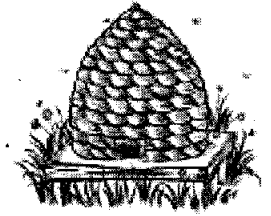


The Bee Cause



Volume 5, Issue 3

March 2008

Points of Interest:

- Next general meeting is 7:30 Tuesday, March 11th at the River Heights Community Centre, 1370 Grosvenor Ave., Winnipeg.

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Governments Rebuilds Provincial Bee Industry

SUSSEX, New Brunswick, February 19, 2008

Rob Moore, Member of Parliament for Fundy Royal, on behalf of the Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board, today announced support for New Brunswick beekeepers to help them rebuild their bee colonies after serious winter losses.

"This Government is proud of our New Brunswick honey bee producers, who make an important contribution to the agricultural economy," said Mr. Moore. "We recognize that these producers have suffered some dramatic colony losses during the winter season, and with this financial assistance we hope the colonies can be quickly revitalized."

Today's announcement of \$150,000 provided through the New Brunswick Honey Bee Revi-

talization Initiative will help beekeepers rebuild lost colonies. The initiative will also provide incentives to encourage the splitting of strong existing colonies.

"We're very pleased with the federal government's participation in the initiative to revitalize the honey bee industry in the province," said New Brunswick Minister of Agriculture and Aquaculture Ronald Ouellette. This contribution will help us enhance the ability of the agriculture industry to play an important role in our government's goal of achieving self-sufficiency."

This funding is being made available under AgriRecovery, which allows governments to respond quickly when disaster strikes and is one component of a new suite of

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RRAA Members on Tour

By Jim Campbell

Two members of the Red River Apiarists' Association attended the Canadian Honey Council (CHC) Meeting and Convention held recently in Calgary, Alberta.

Ron Rudiak and Jim Campbell met with people from across Canada, at the CHC meetings in Calgary, January 23-26. The Annual Meeting saw a new Canadian Honey Council come into being after about 3 years of review and consultation. The group agreed to retain the CHC name, as this seems to clearly identify the mandate under the new structure. Part of this re-

structure will see compulsory hive levies assigned to each province. This levy is designed to provide a secure funding level to carry on the business of CHC.

Following the meetings, Ron and Jim joined about 40 others on a tour of Medivet, Greidanus Honey Farm, and Chinook Honey Company. Medivet provides Fumidil B and other medications for Beekeepers. The Greidanus' family operates about 4000 colonies near High River, Alberta. Chinook, near Okotoks, is developing Mead to add to their line of products.

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Governments Rebuild Provincial Bee Industry

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Business Risk Management programs. AgriRecovery is cost shared 60/40 between the federal, and provincial and territorial governments. The announcement of these funds builds on a \$100,000 commitment announced by the Province of New Brunswick earlier last year.

Federal, provincial and territorial governments have launched a new suite of Business Risk Management programs for 2007. AgriInvest savings accounts will replace the coverage provided under CAIS for income declines of up to 15 per cent. AgriStability is a margin based program that will help producers cover larger income losses and will replace coverage currently provided under CAIS for income declines of more than 15 per cent.

To be eligible to receive assistance under this initiative, New Brunswick honey bee producers must be participants in AgriStability for 2007 and must have qualified to receive assistance under the provincial New Brunswick Honey Bee Revitalization Initiative.

The initiative is cost-shared 60/40 between the Government of Canada and the Province of New Brunswick, and will be delivered by Agriculture and

Agri-Food Canada.

The New Brunswick Honey Bee Revitalization Initiative will provide financial assistance to help beekeepers increase their number of colonies through the purchase of new colonies, nucleus colonies and queens and will provide financial incentives to encourage beekeepers to split strong existing colonies.

With federal funding added to the provincial funding already announced, financial assistance will be provided to honey bee producers to cover the following costs:

- Producers will receive funding for up to 75 per cent of the purchase cost to a maximum of \$170/colony for colonies purchased before September 15, 2007.
- Producers will receive funding for up to 75 per cent of the purchase cost to a maximum of \$120/colony for colonies purchased before August 1, 2007.
- Producers will receive up to \$85.90 for every additional colony gained through splitting of healthy hives by September 15, 2007.

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**RED RIVER APIARIST'S ASSOCIATION
 2008 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM**

Please complete and mail with your cheque, for \$25.00, payable to: Red River Apiarist's Association

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ PROV: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

NEW MEMBER [] RENEWAL [] STUDENT (free 1st year) []

Mail to: John Speer (Secretary RRAA)
 Box 16, Group 555, RR 5
 Winnipeg, MB R2C 2Z2

Starbucks Does Honey

Starbucks' latest seasonal flavour for its various coffee drinks is -- drum roll -- honey, officially available on February 26, the same day that the chain will close all stores for an employee training session (although it was already being served on Saturday February 23 at the Starbucks on US 75 just south of Parker Road in Plano).

Honey will be prominently featured in two drinks -- honey lattes and honey Frappuccinos. A honey-ish syrup (not honey) is added to the drink; then real honey is drizzled over the top which, in the case of the Frappuccino, would be drizzled over the whipped cream.

That Starbucks continues to dream up new flavours that can be paired with coffee is no small feat. Some, such as chocolate or, well, chocolate, go with coffee naturally. Others such as peppermint might not initially seem like a logical fit but turn out to be better than you might expect.

Honey is a fairly delicate flavour; you might question whether it's a "flavour" at all. But some people already add honey as a sweetener to their coffee and tea drinks. And for the cult of folks who like to try new things, honey seems like an inoffensive way to satisfy the novelty bug, not to mention it's sweet.

New Sweetener

Supervision entertainment Inc. is pleased to announce that the FDA recently approved an artificial sweetener made from all-natural crops such as wheat, rice, corn, potatoes, barley etc. It is a radical departure from such artificial sweeteners such as Aspartame, Splenda and others that are basically chemical cocktails of one form or another.

This new product is produced by creating an enzymatic degradation of all the natural crops which is then processed and purified. The end result is an all-natural sweetener that looks exactly like honey, tastes exactly like honey, and has the same consistency as honey.

The product is FDA approved for inclusion in literally thousands of products from cereals, chocolate bars, colas, nutrition bars, baking goods and hundreds of other classifications of foods. In short, anywhere sugar is used, this product can be used to replace sugar. The company is now working on several marketing approaches and expects to announce a major marketing contract shortly.

Building a Better Box for Orchard Bees

Newly designed bee-box boosts pollinators' readiness
22.jan.08
USDA ARS News Service

Hardworking blue orchard bees can be coaxed out of their snug winter cocoons just in time to pollinate the year's earliest and best blossoms, thanks to a newly designed box for these slumbering pollinators.

Bee experts with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Pollinating Insects Biology, Management and Systematics Research Unit in Logan, Utah, created the box to help growers and beekeepers ensure that blue orchard bees (*Osmia lignaria*) or other wild bees are ready to help America's harried honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) pollinate fruit or nut trees--or other crops--as soon as they begin to flower.

Synchronizing bees and blooms is tricky, according to ARS research entomologist Theresa L. Pitts-Singer at Logan. For example, almond trees may burst into bloom when still-wintering bees aren't yet ready to pollinate them.

Pitts-Singer, Logan technician Glen E. Trostle, and former Logan entomologists William P. Kemp, now with ARS in North Dakota, and Jordi Bosch, now in Spain, designed and tested the housing unit, called a "bee warming and emergence box." ARS is seeking a patent.

Tests in a California almond orchard and Utah apple orchard--with about 450 female blue orchard bees in each--showed that approximately 50 percent of the bees sheltered in the new boxes flew outdoors by the fourth day of the test. That was two days earlier in California and seven days earlier in Utah than bees emerging from traditional, unheated wood blocks.

For the experiment, prototype units--made of polycarbonate and polystyrene foam, and measuring 16 by 10 by 13 inches--were slipped inside wood shelters in the orchards. Each prototype included a heating unit, thermostat and clear tube for bees to use as an exit. Some daylight comes into the box through the clear tube, so that bees can find their way out. Flexible bristles lining the tube allow bees out, but not back in. That's a plus, because it encourages the bees to make new, clean nests in wood blocks nearby.

ARS is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific research agency.

Red River Apiarists' Association Minutes of the General Meeting February 12, 2008

John Russell Badiuk welcomed everyone to the February RRAA meeting at the River Heights Community Centre, in Winnipeg, with 19 members present.

Minutes: Moved by Walter Wright and seconded by Stan Grysiuk to accept the January minutes of the regular meeting as circulated with the Bee Cause. Motion was carried.

Topics for Future Meetings: Margaret encouraged everyone to write their suggestions for topics on forms which she handed out.

Financial Report: John Speer reported that the account balance is currently \$5968.07.

Newsletter: Rhéal Lafrenière reminded everyone that students at the University of Manitoba beekeeping course, on request, qualify for a one-year guest membership in the RRAA and receive the Bee Cause as part of this offer.

MBA Report: David Ostermann and Rhéal Lafrenière reported on the well attended Nosema Workshop held during the February MBA Conference in Brandon. Jim Campbell said that the special lunchtime meeting at the MBA Convention to discuss the MBA Strategic Plan was also well attended. Jim also reported on the presentation by James Amrine about their successful findings using a newly developed product called Honey-B Healthy in Florida which they developed for the control of varroa. Some of this material will be tested in Manitoba. Bill Bygarski (Sr.) And Bob Needham also received Life Member Awards.

For the Good of the Industry: Rhéal, in response to a question about CCD, said that his personal observation is that this problem could be a multiple stress disorder where colonies become so overwhelmed by many organisms, parasites and environmental factors that they succumb to this syndrome.

John Russell informed everyone that nucs and packages will likely be in short supply for this season. If anyone needs bees it would be advisable to order as early as possible. Rhéal said that Western Australia is trying to set up to export packages although small hive beetle poses a problem for some importers like Canada. Today no imports from Australia are allowed into Canada.

Neil Vanderput demonstrated, with well practised fingers, the breaking of a tiny piece of coloured glass which he changed

from a diamond shape into a hexagon. Neil is adept at the making of stained glass pictures and other designs.

Program: Nosema Apis and the Newcomer Nosema Cerana Rhéal Lafrenière provided us with an informational presentation on the recently identified organism Nosema Cerana, how it affects the honeybee and how it is different but, in some respects, similar to nosema apis. Rhéal described many of the characteristics of both organisms, some useful controls and answered many questions.

Loonie Draw: Several items were again donated by RRAA members and Bee Maid. John Russell brought several interesting jars of honey for prizes. Stan Grysiuk won the spring jacket donated by Bee Maid, Margaret Smith won the eco bag from Bee Maid, Fern Saurette won the Cuban honey donated by John Russell, John Speer won the brooch made from stained glass donated by Neil Vanderput and Neil's name was drawn for the jar of Button Sage honey. Fern Saurette at the MBA Convention was the winner of the orange blossom honey, Howard Alexander a jar of John's Saskatoon Honey Spread and Dan Lecocq received the Bee Basket.

Ron Rudiak, Secretary RRAA

Red River Apiarists' Association Minutes of the Executive Meeting February 26, 2008

Sals Off the Bridge - Bishop Grandin & Pembina Hwy.

- John Russell called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM with, David Ostermann, Margaret Smith, Jim Campbell and Ron Rudiak in attendance.

Red River Apiarists' Association Logo and Brochure about the RRAA:

- John Russell again pointed out the need to develop a logo for the RRAA. This item was discussed previously, last year, and the executive agreed to see if students enrolled in a high school arts program might be interested in submitting some appropriate designs.

-John is writing a brochure describing the RRAA to hand out to prospective members. The brochure would be available for honey shows and promotions to attract prospective RRAA members.

RRAA Constitution:

- Our present Constitution (and accompanying By-laws) were

(Continued on page 6)

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale: 5 frame nucs \$150.00, three or four frame nucs made upon request. will be available may 15th. please contact

Dennis Ross - 878-2924

Wanted: Looking for a solar wax melter.

Doug Henry 757-4694 dhenry@skyweb.ca

For Sale: Also Over wintered super nucs for sale next mid may. 3 frames of brood + 1 frame honey. Price is \$130.00 each.



Call **Pierre Faure**: 1 .204.248.2645

For Sale: 300 supered nucs for sale. Includes 10 frame laying queen. No less than 3 brood pollen feed. Inspected and treated. Wintered outside. Ready for May 15 to June 5. Some queens from Chile and marked available.

Contact **Rod Boudreau** 204-885-3344

For Sale: 60 frames Cowen extractor in mint condition.

Phone : 204.248.2645

Cell : 204.295.2856 Ask for **Pierre Faure**

For Sale: 50 hives for sale.

Call **Rudy Harsany** at (204) 866-2276

For Sale: Small number of 4 frame nucs with 2007 queens. Some 3/8 plywood inner cover with 7/8 * 7/8 pine rim. \$7.50 each.

Please call **Ted Scheuneman** 338-6066, West St Paul

For Sale: All of Operation: Wintering Bees and hives, Plastic Insulated Supers, 30 frame Maxant Extractor.

Please call **Javad Niazi** 885-0576

Wanted: 4 frame extractor

Please call **Ted Scheuneman** 338-6066, West St Paul

For Sale: Small number of 4 frame nucs with 2007 queens.

Please call **George Chwist** 338-5078

Province Rebuilds

(Continued from page 2)

Criteria to determine eligibility:

To be eligible for assistance, honey bee producers must have:

- Demonstrate in writing their plans for revitalizing their honey bee colonies.
- Be registered as a New Brunswick beekeeper in 2007 as per the New Brunswick Apiary Inspection Act and must have registered 40 or more colonies in 2006.
- Have experienced at least 25 per cent over-wintering loss in 2006-07.
- Be a participant in AgriStability for 2007.
- Must have received a payment through the provincial New Brunswick Honey Bee Revitalization Initiative.

Did you know ...

Placing a dark landing surface such as painted plywood or tar paper in front of hive can save many a bee from dying in the snow after an early spring flight. (A tip give to the editor from Ted Scheuneman).

RED RIVER APIARIST ASSOCIATION

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We are on the web!
www.geocities.com/ve4tg/

The Bee Cause is the official publication of the Red River Apiarist Association for distribution to its members and their colleagues in the beekeeping industry. It is published eight times a year on a monthly basis excepting December and the summer months of June, July, and August when membership meetings do not occur.

Articles can be best submitted in HTML or RTF formats as email attachments. Though they may be edited for spelling and basic grammar, no changes will be made to their contents, message and opinions. They are those of their originator and not of the Red River Apiarist Association.

Deadline for any submission to this newsletter is the second Saturday preceding the membership meeting to allow for publishing and mailing delays. Regular membership meetings are normally scheduled 7:30 PM on the second Tuesday of every month at the River Heights Community Centre located at 1370 Grosvenor Avenue in Winnipeg except the months as noted above.

The Red River Apiarist Association, formed in 1963, represents the beekeepers of the Red River Valley and environs in southern Manitoba. The association provides a forum for the promotion of sound beekeeping practices through education, networking opportunities, meetings, field days, workshops, presentations by local apicultural experts, as well as the dissemination of this monthly

Minutes of the Executive Meeting

(Continued from page 4)

last updated on January 13, 1986. Since then operational changes have taken place which need to be reflected within an up to date document. Jim Campbell, David Ostermann and Jack Lee will work together to update the RRAA By-laws. The completed document will be submitted for approval by the RRAA membership.

- The board agreed to ask the Manitoba Archives to retain some of RRAA's historical material.

Honey Show: John and Charles Polcyn will contact Polo Park, the St. Vital Shopping Center and The Forks to see about space availability for having the honey show. The preferred dates are October 17, 18 and 19th.

Library Tapes: John has the VHS library tapes at present. Ron Rudiak will archive the Association's video tapes onto DVD's when his computer is upgraded to allow this function.

New Business and Meeting Topics: The Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) and various members of the beekeeping community in Manitoba are working together to create a new exhibit which will be unveiled on June 25 entitled "Honey: The Story of Beekeeping on the Canadian Prairies". The MHV and Exhibit Committee would like to request financial sup-

port from the RRAA in the amount of \$500 as well. A high percentage of the museums 50,000 visitors and 6,000 school children will likely view this display.

- Moved by Jim Campbell that the board: Recommend to our membership that the RRAA provide \$500 toward the creation of the display entitled "Honey: The Story of Beekeeping on the Canadian Prairies". Seconded by John Russell. Carried.

- Moved by Ron Rudiak: That the RRAA purchase the grade 4 to 6 "Honey Teaching Program for Schools" and CD from the National Honey Board as educational material. The approximate cost would be about \$30.00. Seconded by John. Carried

- March 11th meeting topic: Spring Management - a question and answer session facilitated by David Ostermann

- April 8th meeting: Lead - how to minimize the risk. Sam Barlin (CFIA)

- May 13th meeting: Charles Polcyn on his recent experiences in Honduras

(Note - The topics for April and May are not yet confirmed)

- June 25th MBA field trip to the MHV in Steinbach for the unveiling of the beekeeping display.

Ron Rudiak, secretary