

# The Bee Cause



Volume 10, Issue 6

September 2013

- Next general meeting is 7:30 Tuesday, **September 10th** at the **River Heights Community Centre, 1370 Grosvenor Ave., Winnipeg.**
- (in room right off maindoor)

**Speaker:** Fall Management of Bees - Part 1. Fall Medication Suggestions Rheal -Provincial Apiarist; Fort Whyte beekeeping by Ian Barnett

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**Mite management, articles Submitted by Ted Scheuneman**

Over several years Ted Scheuneman has been studying different methods of mite treatments and over the last year has written three articles concerning fall management focused on mite control. I felt it useful to provide them in composite. So as to provide you with methods over time as opposed to one time application. The first **Main Mite Treatment after the honey Flow, followed by Varroa Mite Treatment- What Has Worked For Me then Late Fall Mite Management.**

**Main Mite Treatment after Honey Flow**

The main treatment for Varroa mites should be done right after the honey flow, at the end of August beginning of September. The mite load, at this time, is usually very high. This is also the time of year when the very valuable winter bees are produced. A winter bee that was infested with one family of mites is damaged for life. It has an open wound that was pierced into the body of the bee larvae, by the mother mite, which the mite family uses as a feeder hole to suck blood from the larvae. That hole (wound) never heals. Every bacteria, virus, pathogen has access to the bee's body through that wound. Therefore that bee will not survive until spring .If there are too many damaged winter bees this will bring about the demise of the colony. It is, therefore, very important that the main treatment for Varroa mites be done right after the honey flow, in order to save the valuable winter bees from damage.

I prefer Formic Acid treatment. It has several advantages over all other currently available treatments. It kills Tracheal mites, Varroa on the bees and very importantly Varroa in the cells. It has also been found to show efficacy in other bee diseases such as Chalkbrood and Nosema. Formic Acid is found in nature. Varroa mites have been exposed to this chemical for millions of

years but have not developed an immunity to it. At the correct dosage it is lethal to them.

For example: They can survive comfortably with an evaporation of less than 8 g. per day. The grey zone is from 8 to 12 g. per day. A constant evaporation of 12 to 24 g. per day is lethal for them. Bee mortality occurs at an evaporation rate of greater than 1 g. per hour.

Formic acid is very volatile and so will not contaminate any hive parts for any length of time. Before you treat it is important to count the natural mite fall in each colony. From May to September there is an increased mite load with the availability of bee brood. During this time a mite count of 10 per day is tolerable until the end of the honey flow. Treatment should begin at once if you have a count of 15 or greater otherwise you risk the collapse of that colony and the infestation of other nearby colonies. Cutting drone brood comb every 3 weeks during the summer helps to keep mite numbers down, as does a screened bottom board. Every mite that the bees groom off themselves and others, falls through the screen and is no longer reproducing. With a solid bottom board no mites are removed from the reproduction process. It is very important to know the mite load of every colony you have, in order to know when to instigate treatment. Some guidelines, which suggest checking 10% of hives, will not give you an accurate picture of the health of individual hives and increases the vulnerability of all the hives. **(Cont'd on Pg 4)**

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**Presidents Comments -- September 2013**

The summer has almost gone by and the bees have recovered from a frosty April. All production seems to be a month behind and yet one hears of possible frost as nights are cool. Perhaps there will be a warm September and October or not and bees will soon switch over to preparing the brood hives for winter. Be ready with your feeding program and treatments for Varroa Mites and other diseases as having strong hives now will pay off next spring. Don't chase honey production too late in the year as flows are likely to be down and the bees are thinking of food stores for the cool/cold months ahead.

The Bee Inspection program was reduced this year as the Provincial Budget for a variety of programs was reduced or eliminated. This means that we, as beekeepers, have to be more vigilant for our own operations health.

The information from Ontario in regard to a decrease in bee populations is troubling as nobody wants to point fingers at the possible problems for honey bees. We know that there are less of them, but the reasons are varied or hard to understand. It is time for the Federal Govt. and CFIA to take an active role on behalf of the beekeeping industry. We only have so much time left to sustain a healthy population of honey bees.

I have had fewer swarm calls either from Bee Maid or Insect Exterminators than last year, which I feel reflects fewer or more careful beekeepers in urban areas. The places I have been asked to help have turned out to be actually a variety of wasps that have set up temporary homes in their sheds or under their decks or steps. The people are quite relieved to know that the wasps will be gone after the initial hard frosts and are unlikely to return to the same location next year.

The annual Manitoba Honey Show is scheduled for the Forks at the end of September, the 27th, 28th and 29th. Set up is usually Thursday evening, with the Honey Show entries arriving from Bee Maid on Friday morning. Plan to volunteer for a shift during those 3 days as the general public are keenly interested in honeybees and beekeeping. There will be sign-up sheet circulated at our regular meeting on September 10th, as well as the opportunity to collect free 500 g jars for your Honey Show entries. Included in the September newsletter will be all the details for participating in the 2013 Honey Show. The usual deadline for entries is the Tuesday of Honey Show week by 4 PM.

If you recall our previous meetings in 2013, we discussed and eventually chose a Logo containing a bee in a cell that can represent RRAA for the world or certainly for Manitoba. We do have brilliant yellow Tee Shirts for sale and they will be available at our September meeting. They are very well done with our Logo on the upper left side of the shirt. The cost is about \$10 to \$12.00 dollars dependent on size and taxes, so bring along some extra cash to the meeting. The Treasurer or the Secretary may have some change, but don't exhaust their cash box. You will go home with a very trendy Tee Shirt with the RRAA logo embedded in a prominent place.

There seems to be a shortage of quality honey all over North America, so don't sell your honey for any less than the suggested price of \$2.75/ lb or even more if your honey is unique in regard to flavour or colour. The public expects to purchase quality honey from the beekeeper and is willing to pay more than last year. Don't undersell your beekeeping neighbour as we all have bills to pay and costs have gone up in all sectors of the economy.

Many people at the St. Norbert's Farmers Market mention to me that they have not seen any honey bees in their gardens or community plots and wonder Why? My response to them is to speak with their local city counsellors in regard to a small change in the City Bylaw that would encourage and permit small scale beekeeping within the city boundaries. All of the citizens of Winnipeg would benefit in having better quality and more abundant food in their gardens. I think that our City Counsellors and Mayor are more interested in Real Estate development than in the food concerns of the people in Winnipeg.

The Honey Production of 2013 is nearing an end and it is time for the beekeepers to take the time to prepare your bees for winter. It is not too late to change queens, start nucs or do an assessment of mite loads in your hive. There is a window of opportunity for beekeepers to take action now and not be surprised next spring with high levels of Dead Outs. Any hives that didn't produce much honey this summer have a problem that the beekeeper should deal with this month, not wait until October. Feeding and medicating all hives wastes time and resources, so any culling or amalgamating should take place before September First.

I hope you all had a good summer, avoided any serious accidents and You and your family will take some personal time to enjoy life. Success is measured by the quality and quantity of the smiles and laughter of your family, not a bottom line in a notebook. -/-

**Minutes of the RRAA General Meeting  
River Heights Community Club May 14, 2013**

Chair: Armand St. Hilaire  
Recording Secretary: Art Quanbury

**Minutes of March meeting:**

Moved: Margaret Smith and seconded Christos Argiriou that the minutes be accepted. Carried.

**Business Arising**

None

**Correspondence**

None

**Treasurer's Report**

John Speers reported that the association has about \$3300.00 in the bank. There are still a few outstanding memberships to come in.

**MBA Report** -Jim Campbell reported that May 25 is officially the day of the honey bee and brought the proclamation from the provincial government. There will be the usual display at the forks on that day and volunteers are needed. Because of the severe shortage of bees in the province due to winter losses the MBA has decided that bees should be imported from the USA. The border has been closed since 1986-87 and it is unclear if the province will allow it to re-open. Imported bees could be quarantined to a certain area and inspected to ensure that disease was not being spread from the imported bees. It is estimated that 5000 packages of bees are needed and information obtained shows that the US does have bees to export. The MBA will ask for emergency access to US bees for this year.

**Guest Speaker** –Ron Rudiak

Ron gave a very informative presentation on his personal experience with Lyme disease over the past several years. In addition to talking about his often frustrating experience with the medical system he also gave some very practical device on minimizing the chance of contracting Lyme disease. This included safe ways to remove an imbedded tick to insisting for a round of antibiotic as soon as possible after a tick bite that results in either a red circle or concentric rings around the bite area.

**New Business**

Art Quanbury gave information he had received from Fort Whyte farm and their need for funds to replace most of their 40 hives lost during the winter. The discussion indicated that the group was in favour of supporting the farm apiary operation but was concerned that the farm had the necessary skills and knowledge to manage the operation properly. For this reason it was requested that additional information and possibly inspection of the Fort Whyte operation be included in a motion to support the farm. It was also felt that the farm and RRAA could both benefit if there was a closer collaboration between the two, with at least Fort Whyte becoming a member of RRAA.

**Motion:**

That RRAA provide funds up to \$400.00 (for 2 hives) to purchase 2 hives for the Fort Whyte farm contingent on receiving information that the farm has the knowledge and skill to properly manage an apiary operation.

Moved: Margaret ????

Seconded: Keith Bamford

Carried

Art Quanbury agreed to contact Fort Whyte and utilize the expertise of other club members to determine their ability to properly manage an apiary operation.

**Question Period:**

Members were asked if they had any specific questions that they wished to ask of the membership at large. A question concerning the use of Roundup was asked. Is it harmful to bees? It was stated that Roundup is a herbicide and not a pesticide but several members stated that they do not use any chemicals in the bee yard. Roundup would certainly kill grass and weeds but leave the yard subject to becoming muddy after a rain.

**Draw**

There were no prizes so a door prize draw was not made. The names have been saved and will be included with the draw at the next meeting which will be in the fall.

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**MBA Report Sept 2013**

Jim Campbell, MBA Representative

Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) was featured in the media lately.

During early August, Allan Campbell, MBA President was featured in a bee update article in the Winnipeg Free Press. He noted that beekeepers were able to regain some of the lost over-winter colonies, yet many were operating below expected capacity. Meanwhile Rhéal also identified colony numbers were still down from previous years, and yet if we have a mild winter, producers may be able to recover even more. As Jim Campbell, MBA Secretary, has hives close to Winnipeg, a photographer visited for some picture taking for the story.

MBA continues to monitor the impact of neonicotinoids. The board is pleased Health Canada has included an incident reporting procedure on their web site. Meanwhile Ontario has called for a ban on these insecticides, and the Ontario Farmers Association has stepped up promotional efforts combating the accusations.

Plans are underway to host the 2014 Convention and Symposium in Winnipeg on February 28 and March 1. Some presenters are already confirming attendance, even at this early date. More details will be available on line in early December 2013.

In responding to members' resolutions, MBA recommends producers use alternate containers during fall feeding. Many prefer an open barrel as a feed container as this is quite efficient. However, if a producer is using this for medications, and a neighbour is still collecting honey, there could be a contamination issue. Neighbouring bees could take the medications and mix it in with other nectar they are collecting.

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### Red River Apiarists' Association

Executive Meeting  
August 29, 2013

#### Present:

Charles Polcyn, Jim Campbell, John Badiuk, John Speers, Rheel Lafreniere, Armand St. Hilaire, Art Quanbury

#### Honey Show – September 28, 29

Armand will pick up equipment from U of M including posters and billboards. The observation hive is in the U of M lab and Charles will pick it up. Charles will also pick up display jars from Bee Maid.

David Ostermann will look after the judging of the honey exhibits. John Speers has the ribbons and it was decided that a T shirt be given to the winning entrant in each category. There was some discussion about the lack of participation from the commercial bee keepers and how it might be increased.

#### T Shirts

T shirts have been ordered and will be available at the September meeting. After considerable discussion it was decided that another order of 25 T shirts with "Manitoba Honey Show" on the back be purchased and these shirts would be given to members volunteering at the Honey show.

A number of motions were made regarding the purchase of T shirts.

Motion: That the minutes record the motion presented by email that Art be authorized to order T shirts from the special T shirt company. Moved by Jim and seconded by Armand. Carried.

Motion: That Art be reimbursed for the deposit amount (\$160.00) and that the special T shirt company be paid \$159.56 for the remaining balance of the invoice. Moved by Jim and seconded by John Russell. Carried.

Motion: That T shirts be given to volunteers at the Honey Show as a incentive to increase the number of members volunteering. Moved by Jim and seconded by Armand. Carried

Motion: That Art be authorized to investigate the possibility of purchasing a second order of T shirts with "Manitoba Honey Show" on the back and to order if delivery can be assured before September 28. Moved by Jim and seconded by John Speers. Carried.

Motion: That the T shirts in the first order (no writing on the back) be sold to members for \$10.00 each and to the public for \$12.00 each. Moved by Jim and seconded by Armand. Carried

#### General Monthly Meetings

John Speers has arranged for the usual room at the River Heights Community Club to be the venue for regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. The October Meeting, David Ostermann could present Winter Prep Part 2, wrapping hives.

#### Topics:

The September meeting will feature a presentation by Rheel on fall management, Part 1, possibly a presentation by Ian Barnett of Fort Whyte on the Honey Coop Program and the display and sale of T shirts to members.

#### Urban Beekeeping

This issue is still not resolved but it was felt that by removing bees from the commercial animal category the city may allow them.

#### Lack of Inspection Program

The government has not instituted a disease inspection program this year and the Association is concerned about the consequences of this. Art was directed to draft a letter to the appropriate government personnel stating that there be access to the disease inspection program and to the resources of the two full time apiarists that are involved in this program. Copies should go to Dan Struthers and possibly to the Premier as well. Art will circulate a draft to all executive members.

Neonicotinoid Policy: It was generally agreed to await scientific verification on bee impact as some cases exist where bees are dying yet no insecticide is present.

Art Quanbury

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#### Volunteers are needed for The Amazing Agriculture Adventure (AAA) in Winnipeg area on September 17-19th.

*Agriculture in the Classroom-Manitoba (AITC-M) is excited about giving students and teachers once again, the opportunity to experience real working farms as part of their Amazing Agriculture Adventure! However to make this event a success we require Agriculture Ambassadors for our AAA event at Kelburn Farm and Glenlea Research Farm.*

To date we have a registration of almost 1000 Grade 4 and 5 students, so it will be a fun and busy time!

We require volunteers to work at our stations. We provide you with the information on how to do this by sending you a script guideline beforehand and also providing an orientation the morning of the event. Amazing Ag is More held at Kelburn Farm needs people to work/help at the following stations: Wheat grinding, Weather game, Envirosapes, Bees, Canola Crush, Corn stations. The stations are related to the Grade 4 and 5 Science curriculum. We need approximately 24 station helpers each day to work with us.

We ask as a volunteer that you be at Kelburn Farm or Glenlea Farm (depending on where your station or hosting will be) by 8:30 a.m. the day of the event. We will provide you with coffee, muffins/doughnuts, water, lunch, snacks and the opportunity to inform young people about agriculture and cultivate their interest in agriculture.

To volunteer, you can call me at 204.471-9698 if you have any questions or email me at [diane@aitc.mb.ca](mailto:diane@aitc.mb.ca) as I would love to hear from you on or before Tuesday, September 4, 2013. If you have not visited our website, take a look on [www.aitc.mb.ca](http://www.aitc.mb.ca)

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**(from Pg 1)** Mite drop from Formic Acid treatment lasts about 15 days. You need to assess the success of the treatment. After 15 days, clean out the pan in the screened bottom board, put a paper towel in the pan. This makes it easier to see the mites and keep it clean. No sticky substances are required. Then 3 to 5 days later see how many mites there are and calculate the per day fall amount. This lets you know how many mites were not killed by the treatment and have been left behind as a breeding stock. This will determine whether or not an after treatment with Oxalic Acid in late October/early November will be required. If you have a mite count of 1 mite per day or greater after the main Formic acid treatment, an after treatment with Oxalic acid in late October/early November is a must. From October to April a natural mite drop of ½ a mite per day (i.e. equivalent to 2 mites in 4 days) is the limit. With proper late fall treatment the mite count should be within this range or less.

As a point of interest, in the Asian honey bee (*Apis Ceranae*) the mites can only multiply, with some difficulty, in the drone brood. This is in contrast to our honey bees (*Apis Mellifera*) where they can multiply both in bee and drone brood.

Mite populations can increase 10 fold in 5 to 6 weeks, if bee brood is available. With drone brood available it can increase even faster, as the mite prefer drone brood to bee brood. This is why prompt treatment, with Formic acid, is so important. It will decrease colony losses from this parasite.

#### **Varroa Mite Treatment- What Has Worked For Me**

I would like to offer my experience and perspective on the successful treatment of Varroa mites, in my bee colonies, over the last 10 years.

Usually in late August, towards the end of the honey flow, I check every colony for the mite load. This is to see if immediate treatment is necessary, right after the last honey is taken off, or if I have time until after feeding. In my experience it is not worth delaying until the end of September, for the small amount of extra honey you may recover by doing so. Waiting is also likely more detrimental to the bees.

The die off of summer bees in September and October is tremendous, much higher than the reproduction rate of winter bees. Therefore, if you start feeding early, when it is still nice and warm, you make better use of the by then worthless field bees to store the food away. This spares the valuable winter bees, as storing food away is very hard work. Hard work shortens a bee's lifespan which is observed in summer bees which work themselves to death for the welfare of the colony. Therefore by sparing the winter bees, as much as possible, you will have a stronger colony in the spring.

I operate, winter and summer, out of one brood box sitting on a fully screened bottom board. This makes mite control, swarm control and integrated pest management very easy. Mites, which are groomed off, fall through the screen and

die. From the top of the screen to the bottom of the frames there is a space of 1¼ inches. When the bees want and need drones they establish drone brood comb in that space, attached to the bottom of the frames. This provides the following 5 advantages:

1) You don't need to guess when and where to install a drone brood comb and thereby take valuable space away for a bee brood comb.

2) The drone brood on the bottom generates a lot of heat so the bee brood above it benefits. This frees up a lot of bees that would otherwise be needed to keep the bee brood warm.

3) Checking for swarm mood and cells can be done by tilting the box about every 10 to 12 days. By tilting the box you are able to see at once what the swarm mood is.

4) If there is any capped drone brood it can easily be harvested by scraping it off with the hive tool. This should then be burned, never left in the bee yard. Leaving it unburned can lead to unintended negative consequences. For example: If there is emerging drone brood on that comb some bees will assist those drones in the process. In the event that these drones are parasitized with mites the bees will likely pick up a few and carry them back to the hive. Also the drones that fly back into a hive are readily accepted in any colony, with or without mites. On very warm days or nights drone brood can stay alive for a few days and mature outside the hive.

5) To establish the degree of mite infestation cut off capped drone brood by taking a sharp knife and making a lengthwise cut. More than 1 mite per inch of cut indicates a heavy infestation.

I will now discuss treatment.

I treat with 85% Formic Acid with an evaporator that Ron Rudiak and I developed some years ago. It works reliably from +40 C. to -20 C. A power source is required.

If a power source is not available I use a sanitary napkin with medium padding that will hold 20 to 25 ml. of 85% (ideal) or 65% Formic Acid.

Treatment is done from the top.

The pad is laid across the top bars with the edges folded up a bit. This prevents the Formic Acid from running over the sides and onto the bees.

I then squirt 20 or 25 ml. of the Formic Acid solution on top.

The hive is then closed as tightly as possible. The bottom entrance is closed to 4 to 5 inches. About 30 to 60 minutes after giving the Formic Acid I check the entrance. If bees come out and form a cluster outside the entrance, then I open the entrance fully, but close it in 24 hours to 4 to 5 inches. It is normal for drones to come out soon after giving Formic Acid. Drones are very sensitive to Formic Acid.

This procedure is always done **(Cont'd on Pg 7)**



## Editor's Note

by Ken Rowes

Strong hives did well this summer and for some beekeepers are giving a bumper crop.

On another positive note I found very few mites? I am wondering if anyone else has observed the same low mite colony impact?

The Alsike clover in my yard is still producing for the bees (September 1), however, the bees are low on bringing in pollen.

The nucs have built up nicely and the two that were light I towered, weak one on top of a strong nuc with a queen excluder between. Haven't looked at them yet. They are all taking down the sugar syrup and Bee Pro at the moment heavily especially with cool nights.

I have had five new Hobby beekeepers rent my 4 frame extractor. It is nice to see the young enthusiasts.

As the weather warms I am getting more painting done as well and some honey boxes scarped.

The McGregor Wax Works is down lately due to a bowler problem. Hopefully they will be up again soon.

As it is September it is important to get all honey boxes off and begin winter feeding. As mentioned at our spring meetings pollen may be low thus feeding pollen substitutes is important encouraging the queens to lay to produce winter bees.

Please check your ad and let me know of changes Please!

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

Articles can be best submitted in word documents 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 Apiarists' 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 newsletter.

*We are on the web!*  
[www.beekeepingmanitoba.com](http://www.beekeepingmanitoba.com)

## CLASSIFIEDS

**1 For Sale:** Complete honey extracting line 48 Frame extractor, uncapping table, sump, tank, pump, pipes. **Contact Lance at 204-712-6783, lancewld@gmail.com**

**3 For Sale:** 30 honey supers with plastic comb - \$32 each Winter wraps made to your specifications - \$45 to \$65 each Interlake Honey Producers Ltd. 204-372- 6920. Can deliver to Winnipeg. Supers are in good to average shape and all the frames are fully drawn out plastic frames. We have no AFB history. **Paul Gregory paul@interlakeforageseeds.com**

**4 For Sale:** 50 frame Maxant extractor for sale with a brand new spare fibre drive wheel. I was hoping to get \$2000 for it OBO contact : **wrobertson86@outlook.com -Wade Robertson**

**5 Wanted:** Looking for good used Cowen type horizontal 28 to 60 frame extractor, plus sump and pump. Call **Don Friesen, Rosenfeld, at 204-746-8863 or e-mail stonefield71@hotmail.com**

**6 For Sale:** 12 hive top feeders, 19 queen excluders, 4 super extractor. **Contact Doug at Tel 757-4694 or doug.henry1@gmail.com**

**7. For Sale:** custom made Bee-gloves \$17. **Contact ken Fehler 204-667-9013**

**8 For Sale:** Man Lake SS Extractor 9/18 frame. Asking \$1300, used twice. **Contact Janice at 204-895-9667.**

**9 For Sale:** Bee Equipment, Nucs, Plastic Feeder Frames, Box & Frame Parts. Contact **Charles Polcyn at (204) 284-7064 or by Email- charles\_polcyn@ymail.com**

**10 For Sale:** 6 hive top feeders, 20 frames with foundation call **204-612-2754 Doug Beck or e-mail doug-janetb@hotmail.com**

**11 For Sale:** 2 frame manual extractor, uncapping knife, bee suit, smoker bellows, hive cover ( metal ), 5 supers ( assembled ), 50 frames ( plastic & wire ), 2 hive bottoms, hive scrapers, and much more for \$ 450.00 Please call **Adrian at 204-338-7172**

**( from Pg 5 )** in the evening hours, never at any other time of the day. The reason for doing this in the evening is because there are about 15 hours until the next peak heat comes. By that time a lot of the Formic Acid has already evaporated and therefore an overdose is minimized.

It is ideally done when the daytime temperature is between +15 C. and +25 C. If the temperature is lower than +15 c. there is not enough evaporation and at temperatures above +25 C. there could be a greater loss of bees as well as the queen.

At night the temperature should not fall below +10 C.

After 3 days the Formic Acid has fully evaporated and the procedure can be repeated if needed.

Do not treat with Formic Acid immediately before, during or right after feeding.

Some tips for successful over wintering:

Make sure the bees are well fed. This will help them to make it through the winter peacefully, contented and rested. Only offer them food in the winter if they are starving. Always have some full frames handy to give to a starving colony. I prefer this to liquid food that the bees have to process. Liquid food creates stress and extra food consumption. It creates dysentery which promotes Nosema. Adequate and proper feeding results in fewer losses and healthier colonies in the spring. Once feeding and treatment is complete, vent the bees as much as possible. Keeping them as cool as possible lets them know winter is coming so that they will stop brood rearing. Rest the hive top cover in front or back, on top of the inner cover, and let the heat escape. If you have screened bottom boards also take the plug out, until the snow falls or the temperature drops to - 10 C. to -15 C..

### **Late Fall Mite Management**

Oxalic Acid is ideal for late fall after-treatment.

Preparation of 3.5% Oxalic Acid solution and treatment: Before you start be sure to take the precaution of wearing the proper protective clothing, as Oxalic Acid Dehydrate dust can get into your body through your nose, mouth and skin and form oxalic acid crystals in your body. This could lead to nervous system damage and the formation of kidney stones. With proper protection the wet form of Oxalic acid is one of the safest chemicals to work with, both for the bees and the beekeeper.

To prepare one litre (1000 ml.) of 3.5% oxalic acid solution first mix 350 g. sugar into 750 ml. hot water. Agitate until the sugar is dissolved. This can be prepared ahead of time. When ready to do the treatment, add 35 g. Oxalic acid dehydrate per 1000 ml. of the sugar water solution. Agitate until the Oxalic acid is dissolved. It is best to use this Oxalic acid solution within 48 hours. After 72 hours the Oxalic acid solution starts to change composition and becomes toxic to the bees. This 1000 ml. solution is enough to treat 20 or more colonies. Per occupied comb alley, 5 ml. is needed, to

dribble on top of the bees. That is 50 ml. per full box of bees. It is best to use a 60 ml. syringe with a 1 mm. needle. The smaller the droplets, the more effective the treatment will be.

**Treatment time:** Can be anytime, as long as the colonies are brood free. However, the best time is late October/early November, when the temperature is between +5 C. to -10 C. (Treating colonies or swarms with Oxalic acid, in the summer, is only about 50% as effective as treating them in the late fall.) At that time and temperature the bees are clustered and sit very still. No smoker or veil is required. At that time the bees are most likely brood free, however, if you detect any brood it is best to cut it out. The brood will be full of mites and the mites will not be affected by the Oxalic acid in the cells. Make sure the solution is warm (not cold or hot), as the bees will distribute it better. This will enhance the success of the treatment.

If you work alone, 5 to 10 colonies can be opened and treated. The leftover solution should be put in a warm water container to keep the solution warm for the next round of treatments. Then cover the colonies that you have treated. The dribbling time, to treat each colony, takes less than 1 minute. The main mite fall occurs within the first 10 days of treatment. It can last up to 4 months. It is important that the Oxalic acid treatment not be done more than once a year and the concentration of the solution not be increased beyond 3.5%.

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### **Urban Bee Disappointment**

Jim Campbell, RRAA Executive member

Members of the beekeeping and Gardening Communities were disappointed with the results of the recently approved Responsible Pet Ownership bylaw in Winnipeg.

The Winnipeg City Council met on July 17, just prior to the summer break, to approve an extensive list of bylaws and hear from several delegations. One of the items under review was the draft Responsible Pet Ownership bylaw, which covered a variety of topics. Beekeepers and Gardeners from in and around Winnipeg had hoped that requested changes to permit beekeeping in urban areas would be considered. Mainstream media focused on the dog, cat and chicken issues.

Urban bees were included in the definition of commercial animals and thus are excluded from urban Winnipeg. There was however, a slight change in the locations where animals are permitted. Animals are permitted, for example, at Fort Whyte Alive, and Prairie Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre.

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**MANITOBA HONEY SHOW**

**SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2013  
THE FORKS MARKET  
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA**

**GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS :**

1. Honey Exhibitors shall be bona fide beekeepers with entries of pure honey from the current year production from their own personal apiaries.
2. An exhibitor may submit one entry in each section of each class. Advance registration via phone call by 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 17, 2013 by calling David Ostermann at 945-4825.
3. Exhibitors must accurately complete the entry form, and clearly mark each entry parcel with their name and address. An Entry form is to accompany entry parcel. Judges will ensure entries are placed in the appropriate classes. Entries must be free of any labels, with only initials or id on underside.
4. Entry deadline (NOTE: Class 3 section 3 allows Photography option) is 4:00 P.M., Tuesday September 24, 2013. 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 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2013.**
5. Show judges shall consider any contestant ineligible if the entry fails to comply with the exhibit criteria or is unattractively displayed. Honey jars should NOT have a Label. Awards will be made by a scale of points and, in case of a tie; the highest score for flavour will be awarded the extra point.
6. All entries must be picked up by their owner at the end of the show, as items remaining at 4:00 P.M., Sunday, will become the property of the Red River Apiarists' Association and may be donated to a charity such as Winnipeg Harvest food bank.
7. The Honey Show is a consumer oriented educational and promotional event, sponsored by the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association, and organized and staffed by members of the Red River Apiarists Association.
8. A copy of these General Rules and Regulations, and a competition Entry Form are on-line at [www.manitobabee.org](http://www.manitobabee.org) (refer "Activities and Events" section of web site) and at [www.BeekeepingManitoba.com](http://www.BeekeepingManitoba.com) (refer "Events" then "Honey Show").

**COMPETITION CLASSES****CLASS 1**

1. Liquid Honey, White, totaling not less than 3 - 500 g (375 ml) glass or clear plastic jars.
2. Liquid Honey, Amber, totaling not less than 3 - 500 g (375 ml) glass or clear plastic jars.
3. Liquid Honey, Dark, totaling not less than 3 - 500 g (375 ml) glass or clear plastic jars.
4. Liquid Honey, BEE-GINNER, any colour, totaling not less than 3 - 500 g (375 ml) glass or clear plastic jars. (NOTE: ONLY OPEN TO FIRST-TIME HONEY SHOW ENTRANT).
5. Granulated Honey, White, totaling not less than 3 - 500 g (375 ml) glass or clear plastic jars.

**CLASS 2**

1. Chunk Honey - totaling not less than 3 - 500 g (375 ml) glass or clear plastic jars, each containing one or more pieces of comb honey and the jars filled with liquid white honey.
2. Comb Honey - totaling not less than 3 pieces of either comb honey in plastic rounds or cut comb honey in individual containers.
3. Frame of Honey - one completely capped frame of white honey.
4. Beeswax - 2 kg in one cake or not more than 5 cakes.

**CLASS 3**

1. Best Taste - any color - totaling not less than 3 - 500 g (375 ml) glass or clear plastic containers. (Entries will be judged primarily for flavour and taste using simplified judging standards)
2. Honey Beverage - any type, colour or flavour - single container not larger than 1 litre.
3. Photography - one unframed 8" x 10" photograph depicting
  - a) Honey Bee Pollination,
  - b) Beekeeping in Manitoba, c) Other Bees and Insects, and/or
  - d) Honey - In Many Forms.
 (If not previously submitted, Photos to arrive at Honey Show Display area by noon on Friday, the first day of show.)

**CHAMPION EXHIBITOR:** 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, only wherever a competition exists, as follows:"

	<b>PRIZE POINTS</b>
FIRST	3
SECOND	2
THIRD	1





## Honey Show Invitation 2013

Jim Campbell, RRAA Executive member

All members of Red River Apiarists' Association are invited to begin thinking about preparing to enter the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Honey Show Competition sponsored by Manitoba Beekeepers' Association and hosted by RRAA.

Armand St Hilaire, Honey Show Chair, reminds members the 2013 Show Takes place starting on Friday 27 September, yet entries need to be delivered to Bee Maid, 625 Roseberry Street by Tuesday 24 September, so judging can take place prior to the display being set up at the Forks Market, Winnipeg.

Since this is the 50th year RRAA has planned, organized, and staffed the show, your RRAA Executive agreed to celebrate this by offering complimentary promo T Shirts to vendors and volunteers helping out during the show. In addition, RRAA logo T-Shirts will be awarded to First Place winners in each category.

Hopefully this colourful shirt incentive will help make up your mind about either entering the competition, or serving in other segments at the show. The "Live Bees" are always a hit, and it's easy to talk with guests about your favourite insect.

Simply begin the competition process by reviewing the various classes, and then set aside your best honey, wax, Honey Frame, or photographs. Glass jars for the honey competition will again be provided "Free" at the September 10 members meeting.

Copies of information such as Entry Forms and Regulations/Competition Classes are available at any time on [www.Beekeepingmanitoba.com](http://www.Beekeepingmanitoba.com) see "Event" category, and then go to "Honey Show" page. Click on the information required.

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## Honey Show Memories

By Jim Campbell, RRAA exec

The 2013 Manitoba Honey Show will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> yearly promotional event for Red River Apiarists' Association staffers.

The Manitoba Honey Show and Competition is planned for the weekend of September 27-29, 2013 at the Forks Market. The show has been called "Honey Days", as it links with the "I Love Culture" promotion taking place across Canada and Manitoba the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend of September. It still retains its' basic elements of Industry Promotion and Competition. All

current RRAA members are invited to participate in this 50th anniversary event.

Honey Show promotions were taken over by members of Red River Apiarists' Association during the Winnipeg Flower Show, held in the Winnipeg Auditorium, during 20-21 August 1963. Under the guidance of Nick Olnick and Walter Wright, Honey Show co-chairs, the display consisted of one table for judged honey, and one table for sales of Clover Crest (now Bee Maid) products. Primarily four passionate promoters of honey, namely Anne Donkin, Betty Ogston, Mrs Palmetier and Helen Polusny, staffed the booth.

In the photo from 1965, Betty Ogston (left) and Ann Donkin staff the display. The Honey Cell display in the background was made by Larry Giguere. (Photo from Anna Donkin files).



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## MAQS Unavailable Locally

Jim Campbell MBA Delegate

Beekeepers preparing Hives for winter are disappointed to learn Mite Away Quick Strips (MAQS) will not be available from a traditional local supplier.

It appears Bee Outfitters will no longer be providing the most recently approved formic treatment product, effective immediately. It seems MAQS has been pulled from supply shelves in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. An option for producers may be that the product may be purchased directly from NOD. To contact them, see [www.nodglobal.com](http://www.nodglobal.com) or call 1-866-483-2929.

Discussions are underway with a Manitoba woodenware supplier, to determine interest in distributing the product. Since only preliminary discussions have taken place, no final decision has been made. Concern has been expressed about the potential need for liability coverage being arranged prior to a making a decision. As of newsletter publication date, no firm commitments are in place.

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## RRAA Shirts in September

Jim Campbell, Executive member

Red River Apiarists' Association plans to unveil the first order of promotional T-Shirts at the



September 10 General Membership Meeting.

The Golden-Honey coloured shirts will have the new RRAA logo emblazoned on the upper left front. The black emblem should stand out clearly in contrast to the shirt, and the oblong-circled emblem is sized 3.7 inches wide and 3 inches tall.

RRAA Members helped to narrow down the options presented by the executive, and thus chose the stylized oblong oval with a Queen like character in the center. Although several colour settings are possible, the first order of shirts will simply use the black colour logo.

Shirts will be sold for about \$10.00 each, and the plan calls for these to be available prior to the Honey Show opening day of September 27 at the Forks market.

The Executive appreciate the work done by Art Quanbury in evaluating various quotes and colours to make it possible to have the order ready. Plans call for another order of 25 to be placed later, hopefully providing options for a polo style neck opening plus children sizes, plus a large logo across the front. Naturally, this next order will depend upon member feedback and orders received.

Think about it, the shirt is smart, comfortable and professional, plan to order ASAP!

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### Red River Apiarists' Association Winnipeg, Manitoba 2013-2014 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I apply for membership in the Red River Apiarists' Association. Membership includes one-year subscription to the newsletter "The Bee Cause" (8 issues)- \$25.00.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

New Member [ ] Renewal [ ] Student [ ] [free 1st year]

Other. Please specify. \_\_\_\_\_

This completed form may be brought to the meeting or mailed with your cheque to :

**John Speer, RRAA Treasurer**

**Box 16, Group 555. Winnipeg, Manitoba R2C 2Z2.**

Make cheques payable to Red River Apiarists' Association.

Please do not send cash in the mail., MB R2C 2Z2