

The Bee Cause



Volume 8, Issue 4

April 2011

Next general meeting is 7:30
Tuesday, **12 April 2011**
at the **River Heights Commu-
nity Centre, 1370 Grosvenor
Ave., Winnipeg.**

**(in room next to main
entrance)**

**Topic: Spring Management of
Bees** by Prov, Apiarist

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**Bees Under Bombardment: Report shows multiple factors behind pollinator losses
From Chemicals to Air Pollution, New UNEP Report Points to Multiple Factors Behind
Pollinator Losses**

Geneva/Nairobi, 10 March 2011 - More than a dozen factors, ranging from declines in flowering plants and the use of memory-damaging insecticides to the world-wide spread of pests and air pollution, may be behind the emerging decline of bee colonies across many parts of the globe.

Scientists are warning that without profound changes to the way human-beings manage the planet, declines in pollinators needed to feed a growing global population are likely to continue.

. New kinds of virulent fungal pathogens-which can be deadly to bees and other key pollinating insects-are now being detected world-wide, migrating from one region to another as a result of shipments

linked to globalization and rapidly growing international trade

. Meanwhile an estimated 20,000 flowering plant species, upon which many bee species depend for food, could be lost over the coming decades unless conservation efforts are stepped up

. Increasing use of chemicals in agriculture, including 'systemic insecticides' and those used to coat seeds, is being found to be damaging or toxic to bees. Some can, in combination, be even more potent to pollinators, a phenomenon known as the 'cocktail effect'

. Climate change, left undressed, may aggravate the situation, in various ways including by changing the flowering times of plants and shifting rainfall patterns. This may in turn affect the quality and quantity of nectar supplies.

These are among the findings of a new report published today by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), which has brought together and analyzed the latest science on collapsing bee colonies.

The study, entitled Global Bee Colony Disorders and other Threats to Insect Pollinators, underlines that multiple factors are at work linked with the way humans are rapidly changing the conditions and the ground rules that support life on Earth. It shows humans' large dependency on ecosystem services even for such vital sectors as food production.

It indicates that bees are early warning indicators of wider impacts on animal and plant life

and that measures to boost pollinators could not only improve food security but the fate of many other economically and environmentally-important plants and animals.

The authors of the report call for farmers and landowners to be offered incentives to restore pollinator-friendly habitats, including key flowering plants including next to crop-producing fields.

More care needs to be taken in the choice, timing and application of insecticides and other chemicals. While managed hives can be moved out of harm's way, "wild populations (of pollinators) are completely vulnerable", says the report.

Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director, said: "The way humanity manages or mismanages its nature-based assets, including pollinators, will in part define our collective future in the 21st century. The fact is that of the 100 crop species that provide 90 per cent of the world's food, over 70 are pollinated by bees".

"Human beings have fabricated the illusion that in the 21st century they have the technological prowess to be independent of nature. Bees underline the reality that we are more, not less dependent on nature's services in a world of close to seven billion people".

Bees and the Green Economy

Next year nations gather again in Rio de Janeiro, 20 years after the Rio Earth Summit, to evolve international efforts to achieve sustainable development including through accelerating and scaling-up a transition to a low carbon, resource-efficient Green Economy.

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Presidents Comments – April 2011

The end of March and early April is the time when beekeepers begin to considering moving their indoor wintered bees outside. However temperatures are still cool with many minus zero nights still occurring. There is still a lot of snow on the ground and not many trees are showing any signs of leaves. Thus the bees will have to remain inside for a few weeks more, as chilling down of new brood will not increase the hive populations. The importance of the bees having their first cleansing flights has to wait for the promise of several +6 or more days .

Some highlights of the recent MBA annual convention at the Viscount Gort on the first weekend of March would be worth noting. There were a variety of presentations ranging from CFIA staff on Honey Programs by Sam Barlin and Bee Biosecurity from Janet MacDonald, Bee Breeding Highlights and Nosema Ceranae information from Beaverlodge by Steve Pernal, Bee Nutrition and Varroa Mite Strategies by Randy Oliver from California, IPM and Queen Breeding programs from Quebec by Pierre Giovenazzo, Food Safety and Best Management Practices in Mexico from Les Eccles from the Ontario Beekeepers Association Tech-Transfer Team. Presentations were also provided by some of the MAFRI staff and the Provincial Apiarists on miticides in honey and beeswax, a Survey of Manitoba Honey and Pollen for Residues , the Export of Manitoba queen genetics from/to Chile, and an update on some of the latest research projects from Dr. Curries' office at the University of Manitoba. And of course, a mention of a new problem arriving in Canada as the Small Hive Beetles has been found in Eastern Canada north of the USA border in Ontario and Quebec. The Small Hive Beetles' ability to winter over in this area of Canada is being monitored.

Some of the common important messages from all the presenters were the need to provide good nutrition to bees, be aware of the new problems for beekeepers, and to keep current of the emerging challenges that must be faced to keep your bees healthy. The world of beekeeping has changed in the last 30 years. There should be a summary of the highlights of the 2011 MBA convention in the next edition of the Manitoba Beekeeper newsletter.

Recently I spent a week in Cuba at a holiday resort at Varedero. After a brief rain, trees began to show signs of blossoms, and honeybees were soon very apparent.. I tried to track them back to their hives/homes and was not successful. However I did manage to find a nearby beekeeper in the town of Santa Marta. His 10 hives were located in a back corner of a farmstead at the edge of the town of 15,000. The hives were made of local wood, the frames were wood without any grooves or slots in them. The bees were fairly gentle as I was able to open a variety of hives without having a smoker available. I was not wearing any protective clothing other than a ball cap, a long sleeve shirt and no long pants. The bees were only defensive in front of the hives. The bees were quite calm on the comb, and had brood on many frames. A fair amount of white pollen was being carried into the hives. Honey harvesting by this beekeeper is done by cutting out the comb and pressing out the honey. Thus many of the frames were empty as the bees hadn't rebuilt the comb. I did not see any obvious signs of Varroa Mites. The beekeeper said that there is little beekeeping equipment available to purchase in the entire country. He had used some Apistan strips a few years ago, that had come with a relative in Miami.

I tested some of the open honey in the combs and was surprised to see that despite its lack of capping, the moisture level was under 16%. This was a puzzle for me as the very reasonably priced honey at \$1.50 per half kilogram that I bought in stores tested over 18% moisture.

The store honey had been bottled in very secure type of packaging, and had the typical tropical color and flavor. Why the shop price was so low was a question that nobody could answer in any of the local stores that I visited. However at the Duty Free store at the airport, the same half kilo of honey was priced at \$4.00 for a well labeled jar.

The local beekeeper had no honey to sell at this time of the year. His local market price when he had honey to sell was less than 50 cents per pound. However he was very happy to accept the large red hive tool I had bought with me, the ball cap, some filter cloths and as well a 375g bottle of Manitoba Honey from Bee Maid. For any beekeeper visitors to Cuba, any type of beekeeping equipment you bring along and leave behind would be appreciated. Somebody you meet will know a local beekeeper and you will have a chance perhaps to see their hives and provide some assistance..

Our next meeting on April 12th will have its main topic on Spring Management of Bees. This will be presented by one of the Provincial Apiarists, so start preparing your questions that relate to your operation. The final RRAA meeting on May 10th will likely have 2 (continued on pg 7)

**Minutes of the RRAA General Meeting
River Heights Community Club – March 8, 2011**

7:30 PM: Charles Polcyn opened the March meeting with 23 members and guests in attendance. To begin the meeting, he led a discussion about Health Canada's full page advertisements that recently appeared in Readers Digest and several other Canadian publications. These full colour ads show a picture of a honey bear container bearing a red circle and diagonal bar with a white background. These ads were to inform people that honey should not be consumed by children under one year of age. Unfortunately, honey was singled out from among all other fruits, vegetables and grains which carry similar risks for children less than one year old. To make matters worse, the explanation for the picture was written in hard to see small print at the bottom of the page. RRAA members had an opportunity to speak to this item and each in turn voiced displeasure with this type of negative advertising as being harmful to an industry widely known for producing a healthful and wholesome product.

Minutes of the February General Meeting:

No errors or omissions were noted. Moved by Ken Rowes and seconded by Alex Remkes to accept the minutes as circulated in the March Bee Cause.

Founding Member Walter Wright Passes

Away: Red River Beekeepers' Association observed two minutes of silence to remember Walter.

Memberships Due: This is the last opportunity

for members to make sure that their dues are paid for 2011 to ensure that they remain on the mailing list for the Bee Cause.

MBA Report: This year our Beekeeping Field

Day may possibly be held at the University of Manitoba apiary site. Be sure to reserve Wednesday, June 22 as that day is a good possibility for the annual event. We would meet together at 11:00 AM and have a noon lunch with the tour right after lunch. Watch for further information.

Copies of the MBA developed compact disc on varroa treatment are available on the prize table. There should be enough for each member family to take one home with them.

Program: Power Point presentation: Highlights

of the MBA Convention. Charles and Jim put a slide show together for each major topic presented at the convention and described what each topic was about. Having pictures and charts made each section interesting and informative.

Loonie Draw: March prize winners were: Brian

Smith, Gilles Lantagne, J. Berard, Margaret Smith, Ken Fehler and Jim Uttley. This month the draw tickets purchased totalled \$17.00. Thanks to everyone who entered and those who provided the prizes.

Ron Rudiak, recorder – RRAA —//\—

MBA Report April 2011

By Jim Campbell, MBA rep

Directors of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) are concerned for bee stock availability as common sources in Hawaii, Australia, and New Zealand are at risk.

At their meeting on March 24, MBA directors heard about recent actions of Canadian Honey Council (CHC) as they met with Government officials in Ottawa. CHC found it crucial to meet with various departments regarding several issues affecting the beekeeping industry. In discussions with Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), it appears the application for a new Ontario varroa treatment has not been received. MBA is quite concerned about the delays, as our members are seeking alternative treatment options. MBA may take necessary steps to again apply for Emergency Use Registration of Apivar, as its' current use runs out on June 30, 2011.

In another meeting, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) indicated revised protocols were ready to permit imports of Hawaiian Queens for 2011 season. CFIA will remain diligent in monitoring spread of pest discoveries in Hawaii. It appears shipments from Australia would be permitted for 2011, yet may not be for 2012. USA is already preventing imports due to Australia's decision to stop eradicating hives with apis ceranae. In addition protocols for New Zealand will retain the 1% varroa level for one more year, with diligent monitoring of the situation should these levels be unattainable.

Here at home, Ontario has quarantined the area where small hive beetle was found in 2010. This measure has satisfied CFIA that Canada retains its SHB free status for 2011. It also means that MBA can retain the status quo on interprovincial movement of bees from Ontario.

For those attending the March 4-5 Beekeepers Symposium in Winnipeg, the theme was clear. To maintain sustainability and bee health, selecting local resistant bee stock is crucial. Randy Oliver, Scientific Beekeeping, California, has been touting this message for some time. He described his method of selecting superior queen stock from his operation, and using this genetic strain for nuc preparation after August 15 for future sales and honey production. This message was echoed by other speakers, as Pierre Giovenazzo, Université Laval Quebec, confirmed Queen rearing in the late summer proved superior.

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**City of Winnipeg – Public Works Department
Insect Control Branch**

**PUBLIC NOTICE
INSECTICIDE USE PROGRAM FOR 2011**

The City of Winnipeg's Insect Control Branch is involved in the control of nuisance and disease carrying mosquitoes in the City of Winnipeg and up to 24 km beyond.
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(from pg 1)

Part of that transition should include investing and re-investing in the world's nature-based services generated by forests and freshwaters to flower meadows and coral reefs.

"Rio+20 is an opportunity to move beyond narrow definitions of wealth and to bring the often invisible, multi-trillion dollar services of nature-including pollination from insects such as bees- into national and global accounts," said Mr Steiner.

"Some countries, such as Brazil and India, have already embarked on that transformation as part of a partnership between UNEP and the World Bank. It is time to widen and embed this work across the global economy in order to tip the scales in favour of management rather than mining of the natural world and that includes the services of pollinators," he added.

The new report on bee colony disorders has been led by researchers Dr Peter Neumann of the Swiss Bee Research Centre and Dr Marie-Pierre Chauzat of the French Agency for Environmental and Occupational Health Safety. The team also included Dr Jeffrey Pettis of the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service.

Dr Neumann said: "The transformation of the countryside and rural areas in the past half century or so has triggered a decline in wild-living bees and other pollinators. Society is increasingly investing in 'industrial-scale' hives and managed colonies to make up the shortfall and going so far as to truck bees around to farms and fields in order to maintain our food supplies".

"This report underlines that a variety of factors are making these man-made colonies increasingly vulnerable to decline and collapse. We need to get smarter about how we manage these hives, but perhaps more importantly, we need to better manage the landscape beyond, in order to cost-effectively recover wild bee populations to far healthier and more sustainable levels," he added.

Highlights from the Report

Regional Losses

Declines in managed bee colonies date back to the mid 1960s in Europe but have accelerated since 1998, especially in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom.

In North America, losses of honey bee colonies since 2004 have left the continent with fewer managed pollinators than at any time in the past 50 years.

Chinese bee keepers, who manage both western and eastern species of honey bees, have recently "faced several inexplicable and complex symptoms of colony losses in both species".

A quarter of beekeepers in Japan "have recently been confronted with sudden losses of their bee colonies".

In Africa, beekeepers along the Egyptian Nile have been reporting signs of 'colony collapse disorder' although to date there are no other confirmed reports from the rest of the continent.

Multiple Factors

Habitat degradation, including the loss of flowering plant species that provide food for bees, is among the key factors behind the decline of wild-living pollinators.

. An Anglo-Dutch study has found that since the 1980s, there has been a 70 per cent drop in key wild flowers among, for example, the mint, pea and perennial herb families.

Parasites and Pests, such as the well known Varroa mite which feeds on bee fluids, are also a factor.

Other parasites include the small hive beetle, which damages honeycombs, stored honey and pollen. Endemic to sub-Saharan Africa, it has spread to North America and Australia and "is now anticipated to arrive in Europe".

. Bees may also be suffering from competition by 'alien species' such as the Africanised bee in the United States and the Asian hornet which feed on European honey bees. The hornet has now colonized nearly half of France since 2004.

Air pollution may be interfering with the ability of bees to find flowering plants and thus food.

. Scents that could travel over 800 metres in the 1800s now reach less than 200 metres from a plant

Electromagnetic fields from sources such as power lines might also be changing bee behaviour. Bees are sensitive as they have small abdominal crystals that contain lead.

Herbicides and pesticides may be reducing the availability of wild flowers and plants needed for food and for the larval stages of some pollinators.

. Other impacts include poisoning of pollinators and the weakening of honey bees' immune systems

. Laboratory studies have found that some insecticides and fungicides can act together to be 1,000 times more toxic to bees

Some insecticides, including those applied to seeds and which can migrate to the entire plant as it grows, and others used to treat cats, fish, birds and rabbits, may also be taking their toll.

. Studies have shown that such chemicals can affect the sense of direction, memory and brain metabolism in bees

The management of hives may also be adding to the problem.

Some of the treatments against pests may actually be harmful to bees and a growing habit of re-using equipment and food from dead colonies might be spreading disease and chemicals to new hives.

Transporting bees from one farm to another in order to provide pollination services increasingly unavailable from nature could be an additional factor. In the United States, trucks carrying up to 20 million bees are common and each year over two million colonies travel across the continent.

. Mortality rates, following transportation, can be as much as 10 per cent of a colony

Notes to Editors

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Editor's Note by Ken Rowes

Each year I think: choose a sunny spot with well drained, rich soil. Than my mind postures a sunny location with free air circulation. Yes these are gardening thoughts but they are also my apiary site spring musings. So here we are.

Well the pussy willows have been out for a week here in Cloverleaf although no pollen yet. The job jar still has things to do. So getting in my 8 hour honey-house work has been reduced with other things. The weather has been cool which is giving us a slow melt and the outdoor bees are still covered with snow. My spring yard is usually clear of snow and I can bring my indoor stock out but not this year.

Well accountability is the difference between those who make time and those who pass time. So I am eagerly completing the RRAA Newsletter and other family tasks,

Taking advantage of the Provincial recycling "Growing Forward" program for beekeepers is where I am at this week. Pulling old equipment and replacing old wax frames have been my spring accountability towards a better beehive for quality bee culture and honey production. Ted's article on wax foundation (following) is a direction I am heading.

I am reviewing my 2010 bee notes and yes some changes are to be made such as another small rodent tight shed to store the extra bee/honey boxes to be chill cured for any nosema ceranae which is cold sensitive and any wax moth infection. The best thing is making room, reducing clutter so I can work on my job jar essentials, one at a time.

As cherished friends pass on I reflect on their influence on me. Walter Wright from day one showed interest in me to succeed with bees and bee a support to the RRAA when the RRAA met in the Honey Co-op plant (Bee Maid) 1965. I drew membership in 1967, Even in his latest years he has continued to encouraged RRAA members and their board of directors,

CLASSIFIED

1. 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**

2. For Sale: - Clearance of a variety of Beekeeping Equipment, Brood 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@ymail.com

4. For Sale: 1-Wood Burning Stove ideal for workshop—used one season \$350.00; 2— 10 kg plastic containers and lids \$2.65 each; 3— a Plastic drum 200 L with tap \$100.00 . Ph **Ted Scheuneman** 338-6066, West St Paul

5. For Sale: - Strong 4 frame nucs, with laying queens. Will accommodate 3 or 5 frame nucs. Available approximately May 15 weather permitting. Ph **Chris Argiriou** 296-4848 (cell) or 885-4588 (home)

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

7. Wanted: Candle moulds, tapered and pillar various sizes. Contact: **Lance Waldner Phone or Text 712-6783, lancewld@gmail.com**

8. For Sale: 10 hives for sale. single brood boxes with lid, bottomboard. inner cover and feed 378 5351 **Dahlen Barkman, 378 2778 Wes Barkman**

9. 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

10. For Sale: Model 500-30 Frame Maxant Honey Extractor In excellent shape used very little. \$1,500 OBO please call **Russ Roznik, Oakbank, home 204 444 3002 or cell 471-0199**

11. Wanted: A honey sump or clarifier. Contact **Jonathan Hofer** (204) 981-6562

Pollution Killing Flower's Fragrance Environmental Scientists Fume About Disappearing Flower Fragrances

August 1, 2008 — Biochemists have shown that air pollution inhibits the distance that flower's fragrances can travel. Scent molecules usually travel easily in the air, but pollutants break them apart, which destroys the smell. The researchers found that these delicate odours responsible for attracting bees and other pollinating insects are traveling as little as one-third of their former distances.

Soon, it may be harder to stop and smell the roses. Something is killing off flower's sweet smell. Now, we can discover what the culprit is.

Ah, the sweet smell of flowers can be hard to resist. When you go and visit a garden the first temptation you have is to smell a flower, explains Jose Fuentes, Ph.D., atmospheric scientist University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Va.

But hurry up and catch a whiff while you still can. Atmospheric and environmental scientists report that flower's scents are being destroyed. What's to blame for the disappearing aromas? Pollution. Fumes from cars and factories are pumping pollutants into the air, which may be destroying flower's fragrances.

"What we find is that these fragrances only travel one-third of the distance that they used to travel," Dr. Fuentes says.

Flowers produce scent molecules that travel easily in the air. Pollutants break apart the fragrance molecules, destroying their smell. Our noses will miss the pleasant fragrance, but bee's depend on it.

"The pollinators are spending more time trying to locate food and less time trying to actually harvest food that they need," Dr. Fuentes notes.

Wiping out flower scents could have a major impact on bee populations. But we can help bring back the bees and flower smells.

Dr. Fuentes explains, "One specific action that we can take is to really work towards having a very clean environment."

Flower populations may also diminish because plants need bee's to pollinate that allows flowers to reproduce. Now, we can make a clean effort for a chance to smell the flowers.

HOW WE SMELL: A smell is the sensory response to the complex mixtures of chemicals in the air around us, called odorants. We are able to sense these chemicals because they bind to protein receptors that line the cells in our nose. Each kind of receptor can only detect specific chemical compositions, producing the sensation of different smells. These receptor proteins are produced from about 1,000 different genes: almost 3 percent of our total gene count.

THE NOSE KNOWS: Our sense of taste is partially en-

hanced by smell, which is why food may taste bland when we have a cold that blocks the nasal passages. Nerve receptor cells within the nose detect odours carried into the organ by air, and transmit signals to the brain through the olfactory nerve.

ABOUT AIR POLLUTION: Air pollution is made up of many kinds of gases, droplets and particles that can remain suspended in the air. This makes the air dirty. The easiest way to visualize airborne particles (also called aerosols) is to exhale outside on a cold day and watch the fog come out of your mouth when water vapour forms water droplets. The same thing happens in the atmosphere, but for different reasons. Under certain conditions individual molecules come together and form particles -- a chemical soup. In the city, air pollution may be caused by cars, buses and airplanes, as well as industry and construction. Ground-level ozone is created when engine and fuel gases already released into the air interact when sunlight hits them. Ozone levels increase in cities when the air is still, the sun is bright and the temperature is warm.

The American Geophysical Union and the American Meteorological Society contributed to the information of this report with support from the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, Inc

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Scheunemans' Artisan Wax Foundation

Jim Campbell, Beekeeper

A member of the Red River Apiarists' Association has been creating "Home Made" Wax Foundation for several years.

Over the past few years, more and more beekeepers are becoming concerned for possible accumulation of various chemicals in the brood comb of their honey bees. There is some evidence that contaminants are encapsulated within wax, and thus melting old brood wax for new honeycomb foundation may not be the best practice. Beekeepers are now seeking wax cappings from honey frames for foundation. Ted Scheuneman, West St Paul area beekeeper, is already adopting this procedure. Since he operates a small-scale wax production, he exemplifies the typical Artisan trade of making natural wax foundation.



Periodically throughout the winter months, Ted can be found in his honey house, pressing new foundation sheets for use in his operation. He uses a special stainless steel wax press, cooled with water, to make the new sheets. In using honeycomb wax cappings only, the newly pressed foundation sheets are naturally a lovely

light yellow colour. Ted crafted an electric heating tank for keeping the liquid material at about 100 degrees.

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**Red River Apiarists
Statement of Operations for 2010 (Un-Audited)**

REVENUE	2009	2010
Memberships	\$1350	\$1700
Honey Show	\$900	\$900
Donations	\$50	\$25
Raffles	\$127	\$183.02
Bank Interest	\$56.15	\$54.48
Total Revenue	\$2483.15	\$2862.50

EXPENSES

Bee Cause	\$927.87	\$1076.45
Printing/Postage		
Meeting room	\$403.50	\$480
Insurance	\$100	paid 2011
Service Charges	\$6.75	\$9.48
Social Nite	\$125	\$38.95
RRAA Website	\$807.45	\$287.70
Honey Show	\$552.01	\$399.93
Total Expenses	\$2922.58	\$2292.51
Net Profit Loss	(\$439.43)	\$569.99
Closing Surplus	\$4274.31	\$4818.75

Red River Apiarists

Honey Show(s) Statement for 2010

EXPENSES

Bee Maid (Jars/Lids)	\$40.95
Speed Pro (Poster)	\$54.60
The Forks (Gift Certificates)	\$120.00
Interlakes Graphics (Posters)	\$140.57
Sobeys (Display fruit, veggies)	\$29.14
Marketplace (Veggies)	\$11.35

Staples (Proclamation copy)	\$ 3.32
Total Expenses	\$399.93
INCOME	
Table Rentals	\$300
Donation MBA	\$450
Donation Bee Maid	\$150
Total Income	\$900
Profit	\$500.07
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(from pg 4)

The full report, Global Bee Colony Disorders and other Threats to Insect Pollinators, can be downloaded at:

http://www.unep.org/dewa/Portals/67/pdf/Global_Bee_Colony_Disorder_and_Threats_insect_pollinators.pdf

The report is part of the UNEP Emerging Issues series, which is available at: <http://www.unep.org/dewa/EarlyWarning/tabid/4435/Default.aspx>

UNEP is host to a wide ranging partnership-The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) -which is estimating the economics of nature and the returns to communities and countries from improved management of these assets.

For more information, please contact:

Nick Nuttall, UNEP Spokesperson/Head of Media, on Tel: or when travelling , E-mail: nick.nuttall@unep.org

Isabelle Valentiny, Information Officer, UNEP Regional Office for Europe, on Tel. , Mobile , E-mail: isabelle.valentiny@unep.org

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(from pg 2)

presentations, one on Organic Honey production, and the other on the possibility of having access to Weather Monitoring Stations that are provided by the Canadian Wheat Board. These are a result of my attendance at a Federal Department of Agriculture Growing Forward meeting in mid-March and they were members of my round table at the workshop.

Let us all hope that the next few weeks are cool and that there is a slow melt of all the snow in the Red and the Assiniboine River Valleys.

Yours in Beekeeping--- Charles Polcyn RRAA President

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WALTER LENARD WRIGHT



A RRAA founder member Walter Wright (left) and our President in discussion at our nostalgic 45th Anniversary 26 March 2009.

Founding Member Honoured
Jim Campbell, RRAA exec

Elsewhere in this newsletter, readers will find the words of the obituary for one of our founding members, Walter Wright.

The Red River Apiarists' Association (RRAA) was founded in March 1963. At this time Walter joined the organization and was elected to the position of Public Relations Chair. The role at this time was to provide publicity information to the Manitoba Co-operator, and Winnipeg Free Press, regarding the activities and events of the fledgling RRAA.

Walter was very supportive of the bee club holding membership for most of the past 48 years. The past few years however, were a little more difficult, and yet with the help of a couple of beekeepers, Walter was able to attend meetings regularly. He appreciated the clubs' room on the first floor, and would enjoy talking with others and asking questions at our meetings, which often helped newer members too. He would then carry his findings home, and gladly share them with other beekeepers in his family.

Since the clubs' beginnings, Walter was active in the leadership team for 18 years, mostly in the areas of Social Chair, and yet holding the President's office for 1970 (The Centennial year of Manitoba) and MBA rep during 1980-82. His strength was in keeping in contact with people, and thus he was a natural for Chairing celebrations for the 15th and 25th Anniversary Parties, and finding many former members. At the 45th Anniversary in 2008, Walter was honoured for his contribution to RRAA, and given an opportunity to relay some stories of the club and people with whom he kept bees.

WALTER LENARD WRIGHT Peacefully on Saturday, March 5, 2011 Walter died at Oakview Place Personal Care Home at the age of 88 years. Left to forever cherish Walter's memory is his wife Zelda (nee Maguire) of 64 years of marriage; children Valerie Maier, Janice Innes, Daryl Wright and their partners respectively Charles, Don and Anne Walker; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; as well as many relatives and long time friends. Walter was born October 25, 1922 in Rounthwaite MB. Early in his career he was a farmer, trapper, insurance and hardware salesperson. After relocating to Winnipeg, he was employed by Eaton's for 40 years, retiring in 1987 as head of quality control. Walter was a founding member of the Red River Beekeeper's Association, and mentored many Manitobans in the art of beekeeping. He was a member of United Commercial Travellers for more than 60 years and served as a

Grand Officer. He joined the Lion's Club in 1945 and continued to be a member all his life and was a parishioner of St. Matthew's Anglican Church for more than 60 years. By networking, coaching sports and by fund-raising, Walter worked tirelessly to support youth. Walter loved animals and the outdoors. He enjoyed cross-country skiing, baseball, boating, fishing, hunting and golfing. He treasured his time at the family cottage at Petersfield, which was frequently filled with the laughter of his children, grandchildren and his many friends. A Funeral Service is being planned to take place in St. Matthew's Church, Winnipeg in mid April. The family wishes to thank Oakview Place for their compassionate and nurturing care. If friends wish to make a donation, Walter supported many charities and in particular the Manitoba Lung Association, 629 McDermot Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3A 1P6.

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This easily melts solid wax being added to the tank, while maintaining the correct temperature for pouring into the press. The cooling system for the press is comprised of a small pump circulating stored rainwater over a large block of solid ice.

With the wax press set up, Ted can create about one sheet per minute, and so far has made about 3000 sheets this way. The sheets weigh about 81 grams, and are thus an optimum weight to



host the foundation wire, while providing the bees with a decent amount of wax to begin drawing out the cells.

In observing the set up in operation, sometimes the sheets don't peel away from the press surface as planned. Slight imperfections are not a problem, as the sheet can simply be returned to the melting tank and recreated

later. On the other hand, the bees easily correct slight imperfections. The key here is to ensure one edge of the sheet is correctly formed, and thus any minor imperfections can be placed toward the top bar of the frame. In this layout, bees will bind the foundation to the top bar by making new wax. Otherwise we all know that bees will make a shortcut path where any imperfection is found along the bottom bar.

Near Winnipeg, an Artisan can produce "home made" wax foundation, on a small scale, in order to assist hive health being maintained at the best possible level.

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Accountability is the difference between:

Those who make time and those who pass time.

Those who suggest and those who criticize.

Those who learn from their mistakes and those who hide them.

Those who consider a job a privilege and those who consider it a right.

**Beekeepers Field Day and Summer Picnic
Wednesday June 22, 2011, U of M Apiary
site, Winnipeg**

Date: On Wednesday 22 June 2011, Manitoba Beekeepers' Association together with the Red River Apiarists' Association invites all interested beekeepers to come out for an afternoon of food, information, and fun.

Lunch Time/Cost: Catered Picnic Lunch being served at 1:00 p.m.. Food Cost \$10.00 each. Bring a Lawn Chair, and perhaps a sun cap too! Events to begin after lunch.

Location: Meet at University of Manitoba Apiary site, at the South-East corner of the campus, near the end of Freedman Drive. To get to the site, drive to the campus, then onto University Crescent, going South. Near the end of the Crescent, turn "Left" onto Freedman, then travel East. The apiary is on the right side of Freedman, in a chain link fenced area just before the Plant Science Research buildings.



Events: Visit one of the longest operating Apiary sites in Manitoba. Learn about the recent Varroa Control Product Screening Trials, and possibly take in an Integrated Pest Management Workshop. (Workshop details not yet finalized)

Q&A Session: Discussion on current beekeeping activities and events, including updates on varroa treatment options and non-food grade equipment replacement program.

Please arrange your own transportation to and from the tour site.

For more information, call Jim Campbell at (204) 467-5246, or Rhéal Larfenière at (204) 945-4825.

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Some of the control methodologies that are employed will involve the use of control products including Chlorpyrifos®, Diflubenzuron®, Methoprene®, Permethrin®, Pyrocyde®, and Malathion®. However, to protect bees from potential toxic effects of these control products, a 300 metre pesticide free radius will be provided around all registered honeybee and leafcutter bee colonies. Beekeepers are encouraged to participate in this program by advising the Insect Control Branch of bee locations.

The only allowable exception to this spray policy will involve the use of *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *israelensis* (Bti), which is considered non-toxic to bees.

For further information, please call 311 or write to the Insect Control Branch, 3 Grey St., Winnipeg, MB, R2L 1V2. An appointment can be arranged with Insect Control staff to properly map beehive locations, ensuring appropriate buffer zones around your colonies.

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**Red River Apiarists' Association
Winnipeg, Manitoba
2011 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.