



## First KRTP Workshop Introduced March

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*By Jim Campbell*

The first workshop conducted under the Knowledge and Research Transfer Program (KRTP) banner took place Thursday March 25, 2021 with over 90 participants on line. KRTP is Manitoba's first Tech Transfer Program.

Under the direction of Derek Micholson, KRTP Lead, a free educational training webinar "Integrated Pest Management of Varroa destructor" was openly offered to all registered beekeepers in Manitoba. The workshop was co-sponsored by Manitoba Beekeepers Association, hosted on CISCO



Webex platform, and used to kick off the new Manitoba program.

The workshop consisted of three segments, giving participants a broad perspective of information needed to

properly apply an Integrated Pest Management approach within their respective beekeeping operation.

In the first segment, Dr. Rob Currie, Professor and Head, University of Manitoba Department

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Next Virtual Meeting  
 April 13, 2021  
 7:30PM  
 Zoom Link TBA

Speaker: **Dr. Kyle Bobiwash**

Topic: Urban Landscapes as Pollinator Habitat

FIRST KRTP WORKSHOP INTRODUCED MARCH (CONTINUED)



Derek Micholson

of Entomology, led participants through aspects of Varroa destructor and its impact on hive health. Using a slide presentation, charts and visuals revealed how a mite invades a beeswax cell and population can ultimately grow exponentially to adversely impact honey production. This information set the tone for keeping mite infestations under control.

Derek Micholson, KRTP Lead, then demonstrated various techniques for tracking and treating mites in a beekeeping operation. This ‘hands-on’ segment reflected some monitoring techniques being offered by KRTP on a “fee for service basis.” Methods such as sticky board, sugar roll, to alcohol wash, were shown.

Rheal Lafreniere, Manitoba Provincial Apiarist, culminated the workshop by



Rheal Lafreniere

demonstrating various types of treatments to reduce mite populations. These ranged from placing chemical strips in the hive to applying Oxalic Acid Dihydrate with a vaporizer. Listeners were cautioned when applying Oxalic, to only use approved air-purifying respirator and chemical resistant clothing, and only apply outdoors.

After the workshop, Derek distributed an email expressing appreciation for participants taking part in the workshop and providing a link to additional varroa resources.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sjzXqMfZ5KixOERTPwC0o6-5\\_-31PGgvJZb4kTv887I/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sjzXqMfZ5KixOERTPwC0o6-5_-31PGgvJZb4kTv887I/edit?usp=sharing)

RRAA President, John Russell, is on the 12 member KRTP Steering Committee.

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**Propolis: A Sticky Solution to Hive Health**

*By Rebecca Krowelski*  
Every beekeeper has dealt with propolis in some way. Whether you’ve had it stuck on your suit, clumped to your hive tool or under

your fingernails, it can be a real nuisance. Simply put, propolis is a mixture of resins the bees collect from a variety of plants or trees mixed with a little



Varroa Resources (Google Docs)

## PROPOLIS: A STICKY SOLUTION TO HIVE HEALTH (CONTINUED)

beeswax. These resins protect the plants from diseases and pests that would otherwise harm them. The bees scrape the resins with their mandibles and then move it to their hind legs for transportation purposes.

Collecting tree resin, bringing it back to the hive and distributing it takes time and energy for the bees. They could be foraging for nectar or pollen, but they choose to also spend their efforts creating and spreading this sticky substance throughout the hive. We know the bees' tendency towards efficiency, so it must be important.

In the wild, honeybee colonies typically nest in tree hollows and coat the cavity walls and nest entrance with what Dr. Tom Seeley has dubbed a "propolis envelope." This serves many purposes, including waterproofing and preventing fungal decay of the hive walls,

reducing cracks and hive entrances, helping promote stable temperature and humidity through condensation and reducing hive microbial loads. In addition, there have now been several studies examining the indirect and direct effects that propolis has on bees' immune systems, pathogens and parasites.

Dr. Marla Spivak's research shows that while a propolis envelope cannot mitigate all colony stressors, we know it has health benefits on individual immunity and an effect on reducing colony pathogen loads. Research also suggests there are additional ways propolis may improve colony health, resiliency and productivity.

So why is propolis important for beekeepers? There seems to be significantly less

propolis found in managed hives than what is found in their natural environment. The inner walls of a typical Langstroth hive are smooth and the bees choose not to cover this area with propolis. So, although they deposit the substance in cracks, on the frame rifts and to seal up any spaces they can find, a propolis envelope does not exist in a managed hive.

Beekeepers can encourage and coax their bees to add more propolis by either painting the inner walls of the brood chamber with a propolis tincture or tacking on propolis traps or galvanized wire. It's an easy way for us to create that same propolis rich environment found in nature to potentially improve and maintain colony health and resiliency.

<https://youtu.be/Xsj8mB4KKZs>

□



Propolis (YouTube)

## President's Message

Spring?? One certainly hopes although the following week's forecast looks to be wet and cold.... even a chance of snow.

The problem with Spring in Manitoba is that it is seductive and lulls one into a sense of security and the feeling that the colony survival race has been won.

Dwindling is the challenge now. Can your surviving clusters replace the workers that are at the end of the life cycle fast enough? Warmth is the factor.

Population equals better temperature regulation in the brood circle and being able to maintain those temperatures is just as crucial as resources at this point.

The most often asked question is when to unwrap, and my answer is always "Why Hurry?" Keep them snug and keep them growing.

I've never known a colony to perish from overheating because the wraps were left on too long. I don't even dream of unwrapping until nighttime temperatures are in double digits.

A big thank you to the Rosser Municipality Fire Department who put out a grass fire that came within 50 feet of the RRAA yard. Rubbish fires in the country can get well beyond your control and the fool who lit this one when it's this dry should have known better.

The by-law committee met a few weeks ago online, and had a productive session reviewing the RRAA By-laws to update wording and terminology. The goal is to have a revised and current version for the membership to review, discuss and vote on for the May meeting next month. Many thanks to the commit-

tee members who gave up an evening to examine the current version and help with refreshing this core document.

Mentor assignments have been distributed. PLEASE keep safe! We are still in a pandemic and in person visits should be off the table.

Communication by texts, pictures, emails, and phone calls only guys. Stay healthy for the sake of your family and friends.

I want to thank Dawn of the Brandon Beekeepers Association for compiling a very handy list of breeders and equipment makers. This was circulated last week to our members and is comprehensive and spans all of Manitoba's beekeeping organizations. This is a great resource tool for 2021, and assists all of us looking for nucs, queens, and equipment. Hats off to Dawn!!

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)**

I am looking to gather names for this year's Swarm Catching Team for the 2021 season. The twist is that we will be asking individual members with experience to take on calls themselves, due to Covid-19.

sub-group for learning swarm catching techniques, please send me an email so we can start organizing.

I look forward to seeing you on the 13th, and until then keep well, and stay safe.

*John Russell*

However, if you have been vaccinated and would like to form a



## Prairie Sweetheart Honey Spring Nucs

Strong, healthy 5-frame nucs for sale:

- one robust laying 2020 queen
- three frames of brood and bees
- two frames of bees and feed

**Ready for pick-up end of May 2021!**

***prairiesweetheart.com · 204-391-4765***

## Application and Approval Process for Beekeeping in Manitoba

By Rebecca Krowelski

In October 2017, the City of Winnipeg amended its city-wide zoning to expand accessory beekeeping to all areas. I was at the court hearing where they approved the amendment and was likely one of the first in line to apply and received my permit on November 17, 2017.

The application process was simple with a cost of \$27. I included the application form, letter of intent, property map outlining where hives will be located, my beekeeping provincial registration number and the letter of authorization from property owners. For the property information, I downloaded the map from the Winnipeg Tax assessment site and added a simple drawing of where I was planning to place the hives.

Fast forward to my recent application that was just denied and the process is slightly more complicated. In addition to the previously mentioned documents I now need to also include the current status of title on the property, my University of Manitoba Beekeeping for the Hobbyist course certificate and a more detailed site plan including all the existing and proposed structures on the property with their sizes and distances from the property lines. Also mark the fencing around the beehives on the site plan.

I do not have final cost as I'm in the process of gathering the final documents before I re-apply. I will report back after process is complete and approval is received.

For more detail on how to apply, visit Urban Beekeeping - Planning, Property and Development - City of Winnipeg.

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# About the RRAA and You!

## About RRAA

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 a subscription to this newsletter.

## The RRAA and the BeeCause for and by you.

The BeeCause 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, January to May and September to November when membership meetings occur.

Articles can be best submitted in Word document by email attachments. Though they may be edited for spelling and basic grammar, no changes will be made to their content, message and opinions without the author's written and expressed consent. They are those of their originator and not of the Red River Apiarists' Association.

Deadline for submissions to this newsletter is the second Sunday preceding the membership meeting to allow for publishing and mailing delays and the legal obligation to allow membership to review last meetings' minutes for errors or omissions before next meeting.

Regular membership meetings are normally scheduled 7:30 on the second Tuesday of every month at the Elmwood Legion 920 Nairn Avenue in Winnipeg except months noted above. Physical meetings have been suspended due to Covid-19, and will resume as soon as it is safe to do so. Webinars will take place in their stead.

## YOU ARE AWESOME!!!

### What makes a great association greater?

*Involvement and contribution!*

*When everyone does one small task for one hour a month to help the RRAA then we all benefit.*

## WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

*Mentoring a novice beekeeper, join a RRAA committee, submit an article or a book review for the newsletter, share experiences and advice with new beekeepers in novice webinars, network with novices to source Manitoba bred bees, equipment demonstration, and teach a class!*

## TALK TO AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR MORE DETAILS

*Call 204-612-2337 to lend a hand.*

### 2021 Executive

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

QR readers are apps that make it easy to load URLs from the printed page or screen. Look for QR readers in your favourite app store on your phone.



*On the Web*

[www.beekeepingmanitoba.com/](http://www.beekeepingmanitoba.com/)

[www.facebook.com/RRAAManitoba/](https://www.facebook.com/RRAAManitoba/)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgrWfdXTaArPFyCZdRdOv1A>

### RRAA Standing Committees

Taken from the RRAA by-laws:

#### 5. Committees

Appointed standing committees may include: Program, Social, Honey Sales Promotion, Library, Newsletter, or other committees as required by the Executive Committee.

Current Committees:

- Education Committee
- By-Law Committee

On Hiatus due to Covid-19:

- Honey Show Committee
- Social Committee

## The BeeCause CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Have you come across an interesting article?

Seen a video you found informative or would like a topic researched?

Would you like to share an observation?

You want to take part in RRAA food for thought?

Care to share an anecdote or an observation from your own beekeeping experiences?

Or do you just want to plain advertise?

Do you have an opinion you want to voice to the beekeeping community?

Answer the call. Tell the Editor!

**Taking submissions at:  
a.tucovic@gmail.com**

### Four Frame Nucs For Sale

Taking orders for nucs:

4 Frame nucs, 2021 Manitoba Queen, 3 frames bees and brood, 1 frame honey

**Manitobee Honey Company  
Call or text Robert: 204-612-4834**

# Red River Apiarists' Association

## Membership Application

*The RRAA membership extends for one calendar year and renewals are due in January.*

*Membership includes subscription to 8 issues of the RRAA BeeCause newsletter.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one of the following:

- New Member
- Renewal

Payments:

- I hereby apply for membership to the RRAA ..... \$ 35.00/year  
or
- I am an UofM Beekeeping Course Student (first year free)..... \$ 0.00/year
- Optional: Beekeeper Liability Insurance: \$65.00 + \$5.20 ..... \$ 70.20/year

*\* Note: Liability Insurance fees must be submitted before April 1<sup>st</sup>.*

**Total Payment** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Cash
- Cheque
- E-Transfer (Send To: [jurnss@outlook.com](mailto:jurnss@outlook.com))

*Completed form and payment may be brought to a RRAA regular meeting, or mailed to:*

**John Speer ([jurnss@outlook.com](mailto:jurnss@outlook.com)), RRAA Treasurer**  
**24063 Oakwood Road**  
**Sunnyside, MB**  
**R5R 0H4**

## Meeting Minutes for March 9 RRAA meeting

RRAA President, John Russell Badiuk opened the RRAA meeting which was conducted by a video conference, at 7:31 p.m. on Tuesday March 9, 2021. 86 screens attended the meeting using "Zoom". John reminded that meetings are recorded. Welcome to those from other groups. We may soon have non-virtual meetings if immunizations keep progressing. Physical copies of the Bee Cause for this Issue delayed due to printer and paper copy

The Following reflects the meeting:

### A. Club Business:

-Minutes from Feb 16, 2021 Change to minutes – Bob Binnie, owns and operates Blue Ridge Honey Co. in Lakemont, Georgia Moved by. Marg Smith and seconded by Veronica Larmour to accept with change to Bob Binnie's location - Carried

-Treasure: Financial Report, John Speer

Budget review.

Chequing Account #190414 January 1, 2021	\$7,443.17			Chequing Account #190414 January 1, 2021	\$7,443.17		
<b>Projected Revenue 2021</b>				<b>Projected Revenue 2021</b>			
Membership Fees	\$3,900.00			Membership Fees	\$3,900.00		
Looney Draw	\$1,200.00			Looney Draw	\$1,200.00		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,543.17</b>		<b>\$12,543.17</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,543.17</b>		<b>\$12,543.17</b>
<b>Projected Expenses 2021</b>				<b>Projected Expenses 2021</b>			
Newsletter printing and mailout	\$600.00			Newsletter printing and mailout	\$600.00		
Newsletter editor stipend (9 issues x \$50) 2020	\$450.00			Newsletter editor stipend (9 issues x \$50) 2020	\$450.00		
Newsletter editor stipend (8 issues x \$50) 2021	\$400.00			Newsletter editor stipend (8 issues x \$50) 2021	\$400.00		
Publisher software for Newsletter	\$90.00			Publisher software for Newsletter	\$90.00		
Meeting Room	\$250.00			Meeting Room	\$250.00		
Zoom subscription	\$600.00			Zoom subscription	\$600.00		
Liability Insurance	\$100.00			Liability Insurance	\$100.00		
Bank Charges	\$35.00			Bank Charges	\$35.00		
Website add-ons & themes, domain change	\$500.00			Website add-ons & themes, domain change	\$500.00		
AV Equipment (video camera, lapel mic)	\$1,200.00			AV Equipment (video camera, lapel mic)	\$1,200.00		
Speaker gifts/honorariums	\$2,000.00			Speaker gifts/honorariums	\$2,000.00		
Updated Promotional Materials	\$1,200.00			Updated Promotional Materials	\$1,200.00		
Donations ( KRTP, Dr. Currie)	\$1,500.00			Donations ( KRTP, Dr. Currie)	\$1,500.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,925.00</b>		<b>\$8,925.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,925.00</b>		<b>\$8,925.00</b>
<b>Balance Funds</b>			<b>\$3,618.17</b>	<b>Balance Funds</b>			<b>\$3,618.17</b>

-Donation will be reviewed later – possibly give more to KRTP

-Question about looney draw, possibly auctioning off RRAA yard with the money could be donated. Brad Hogg procured the items for the past looney draw, and we made about \$1300.

Shaun Sturby moved seconded by Jim Campbell acceptance of the 2021 budget.

-Account amount \$9552.52

-Membership Update, 170 member - 15 new members, 70 emails sent out on weekend to request renew for membership.

-Insurance money needed by end of March so John Speer can send it to MBA

Other committees:

- Honey Show – Brad Hogg – no update
- Website - Duane Versluis and David Lee - work in progress, shifting of domain names
- By-Laws – mtg. has not happened but some meetings pending next week
- Social Media - Seems to be without issue
- Mentor Program 2021 - virtual sign up to be or get a mentor with John Babiuk

B **MBA Report** - Marg Smith (Rep.)

MBA minutes in newsletter. Thanks to all the RRAA members who attended convention and Bob Binnie. Marg asked for questions. None were forthcoming.

Derek Micholson: Thursday March 25 -Varoa mite free workshop. Rheal, Dr. Currie and Derek

C. **Speakers:**

**Rheal Lafreniere- Provincial Apiarist with an industry update - Rheal.Lafreniere@gov.mb.ca Cell 204 7910124**

Industry stats:

- 490 to 914 growth of # of beekeepers from 2010 to 2020 (best estimates) 2010 63% non-commercial, 2020 73% non-commercial (less than 50 hives) which is 4% of hives, most run by commercial beekeepers
- 78 000 hives in 2010, to 118 697 hives in 2020
- About 80 beekeepers in course online this year
- Winter mortality 15-25% average for Canada. Manitoba is better than Canadian average.
- Average 174 lbs. per hive (commercial data) - 170 lbs. is the average weight per hive

Inspection:

- 5400 inspected hives 2020
- 5 cases of foul brood and found and European foul brood last year but none confirmed this year
- Inspection contracted out for next 2 years and make sure to target foul brood to stay on top of it.
- Shooting for 3-5% of inspected hives
- Just under 300 operations inspected (65% noncommercial inspected 2020, commercial once every 2 years, non-commercial every 3 years)
- 2-4% of inspected hives with disease
- Update your data with Rheal if anything has changed

Emerging Honeybee Pests

- Small hive beetle (SHB) – endemic in Ontario and Quebec and New Brunswick
- One SHB in shipment from Hawaii
- Asian Giant Hornet reported in Fraser Valley in BC – our climate probably not hospitable for this insect
- European Foulbrood on rise in 2020 associated with diseases like chalkbrood or America foulbrood.

# RRAA Classified Advertisements

## NOTICE

Resubmit your ads at least every two months to ensure up-to-date information.

### FOR SALE

#### HIGH QUALITY BEES

Taking early orders for 2021

4 Frame Nucs, Splits, and Spring or Summer Queens.

Winter Hardy! Selected & Bred for 24 years for Outdoor Wintering.

Wax Foundation: molded from clean capping wax.

Wooden Supplies:

Supers, Bottom Boards, Inner Covers available on pre-order until March 15th.

Email for Price List!

Contact : Waldemar Damert

Ph: 204-266-2276

E-mail: [wdamert@yahoo.ca](mailto:wdamert@yahoo.ca)

### BORDER HILLS HONEY

Now purchasing yellow settled beeswax, willing to make arrangements for pickup/delivery on any amount of wax.

Taking preorders for Nucs:  
4 Frame nucs, 2020 Manitoba Queen, 3 frames bees and brood, 1 honey

204-362-9364

[contact@borderhillshoney.ca](mailto:contact@borderhillshoney.ca)



### ASSEMBLED FRAMES

Selling 9-1/8 assembled frames for Honey production. All joints are glued and stapled using permanent white plastic foundation, in bundles of 10.

100 or less \$3.00 + gst per frame

200 & more \$2.80 + gst per frame

Contact: Mark Waldner

204-771-0672.

### FOR SALE

Stainless Steel Tank: with an electrically heated water jacket. will hold more than 2 barrels of honey.

It has a bracket on the sides near the top for holding a screen mesh which could be used for filtering honey into the tank. The heater element is thermostatically controlled. There are two outlets near the bottom of one side of the tank. One is for a honey gate and the other for attaching the portion machine.

EZ-Fill Portioning Machine: Once one sets it to dispense a certain amount of honey it consistently dispenses that amount and the gears back up a bit to prevent drips. Pays for itself in accuracy and waste reduction! Sold as a Set: \$5500.00 + G.S.T. Rob Smith, 204-254-4509 We still have supers, bee escapes, excluders, nuc boxes etc. for sale as we continue our downsizing. In the spring we expect to have hives and nucs for sale. [margshoney@gmail.com](mailto:margshoney@gmail.com)

31060 Rosewood Road (PR 501) (15 mins E of Wpg., left off Hwy #1)  
Dufresne, MB R5K 0P2  
Main: 1-204-866-2402  
Second Line: 1-204-230-4870  
Email: [sales@dancingbeeequipment.com](mailto:sales@dancingbeeequipment.com)



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## Need a New Fundraising Idea? Think Honey!

Schools, sports teams, daycares, band trips, cadets, and scouts. It seems that every organization needs support to provide those extra curricular activities for our kids.

Our easy to manage, and no minimum fundraising program offers a large line of pure Manitoba honeys and flavored honey blends, along with other products from the hive such as candles, bath products, pollen and honey comb. No money up front and 100% guaranteed, this fundraiser offers your supporters our products at below the store price to encourage participation and help you reach your fundraising goals.

More information and a downloadable package can be found at [honeyb.ca](http://honeyb.ca)

Or call John at 204-612-2337  
for more information.

## Manitoba Raised Bees

The RRAA has many members who raise queens and sell bees. Keep these numbers handy for your next seasons plans. Book early for a happier spring!

Rod McCulloch 204-803-7437

Waldemar Damert 204-266-2276

Border Hills Honey 204-362-9364

Westman Honey Bees 204-728-9129

Rob Young 204-612-4834

Want to be on this list?

Text 204-612-2337 or

Email [honeyb@mymts.net](mailto:honeyb@mymts.net)

## Struggling to get to the store in time?

A large lock box is located on the north loading dock and is accessible at all times. Simply phone in your order, pay via credit card or on account, and the friendly sales staff will place it in the black steel secure lock box for you to pick up after business hours. No more rushing to beat the 5pm closing time! No more putting off bee work because you forgot to pick up supplies!

**Call 204-786-8977 For Details**

  
**Bee Outfitters**  
Canada's beekeeping source

### For Sale

	Price Ea.	Units
Screened Bottom Board with Slide Out Bottom	\$40	31
Super Box with Wax Frame Foundation	\$30	20
Super Box with Drawn Comb Frames	\$40	64
Inner Cover	\$10	27
Metal Queen Excluder	\$10	40
Empty Super Boxes	\$10	40
Insulated Top Covers	\$15	30
4-Frame Nuc Boxes	\$30	14
Bee Escape Boards	\$10	40
Pollen Traps	\$10	11
Steel Tube Frames with Plywood Sides and Winter Insulation. Holds up to 5 Hives; Fits My Own Bottom Boards.	\$100	5

**Call Tom 204-771-0500 or Dave 204-232-5358**