003.** Entries for the Honey Baking categories must be delivered directly to the St. Vital Shopping Centre by 9:30 A.M. on Saturday, October 17, 2003.
5. Judging for Class 1 and 2 entries will take place before October 17. Judging for Class 3 entries will take place on Saturday, October 18, 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 19, 2003 or they will become the property of the Red River Apiarist Association and will be donated to Winnipeg Harvest food bank.
9. 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 8, 2003**.

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 *PIE MUFFIN BREAD*

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

NAME PLACED ON BEE MAID TROPHY

MANITOBA HONEY SHOW - JUDGING STANDARDS

<u>LIQUID HONEY</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>CHUNK HONEY</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
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	<u>100</u>
TOTAL	<u>100</u>	*****	*****
*****	*****	<u>COMB HONEY</u>	
<u>GRANULATED HONEY</u>		Quality and uniformity of wooden sections	5
Appearance and uniformity of containers	5	Cleanliness of wooden sections	10
Uniform level of fill	5	Completeness of fill appropriate to section used	20
Colour	5	Completeness of capping	10
Firmness of set	15	Cleanliness and appearance of cappings	20
Freedom from foreign material	15	Quality and flavour	20
Freedom from froth and frosting	15	Uniformity of comb sections including honey	15
Uniformity of honey entry including texture	10	TOTAL	<u>100</u>
Flavour and aroma	10	*****	*****
Texture of granulation (smooth and fine)	20	<u>BEE SWAX</u>	
TOTAL	<u>100</u>	Colour	30
*****	*****	Cleanliness (free from honey and impurities)	35
<u>SWEET TASTE</u>		Uniformity of appearance	20
Flavour and aroma	50	Freedom from cracking and shrinkage	15
Freedom from foreign material	20	TOTAL	<u>100</u>
Moisture content	20		
Freedom from froth	5		
Uniformity of colour	5		
TOTAL	<u>100</u>		