

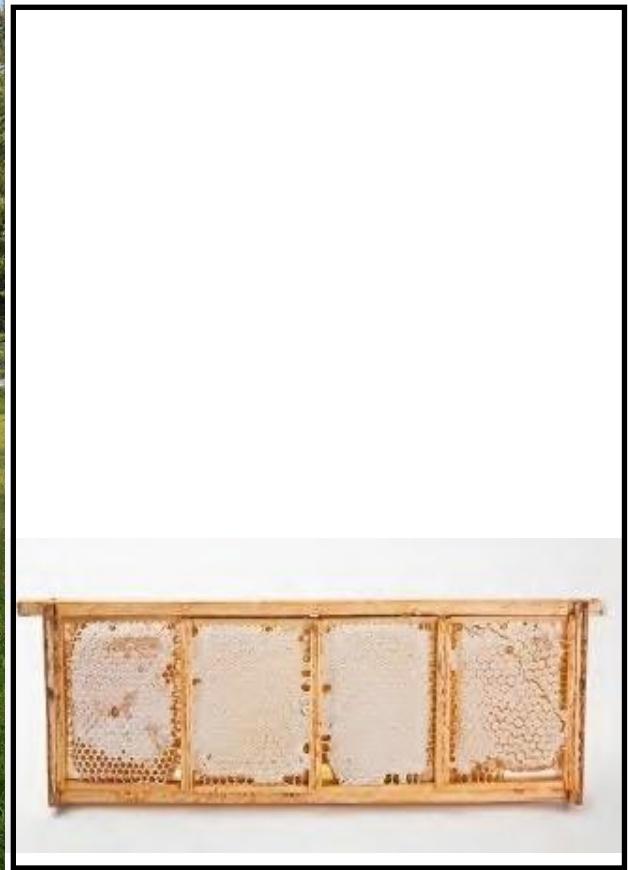
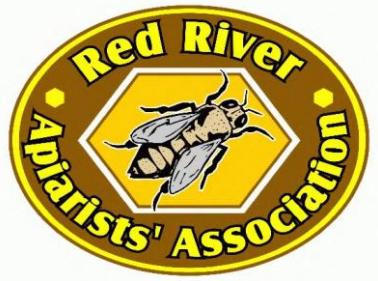
Red River Apiarists' Association

56 Years

The Bee Cause

2019 Issue 6

September 2019



Sweet Rewards!

Inside This Issue:

- Ontario assist program obtains funding: Page 2
- Berlins swarm problems: Page 3
- Swarm Catchers report: Page 4
- Bees as pollution monitors?: Page 5
- Presidents Message: Page 6
- March Meeting Minuets: Page 7
- 2019 Mite-a-thon!: Page 8
- Melissa's Musings: Page 9
- Classified Ads and Notices: Pages 11—13
- Insights into Beekeeping, the Ted Scheuneman interview, part 2: Page 14—16
- Legion house Rules: Page 17
- Picture of the Month: Page 17
- R.R.A.A. Membership Application: Pages 18



Timely intermittent rain has had some areas in Manitoba produce a more than satisfactory crop of honey this year.

Next meeting:

September 10th, 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: Rebecca Krowelski

Topic: World Bees : India and Guatemala

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Federal & Ontario government commit up to \$500,000 to their province's beekeeping sector.

"The health of bee populations is vital given the importance of pollinators to food and seed production," Marie-Claude Bibeau, federal agriculture and agri-food minister, said in a statement.

Bibeau said the federal government is committed to providing beekeepers with what's needed to support bee health while ensuring that both the beekeeping industry and the agriculture sector have sustainable futures.

"Bees are important pollinators that are essential to maintaining healthy ecosystems and a healthy environment," Jeff Yurek, Ontario's environment, conservation and parks minister, said in a statement. "Our government is committed to ensuring pollinators are well protected while supporting our farmers and beekeepers."

While the provincial government is investing money in the beekeeping sector, Andre Flys, the president of the Ontario Beekeepers' Association and a commercial beekeeper with Pioneer Brand Honey, told Global News he'd like to see the province address the issue of pesticides.

"We're always happy to hear that there's funding for beekeepers and that the government is paying attention," he said. "Frankly, I'm a little concerned that they came up with a long list of stressors...but the word pesticide was not uttered."

According to Flys, science shows that both native and honey bees are consistently being exposed to pesticides.

"They're bringing it in their pollen, they're bringing it in their nectar," he said. "We're not really addressing that."

Over the last number of years, Ontario's bee population has experienced large losses over the winter, Ernie Hardman, Ontario's agriculture, food and rural affairs minister, told Global News.

"No one seems to be quite sure as to what the causes are," he said. "Different things are happening in different circumstance in different places, yet everyone is having large losses."

Hardman said the province wants to help finance research to find out how to reduce the losses over the winter.

The investment being made by the province and the feds is through a targeted intake under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year, \$3-billion commitment by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments that supports the country's agri-food and agri-products sectors.

Under the intake, Ontario beekeepers can apply for funding for sampling and analysis for pests and diseases, business supports for beekeepers and equipment that prevents the introduction and spread of disease in addition to increasing bees' survival throughout the winter. Eligible applicants in Ontario can start applying for funding on Sept. 3.

"I hope we actually get to be involved in some of these consultations going forward," Flys said.

-Daina Goldfinger, Global News, August 7th

Newsletter Editor: John R. Badiuk

Email: honeyb@mymts.net

Berlin's inexperienced beekeepers leave swarms without homes

Inexperienced hobbyists force bees to search often in vain for suitable habitats across the city

Humans are not the only ones in Berlin struggling to find accommodation. A beekeeping boom has led to swarms of bees forming novel new hives using anything from motorbikes to balconies in the German capital.

"Many people are concerned about climate change and the dying bee populations and want to do something about it, which is great," said Benedikt Polaczek, the chair of the Berlin Beekeepers' Association. But he cautioned that the rise in the city's bee population meant there was now a lack of adequate habitats and food.

He said: "We now have around 10,000 bee colonies in Berlin alone."

Nationwide the German Beekeepers' Association has grown by a quarter in the past six years from 92,000 members in 2013 to more than 120,000 today.

The number of Berlin beekeeping enthusiasts has increased, while offices and hotels are among those putting beehives on their rooftops, and beekeeper courses are oversubscribed. But the accusation levelled at often inexperienced hobbyists is that they do not always understand how to care for the bees.

The Berlin association now has over 50 schwarmfänger volunteers who offer a round-the-clock service to capture the several thousand bees in each swarm that are typically found enveloping everything from car roofs and bicycle frames to traffic lights and balconies.

Jonas Hörning, a bee-loving volunteer who has already saved 100 swarms, said the number of incidents had increased as the number of beekeepers soared.

The news magazine Spiegel recently reported that swarm catchers across Germany were in constant demand this year. It is not usually difficult to find new homes for captured bees because of a swarm exchange website where experienced or would-be beekeepers can register their interest in taking over a rescued swarm.

Polaczek said it was possible to prevent colonies from swarming, by removing all the queen-bee swarm cells. He said: "Some people think they've managed it, but if you've overlooked just one swarm cell the bees will swarm anyway."

The swarming season – usually late spring to early summer – is now over for this year. But concerns about the welfare of the bees are more acute than ever. Polaczek said: "There are so many bees they often can't get enough food." Some beekeepers are forced to feed their bees with sugar syrup to enable them to get through the winter.

Ideally beekeepers should spend five years in training, according to the association, although very few do. The organization is critical of the fact that beekeeper starter kits are easily available online encouraging too many people to set up hives on a whim. - Kate Connolly

Meanwhile in Winnipeg:



RRAA Swarm Catchers Report 2019



So much fun! Despite the cool and slow spring build up, swarms were a poppin'.

We had over thirteen members on our alert list this year, and we successfully retrieved 8 swarms and one massive removal in Tuxedo. The team not only provides a service to the City of Winnipeg and the surrounding areas but also teaches RRAA members how to retrieve swarms in the many unique & challenging situations they generate.

Consider honing your skills, teaching others, or learning this integral part of beekeeping for the 2020 season!

Sign up sheets will be presented in the April and May meetings, and notices will be posted in the corresponding Bee-Cause issues.



How clean is your city? Just ask the bees!

(Abridged. Full article: <https://theconversation.com/how-clean-is-your-city-just-ask-the-bees-113981>

Authors: Kate E. Smith :PhD Candidate, University of British Columbia Diane Hanano: Research Manager, University of British Columbia
Dominique Weis: Professor, University of British Columbia

The environmental impact rapid urbanization is a global concern. Traditional methods of monitoring pollution such as soil and air sampling can be expensive and time consuming.

We need new tools to track heavy metals and other pollution. So, we came up with a novel approach — honey.

A sweet beginning

It all began with a question. Julia Common, the chief beekeeper at Hives for Humanity, a Vancouver-based, non-profit organization of urban beekeepers, was asked repeatedly, "How clean is the honey from downtown Vancouver?"

Hives for Humanity manages about 200 hives within Vancouver. They're on rooftops in the bustling city centre, near city gardens, in residential back yards and on farms in Delta, one of British Columbia's major agricultural hubs. The organization doesn't only produce honey, they also manage several therapeutic beekeeping programs.

To help answer this question, Dr. Dominique Weis, the director of the Pacific Centre for Isotopic and Geochemical Research, measured a suite of trace elements (including lead, titanium and cadmium and others) in some of the honey from Hives for Humanity. The honey was clean, well below the worldwide average for heavy metals like lead.

But when Weis started looking more closely at the data, she realized that the honey carried additional clues about where the metals came from — and could be linked to land use and human activity in the immediate vicinity of the hive.

Bee-sourcing science

When honeybees forage for pollen and nectar, they also pick up dust and other small particles, and carry it back to the hive where it is incorporated into the honey and other hive products.

Since bees rarely forage more than two to three kilometers from their hive, the honey provides a chemical snapshot of the environment surrounding the hive. This phenomenon has been exploited in a number of studies to assess not only the levels of certain metals in the environment, but also the effects of pesticides and the environmental impact of nuclear fallout.

Our study showed that honey collected from areas of higher urban density contains elevated levels of metals, including tin, lead, cadmium, copper and zinc. Antimony, for example, is elevated in honey from downtown Vancouver, relative to suburban and rural honey, presumably due to stop-and-go traffic, as antimony is a component in vehicle break pads.

Other batches of honey sampled from areas near the shipping port, showed higher levels of vanadium, which can be found in heavy fuel oils burned by large engines such as those on cargo ships.

Even though we could find these trace elements in the honey samples, the concentrations were too low to pose any health risk. An adult would have to eat more than 600 grams of Vancouver honey per day to exceed tolerable daily lead intake levels.

Fingerprinting honey

We also analyzed the different forms of lead, called isotopes, found in the honey to see how land use influenced the type of lead found in the environment. This had been tried only once before, in Australia.

Because each source of lead has a characteristic isotopic composition, this approach is a little like fingerprinting the lead. Honey from industrial or heavily populated sectors of the city has a different lead fingerprint than local, natural lead found, for example, in the rocks from the Garibaldi volcanic belt or sediment from the Fraser River. That means that the lead observed in honey from downtown hives is likely the result of human activities.

Overall, the chemical signature in honey from any sector of the city reflects a combination of the botanical offerings that surround the hive, as well as other pollution sources associated with land use: traffic, shipping, rail yards and agriculture.

Monitoring change

The honey paints a comprehensive picture of current trace metal distribution throughout Metro Vancouver. In the future, we can look for variations, as the city grows and changes over the next century. Cities are dynamic and experience constant shifts in land use, population growth, aging infrastructure and climate change (especially coastal cities).

Because honey bees live where humans live, the method could be used anywhere hives exist. This makes it possible for cities around the world to harness the power of the honeybee, even if they lack more traditional environmental monitoring infrastructure.

Urban gardening and urban beekeeping are rising in popularity, which makes projects like these all the more amenable to community participation.

The benefit of engaging the community in the scientific process is that everyone gains a deeper appreciation for their environment and local ecology. That, like the honey in Vancouver, is a sweet outcome!



<><><><> President's Message <><><>

Fall! *The fun part is officially over, and the honey season winds up, but your work and focus has just begun. Remember that wintering program you are supposed to have? It should be well underway with treatments done or in progress and bees getting fat on sugar syrup. How you intend on wintering (Indoor, outdoor, wraps, sleeves...) should be established and scheduled. Uncertain? Not ready? Indifferent? Procrastinating? Well, you will find several ads in the classifieds for pre-ordering spring Nucs. Be a Bee-Keeper, Not a Bee-Have'r.*

Very busy summer, as mentors were active and swarms were flying. A big thanks to the swarm catchers crew this year for all of their hard work! See page 4 if you missed it.

The OTS workshop on June 1st was well attended. Difficulties with the speaker getting up here was a bit of a speed bump, but skype saved the day and the program was still held. A big thanks to Brad Hogg for hosting .

Waldemar Damert shared his considerable expertise in the RRAA's first Fall & Winter preparation lecture in July this summer. This event was an initiative by the RRAA as we were finding that time sensitive information and advice was not being relayed to the novice portion of our membership to enable successful wintering. This free lecture was open to all. A general invite was sent out to all beekeeping organization members in Manitoba, and the general public.

The hall was packed (129 attended!) A big thanks to Waldemar for making the time in the busiest time of his season to present and the Bee-nevolent Philanthropic Foundation for sponsoring the event. A silver collection was held and the response was such that it demonstrates we can look at organizing more events like these as supplements to our educational programing.

We had intentions to record this lecture on video, but things fell through at the last minute. If ANYONE has any experience in filming, we would love your help and guidance in this department. Obtaining some equipment to record presentations in the future will be discussed by the executive to asses feasibility.

RRAA; Coffee, Beer and Bees! I threw together an impromptu invite to all of the membership to gather at the Legion to have a no-agenda get together to socialize and talk bees. I was expecting perhaps a half dozen to 10 people to show up, so imagine my surprise when around 35 of us descended on the place! A good evening was had by all, and it was very nice to sit around and chat, ask questions, and swap summer stories with all of you. I can see us doing this again soon!

JUST A REMINDER: In the interest of keeping things comfortable for a good teaching environment, we will be holding the Novice session DOWNSTAIRS. To keep the halls ambient noise levels to a reasonable volume, we will be requiring that all members who still wish to arrive early that are not involved in assisting set up enjoy each others company UPSTAIRS before the meeting starts at 7:30 Please maker yourself familiar with the LEGION HOUSE RULES! These can be found on page 17.

I Appreciate your co-operation in providing a space conducive to learning when we are trying to hold lessons. Thank you for respecting the R.R.A.A. programing and by being part of the solution.

-John Russell

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

6:45 – 7:30 p.m. Downstairs for the new beekeepers - John Russell speaking

Meeting called to order at 7: 31 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

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 amendment: Loonie draw: 188.25,

Minutes moved by Ken Rowe, seconded by Bert Beal to accept the minutes as amended.

After coffee- Mentorship clipboard will be circulating.

Treasurer: Current \$3426.86 \$70.20. Only expenses outstanding: Mailing of newsletter.

Introduced beekeeper for Brazil

Report from MBA: Marg Smith reported contract assigned with mandate of 5500 colonies inspected per year for 2 years with a possible extension for one year. Priorities will be followed.

What needs to be done in the Bee Yard – Waldemar Daemart

Bees very hungry. Queens not laying due to temp fluctuations. Feed them. They slow down when honey almost all gone, but afraid nothing left. Should we add a second brood chamber with honey- depends on temperature as it spreads the bees out.

Best winter in 51 years and lots of bees. How to combine, but queen right on top, queen excluder and paper and leave them 2 weeks and they will join.

Brad Hogg – June first get together. OTS Workshop Start 11 am. 3-4 hours. Biodiversity alert, launder suite and gloves and don't bring tools.

Coffee: Thanks to all who brought goodies, set up and cleaned up.

Loonie Draw at coffee break - \$130 raised. Lots of cool donations, thanks all.

Double whammy: Varroa and the viruses they vector: Dr.Rob Currie

-Varroa interact with all bees and the compete impacts are not fully known but more is known all the time -Historical perspective:

1935 not anything known about viruses

The Hive and the Honey Bee. A Dadant Publication 1978 Asian Bee Mites mentioned

1981 More known about viruses but the Honey Bee Pathology book not concerned about varroa, but wondering about vectoring viruses.

-Varroa inject viruses and If you find Deformed wings- glands damaged, wings useless, and wings deform - then your colony has a rampant case of viruses.

-How do viruses move within and between colonies what is their impact and how can we mitigate these effects

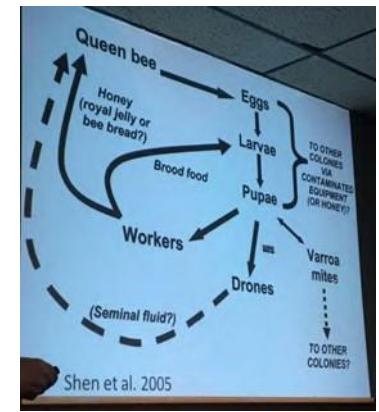
-Message: if you have lots of mites your virus load increases and if you kill the mites, this does not remove the viruses. Once virus is in hive it keeps growing and can have detrimental effects.

-What to do with the Dead outs, Are viruses still active? Basically yes, Comb is better. The longer you wait the better before reusing brood frames the better.
 Genetic Diversity – working on it, experiments are leaning toward this but they don't have a good way to do this yet.

Thanks to all who helped with set up and clean up. See you in fall. Meeting adjourned: 9:25

Respectfully recorded by,

Monica Wiebe



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.

2019 North American Mite-A-Thon

DATE EXTENSION - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 TO SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2019

Mite-A-Thon is a tri-national effort to collect mite infestation data and to visualize Varroa infestations in honey bee colonies across North America within a three week window. All beekeepers can participate, creating a rich distribution of sampling sites in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Their Varroa monitoring data will be uploaded to www.mitecheck.com.

The parasitic mite, Varroa destructor (Varroa), and the viruses it vectors is a significant driver of this honey bee colony mortality. Yet, indicators suggest that many beekeepers are not monitoring honey bee colony Varroa infestations and therefore not able to connect infestation to colony loss.

OBJECTIVE: 1) To raise awareness about honey bee colony Varroa infestations in North America through effective monitoring methods. 2) Management strategies will be made available for discussion within bee organizations utilizing Mite-A-Thon partner developed information and outreach materials.

DATE: Starting the week of September 7, 2019, with a practice test during summer 2019

PARTICIPANTS: All beekeepers in North America are encouraged to participate

DATA COLLECTION: Participants will monitor the level of mites (number of mites per 100 bees) using a standardized protocol utilizing two common methods of assessment (alcohol wash or powdered sugar roll) and then enter data, including location, total number of hives, number of hives tested, local habitat, and the number of Varroa mites counted from each hive. The published information will not identify individual participants.

TO DO: Determine your preferred method of testing for mites and commit to a day for testing, either individually or through beekeeping organizations, and report your data (see above).

MORE INFORMATION AND UPDATES WILL BE FORTHCOMING AT THE RRAA MEETING AND IN FUTURE EMAILS.

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*

Melissa's Musings

-Mary Chown

A friend recently sent me an article on a practice called “telling the bees”. This is a very old custom that took place all over Europe, and was brought over to North America by the early settlers. I can’t say for certain if it still happens as it may have died out with industrialization. “Telling the bees” has its origins in more ancient times, the Bronze Age, when bees were regarded as messengers between our world and the spirit world, or the gods. Bees were considered repositories of all the wisdom of the universe, and so they were consulted on matters of importance, and also informed of events happening in the world.

In times past, most small farmers kept a hive or two for their own use and the small holding was the norm, rather than large farms. When someone in the family died, another family member would go and give the news to the bees. It could also be happy tidings, such as a wedding or birth of a baby or a long journey.

Some accounts even say that the hives were draped in appropriately coloured cloths for the occasion. If the beekeeper died and a new keeper took over the hives, it was expected that he/she would formally introduce themselves to the bees.

In his poem called “telling the bees”, John Greenleaf Whittier talks about how he and his lover parted and one day he is walking past her farm and sees a servant girl draping the hives with black cloth. He thinks that the old grandfather must have died, but instead he hears the servant girl singing:

And the song she was singing ever since

In my ear sounds on:—

“Stay at home, pretty bees, fly not hence!

Mistress Mary is dead and gone!”

And he knows that it is his own true love
who has died. -M.C.



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 form 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 6

PAGE 10

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.

Struggling to get to the store in time?

Bee Outfitters

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ers, your bee supply store, has the solution!

located on the north loading dock and yes. Simply phone in your order, pay account, and the friendly sales staff lock steel secure lock box for you to hours. No more rushing to beat the

Call for details : more putting off bee work because p supplies!

or visit

oseberry St. Winnipeg for everything

2019 ISSUE 6

R.R.A.A.
Classified
Advertisements



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

High Quality **Bees For Sale!**

Taking early orders for 2020

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

*Support (Via Phone or E-mail)
for Customers who are*

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- Excellent Genetics! -46 Years of Beekeeping Husbandry.**
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- Winter Hardy! Selected & Bred for 24 years for Outdoor Wintering.**

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.)

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 6



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

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<https://www.facebook.com/westmanhoneybeeproductors/>

REMINDER!

RRAA NOVICE MEETING
STARTS AT 6:45pm SHARP!

DOWNSTAIRS! NOTE THE CHANGE!!

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) knifes.

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

Phone: Jack Lee @ 204 268-1305



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



Insights Into Beekeeping

By Ken D. Rowes with assistance from Rod and
Susan McCulloch

This is part two of a multi-part publication of interviews with some of our most experienced senior members. Ken Rowes, our archivist and historian has made this a project to mine the knowledge, experiences, and methods of these well respected statesmen of the R.R.A.A. Due to their obvious length, we will be publishing in multiple issues but the complete interview is available upon request. —J.R.

In this article, I have interviewed Ted Scheuneman, a well-known beekeeper (RRAA), 16 April 2017. Part one, was published in the May 2017 issue.

Ted: "I have not had to do any supplemental treatment in 5 years. With multiple colonies, it is good with 2 people, one managing the hives and the other person works better, one removing the covers, one administering treatments. It is cool in November so you need not use a smoker."

What is your purpose behind managing your bees?

Ted: My main message, if you keep your bees too warm (when you overwinter them) it will promote mite production. If this happens you can try to reduce the mites by using a miticide.

Some bee keepers say they look into their hives the beginning of April to see if there are 6-7 frames of brood. Why? What for? What is your aim? It is useful to know what is happening in the hive during the period of three weeks! By the time the honey flow starts those bees have nothing to do with resource like pollen and food for nothing.

I like to have my bees start brooding the moment they can fly outside. Last year it was March 17. Because I am in the habit of raising queens from a standard colony in May.

So, when do you start raising Queens?

Ted: "Usually the 1st week of May. I tried the last week of April but did not have enough drones. I have taken early nucs over to Ron Rudiak's for rearing. After that time my drones are sexually mature. Just because they are sexually mature does not mean they are good for the colony."



Another point:

Slow down brood rearing between warm periods. They don't go overwintering until the winter bees are used up. There may be a time where they will start brood rearing before the winter bees are used up and then it can happen that when you release the queen, they are still not sexually mature.

The biology of the winter nurse bee is that it is created the end of the summer. It is not needed. Nurse bees go through housekeeping for the first 1-2 days. Then the bee becomes a nurse bee with food glands in their heads – fully developed after 13 days. Normally the brood mass recedes from the beginning of the winter until the end of the summer.

So, what do these nurse bees do?

Ted: In the summer after 13 days these food glands are exhausted. In the winter it is a bit different. Nursing is not required because not enough food is available. Then if there is a demand the glands come back to the will of the bee. The bee gets slowly older and over 187 days becomes the 7-day old nurse bee. If there is no nursing required – no larva – the normal life of the bee is more or less wasted. I have had that happen once or twice in my experience. So as soon as the queen laid an egg they ate it because they knew there was no emerging brood and that colony took off like a rocket.

Continued on next page.....

Insights into Beekeeping. - Ken Rows interviewing Ted Scheuneman Cont.)

What would you do with a colony that had no queen in the spring?

Ted: "Best is to combine it with another not so strong colony. Then when queens are available (buy or raise your own) the 1st days of May you can split that colony."

Wintering a Small Nuc.

You have put a compartment of 2 frames and nucs through the winter, How?

Ted: I actually start making nucs in June. I produce all my nucs in the course of the summer.

I start off with three 2-frame compartment boxes. I put one frame of bees with some food and pollen in it plus an empty frame, plus one ripe queen cell (do this all at the same time) Three weeks later the queen is mated and laying and I take the best brood frame out of there and replace it with an empty frame for the old queen to fill. With that full frame of bees and brood I start another nuc the same way. When these frames are full of brood and bees I divide them into a 4 or 5 frame nuc box. You can let it grow as a 5 compartment nuc as it is but in 2 or 3 weeks these 2 frames will be full of brood, pollen and food. Then you would have to put on a honey box. I have done that too. Some of these nucs can produce 200 to 250 pounds of honey. It all depends on how early you start.

There are several ways to establish nucs and manage them.

Imagine before winter comes you can leave till fall then feed them and overwinter them on 2 frames. In February, you will have to enlarge them or they will run out of food.

You can subdivide them into 4 or 5 frame nucs but sometimes the weather in February is not very favorable. So, I went to the other way now: I put them into 4 or 5 frame nuc boxes in the fall that's better and less trouble with no worries say in March if the weather does not cooperate.

Do you ever put on a honey box in the spring?

Ted: No. Only with standard colonies that need it. It all depends, for instance, in a warm year – early year, I put a honey box on standard hives in early May. Once the hive is full of bees you've got to give it room. Otherwise it will get into the swarming mode because they will feel crowded. It can happen by the end of April, for sure May.

So you have to be careful there that you never crowd your bees at any given time basically except November when going into the cold season. The rule of thumb – once the box is full to 8 frames of brood and bees you have to put on a second box (honey box or second brood box if you want to make splits).

There are so many things a beekeeper can pursue managing bees. It is all about where your goals and focus are

.

So, if you have spare queens you can manage them into overwintering on 2 frame compartment nuc boxes entombed in Styrofoam?

Ted: For the past 4 or 5 years, we have developed a system where we can establish a queen bank with even one frame dividing a standard box into 9 compartments.

Is there a critical period to establish this multi-nuc?

Ted: Yes, there is, let me explain: 1st start by taking a standard 10 frame box and have a strong hive fill it with food, usually early September. Then as late as possible, the time frame is only one week. Either 1st of October or 7th October you take that frame which is full of food and bees and place one in each compartment. You must have the nine queens ready and available that you have raised during the course of the summer and introduce a queen per compartment. They overwinter well indoors. With proper arrangement and insulation should also winter outdoors.

Insights into Beekeeping. - Ken Rows interviewing Ted Scheuneman (....Cont.)

Ted: Coming back to the beginning Ken, when we started off, when wintering outdoors it would be a good idea to have a wind break in front of the entrance. When it is -30 or more and very strong winds it is not desirable for the bees to push cubic meters of ice cold air through the hive. If you are wintering outdoors with a wind break you could have your bottom entrance fully open in the wrap.

I overwinter some nucs and standard colonies outside, in a 5 box Styrofoam unit. Top and bottom of a unit is 3" Styrofoam, and sides and ends are 2" Styrofoam. In front of the unit are 5-4 foot boards of shiplap leaned against the top, at an angle. This is to keep the tarp (lumber wrap, (available free of charge from lumber yards.) away from the front entrance. This in turn allows an excellent cavity for fresh air movement in front of the hives. The tarp is held down with lumber or rocks, so the wind can not blow it away or against the unit, disturbing the bees. This unit should be no less than 12 inches (30 cm) above the ground to keep rodents away, as much as possible. Mouse, rat, and skunk problems are best solved with traps or poison. If not taken care of, mice rats and skunks can kill off a colony in a short time.

In the summertime, the Styrofoam is best stored inside or on the north side of a building, to keep the sun rays from it. The tarp can also be used during the summer to cover the insulation.

Mouse, rat, and skunk problems are best solved with traps or poison. If not taken care of, mice rats and skunks can kill off a colony in a short time.



On behalf of the Red River Apiarists Association, I would like to thank Ted for his time and generosity in sharing his knowledge and allowing it to appear in print. Beekeeping experience is one of the RRAA's greatest assets and when we all share our knowledge we all benefit.

A special warm thank you to Ken Rowes for organizing and taking the time to formulate questions and interview our elders so that we all may learn from them.
- J.R. Pres.

Disclaimer: All methods and techniques from any beekeeper should be considered, tested, and adapted to suit your individual skill level and experience. Advanced methods are developed over time and can be specific to an individual's style, operation, and geography. -J.R.



Legion House Rules:

Legion Rules that we are expected to follow:

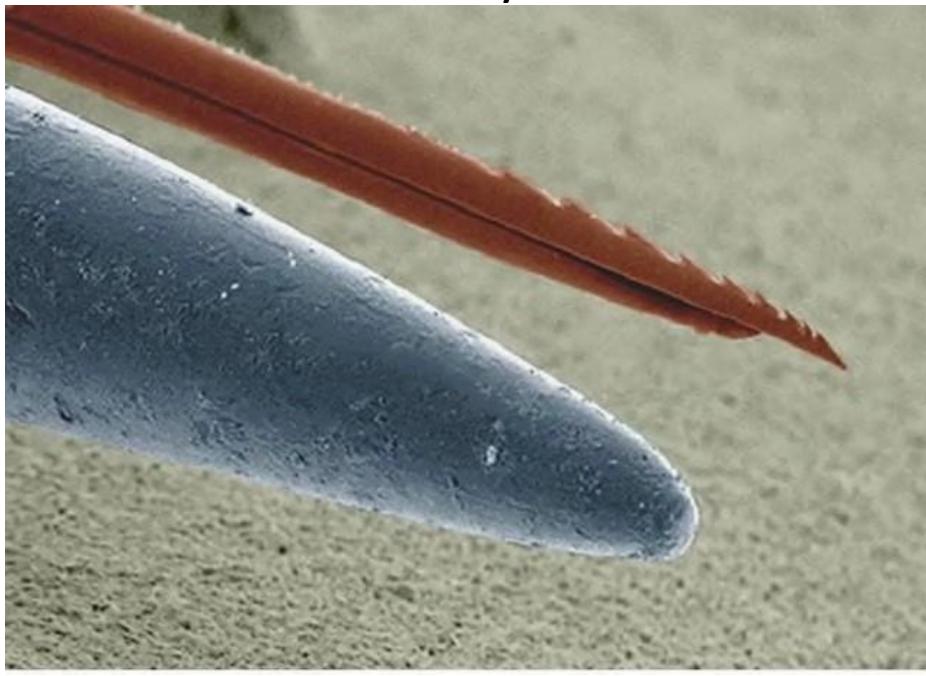
- 1) Sign in at the pedestal by the bar
- 2) Remove your hat or headwear. It's a sign of respect for the fallen.
- 3) NO OUTSIDE BEVERAGES! Leave your take out coffee or water bottle downstairs behind the counter.

We are grateful for the help the Legion provides us, and value the relationship we have with them. All Legions are struggling somewhat in this day and age, so consider supporting them by buying a beer, a coffee, or a soda. You may not bring unfinished beverages downstairs. Finish them upstairs please.

(Manitoba Liquor Laws, AND Legion House Rules.)

Picture of the Month:

Natures Design VS Man's Manufacturing: A side by side comparison of an insulin needle and a barbed stinger of the honeybee.



We are on the Web!
www.beekeepingmanitoba.com

 sam rhys
@sam_rhys

i might be going mad but are the two e's in bee actually silent ??



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**