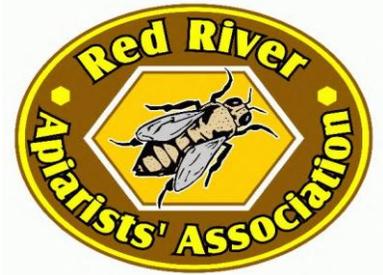


Red River Apiarists' Association

56 Years



The Bee Cause

2019 Issue 4

April 2019

Next meeting:

April 9th, 2019

*Elmwood Legion
920 Nairn Ave. Wpg, Mb*

*Novice Group meets at
6:45 pm UPSTAIRS*

*Main Meeting: starts at
7:30 pm*

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Kyle Bobiwash

Topic:

**The pollinator
Resource landscape –
Pollinator ecology
considerations**

Inside This Issue:

- OTS workshop Page 2
- President's Message: Pages 3
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- Culture, and Comics: Page 7
- Melissa's Musings: Page 8
- Dead-Outs: How to Autopsy: Page 9 & 10
- Classifieds: Pages 12/13/14



SUN 4/7	MON 4/8	TUE 4/9	WED 4/10	THU 4/11	FRI 4/12	SAT 4/13
13° /1°	12° /1°	8° /1°	8° /-2°	7° /-2°	8° /-1°	11° /-1°
A couple of showers possible	Sunny to partly cloudy	Cloudy; cooler	Sunny to partly cloudy	Clouds giving way to some sun	Mostly sunny	Partial sunshine
Hist. Avg, 8°/-4°	Hist. Avg, 8°/-4°	Hist. Avg, 9°/-4°	Hist. Avg, 9°/-3°	Hist. Avg, 9°/-3°	Hist. Avg, 10°/-3°	Hist. Avg, 10°/-3°

SUN 4/14	MON 4/15	TUE 4/16	WED 4/17	THU 4/18	FRI 4/19	SAT 4/20
10° /-1°	9° /-1°	13° /1°	11° /2°	13° /4°	16° /4°	13° /-1°
Plenty of clouds	Mostly sunny	Considerable cloudiness	Rather cloudy	A bit of afternoon rain	Increasing cloudiness	Increasing cloudiness
Hist. Avg, 11°/-2°	Hist. Avg, 11°/-2°	Hist. Avg, 11°/-2°	Hist. Avg, 12°/-2°	Hist. Avg, 12°/-1°	Hist. Avg, 12°/-1°	Hist. Avg, 13°/-1°

-Honeybees may have emotions:
Page 14

- Why Buy Queens? : Page 15

-Flowers: Using heat to attract
pollinators: Page 15

-RRAA Historical Record: Page17

Never as fast as we like, but the willows are budding, and the bees are active. The following week shows a good amount of double digit daytime temperatures. Things are going to get really busy very soon with the bees!

2019 Executive

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Save The Date!

June 1st 2019

An OTS Workshop and Educational Session

With John Schwartz

Hosted by Brad Hogg, Faith Apiaries

The essence of OTS is that you have, in your apiary, everything you need to produce queens, for whatever purpose you choose to use them without grafting. Combining OTS queen rearing with artificial swarms is a tremendous early spring swarm prevention technique any beekeeper can quickly learn. This workshop will attempt to help beekeepers understand swarm behavior better and instruct how to combine these two techniques.

John Schwartz lives in Solon, OH, is married with six children ages 11 to 24. John and his family originate from the west coast (most recently Alaska) before moving to Ohio in 2011. His day job is a digital manager for TFL.org and beekeeping is something that keeps him sane on the side.

John began beekeeping in 2004 in Oregon and has been using OTS to keep his apiary size to about 50 colonies since 2012. John has a blog and a nuc selling business serving local NE Ohio beekeepers which you can find at:

<http://thebee.farm>

or you join his OTS Facebook group at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/otsbeekeeping/>

John enjoys helping beekeepers become self-sufficient and can always be reached via email with questions at: johnschwartz@gmail.com.

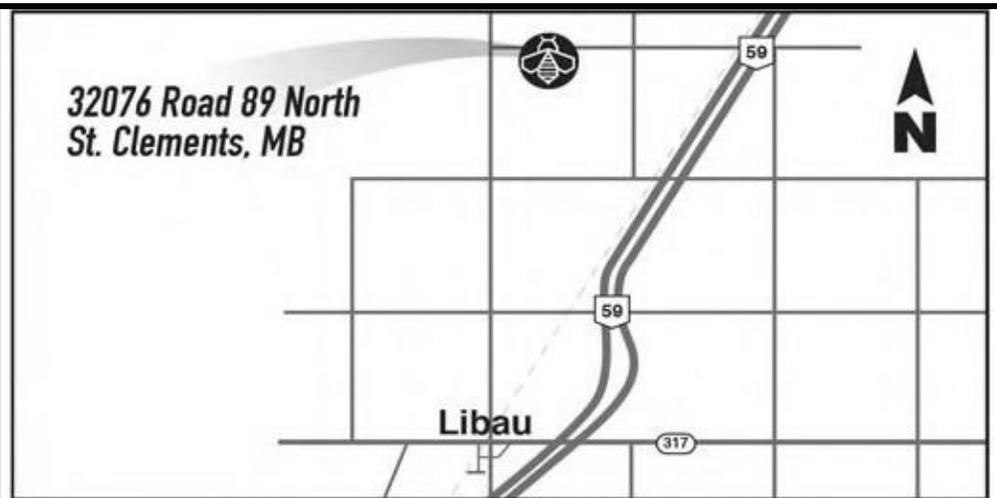
Bring a lawn chair and your lunch!

There is no fee but we are passing a hat to offset the cost of expenses for inviting John Schwartz up to Manitoba. please contribute what you can!

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◆◆◆◆◆ Presidents Message ◆◆◆◆◆

Ask 3 beekeepers a question, get 5 answers. One of the most frustrating things about learning bees is everyone has an opinion on what are best practices and what are trash. As a novice, who do you believe? Emulating the successful requires an intimate knowledge of ALL the parts of their operation. That's why working hands on and a mentor are a key piece of learning to keep bees healthy and self sustaining. However what works for one, person may not work for you. The commitment of time, geography, genetics, or simply the experience of picking up on signs can trip up the less experienced. So how does one navigate the expensive minefield that is learning to be an Apiarist?

Learn it ALL. There are many techniques and you need to look at it like a toolbox. We all have our favorite wrenches, and even though another tool may make more sense, or even be backed by more science and research, THIS is our favorite and most comfortable for the situation at hand. "What works for you?" is the question and the answer lies in trial and error and tailoring your methods to what you find is the best for you. Someone will always have a better or proper way. Sometimes they will be right, and your flexibility and willingness to learn will acquire that "tool" for your own use. In some instances, it won't be your preference. There are situations where there is a Right way and a Wrong way to do things, but there is also many more where there is lots of wiggle room to customize and personalize. Part of your learning journey is exploring, discovering, and developing YOUR way of keeping bees successfully. LEARNING all the methods and keeping an open mind is step one. UNDERSTANDING exactly how they relate to bee behavior, and survivability, and honey production is step two. Adapting and Adopting methods into your own operation is step three. Every beekeeper, regardless of experience should be constantly learning, understanding and be open to change. Crops change, weather is changing, new pests, new viruses; all of these changes demand it. Stubbornness and blind tradition kills slightly less bees than procrastination.

You will see a notice for an OTS workshop on page 2. You will also come across a contrary video opinion on page 15. What is the right method to learn? **Both.** What is the right method to practice? Depends on your situation, and on **You.** Don't you think knowing about **both** and all the pro's and con's might be a benefit? Think on it. See you on the 9th! -J.R.

Simple and less convenient

to have on

Nuc Boxes

Sides & floor – ½ inch plywood

expensive to make, and

hand, making your own

Roof – ¾ or ½ inch plywood *get into making your own Nuc boxes is great way to*

Ends – ¾ inch plywood

beekeeping equipment.

Telescoping rim around roof 1 x 1½ (actually ¾ thick)



Bottom – 9 x 22 inches

Sides – 10¼ x 20 – cut 2 pieces

Back end – 8 x 10¼

Front end – 8 x 9¾ Roof

– 10¾ x 21¾



Cut rebate in end pieces for frames to rest on - ¾ x 1 (ie leave ¾).

If ¼ inch raised metal frame rests are **not** going to be used the rebate only needs to be ¾ inch.

The frame rests are recommended

Nail and screw together. Pre-drill screw holes to prevent splitting.

Screw 9 inch pieces of pressure treated 2 x 4 underneath, front and back to keep the box off the ground. Glue and screw handles (5 inch pieces of 1 x 1½) onto ends just below roof rim.

Paint and metal roof optional. Also insulation under metal roof optional but note Astrofoil (aluminized bubble wrap) works very well.

A dummy board is a useful addition to close off unused space when a small colony is occupying only 2 or 3 combs, such as a mating nuc.



This is what would happen to the natural world if all the Insects disappeared

-by Stuart Reynolds, Emeritus Professor of Entomology, University of Bath

There are an awful lot of insects. It's hard to say exactly how many because 80% haven't yet been described by taxonomists, but there are probably about 5.5m species. Put that number together with other kinds of animals with exoskeletons and jointed legs, known collectively as arthropods – this includes mites, spiders and woodlice – and there are probably about 7m species in all.



Despite their ubiquity in the animal kingdom, a recent report warned of a “bugpocalypse”, as surveys indicated that insects everywhere are declining at an alarming rate. This could mean the extinction of 40% of the world's insect species over the next few decades.

What is particularly worrying is that we don't know exactly why populations are declining. Agricultural intensification and pesticides are likely a big part of the problem, but it's certainly more complicated than that, and habitat loss and climate change could also play a part.

Although some newspaper reports have suggested that insects could “vanish within a century” total loss is unlikely – it's probable that if some species die out, others will move in and take their place. Nevertheless, this loss of diversity could have catastrophic consequences of its own. Insects are ecologically important and if they were to disappear, the consequences for agriculture and wildlife would be dire.

The sprawling kingdom of bugs

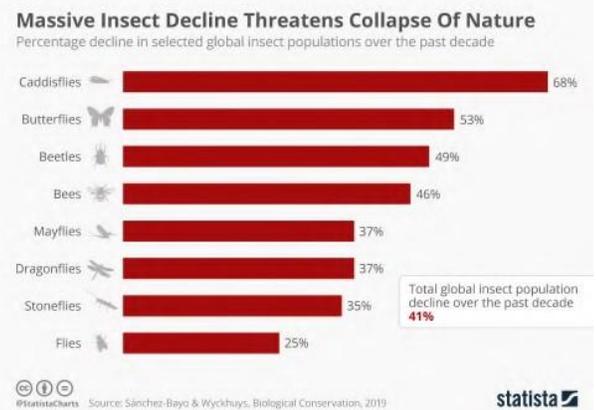
It's difficult to overstate how many species there are. Indeed, the 7m estimate above is likely a major underestimate. Lots of insects that look alike – so-called “cryptic species” – are distinguishable only by their DNA. There are an average of six cryptic species for every easily recognizable kind, so if we apply this to the original figure, the potential total number of arthropods balloons to 41m.

Even then, each species has multiple kinds of parasites which are mostly specific to just one host species. Many of these parasites are mites which are themselves arthropods. Conservatively allowing just one kind of parasitic mite per host species brings us to a potential total of 82m arthropods. Compared with only around 600,000 vertebrates – animals with backbones – that's 137 species of arthropod for every vertebrate species.

Astronomical numbers like these caused the physicist-turned-biologist Sir Robert May to observe that “To a good approximation, all [animal] species are insects.” May was good at guessing big numbers – he became the UK Government's chief scientist – and his quip in 1986 now seems pretty close to the mark.

That's just diversity though. How many individual insects would be lost in a mass extinction? And how much might they weigh? Their ecological importance will likely depend on both measures. It turns out that insects are so numerous that even though they are small, collectively their weight far outstrips that of the vertebrates.

Perhaps the most celebrated ecologist of his generation, the Harvard ant enthusiast E.O. Wilson estimated that each hectare (2.5 acres) of Amazonian rainforest is inhabited by only a few dozen birds and mammals but well over one billion invertebrates, almost all of which are arthropods.



That hectare would contain about 200kg dry weight of animal tissue, 93% of which would be made up of invertebrate bodies, and a third of that being just ants and termites. This is uncomfortable news for our vertebrate-centric view of the natural world.

Continued on next page ——>

This is what would happen to the natural world if all the Insects disappeared —

Cont.' -by Stuart Reynolds, Emeritus Professor of Entomology, University of Bath **The**
wriggling foundations of life

The role allotted to all these tiny creatures in the grand scheme of nature is to eat and be eaten. Insects are the key components of essentially every terrestrial food web. Herbivorous insects, which make up the majority, eat plants, using the chemical energy plants derive from sunlight to synthesise animal tissues and organs. The job is a big one, and is split into many different callings.

Caterpillars and grasshoppers chew plant leaves, aphids and plant hoppers suck their juices, bees steal their pollen and drink their nectar, while beetles and flies eat their fruits and devastate their roots. Even the wood of huge trees is eaten by wood-boring insect larvae.

In turn, these plant-eating insects are themselves eaten, being captured, killed or parasitized by yet more insects. All of these are, in their turn, consumed by still larger creatures. Even when plants die and are turned to mush by fungi and bacteria, there are insects that specialize in eating them.

Going up the food chain, each animal is less and less fussy about what kind of food it will eat. While a typical herbivorous insect might consume only one species of plant, insectivorous animals (mostly arthropods, but also many birds and mammals) don't much care about what kind of insect they catch. This is why there are so many more kinds of insect than birds or mammals.

Because only a small fraction of the material of one kind of organism is transformed into that of its predators, each successive stage in the food chain contains less and less living matter. Even though efficiency in this process is known to be greater higher up the food chain, the animals "at the top" represent only a few percent of the total biomass. This is why big, fierce animals are rare.

And so it's obvious that when insect numbers decrease everything higher up in the food web will suffer. This is already happening – falling insect abundance in Central American tropical forest has been accompanied by parallel declines in the numbers of insect-eating frogs, lizards and birds. We humans ought to be more careful about our relationship with the little creatures that run the world. As Wilson commented: ***"The truth is that we need invertebrates, but they don't need us."***

Knowing about insects and their ways is not a luxury. Wilson's friend and sometime colleague Thomas Eisner said: ***"Bugs are not going to inherit the earth. They own it now."***

If we dispossess them, can we manage the planet without them?



12 Must See Ted Talks for Beekeepers:

1) The first 21 days of a bee's life | Anand Varma

2) ^{THE BEE CAUSE} The hidden beauty of pollination | Louie Schwartzberg PAGE 9

3) Marla Spivak: Why bees are disappearing

4) Dennis vanEngelsdorp: Where have the bees gone?

5) We can save the bees together: Sarah Red-Laird

6) Life inside the beehive: Mat Welch

7) Every city needs healthy honey bees - Noah Wilson-Rich

8) Save the bees! But how? | Brandon Dawson |

9) Jonathan Drori: Every pollen grain has a story

10) Honey bee societies & dance floor democracy | M. Couvillon

11) The Buzzing Joy of Backyard Beekeeping | Jessie Brown

12) How parking lots could save the bees | Danielle Bilot

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSIWczHhOpsgQnGb3cUObou6WwU-Nk3k_

RRAA Meeting Minutes for March 9th 2019 - Recorded by Monica Wiebe

Novice session: 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Upstairs in Lloyd Harris Bee Mortality for the new beekeepers.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. John Russell chairing Reminder to Sign In Name Tags are helpful, please grab one as you sign in. Copies of by-laws are available on the entry table

Dan Lane from Brandon association was here for a visit. Thanks for making the drive.
Reminder that if we can email the newsletter we can save costs. And we can make it a bit bigger too.

Minutes from the last meeting, moved by Albert Biel, Dave Weselak seconded to accept the minutes as presented. No changes noted.

After coffee- Mentorship clipboard will be circulating.

Treasurer: John Speer reported \$2 572.93 in the bank and memberships are about half in.

Report from MBA: Marg Smith: Email from MBA congratulations to Darryl Wright who received the Fred Rathje Memorial Award award. MBA meeting not until next week.

Carol Wenaus reported from the convention. Attended the whole convention. Lots of attenders and venders. Randy Oliver swarm prevention and research. Les Eccles - Treatment and growing. Peter Awram- honey fraud, testing M4, Rheal local, CAP program that farmers and bee keepers can access.

Insurance, Five Million liability for \$65, through MBA and RRAA. Bodily Injury and Property Damage Annual Aggregate on Products and Completed Operations, Personal Injury and Medical Expenses. Bodily Injury and Property Damage Each Occurrence deductible \$2 500.

Coffee: Thanks to all who brought goodies, set up and cleaned up. Loonie Draw at end of meeting - \$85.05 raised. Lots of cool donations, thanks all.

Feature Presentation: Speaker: Waldemar Damert Topic: Honey Production for your 2019 season

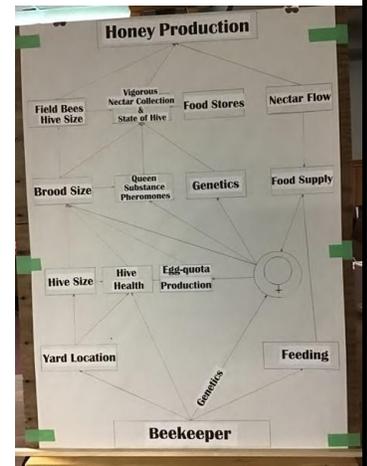
Bees produce many things, but honey is the product most get into the business for. It all comes down to the bee keeper. Yard Location, warm yard better in winter. Location in spring, willows and brush great to determine hive size right from the start. Genetics – will determine if they can winter here. Feeding in Springtime – they may not move. A 2 lb patty allows the bees to survive until nectar starts. Queen responsible for genetics and pheromones. Good balance between brood workers and forages, if over populated they swarm and you loose half the honey production. 6-8 KG of honey in brood chamber needed about 4 weeks before honey flow Min. About of brood size for 6 frames of capped brood before nectar flow. = 18000 cells Egg quota – 70000 cells available about 3000 eggs during at the critical time. Genetics – some make honey and some make bees. Feeding, assessment when pussy willows are blooming. 60 000 field bees will produce 3 supers of honey.

Next month Dr. Babiwash from the U of M

Genetics impact -Dr. Curry -May

Thanks to all who helped with set up and clean up.

Meeting adjourned: 9:05





For so work the honey-bees,
 Creatures that by a rule in nature teach
 The act of order to a peopled kingdom.
 They have a king and officers of sorts;
 Where some, like magistrates, correct at home,
 Others, like merchants, venture trade abroad,
 Others, like soldiers, armed in their stings,
 Make boot upon the summer's velvet buds,
 Which pillage they with merry march bring home
 To the tent-royal of their emperor;
 Who, busied in his majesty, surveys
 The singing masons building roofs of gold,
 The civil citizens kneading up the honey,
 The poor mechanic porters crowding in
 Their heavy burdens at his narrow gate,
 The sad-eyed justice, with his surly hum,
 Delivering o'er to executors pale
 The lazy yawning drone.
 William Shakespeare, King Henry The Fifth /A1 Sc2



YOU ARE NEEDED!!

What makes a great association great? Involvement, and contribution! If everyone does one small task, gives up one HOUR a month to help the RRAA, then we all benefit! (Call 204-612-2337 to lend a hand.)

WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE: Mentoring- a novice beekeeper, join a RRAA committee, bring a toonie draw prize, submit an article or a book review for the newsletter, bring cookies for our coffee break, share experiences and advice with new beekeepers, help at the Honey Show, or Day of The Honeybee, network with novices to source Manitoba bred bees and equipment, Teach a class!
TALK TO AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR MORE DETAILS

Having Trouble Finding A Good Parking Spot?

Norshel Inc. at 890 Nairn



(Two doors west of the Legion) Has generously given the R.R.A.A. members permission to park on the property when the legion lot is full. Please do not block lanes or building exits, or park in the Midland Foods parking lot.

Melissa's Musings

-Mary Chown

This month I am continuing on my notion that meditation and beekeeping are very similar.

You might ask, what do beekeeping and meditation have in common?

Meditation isn't about escaping from the everyday world: it's about being attentive, observant, and keeping an open mind in order to see and understand the world more clearly. Isn't beekeeping exactly the same? When we are in the bee yard, our focus ideally is fixed solely on the bees. We are not thinking about what's for dinner, or that bill we have to pay. We usually have a few things that we have thought about beforehand and intend to look for or observe once we are in the company of bees. Likewise, a meditator usually has an intention or question that they wish to explore once they are in meditation. If other thoughts come into their mind, they don't spend any time on them, allowing them to pass like clouds in the sky.

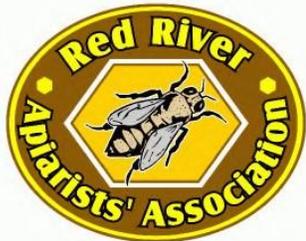
A beekeeper is always encouraged to keep notes during or after each visit to the bees, and a meditator is taught to always review their meditation when it is over and note what they have learned. One may enter meditation with a question to be posed, but it is never advised to stick really religiously to that question or thought, but to let it lay in our deep subconscious and percolate while we meditate. A meditator is encouraged to keep an open mind for whatever they are going to discover about themselves and the world during meditation. In the same way, the beekeeper may enter the bee yard with some questions to which they are seeking answers, but they must also at the same time be open to observe other unexpected occurrences and note them.

Finally, meditators look for and join a sangha, a group of likeminded people who meditate regularly at all different levels of ability and experience, and encourage each other.

Beekeepers benefit from joining beekeeping clubs where they can ask questions and learn from the other members.

We are so lucky to have a strong and vibrant group here at the Red River Apiarists! - M.C.





Presenting at the next Red River Apiary Association meeting

Tuesday April 9th at 7:30 pm
Elmwood Legion 920 Nairn Ave.



**UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA**

We invite you to attend the presentation by:

Dr. Kyle Bobiwash Assistant Professor, Department of Entomology, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, University of Manitoba

Topic: The pollinator Resource landscape – Pollinator ecology considerations

He will focus on: “Viewing any landscape through the lens of pollinators allows us to better manage colonies, as well as to meet our objectives (better pollination, higher yields, better health,) By analyzing the variability in bee behavior we can begin to develop more precise management that meet our goals. This allows us to optimize management and our outcomes.”

He comes with extensive research experience in the field of pollinators, and forage diversity where he has worked and researched across the country, from Northern New Brunswick, downtown Montreal, Northern and Southern Ontario to British Columbia, and now Manitoba. Originally from Blind River Ontario, his interest early in age, and a fellow bee keeper, has brought him to address specific scientific ecological questions utilizing responses of bees to changes in the agricultural or natural landscape.

This is a presentation for ALL Bee keepers in the industry, engage in discussions, and there should be ample time for questions, over coffee time and treats.

How to Autopsy a Honey Bee Colony - Anita Deeley

So your hive died, now what do you do? The first thing to do after you discover a dead hive is to autopsy a honey bee colony and look for signs of disease, varroa and anything else you think may have caused the colony's demise. It is important to note the time of year your hive died. If your hive died over the winter it may have died from condensation, starvation or cold which is typical in a winter killed hive. Nosema Apis is also more common in the winter when bees cannot get outside to defecate regularly. If your hive collapsed in the fall, varroa could be the culprit as the population of varroa is usually highest then. Performing an autopsy of a honey bee colony is like solving a mystery and a variety of clues must be found and taken into account together, before you can make a final analysis of what happened to your hive. Here are some other basic clues to look for.



Looking through a hive that died for clues.

Does the colony have a queen, are eggs and open brood in the cells? Is the brood mostly drones? Are there many emergency queen cups or cells? A colony without a queen, eggs or brood and many emergency queen cups or cells may have lost their queen and were unable to replace her. If the queen is present in the hive but dead, and it is not a winter kill, there should be eggs in the cells and open brood. If there are no eggs or open brood, the colony may have died from queen failure. A large number of drone cells may indicate queen failure or laying workers if the queen is absent.

Do you see a lot of varroa on the bottom board or on capped brood when you remove them from their cells for inspection? If so, your hive may have suffered from varroa collapse



Do the bees that died look healthy or are they deformed with short abdomens and missing or stubby wings? Deformed bees with stubby abdomens and missing or deformed wings may have deformed wing virus which is usually spread from varroa. Look at the bottom board for signs of varroa, the combs for white varroa feces, and pull some capped brood to examine them for varroa infestation.

Do any of the bees have wings separated making the shape of the letter K? Your hive may be infected with K Wing which can be caused from Varroa, Tracheal Mites, Nosema and more.

Are there many dead and dying bees in front of the hive? Do the bees have their tongues sticking out? Your bees may have been poisoned with pesticide. If you want to send them in for testing, collect as many bees as you can, preferably ones just dying and freeze them as soon as possible. Freeze your combs with pollen stores. Pesticide dissipates very quickly and samples must be frozen as soon as possible to preserve the integrity of the chemicals.

Are the bees hairy or greasy and black looking? Greasy, black bees may have a paralysis virus such as chronic bee paralysis or another disease. You may want to send them in for testing or ask for help from your apiary inspector, or the provincial apiarist.

... Continued on Next Page

How to Autopsy a Honey Bee Colony - Anita Deeley (...cont. from previous page)

Did the bees die with their heads in the cell, butts sticking out, away from honey stores? Was the weather previously cold? Your bees may have died from starvation. This happens often in cold weather when the hive is unable to break cluster to move to their stores. This is common in a winter killed hive.

Is there honey and pollen in the hive? Are there many dead bees with their head in the cells? If there are not adequate stores, your bees may have died from starvation. Starvation can and does happen in the summer with flowers blooming if no honey is in the hive.

Are there few dead bees in the hive with only a handful of bees, brood and the queen remaining? This hive may have suffered from Varroa Collapse. Look for other symptoms. Are many varroa present on the capped brood or the bottom board? Perhaps varroa killed your bees. If you have other hives and this hive is not getting robbed out, yet resources are scarce, your bees may have suffered from Colony Collapse Disorder.

Does the brood look healthy or is it discolored and contorted? Does it smell? Does it look melted? What does the brood pattern look like? A spotty brood pattern is common in failing hives. The reduced number of bees cannot keep up as the population hits a death spiral. If the brood is discolored or smells, it could be old brood, brood that got chilled or something more serious like European or American Foulbrood. It is best to send these samples away for analysis before using these combs. If it is EFB or AFB combs may need to be irradiated, discarded or burned. It is best to speak with an apiary inspector or your provincial apiarist.

Are the capped brood punctured with holes and sunken in? This could be a symptom of varroa or another disease such as American Foulbrood. Look for more clues. You may want to send your bees in for testing.

Are there brown or yellow stains all over the outside of the hive and the hive opening and/or inside the hive? This could be dysentery or nosema. You may want to send your bees in for testing.

Are there trembling bees crawling around outside the hive? Your bees may have a multitude of diseases such as varroa collapse, several types of virus, starvation or pesticide poisoning. You may want to send them in for testing.

Does the hive seem wet, is there a lot of moisture in the hive?

Is there mold in the hive? Condensation may have killed your bees.

Wet, cold bees are dead bees. Try to ventilate your hives better to allow more air circulation. Check to see that equipment is intact and water cannot get into the hive. Check for mold and mildew in the hive, these may also be indicators that your hive needed more ventilation.

Note that these examples are for more than just winter losses. Any time your bees perish, understanding why is a crucial first step towards preventing a reoccurrence. Cleaning up dead-outs and not re-infecting healthy colonies should be a high priority. Those that do not learn from mistakes, are doomed to repeat them.



Editorial Notes

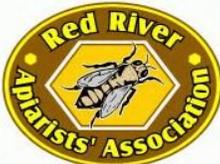
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Have you come across an interesting article? Would you like to share an observation? Share an anecdote or an observation from your own beekeeping experiences?

Do you have an opinion you want to voice to the beekeeping community? Seen a video you found informative or would like a topic researched?

Send it in to the Editor!

Taking all submissions at: honeyb@mymts.net



2019 ISSUE 4

PAGE 11

WE NEED COOKIES!!!!

Our influx of new members are finding us running short at coffee break! Please consider bringing a little contribution to the next meeting!!



The RRAA , the Bee Cause, for you and through you:

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 without the authors' written & expressed consent. They are those of their originator and not of the Red River Apiarists' Association.

Deadline for any submission 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 excepts months 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.

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Call for details :o more putting off bee work because
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2019 ISSUE 4

R.R.A.A.
Classified
Advertisements



**Classified Advertisements are
FREE for RRAA members.
Non member rates as low a
\$20.00 per issue**

Early 2019 Bees for Sale J N'J Honey Farm

Do you want get started in beekeeping?

As members of the R.R.A.A. we at JN'J Honey are proud to offer phone and email mentoring support with the purchase of our Nucs to fellow members. We also offer hands - on training and practical experience. As a bonus, any novice that buys a Nuc from JN'J Honey, we offer a start-up kit with all the essentials available at cost!



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Taking early orders for
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**4 Frame Nucs, Splits, and
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*Support (Via Phone or E-mail)
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- Excellent Genetics! -46 Years of Beekeeping Husbandry.**
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Contact : Waldemar Damert of Busy-Bee Apiaries
Ph: 204-266-2276 E-mail: wdamert@yahoo.ca. (Beausejour Mb.)

R.R.A.A. Classif

(continued.....)

Nucs for sa

5 frame \$170, 4 frame \$150, 3
All nucs with marked laying
2018. Some single hives will

Call Dennis Ross: 204
Email: rosskr@m

For Sale: Forty foot container full of
Various bee equipment

Brood chambers, tops, bottoms, queen
excluders, feed pails, Supers and wood
frames requiring foundation etc..

**Container is also for sale
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Please contact Gerry at
204 960 0698 or 204-253-7073

All has been inspected. No wax moths.

Gerry Brick 94 Healy Cres. Wpg, Mb

Do you plan to expand your Apiary?

For members that want to expand we offer 10% off new equipment when buying Nucs!

Spring Nucs, Spring & Summer Queen Orders

Our nucs and Queens are produced from high quality, winter hardy,
and Manitoba raised stock.

Our early 2019 spring nucs come with 2018 Manitoba bred Queens.
Limited quantities are available.

4 frame Nuc:

2018 laying queen 3 frames of bees and brood at varying stages 1 frame of feed

Note: To all new or novice beekeepers that want to learn about beekeeping or want
more experience: We offer free spring/summer/fall hands on training. Get
involved as much or as little as you'd like!

Taking Pre-Orders till March 20 2019

Contact Justin at JNJ Honey Farm for more information.

Ph: 204-381-9038 or Email: jnjhoneyfarm@gmail.com

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**plastic
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Contact Mark Waldner. 204-771-0672.**

R.R.A.A. Classifieds:

(continued.....)

We are on the

Web!

www.beekeepingmanitoba.com

REMINDER!

**RRAA NOVICE MEETING
STARTS AT 6:45pm SHARP!**

UPSTAIRS in the Back room. Sign the ledger!
Legion Rules: NO hats. NO outside beverages
(Coffee, Beverages, & Beer are available at the bar.)
Purchases must be consumed upstairs.

Westman Honey Bee Producers

*Our 5 frame honey bee nucs contain all of the
essential components of the interior of a beehive!*

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HONEYBEES MIGHT HAVE



- By Brandon Keim

Honeybees have become the first invertebrates to exhibit pessimism, a benchmark cognitive trait supposedly limited to "higher" animals.

If these honeybee blues are interpreted as they would be in dogs or horses or humans, then insects might have feelings.

Honeybee response "has more in common with that of vertebrates than previously thought," wrote Newcastle University researchers Melissa Bateson and Jeri Wright in their bee study, published June 2 in *Current Biology*. The findings "suggest that honeybees could be regarded as exhibiting emotions."

Bateson and Wright tested their bees with a type of experiment designed to show whether animals are, like humans, capable of experiencing cognitive states in which ambiguous information is interpreted in negative fashion.

Of course, unlike unhappy people, animals can't say that the glass is one stimulus — a sound, a shape, or for honeybees, a smell — with a prompting the animals with a third, in-between stimulus, it's possible to try in a neutral gaze, pessimistic animals tend to treat that uncertain tic compared to the richness of human emotion, but they're the most ies. And pessimism is no mean feat: It's a form of cognitive bias,

pect of emotion. You can't be pessimistic if you don't have

bee emotions. 'Earlier research has found rats and dogs capable of rlings. But though honeybees have passed tests of pattern recognition and ume-seed-sized brains is generally considered unlikely, if not downright hought of as having human-like emotions," said Bateson, yet honeybees and ; we share a common ancestor. The basic physiology of the brain has been

are basic similarities." other studies that bees are really cogr

wright trained their honeybees to associate one scent with a sugary reward in their beehives, mimicking a predator attack. Afterwards, shaken bees still n their unshaken brethren to investigate the in-between smell. Further opamine, serotonin and octopamine, three neurotransmitters implicated in c, and their brains looked like it, too." "The methodology is sound," said Lori who was not involved in the study. "I don't think it's a stretch to say that has to have emotions in order to learn and to make decisions. And we

we thought," she said. "Maybe cognitive bias is not a good n

ray. "Either bees have feelings, or cognitive bias isn't as tightly correlated

similar to depression," she said.

ther forms of apparent emotion, such as happiness. She also wonders about teresting to know if pesticides were altering their cognition, creating states

Why Buy Queens? - By Paul Kelly UoG Honey Bee Research

Centre



Watch the full video here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFp80hG4dw

Paul Kelly, Research and Apiary Manager, explains the reasons it is beneficial to purchase queens from a queen breeder or raise your own in controlled conditions. Below is the transcript from the video:

I'd like to talk to you today about why I think it's a good idea to purchase queens from a queen breeder or to raise queens yourself under controlled conditions. This is opposed to just letting bees raise their own queens. There's several situations where we might want to be getting a new queen in a colony. If we split a hive or if we're re-queening the colony. So those are the two main times where you need to have a queen.

If we split a colony and let them raise their own queens, they're going to do that under suboptimal conditions. The reason for that is if we divide a hive, the colony is weaker. So there's less nurse bees available. And in an emergency situation, where they have no queen, in that split, bees start feeding royal jelly to larvae. Larvae that are between one and three days of age are bipotent. So at all those ages, they can become a queen, if they're fed royal jelly. But if you have a larvae that's already three days into developing towards a worker and then it's fed the royal jelly, it produces an inferior queen.

So bees, or queens rather, reared under emergency supersedure conditions are automatically inferior queens. Because the first one to hatch out will be that three-day old queen, which is automatically the worst queen. And they're not raised under good conditions, where there's lots of nurse bees and so on.

Another reason that allowing colonies that we split to raise their own queen is less than optimal is that when we just split every hive and let them raise their own queen, we're not using any selection towards improving our colonies. We're just multiplying the genetics we have in every hive, rather than trying to multiply the genetics of our best colonies. Another situation where we might want to split a hive is if it's preparing to swarm. And if we do that with the swarm cells, that the colony is raising, that seems like a great way to do it. Those are nice, big cells reared under good, optimal conditions. But the reason that is less than ideal is that when we're splitting hives that are preparing to swarm, we're automatically breeding for swarming behavior. We're not splitting the hives that aren't preparing to swarm. We're splitting the ones that are preparing to swarm, and so we're breeding towards that kind of a bee. And it's very easy to breed for swarmy bees. And that's one of our main goals, in trying to have our hives be productive, is to have a minimum amount of swarming occur.

When a queen breeder raises queens, they take great care to select breeder queens to raise their queens from. And then they graft larvae that are the appropriate age. Right after that larvae hatches out, from an egg. If you're grafting those larvae that are just barely bigger than an egg, those larvae produce the nicest queens. And if that larvae is put into a colony that has loads of young nurse bees, lots of nectar, lots of pollen, then they're going to raise nice queen cells. So you'd get nice cells reared like this. Looks very much like a big cell that you would see in a swarming situation. The runty little cells that you get in supersedure, they're smaller queens. And it, 35% of the time, that bees are reared under an emergency situation, they're an inferior queen and they will have to be superseded again by the bees.

So, it's a really good idea to try to have good quality queens in your colonies. It prevents some issues later. The queens live longer. You have less difficulty with supersedure, and having that work out successfully. And you have good genetics in your colony, if you're buying queens from a good breeder. So that means your honey production will be better. You'll have gentler bees. Less tendency to swarm. And they're just generally nicer bees to work with and you have much better success. So, think about that, next time you're preparing to make splits

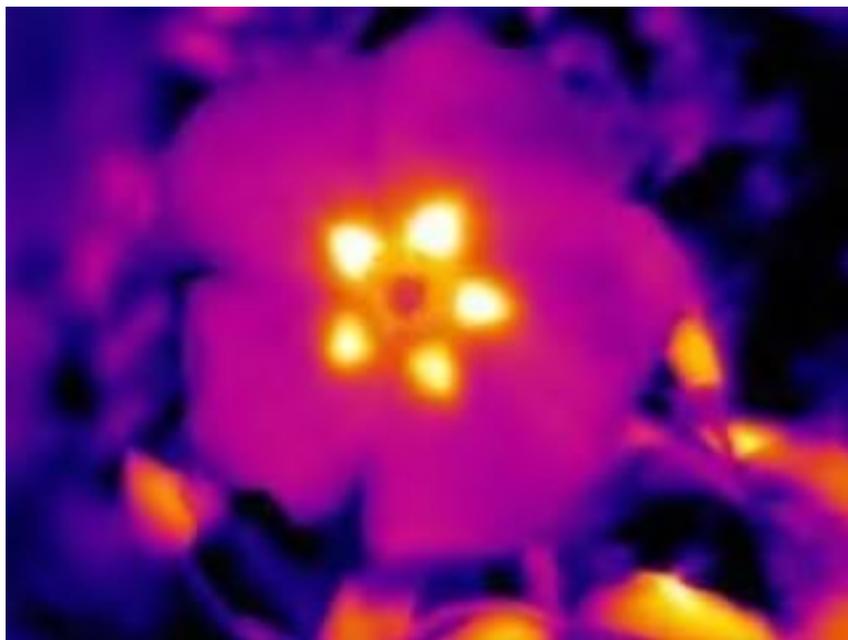
or requeen your colonies. The big breeders in our industry need our support too, so it's a good idea to be supporting their considerable efforts in purchasing quality queens.

Good luck with your bees. - P.K.

Flowers Use Heat Patterns To Attract Pollinators, And Bees Can Sense This.

By Stephan Lunz

Flowering plants will go to great lengths to attract pollinators. As humans, we reap the aesthetic benefits of these advertising campaigns in the visual beauty that flowers offer and their perfumed scents. All this time, however, we've been missing another language of flowers – the way some have developed complex temperature patterns that enchant bees, providing pollen holders with an extra communication channel in a crowded market.



According to a paper in eLife, 55 with thermal imagers revealed

percent of 118 plant species studied

The rockrose has its own distinctive pattern. University of Bristol

temperature variations greater than 2°C

(3.6°F) within a single flower. Amongst these, the average difference was almost 5°C (9°F), and the most extreme internal difference reported was 11°C (20°F). The 2°C figure is significant because bees have been shown to be able to detect temperature variations of this size.

When the authors created artificial flowers with either the outer petals or a rectangle in the center being hotter than the rest, they found bumblebees could sense the difference. After being trained to associate one pattern with food and the other with plain water, the bees would choose flowers with the food pattern.

Having cues that appeal to multiple senses can help flowers stand out during periods where there is a profusion of pollen on offer, all chasing a limited stock of over-worked insects. The patterns also serve a purpose from the insects' point of view. Pollinators may recognize their favorite flowers from those they find less appealing based on temperature patterns, even when their colors and smells are too similar to distinguish. First author Dr Heather Whitney of the University of Bristol said in a statement: "The presence of multiple cues on flowers is known to enhance the ability of bees to forage efficiently, so maximizing the amount of food they can take back to sustain the rest of their colony."

An additional incentive is that collecting pollen on a warm flower can help an insect maintain the temperature needed to fly on a cold day.

Sometimes flowers, particularly those pollinated by beetles, generate their own heat through chemical reactions, but most rely on sunlight. Due to this, large internal variations are more common among flowers that grow in sunny locations. In these cases, plants form these patterns through a combination of the heat-trapping capacities of darker pigments, the ability of some plants to track the Sun across the sky, and the different exposure of shaded and exposed petals.

The use of temperature is just one way plants appeal to pollinators in ways that escape us. Bees can see in the near-ultraviolet, so some flowers that look white to us are actually ultraviolet to attract them. - S.L.

The Red River Apiarists' Association : The Beginning

- A Historical Record Compiled and Maintained by Ken Rowes

Introduction:

The following RRAA historical record documents its inception, lists who gave it life through the years, listing its executive, its membership where possible, including list of newsletters, records of articles published, Honey shows, the Field Days and the educational aspects through workshops, pre-meeting "beeginner's" classes and it's Bee Yard demonstrations in queen rearing and hive management.

Chapter 1 Manitoba Beekeeping - The Red River Apiarists' Association

It began not so long ago on January 9, 1963, when Mr. Don R. Robinson, Provincial Apiarist and Entomologist (Department of Agriculture and Conservation) sent out a letter suggesting the formation of a Greater-Winnipeg Beekeepers Association.

The organizational meeting was held at the Clover Crest packing plant on March 26, 1963. Mr. D. R. Robertson outlined the benefits of forming an association for buying package bees as a group, exchanging ideas about beekeeping and organizing field days. All 31 people in attendance agreed.

The first Executive was established and consisted of:

<u>Chairman</u>	- W. H. M. Brace	<u>Treasurer</u>	- D. Louden
<u>Vice Chairman</u>	- N. Olnick	<u>Secretary</u>	- D. Smith
<u>Executive Members</u>	- E. Loginiski	- H. Oldenberg	- S. P. Donkin

1, 1963 Executive meeting, committees were formulated as follows:

<u>Public Relations</u>	- Walter Wright	<u>MBA Liaison</u>	- D. L. Smith
<u>Education</u>	- Ed Loginiski	<u>Entertainment</u>	- Miss McKnight
<u>Entertainment</u>	- Miss McKnight	<u>& Refreshments</u>	- Mrs. Ann Donkin
<u>MBA Liaison</u>	- D. L. Smith	<u>Exhibits, Honey-show</u>	-N. Olnick
<u>Exhibits, Honey-show</u>	-N. Olnick	<u>Annual Dance/Social</u>	- W. Brace
<u>Picnic / Field Day</u>	- L. Giguere	<u>Membership</u>	- H. D. Knox
<u>Bulk Purchases</u>	- E. Herman	<u>Apiary Sites & Pollination Services</u>	- A. Kempf
<u>Advisory</u>	- D. R. Robertson	- Dr. Cam Jay	

The first regular meeting held April 16, 1963 in the Beekeepers Room of the Manitoba Honey Co-operative, 625 Roseberry Street, St. James (now Winnipeg) saw the "Red River Apiarists' Association" formally formed. Approximately 35 individuals attended this meeting.

An order for 173 packages of bees had been placed with the Manitoba Honey Co-operative at a cost of \$5.60 per package. Anticipated delivery was Thursday, April 25, 1963.

The fee for family or individual membership was set at \$2.00 (September - August). The Annual Meeting was to be held in September.

During July, 1963 each of the Associations from Brandon, Dauphin, and Red River Apiarists' were invited to appoint a representative to the Board of Directors, of the Manitoba Beekeepers Association.

The local association was asked to manage the Provincial Honey Show scheduled for August 20, and 21 in conjunction with the Winnipeg International Flower Show at the Winnipeg Auditorium.

(Continued on Next Page...)

The Red River Apiarists' Association : The Beginning

- A Historical Record Compiled and Maintained by Ken Rowes (Continued.)

The Annual meeting on September 10 saw the re-election of Mr. W. Brace as President.

The Red River Apiarists' Association (RRAA) sponsored an evening program for the Manitoba Beekeepers Convention held in November.

Thus, concluded the first year.

The latest mission statement (not sure who or when its inception).

Mission Statement: The Red River Apiarists' Association formed in 1963, represents the beekeepers of the Canadian 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, honey shows, field days, workshops, presentations by local apicultural experts, as well as the dissemination of their monthly newsletter the 'The Bee Cause'.

This documentary has been an ongoing endeavour originally to document my journey through my Manitoba sunrise and shadows in beekeeping. That said, I'll leave those tails to my ongoing adventure writings and stick to the point in presenting the facts I stumble across in my files.

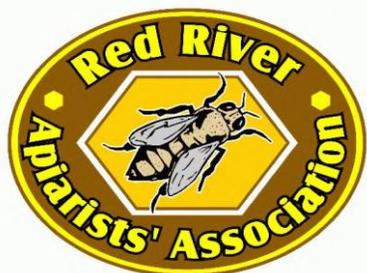
I ACKNOWLEDGE especially Letters form Allen King, Documents from Jim Campbell and Charles Polcyn AND other supporting information and amendments.

If you were on the executive or volunteered in the RRAA activities please forward a note to Roweskd@gmail.com and I will add / amend and acknowledge.

I ASK AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY UPDATES OR CORRECTIONS AND ANECDOTES IF ONE IS WILLING TO SUPPLY AND WORK TOWARDS A COMPLETE HISTORICAL RECORD.

K.D. Rowes

Jan 2019 The Red River Apiarists Association would like to publicly thank Mr. Ken Rowes for his hard work and his passion for the



preservation of the organizations history, the caretaking of it's archives, and the documenting of knowledge and activities of its senior members through interviews.

55 Years is a long and productive time for any organization, and it's important that we preserve and share our past to uphold the standards for our future works.

MBA April report to the Red River Apiarists' Association: Margaret Smith

Our March 21st meeting dealt with several items, the first being to elect and select the Executive and Committee members. The results are as follows:

Executive:

Chairperson: Mark Friesen

Vice-Chair: Ian Stepplar

Secretary: Daryl Wright

Treasurer: Nadine Lecocq

Canadian Honey Council (CHC) Representative: Allan Campbell

Keystone Agricultural Producers' (KAP) Representative: Paul Gregory

Committees: (Note: the first person listed is the Chair and the others are members of the committees) Convention:

Ian Stepplar, Brad Hogg, Osee Podolsky, Daryl Wright, Rheal Lafreniere.

Finance: Ian Stepplar, Mark Friesen, Paul Gregory,

Labour & Workplace Safety: Osee Podolsky, Allan Campbell

Food Safety: Allan Campbell, Osee Podolsky (Co-Chairing), Brad Hogg, Rheal Lafreniere

KAP : Paul Gregory, Osee Podolsky

Communication: Mark Friesen, Ian Stepplar, Brad Hogg, Marg Smith

Pest Management: Mark Friesen, Ian Stepplar, Rheal Lafreniere,

Resolutions: Marg Smith, Osee Podolsky

Research: Ian Stepplar, Allan Campbell, Rheal Lafreniere, Rob Currie

Safety Nets: Pail Gregory, Marg Smith, Osee Podolsky, Mark Friesen

Stock Replacement: Osee Podolsky, Daryl Wright, Allan Campbell,

Membership Resources: Mark Friesen, Brad Hogg, Rheal Lafreniere.

There is power to add members from the MBA membership to work on these committees, as well. As you can see, because only one of the two possible vacancies on the Board was filled at the AGM, there are many tasks to tackle, even though some of the committees don't necessarily work all the time.

When a review of the MBA Convention took place, it was determined that all in all, it was a successful one. The speakers were really good and, financially, we took in over \$5000.00 plus the monies from the Auction for the Barry Fingler Fund. It would seem that Dr. Rob Currie suffered a stroke while at the convention. News is that he is recovering quite well.

Discussion took place about Dr. Currie's research on the treatment of Varroa mites in over-wintering, using CO2 and Oxalic Acid. He is hoping to have his proposal ready by the April 8th deadline. It is hoped that the smaller organizations within the MBA, such as the RRAA, South Central (SCBA) and Brandon Area Beekeepers' Association (BABA) could contribute both financially and their names, as the more names of contributors that are on the list, the better the chances of approval for funding.

Under the KAP Report, there was discussion about the Carbon Tax regarding the exemptions for Farm Fuel (purple) and general cutbacks on Agricultural supports.

The CHC report advised us that the Committee Chairs were confirmed: Hive Health (Allan Campbell) and the Bee Health Roundtable. Allan takes the Manitoba perspective to them, while keeping a National scope as well. He is also the CAPA liaison with the CHC.

The latest meeting with Myles Bowden, the Head of Agriculture, brought to light the information that the position that was held by David Ostermann, will not be filled. The inspection Program WILL be renewed for the next three years, and Lab Services will be back up, with a cost recovery program, the same as that provided by the National Bee Research Centre (NBRC) in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

One of the Resolutions passed at the MBA AGM concerned the funding for each of the smaller associations, such as RRAA. There will be up to \$750.00 per year available for our organization, if we wish to use it for booking rooms, workshops, the Honey Show, etc. We must provide the minutes from our AGM and a list of the Executive, and a formal request outlining purpose, costs, and benefit to the beekeepers/ public.

Our next meeting will be April 8th, and beginning at that meeting, one of the MBA Bylaws will be studied at each meeting to try to keep abreast of changes within our organization.

That's it for now! We are so pleased that there were several members able to take in the convention workshop. That's the way we keep learning. - M.S.

Red River Apiarists' Association Membership Application

The RRAA membership extends for one calendar year. Renewals are due in January and includes access to 8 monthly issues of the RRAA BeeCause newsletter.

I hereby apply for membership to the RRAA\$35.00/year

*Optional: Beekeeper Liability Insurance - \$65.00 + \$5.20 \$70.20/year

Total Payment \$ _____

**Note: Liability Insurance fees must be submitted before April 1st.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Signature: _____

Please check one of the following:

- New Member
- Renewal
- U of M Student Beekeeping Course (free first year)
-

Payment Method:

- Cash
- Cheque
- E-Transfer
-

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

**John Speer, RRAA Treasurer
Box 16 Group 555, RR5
Winnipeg, MB
R2C 2Z2**