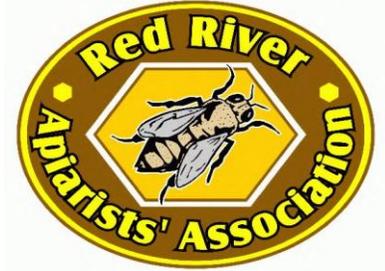


Red River Apiarists' Association

56 Years



The Bee Cause

2019 Issue 7

October 2019 2019

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The Control You have.

Weather. No one controls it, and the price of what once was. We hope for a long warm days and time to get all addressed in a pleasantly paced fashion for Christmas. All of these expectations. Preparation

Betting against the weather in beekeeping is irresponsible. We continuously bang the

teaching and advice and I find myself once again when I receive phone calls from beekeepers who start feeding in the late fall or still have had honey supers on, or a day to treat mites. As I write this the temperature is 2 degrees Celsius. My colonies



(continued on page 2.....)

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Next meeting:

October 8th, 2019

Elmwood Legion 920 Nairn Ave. Wpg, Mb

Novice Group meets at 6:45 pm

Downstairs

Main Meeting: starts at 7:30 pm

Guest Speaker:

Rhéal Lafrenière

Beekeeping: Looking back and peeking forward.

PAGE 2

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THE BEE CAUSE 2019 ISSUE

7

The Control You Have. (cont..)

J.R.

They may feed later on today, but with a high of nine degrees they may not even with a large cluster that's generating a lot of passive heat. Even if they do, with the cloudy weather and intermittent rain, drying down any feed to make useful winter stores isn't going to happen today.

If you fed and treated on time, you have little worry. For me, the mite counts are below 2% max. The treatments

were effective, and aside from wrapping they are almost ready to go into winter. Good population and heavy with winter stores.

Any nice weather that comes by is a blessing and a bonus. To expect it, to rely on it, is foolish at best, and I irresponsible at worst. If you get caught with a bad fall, your bees suffer. Then if you get caught with a poor spring, your bees are dead. Does this sound judgmental?

We judge our bees with prejudice towards our own ends. Bad temperament? Swarmy? Not producing enough? We promptly pinch queens and make changes to suit our goals when bees are just being bees. Now imagine if they could judge you? Imagine if they issues a report card at the end of the season and posted your grades at the next meeting for your fellow apiarists.

- Placed us in a good area.
- Checked for mites regularly.
- Gave us ample room to grow.
- Protected us from predators.
- Vigilant in checking for disease.
- Kept our mites under control.
- Fed us plenty, and on time.

The financial consequences are your concern, but if you annually keep repeating bad practices, you are negligent. Learn from your errors, and be proactive in your plan!



Winnipeg's Dancing Queen



On September 28th, Nuit Blanche Winnipeg took place in Downtown Winnipeg. This was a free all-night exploration and celebration of contemporary art that takes place on the Saturday of the Culture Days weekend. The Riel Gentlemen's Choir with Special Guests presented the 3rd annual Pollination Ceremony. Part concert, part nature documentary, part fertility rite, the performance intended to offer encouragement to the Bees of Manitoba through music and pageantry. Featuring a 25ft. Queen Bee, as well as a complement of worker bees and flowers, the musicians and puppeteers reenacted a vital part of our life on this planet that we seldom notice: pollination. (Photo by Monica Wiebe)

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*

Tropilaelaps: The WORST mite of HONEY BEES?

-J.R.

LAST JANUARY, California's beekeepers were worried they wouldn't have enough bees to pollinate the almond bloom, their biggest money-making event of the year. Gene Brandi, a California beekeeper and the former president of the American Beekeeping Federation, said winter losses were "as bad or worse than I believe it's been."

It turns out he was right. It was another grim year for America's beekeepers, already reeling from more than a decade of colony losses that threaten the commercial honeybee industry. Data released in June by the Bee Informed Partnership (BIP), a nonprofit collaboration of leading research labs and universities, found that beekeepers lost 38 percent of their colonies last winter, the highest winter figure since the survey began 13 years ago.

Virtually everyone in the beekeeping business will tell you that the biggest threat facing honeybees isn't pesticides, or starvation, but *Varroa destructor*. Currently, they are right.

But another dangerous mite has been spreading in parts of Asia. If it arrives on our shores, it could push the beekeeping industry over the edge. The parasitic Asian mite, *Tropilaelaps*, may one day pose an even greater threat.

For a while, researchers thought *Tropilaelaps* could only survive in the tropics. But now the mites have been found in colder parts of South Korea and the Himalayas. "Nothing is making sense for how they get through the winter yet, but we're not safe in North America just because of our long winters anymore," says Jeff Pettis, the former research leader for the USDA's Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland. "We thought we were, but we're not."

The known geographic range of *Tropilaelaps* has spread significantly over the last 40 years. The main factor currently limiting survival and spread of exotic mites is their dependency on a continuous, year-round food supply of immature bees within parasitised colonies. Under existing climatic conditions, cold winters prevent *A. mellifera* from producing brood, so any introduced *Tropilaelaps* would starve. However, even slightly milder winters, as anticipated with global warming will support uninterrupted brood production. It is already known that in many parts of the U.S there is brood present all year round, including in more northern areas of the country.

This direct relationship between climate/host/parasite makes the *Tropilaelaps*/honey bee model particularly relevant to climate change scenarios.

This link is for one of the best explanatory videos I've seen so far on the topic:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65FBpI29xkk>



Honeybee-eating invasive hornets found in B.C.

- CBC Canada / Global News

An invasive species of hornets known to feed on honeybees has been found on Vancouver Island.

The province's Ministry of Agriculture said Thursday that a nest discovered in the ground near Robin's Park in Nanaimo was destroyed on Wednesday using carbon dioxide, and the queen and all hornets were removed, and identified, marking the first year they've ever been seen on Vancouver Island. The ministry first announced the presence of Asian giant hornets on Sept. 11, saying three of the deadly insects were found buzzing in the Nanaimo area in August. Three more hornets were then reported, helping provincial experts and local beekeepers trace and locate the nest. The ministry said Thursday the hornets from the destroyed nest are being preserved for further research and testing to determine where they came from. There are reports of a second nest in the area, which are being investigated.

Beekeepers and humans are being reminded to keep an eye out for the large hornets and report any sightings to the Invasive Species Council of B.C. Along with their large size, the hornets are known to prey on honeybees and destroy their hives, which is their main food source. In Japan and other parts of Asia, local bee populations have been occasionally decimated.

Because the hornets nest on the ground — as opposed to other hornets that nest in trees or buildings — residents are being advised to be extra cautious not to disturb any other nests that may be found.



Asian giant hornets — the largest of all hornets — are currently dormant and aren't expected to make an appearance until spring, giving the Ministry of Agriculture time to develop surveillance and trapping equipment to help local beekeepers.

"This wasp is an apex predator," said Tracy Hueppelsheuser, the ministry's provincial entomologist. "Honeybees are great for them because they have a nice nest which is easy to get into." She says the hornets can destroy an entire hive in a short period. And the invasive species isn't selective when it comes to its diet, she says, adding they eat all types of insects. Fortunately, Hueppelsheuser says, there is a method to prevent them from wiggling their way into the nests of their next meal. Because of the Asian giant hornets' large size, honeybee producers can put a gate over the entrance to the hive, which makes it too small for the predator to enter but leaves it big enough for honeybees to go about their duties. This technology is currently used in other parts of the world, she says, where Asian giant hornets are more prevalent.



Although the idea of a giant hornet is enough to strike fear into some, Island Health Medical Health Officer Dr. Paul Hasselback says there's no need to panic, Asian giant hornets stings are rare. But that doesn't mean they can't happen, especially if their nest is disturbed.



Sweet Dreams!



President's Message



-John Russell

Well, the weather has been cold, and wet, and not fun for anyone. If you had counted on an Indian summer, or even a few nice days to finish your feeding and treating plan you are bound to be praying for an early warm spring. Notice how the weather has been a handicapping factor in your survival rates over the past 4 years?

I'm thinking that any weather related gamble is becoming more and more lethal with our springs and falls becoming cool and wet year after year. Proactive and prudent has been the growing theme in my schedule and I've been sleeping better at night because of it. Get it done, and get it done now. Cold rainy weather doesn't kill bees, but you not planning for it does.

The Mite-A-Thon came and went and I was quite disappointed to see the lack of submissions from Manitoba. Mark the dates information on next years calendar, and schedule it into your cell phones. This helps the researchers who help YOU, so submit your data next season and help the fight against the mites!

November we are planning a small awards ceremony to go with our social evening. We are asking our members to bring along something from their season to show off.

Did you have a particularly delicious honey to brag about? Bring some and show it around! Are you making candles this year? Mead? Beeswax wraps? Did you invent or come across a handy tool or method that helped out this year? This is the opportunity to share our ideas and creativity as we relax and enjoy the seasons end.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the 8th!

- J.R.

Lyme Disease Podcast

<https://castbox.fm/channel/Patient-Zero-id2211205?country=us>

This link will take you to an excellent podcast on Lyme disease and we highly recommend you give it a listen! Lyme is one of the great personal threats beekeepers need to be vigilant against. The more you know, the safer you are.

Beauty is here....

submitted by Asmara Polcyn

-picture



RRAA Meeting Minutes for May 14th 2019 - Recorded by Monica Wiebe

Sept. 10 2019. RRAA Meeting

Minutes from May excepted. Moved by Ted Scheuneman Seconded by John Speer

House keeping:

New Bee Keepers 6:

Treasurer John Speer: Balance \$3712.21

Extra News Letters available

Honey Show – Forks not community minded at this time. Honey show 2020 may be at St. Vital. Looking for a volunteer team leader to step forward.

Positions available coming up in January.

MBA. No news. Looking for research topics to fund.

Waldemar and the Bee Yard

Challenging after good start. But had a bumper crop. At end extract quickly canola granulated at 12degrees. Feeding syrup 1.5 kg to 1 liter with cold water. Hot water causes a toxicity which seems to impact in spring. On going mite inspection is important as mite explosions are a way of introducing viruses to your colonies. Feeding should be underway and completed by end of September.

David Dawson a member passed away.

Rebecca Krowelski Presentation of her visits with international beekeepers

India Western Ghats Tangigar

Organic spice farm. 100 years old. Tourism since 2015.

The hives and honey production seemed smaller than our prairie apiaries.

Guatemala beekeeper

Beekeeping introduced as a form of pollination and increasing pollination in agriculture.

Thanks to all Who contributed to the looney draw.

Respectfully submitted by

Monica Wiebe

North American Mite-A-Thon

Results for 2017—2018

Over 900 beekeepers reported data on 3,026 colonies from across the continent in 2017, and 684 reported on 2323 hives in 2018. Results of this survey are presented in the following Appendix.

Of the 3,026 results submitted in 2017, 79.81% detected *Varroa* mites, and 41.41% were found above the 3 mites per 100 bees action threshold (see Figure X). In terms of beekeepers, 92.27% of all participants submitted at least one positive sample, and 62.87% had at least one colony above the 3 mites per 100 action threshold.

Of the 2,323 results submitted in 2018, 71.55% detected *Varroa* mites, and 32.33% were found above the 3 mites per 100 bees action threshold (see Figure X). In terms of beekeepers, 88.16% of all participants submitted at least one positive sample, and 53.65% had at least one colony above the 3 mites per 100 action threshold.

In 2018, 482 beekeepers provide answers to the management questions associated with the sampling event. They reported that the most popular management was Oxalic Acid, followed by Mite Away Quick Strips and Apivar. Concerning future management practices, 52.48% of beekeepers declared they would use Oxalic Acid in the weeks following their monitoring.

An interpolation method was used to create a density map of the *Varroa* mite load in North America during that September week. This shows a snapshot of the reporting regions and while it illustrates the variability in mite pressure observed throughout the continent, it also must be recognized that certain geographic areas had smaller populations while others may have larger populations, but have fewer respondents. The interpretation of these graphs should be considered in the context of the program's stated objectives – to increase knowledge and data for individual beekeepers about their colonies.

Results from 2019 will be posted when available.



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

We know a great deal about how our planet works, how everything is connected. Trees communicate with each other, and also emanate chemicals that make us feel good when we walk in the woods. Flowers communicate with each other....this has been proven in lab experiments. But we really know so little yet....its as if we know enough to know that we don't really know very much about the world we live in. Ask any experienced beekeeper and they will usually say that there is so much that they don't know about bees.

The other day I came across an article citing research into flowers and how they increase their lovely scent when they are aware that a bee is near. The researcher, Lilach Hadany, based at TelAviv University, started by wondering if plants could sense sound, like animals do. She chose the evening primrose to study and discovered that the flowers increased the sugar content in their nectar when bees were hovering nearby. To find this out, she brought flowers into the lab. She exposed the primroses to five different sounds:

Silence

Recordings of a honeybee (a low frequency sound)

Computer generated sounds in low, intermediate, and high frequencies

She measured sugar content of the nectar and found that the flowers that were exposed to the low frequency sounds increased the sugar concentration within 3 minutes of exposure to the recordings. Next, her team measured the vibrations of the flowers and found that they matched the wavelengths of the pollinator frequencies.

How do the bees react to this increased sugar content, and what else do plants hear and feel? This kind of research is opening up a previously unconsidered world of plant communication and responses and who knows what will be discovered next? Which brings me back to my early comment that we are at a stage in our knowledge where we are beginning to realize how much we really don't know.



-Photo Credit Charles Beeler

Editorial Notes

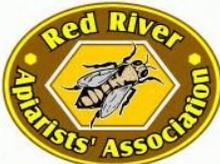
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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



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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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2019 ISSUE 7

R.R.A.A.
Classified
Advertisements



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

High Quality Bees For Sale!



Taking early orders for 2020

**4 Frame Nucs, Splits, and
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Wooden supplies:

Suppers, bottom-boards and inner covers:

Taking pre-orders till March 15.

Wax Foundation: molded from clean capping wax. **Email for Price List**

Contact : **Waldemar Damert of Busy-Bee Apiaries**

Ph: 204-266-2276 E-mail: wdamert@yahoo.ca. (Beausejour Mb.)

2019 ISSUE 7

R.R.A.A. Classifieds: (continued.....)

Hello everyone! Hoping all of you at the R.R.A.A had a great summer! All of us at the JNJ Honey Shop & Apiary look forward to seeing you all again in the fall.

Whether you are expanding or starting your beekeeping journey we at JNJ Honey Shop & Apiary have what you need! Now taking pre-orders for Nucs, Queens, Woodenware and Equipment for the 2020 season.

Visit www.jnjhoneyshopandapiary.com or give us a call at 204-381-9038 for booking & information. Free hands on training, phone, & email support. (no purchase required for R.R.A.A members)



ASSEMBLED FRAMES

**Selling 9 1/8 assembled frames
Honey production.**

**All joints are glued and stapled.
We are using permadent white
plastic foundation.**

Comes wrapped in bundles of 10.

**100 or less \$3.00 + gst per frame
200 & more \$2.80 + gst per frame**

Contact: Mark Waldner

2019 ISSUE 7



R.R.A.A. Classifieds:

(continued.....)



Need a New Fundraising Idea?
Think Honey!

Schools, sports teams, daycares, band trips, cadets, and scouts.

It seems that every organization needs support to provide those extra curricular activities for our kids. Our easy to manage, and no minimum fundraising program offers a large line of pure

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

More information and a downloadable package can be found at
honeyb.ca

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



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LOOKING FOR FUMAGILLAN!

Small amount, just 25 g or so.

Gord Pazerniuk at 204-663-3904

or

David Reimer's daver@mymts.net

For Sale: Silver Queen Uncapper System

Ideal for the serious hobbyist or semi-professional beekeeper, this nearly new integrated stainless steel uncapping system includes:

Silver Queen Uncapper, stand (holds up to 90 frames), drip pan, integrated digital hot water system,

Maxant Jr. 20" wax spinner, Caster wheels to access the wax spinner, nearly new serrated knife, and two sets of unused straight (new style) knives.

\$7,600 + G.S.T.

Phone: Jack Lee @ 204 268-1305



REMINDER!

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

DOWNSTAIRS! NOTE THE CHANGE!!

All members not attending are asked to wait upstairs in the legion hall until 7:30

Have a beer, or a coffee and socialize, but please do not disturb the novice class.

Respect the Legion Rules:

- No outside beverages.**
- Remove your hat upon entering - Sign in at the Bar.**
- Do not take purchases downstairs at 7:30**

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:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Cash
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cheque
<input type="checkbox"/>	E-Transfer
<input type="checkbox"/>	

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**