

The Bee Cause



Volume 7, Issue 3

March 2010

- Next general meeting is **7:30** Tuesday, March **9th** at the **River Heights Community Centre, 1370 Grosvenor Ave., Winnipeg.**
- (in room right of main-door)

• **Speaker:** Jim Campbell and Ron Rudiak will provide a report on MBA Convention. In addition a video from "The Honey Files-A Bee's Life"

Reminder April
Is the last day to renew your
2010 Registration

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Celebrating Honey Bee Science with L.L. Langstroth's 200th Birthday

Two hundred years after his birth in 1810, Rev. Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth, known as the "Father of American Beekeeping," will be honoured. Langstroth's discovery of "bee space" and his invention of the movable-frame beehive will be celebrated with a national network of exhibits, workshops and seminars.

Langstroth started with "two stocks of bees in common box hives" while serving as a minister in Andover, Mass. in the 1830s. Before long he was studying beekeeping in depth. He observed his bees and sought to understand their ways in order to build hive boxes which would allow him to better combat the destructive wax moths and collect surplus honey without harming the bees or damaging their wonderful honey comb.

This is the essence of the scientific method. Those who might think that Langstroth was an



unlikely scientist would be misunderstanding the role of science in our lives. The scientific method involves experiencing the world in which we live, responding to the curiosity that naturally resides inside us, devising a method of observing and recording, testing and confirming our expectations, and evaluating the results we achieve. It is available and important to each and every one of us, just as it was to Langstroth.

Langstroth's efforts gave us a way to raise large quantities of bees, keep them healthy

and collect their honey in a truly sustainable way, without destroying their home. We all owe him thanks and, the year 2010, his 200th birthday year is a great time for people across the country to celebrate him in ways that benefit us all.

Down to Earth Program
 SFI Web site (www.scifri.org/dte)

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It appears a **Day of the Honey Bee** is sparking beekeepers in many countries to bring the insect of all insects to the highest podium of honour. As above, Langstroth is being honoured in 2010 for his contribution and so the Honey Bee. Clinton Shane Ekdahl of Saskatoon, proposed a National Day of the Honey Bee in Canada. RRAA feel 29 May a good day.



It has been research proven bees can count and remember human faces. Their daily management and leadership skills are exquisitely focused and the world benefits in many ways. More to come!

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Presidents Comments --- March 2010

It is late in February and the daylight hours are beginning to lengthen. Manitoba beekeepers are beginning to think of their bees and how they are faring since last October when they were put away for the cold days ahead. I had a look at my indoor wintered hives in early January, and found them all alive and doing well.

However, when I came back from Mexico in early February and checked the indoor hives on February 14th, I found that two hives that were marked as light in October were dead, and that three more hives that seemed heavy in the fall were also dead. Upon examination I found that all of them had used up their food supplies and had emptied out every cell. Some of them had even begun brood rearing as small patches of brood were visible on some of the frames. This was a good reminder to me to feed as much as possible in the fall, and then supplement the hives in January with boardman type feeders, which is possible when wintering indoors. I forgot/failed to do this, and have some losses that I will have to make up in the spring. An old saying in the **Farmer's Almanac** is that on February 1st, you should have on hand, a half years supply of firewood and the same for hay. I wonder if this advice doesn't apply to beekeepers, especially those that winter indoors. If I had heeded this advice in early February then I might have a few more hives alive today

Speaking of losses, a recent report from California indicates that unexpected honeybee mortality continues to be a current concern in the almond orchards. Within two to three weeks of arrival, 20 % to 30 % of the hives are dead with high numbers of bees found on the ground in front of the hives. These were strong, healthy hives that had been selected for the pollination season in California. They had been trucked in from many southern states at prices ranging from \$125 to \$150 per hive for the pollination season. Now with the new mortality levels, the pollination prices are almost reaching \$200 per hive for an orchard set. Nobody seems to have a definite cause for these mortality levels, but speculation is perhaps the mono-culture diet of almond pollen only, or a build up of pesticides in the almond trees themselves, or stress problems on the bees from the trip. OR, Or, or ??? Nobody seems to know what the cause is for these high mortality levels, but it is worrying to many beekeepers all over North America.

The MBA convention is the first weekend in March, and it should provide a variety of information that all scales of beekeeping operations could use. There will be a report at our RRAA meeting on March 9th of some of the highlights of the convention and some of the ideas RRAA members can use in the upcoming beekeeping season.

In checking over the spring auction calendars for Manitoba, I didn't see any indication of any bees or beekeeping equipment for sale. Anyone who needs to purchase nuc colonies should try to book early as colonies may be in short supply this spring. Have a look at our own RRAA classified ads for information on nuc sales, and place your local order soon for perhaps stronger/better colonies than those from offshore.

There is a proposal initiated by a person in England to have many places in the world including Canadian provinces and cities declare May 29th as the Day of the Honeybee, and to have appropriate events recognizing the importance of honeybees in our environment. The city of Winnipeg will be approached as well as the province to jointly recognize that day. This particular day was selected as it commemorates the first ascent of Mt. Everest by Sir Edmund Hillary, who was also a very keen beekeeper in New Zealand. RRAA is considering having a modest display at the Forks that day, as well as having several vendors with honey for sale. This idea is still in the planning stage, but it is something for us to consider to raise a higher profile for honeybees and the role they play in food pollination. Are there any volunteers in our membership who would be willing to assist in this project?? Let me know by email: charles_polcyn @ymail.com

Formal publication of RRAA financial statement for 2009, respectfully submitted by John Speer RRAA Treasurer.

Red River Apiarists
Statement of Operations for 2009 (Un-Audited)

REVENUE	2008	2009
Memberships	\$1450	\$1350
Honey Show	\$750	\$900
Donations	N/A	\$50
Raffles	\$129.90	\$127
Fundraiser (Silent Auction)	\$259.	N/A
Bank Interest	\$111.82	\$56.15
Total Revenue	\$2700.72	\$2483.15
EXPENSES		
Bee Cause Printing/Postage	\$939.28	\$927.87
Mennonite Heritage Village Display	\$500	N/A
Meeting Room/Office	\$339.75	\$403.50
Insurance	\$100	\$100
Draft By-Law Mail-out	\$69.30	N/A
Service Charges	\$47.62	\$6.75
45 th Anniversary(2008) Social Nite (2009)	\$809.16	\$125
Silent Auction	\$227.78	N/A
RRAA Website		\$807.45
Honey Show	\$668.56	\$552.01
Total Expenses	\$3701.45	\$2922.58
<i>Net Profit</i>	<i>Loss (\$1000.73)</i>	<i>(\$439.43)</i>
Closing Surplus	\$4566.34	\$4274.31

Red River Apiarists

Honey Show Statement for 2009

EXPENSES

Bee Maid (Jars/Lids)	\$89.29
Speed Pro (Pollination Poster)	\$58.31
The Forks (Gift Certificates)	\$170.00
Awards Canada (Ribbons)	\$224.41

Total Expenses **\$552.01**

INCOME

Table Rentals	\$300
Donation MBA	\$450
Donation Bee Maid	\$150

Total Income **\$900**

Profit *\$347.99*

Minutes of the RRAA General Meeting River Heights Community Club – February 9, 2010

7:30 PM: Charles Polcyn welcomed twenty-three members to the February RRAA meeting. Charles extended thanks to the members who let their names stand for election in January. Charles also read parts of a letter sent to him by a beekeeper from Palau, Luzon asking for assistance in obtaining pure (chemical-free) beeswax for foundation. The beekeeper also needs a fine thread nut for the table saw that he uses for making bee equipment. One of the big problems is bee-eating birds that swoop down onto foragers and eat them. This makes it hard to produce any mated queens.

Minutes of the January 12 meeting approved: Moved by Walter Wright and seconded by Brian Smith to approve the minutes as published in the February *Bee Cause*.

Meeting Room at RHCC: (Recorder's note: John Speer informed us by e-mail that we will be able to use the downstairs room for meetings beginning in March)

2010 MBA Convention - Brandon: The convention agenda has been posted on the MBA website along with registration and contact information for making hotel reservations.

MAFRI Report – Rhéal Lafrenière: Our national program for Canadian On Farm Food Safety (COFFS) is entitled Canadian Bee Industry Safety Quality and Traceability (CBISQT). There remains some final work needed to complete the finished document for final approval by CFIA. This program needs to be available to all beekeepers before we can take advantage of government sponsored training.

Financial Report: John Speer gave us a report on the Association's income and expenses for 2009. The *Bee Cause* will include a copy of this report.

Program: Jim Campbell reported on the joint Canadian Honey Council – American Beekeeping Federation conference and tour in Orlando, FL.

Day of the Honey Bee: It was proposed by Clinton Shane Ekdahl of Saskatoon, to have a National Day of the Honey Bee. He has already sent out hundreds of letters to cities and municipalities across Canada asking them to declare May 29 as the official day for recognizing honey bees and the work that they do. Many cities and municipalities have decided in favour and made this declaration. At our meeting it was suggested that we may want to have a pollination display at The Forks for the one day (May

29th).

Loonie Draw: Mike Grysiuk had his name drawn for a Mann Lake carry bag, Nelson Szwaluk won the jar containing Honey with Mango, Ron Rudiak won the lemon flavoured honey candies, Rhéal's name was drawn for a jar of honey and his second ticket was pulled for a jar of Mexican honey, Jeff Shinduke won a jar of Cinnamon Flavoured Honey. Ken Fehler got a jar of apple blossom honey and Stan Huzey won a CHC bee management poster and honey candy. Thank you to those who donated draw items and also everyone who purchased tickets.

Ron Rudiak, recorder – RRAA

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MBA Report Jim Campbell, RRAA rep.

The Manitoba Beekeepers' Association continues to pursue government resolutions for the tardiness and difficulties obtaining foreign workers for the summer.

Producers have been concerned about several issues surrounding access to temporary help for the honey harvest. Some have had their applications refused, while others faced difficulties having helpers use existing drivers licenses beyond their three month stay in Manitoba. To gain support for these areas, MBA proposed a resolution at the Keystone Agriculture Producers annual meeting. Since our proposal was accepted, now KAP will contact government on our behalf.

In other areas, MBA will be meeting with the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation board to determine if their plans to expand services will include honey producers. MBA has already formalized a request for over winter and honey production coverage. This meeting will also propose a loan program for young farmers wanting to take over a business.

In the meantime, MBA continues work with Canadian Honey Council, as they continue their Hive Health priority setting discussions.

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Manitoba Bee Lab Fees Increase

All beekeepers are reminded that the Apiculture Diagnostic Lab fees increased effective 1 January 2010. The lab at Agriculture Services Centre, 205 University Crescent, Winnipeg provides analysis of honey bee samples collected by inspectors at the request of beekeepers, and samples dropped off on site, or sent in directly by beekeepers. Fees for full Varroa, Nosema and Trachael mite analysis will be \$25.00, and \$10.00 for each of Nosema and/or Varroa analysis.

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Trail Cameras- A new Tool for Beekeepers

by Pierre Faure

It's been a while since I've had any destruction in my different bee yards. However, a couple of years ago we had troubles in our yards with vandalism, probably unoccupied people having "fun" in the dark bumping over hives in the bush. At that time the RCMP came to investigate but didn't find anything interesting. No tire patterns in the mud around the bees, no scratches on the broken supers and there was no signs of scraped paint on the boxes that could have led us back to the authors of the destruction- no clues.

Events like this generally occurred on Saturday nights just after socials in the local centennial hall. During those parties, people sometimes drink more than is reasonable and then drive around on gravel roads all night - far away from the RCMP officers who normally cruise on paved roads. Usually, events like this take place during the summer when supers reach, in some cases, to the sky. They are then more visible from the side roads.

Approaching hives in the dark, people in the cars close their windows as bees could fly into the car. Who knows?? Then they stop the truck in front of the hives and push down the accelerator pedal to make sure the skyscrapers hives will collapse directly onto the ground. We had that kind of problem for 4 years in a row. Most of the time we found the disaster only a few days later when a friendly neighbour phoned us after having seen the problem and realised that this was not normal.

When hives are hidden in the bush, things can take more time as we check our bees every 10 to 12 days, so if the damage happens the day after we check the bees it can take more than a week to find the trouble. After a week or so on the ground things are getting worse as the bees start to rob the piles of broken frames. As well it can rain and soak everything in a short time. Usually it's a complete loss even though the honey is carried back to the neighbouring hives, the equipment is completely lost.

We had a terrible succession of bad luck/incidents of vandalism for 4 years and we were never able to catch the people responsible. Since 2007 things have been better as the hive crashers had probably moved to the city for work or school. Everything was fine until last year when we found that somebody had gone to one of our yards and stolen a couple of our brand new skunk traps, with no damage to the hives.

The traps were set just beside the pallets and were not visible from anywhere, which means that the thief went to the yard on foot and took his time to check around the pallets to find the traps. This was really frustrating! The trap value was around \$80 each, so it was a complete loss to us. Right after that, I decided to buy a couple of trail cameras to see what was going on in my yards.

We bought the trail cameras at Cabella's in (Winnipeg) for \$200 each and decided to set them on a rotating basis in various yards. The goal was to get a picture of the thief "at work" doing his business in my yard. We bought another skunk trap that we set up in the same place, thinking that this person was attracted to the traps, a kind of a local

"Davy Crockett". We set the camera up on a tree at about 8 feet from the ground facing the hives and the trap. At this height, it is very difficult to locate the camera as people usually look around the area at eye level, not upward in the sky. On top of that, those cameras are very efficient in the dark and not easily visible to anybody as they use an infrared flash to take the picture. People or animals crossing in front of the camera would be recorded on the memory card. This seemed like a great idea to us. After a week of laborious testing everything was ready for the big catch.

However at this time, we also started to get trouble from a bear causing huge damage in our yards. This bear was heading everywhere depending on the honey flavour coming from inside of the hives. During the dandelion honey flow, the flavour of honey around the hives is very powerful and when you walk around your hives, you can smell it very easily. If there is wind in the evening when bees start to ventilate the day's harvest, this flavour can be widespread for miles around your yard and can be smelled by a bear miles away. That's what I think happened to us.

During one week, we found damage every morning in five different yards. This bear destroyed 21 hives in a week and turned upside down another 14 hives.

We decided to get assistance from Manitoba Conservation to get rid of this problem. They came to my place very fast and decided to set up big traps in various yards as they usually do when this kind of problem occurs. They also decided to put in place a two car patrols in the evening moving from yard to

(continued on pg 7)

School Breakfast Helpers

RRAA members Marg Smith and Jim Campbell have been helping with the Made In Manitoba Breakfast program.

The latest breakfast was served in February at Elwick School, This is part of the Agriculture In The Classroom educational program, where students are exposed to the farmers who help produce the foods used at meal time. The morning menu consists of Flax Pancakes, Canola Margarine, Honey topping, Pork Sausages, Hard Cooked Eggs, along with Chocolate Milk.

Students love the treats, and often express their appreciation verbally with "Thank You", or with a hand crafted "Card". Thanks to "Bee Maid" for providing honey for this program!



(Continued from page 2)
or telephone.

I have just spent a week in Ottawa, and noticed that the retail store honey prices are much lower than those in the Winnipeg area. I had a conversation with a local beekeeper whose family had been keeping bees here for 95 years. His comment was that there are too many stores here selling honey, as well as many hobby beekeepers selling honey at low prices from their farm gate. This depresses the market year round for honey producer/packers who supply the stores with locally produced honey.

I will be in the Philippines in March for a month working as a CESO volunteer to help re-establish an Apiculture Program at Sanchez Mira University in NE Luzon Island. I have been asked to present a Basic Beekeeping Course, as well as work with local area beekeepers on ways to increase honey production. This will present a challenge as this is also an area that had damages from typhoons earlier in the year. The school has 10 hives and hopes to collect more honey this year than in the past.

When I return, I expect there will be a real spring this year, and that every one's bees will have come thru the winter reasonably well. Until then, have a Happy Easter and get ready for another beekeeping season.

All the Best - Charles Polcyn - RRAA President.

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Biologist Discovers 'Stop' Signal in Honey Bee Communication

ScienceDaily (Feb. 11, 2010) — A biologist at UC San Diego has discovered that honey bees warn their nest mates about dangers they encounter while feeding with a special signal that's akin to a "stop" sign for bees.

The discovery, detailed in a paper in the February 23 issue of the journal *Current Biology*, which appears online February 11, resulted from a series of experiments on honey bees foraging for food that were attacked by competitors from nearby colonies fighting for food at an experimental feeder. The bees that were attacked then produced a specific signal to stop nest mates who were recruiting others for this dangerous location. Honey bees use a waggle dance to communicate the location of food and other resources. Attacked bees directed "stop" signals at nest mates waggle dancing for the dangerous location.

James Nieh, an associate professor of biology at UCSD who conducted the experiments, said this peculiar signal in bee communication was known previously by scientists to reduce waggle dancing and recruitment to food, but until now no one had firmly established a "clear natural trigger" for that behaviour.

The stop sign is a brief vibrating signal made by the bee that lasts for about a tenth of a second with the bee vibrating at about 380 times a second. "It is frequently delivered by a sender butting her head into a recipient, although the sender may also climb on top of the receiver," Nieh said. Bee researchers originally called it a "begging call," because

they believed the signalling bee made it to obtain a food sample from the receiver.

But Nieh discovered in his experiments that one trigger for this signal -- which caused the waggle dancers to stop and leave the nest -- was attacks from bee competitors and simulated predators. The more dangerous the predator or competitor, he found, the more the stop signals bees produced to stop other bees from recruiting to that location.

"This signal is directed at bees who are recruiting for the dangerous food location and decreases their recruitment," explained Nieh. "Thus, fewer nest mates go to the dangerous food site. This is important because an individual experiences danger and stops recruiting, but the stop signal enables her to 'warn' nest mates who have not yet experienced danger and are still recruiting. The end result is that the colony will reduce or cease recruitment to the dangerous food patch in proportion to the danger experienced."

Nieh found in his experiments that during aggressive food competition, attack victims significantly increased their production of stop signals to nest mates, some by more than 40 times. Bees foraging for food that attacked other bees or experienced no aggression did not produce stop signals. But bees exposed to a "bee alarm pheromone" increased their stop signalling by an average of 14 times. Those whose legs were mechanically pinched in a simulated bite increased their stop signals by an average of 88 times.

Nieh said that cooperation within and between cells in an organism relies upon positive and negative feedback.

"Superorganisms," such as honey bees, are like a multi-cellular organism because each individual bee, just like a body cell, acts for the good of the whole, the colony. Superorganisms use many types of positive feedback signals, but there are few known examples of negative feedback signals.

What's interesting to biologists about the discovery of the stop sign, Nieh said, is that it's an example of a negative feedback, in which the colony's actions are stopped for the good of the colony.

"This is only the second example of a negative feedback signal ever found in a superorganism and is perhaps the most sophisticated example known to date," he said.

Nieh was assisted in his experiments by UC San Diego undergraduate volunteers working in his laboratory. His study was supported by the UC San Diego Opportunities for Research in Behavioural Sciences Program, which is supported by the National Science Foundation.

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Can you identify your honey source by the pollen pellet collections.

As the spring unfolds and through summer try collecting pollen from the plants near your apiary. Store in a small vial or under scotch tape on glass to view when your bees collect. Sparking the interest for info!
The Editor





Editor's Note by Ken Rowes

My indoor wintering is more successful—one down. As Charles mentioned its timely to feed if you can and mid Feb. is usually it. I've caught 3 voles so far and that's a lot less than past years. Sticky papers and peppermint oil. The oil is a deterrent to mice so a little dab does it. Further to our last meeting where Ted mentioned the breadth of open entrances, I found 2 of 20 colonies dripping so opened the entrances fully.

The weather is breaking and we have had a lest 2 skunks here. So for the outdoor guys you may browse your winter colonies establishing some deterrents.

My packing room/kitchen is still a mess and I still have comb to install. How about you. March will be gone and spring colonies will on the move so time is running out on the winter to do jobs. Ya and it seems that the spring is so busy with conferences and the last sprint for out door winter sports.

2009 April 6th was -1 C and 7th +1 C and with the thaw I couldn't establish outdoors till the 15th. A little late and the pollen was plentiful. So here we are stepping on March with a month or so to go for the buzz work. I'll be missing the MBA convention so look forward to the next meetings report. The meeting is in a new room at the entrance to the club, to the right. Be early and chat it up. May be bring a question, see you there.

CLASSIFIED

1. For Sale: 25 Gallon single walled honey sump. Electric uncapping knife with preset thermostat, like new. 1 complete Top Bar Hive.

Contact: **Lance Waldner** Home 433-2517 Cell 712-6783 lancewld@gmail.com

2. Wanted: Honey pump and semi automatic honey container filler. Contact Lance Waldner (204)433-2517, cell 712-6783 or lancewld@gmail.com

3. Wanted: S.S Bottling Tanks Single wall or double wall with water jacket, good condition or repairable. Also needed—Belt Barrel Heater for drums: **call Brian Rich 204 739-5481**

4. For Sale: 30 Frame Maxant Extractor. please call **Javad Niazi At 885-0576 or javadni-azi@yahoo.ca**

5. FOR SALE: Clearance of a variety of Beekeeping Equipment- Honey Supers, Brood Boxes, Wax Dipped Feeder

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

Boxes, Queen Excluders, Bottom Boards, Lids, Empty Shells, Bare Frames, etc. Reasonable Prices on all items. Call Charles Polcyn at 284-7064 or email at: charles_polcyn@yahoo.com

6. For Sale: Downsizing

100 hives and contract with Bee Maid available. Also selling 3,4 and 5 frame nucs available May 15th. Will sell 10 frame honey supers all white frames, June 1- many in new boxes, equipment in excellent condition; and excluders, wintering inner covers, bottom boards etc. Contact Dennis Ross 878-2924 or Rosskr@mts.net

7. For Sale: Equipment for sale, 10 double brood chambered colonies. a 10 frame Maxant extractor, commercial winter wraps, supers and frames, tools, covers, stands, bottom boards, feeder pails, sump pump, refractometer, much more contact Leo Demers 204-379-2518.

2. For Sale: Made 2010 well established Strong -Healthy 4-frame nucs with queens bred from my own gentle hardy local stock. No foulbrood, chalkbrood, nosema, tracheal mites, varroa count very very low in my apiary. Also new inner covers made of 3/8" plywood with outer rim 7/8" x 7/8" pine \$7.50. Ph Ted Scheuneman 338-6066, West St Paul

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(Trail Cameras continued from pg 4)

yard, trying to catch the bugged. None of these patrols were successful. We didn't catch any bear at all in any of the traps. The bear was doing damage in the south when we were north and vice versa. This was really hard and I couldn't fall asleep thinking about the next morning!

During that week, I had no time to check my cameras as we were collecting broken equipment every morning and trying to save the attacked, but still alive, colonies. After 3 days patrolling around my different apiaries, the rangers got discouraged and gave up. They decided to give me the authorization to set up patrols with local hunters.

This was not difficult to put in place as many local hunters volunteered to catch that dam bear. Damage was becoming less as the addicted bear was probably full of food. We set up our own patrols but never got any bears either. This was really annoying! The bear took some time off during the next 2 days. It was probably resting in the bush, digesting the honey and the wax comb found in my hives. Its last attack was in my "thief" yard, the yard with the two previously stolen skunk traps. It turned over 3 hives but didn't do too much damage. As I say, it was probably full but still willing to play with the hives.

We didn't catch him this time but found beautiful pictures of this bear on the trail camera. This guy was huge (around 280 Lbs, an estimation of the ranger). It was a cinnamon coloured bear which is very rare to see in southern Manitoba. This animal drove me crazy during that week moving from yard to yard and traveling many miles to follow the honey flavour which was in the air around him.

This is just an example that vandalism will occur usually at night whether it travels on 4 legs or 4 wheels, and the trail camera can capture whatever takes place.

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"Joy"

How the bees with such skill and purpose
enter flower after flower
sing their way home
to create and cap the new honey
just to get through the flowerless winter.

And how the bear with intention and cunning
raids the hive
shovels pawful after pawful into his happy mouth
bats away indignant bees
stumbles off in a stupor of satiation and stickiness.

And how we humans can't resist its viscosity
its taste of clover and wind
its metaphorical power:
don't we yearn for a land of milk and honey?
don't we call our loved ones "honey"?

all because bees just do, over and over again, what they were made to do.

oh, who could need more proof than honey
to know that our world
was meant to be

and

was meant to be
sweet?

- by Julie Cadwallader Staub. Used with permission of the author. Julie's father-in-law is a beekeeper and his honey was the inspiration in Minneapolis area. Submitted by Marg Smith

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Saskatoon Pollination Project Ends

Members of the RRAA have been supportive of a two year project which ended last fall.

The Manitoba Beekeepers' Association spearheaded a two year study to determine the effectiveness of Honey Bees pollinating Saskatoon flowers. The desire was to have more berries with more weight after pollination.



Although the last two seasons were not great for the study, David Ostermann will be summarizing the results at the March MBA Convention in Brandon Manitoba. The study wouldn't have taken place without the help from John Russell and Marg and Robert Smith providing Honey Bees in the spring. Thanks folks!

Now these add class to our industry. The added effort and wholesome touch can only be a positive appeal to the health conscious and the sports enthusiast. Interestingly saskatoons are some what like blueberries with healthful Phytochemical anti-oxidants, anthocyanins which are believed to reduce plaque build up from beta-amyloid deposits in the brain, recently is thought to cause Alzheimer's disease.

RRAA 2010 Executive Committee



RRAA members attending the January meeting voted to start the new decade by expressing confidence in the current slate of officers. Making up the committee, as pictured above (standing from left to right): Jim Campbell (MBA Rep., John Speer (Treasurer), John Badiuk (1 Vic Pres.), Rhéal Lafrenière (Provincial Apiarist), Brian Smith (2 Vic Pres.), Ken Rows (Editor), and (seated) Charles Polcyn (President), and Ron Rudiak (Secretary).

IMPORTANT is your RRAA **RENEWAL** done?

After April newsletters will go to those who have renewed memberships.

Red River Apiarists' Association Winnipeg, Manitoba 2010 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.