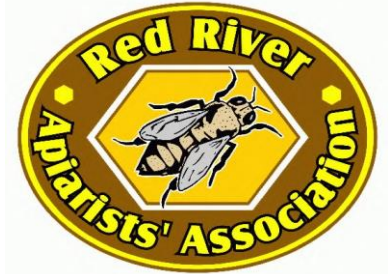


# Red River Apiarists' Association

## The Bee Cause

55 Years



Volume 15, Issue 2

February, 2018

### Next meeting:

**February 13th, 2018**

*Elmwood Legion 920*

*Nairn ave. Wpg, Mb*

*Novice Group meets at  
7:00 pm*

*Main Meeting: starts at  
7:30 pm*

### Speakers:

#### **Waldemar Damert:**

**“Seasonal Rhythms  
Of A Hive”**

**Understanding bee  
behavior in all  
seasons**

#### **Tom Nolan:**

**“Miteaway &  
Formic Acid”  
(Product Presentation)**

### **Decreasing our Dependency on Imported Bees**

By Waldemar Damert

I think it's important for us to decrease our dependence on imported bees. Many of the major pests and diseases we are dealing with are imported and our reliance on imported early spring packages prevents us from developing a strong, local, survivor stock bee population.

As E. Punnett and M. Winston of Simon Fraser University suggested 30 years ago "a local bee production industry would not only be a new and lucrative source of income for local beekeepers, but may be essential to the survival of Canadian beekeeping." (A Comparison of Package and Nucleus Production from Honey Bee Colonies)

#### **Now lets compare:**

*One Package:* is a 2.2 lb collection of bees and 1 caged queen. By the time you receive the package the bees are over aged and thus have a hard start to establish the colony. Add empty foundation or inclement weather to the situation and it can make establishment impossible. The failing rate is extreme, with losses of up to 50-65% being not uncommon.

*Local Honey Bee Nucs:* should have a minimum of 2-3 frames of brood in varying stages (a laying queen with good brood pattern) and 1-2 frames of food (honey and pollen). You are buying a ready to go starter colony.

**Inside This Issue:**

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the dangers they pose: page 4
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**Before buying consider weighing the pros and cons of both options.  
Obtaining your bees early, is not an advantage if they are slow to build.**

When buying a nuc in May - June it is also important to know the history of the bee breeder; a good supplier will have low winter mortality and surplus bees in late spring. It is a favorable sign for low disease and good genetics. Inquire whether the bees have been inspected or treated, and if so, when? Also inquire whether the bees have been employed in commercial pollination or honey production. The parent colonies may be weakened by exposure to agrichemicals, or may have been placed near unhygienic colonies. Always check your sources.

I recommend you buy a nuc (4 frame) before June 15th in Manitoba to give it time to develop and store adequate winter food. If you have drawn comb to expand your colony, you will have surplus honey and your chances of success will be a lot better.

-W.D.

## 2018 Execut

### **President: John Russell**

Ph. 204-612-2337  
128 Victoria Ave. W.  
Winnipeg, MB R2C 1S5  
Email: honeyb@mymts.net

### **1st Vice President: Paul Fa**

Ph. 204-898-9669 PO  
Box 242 Garson, mb  
pfaurschou@gmail.com

### **2nd Vice President: Tim K**

Ph. 204-269-0183  
2 Baldry Bay, Winnipeg MB R3T  
timothykennedy@yahoo.com

### **Secretary: Monica W**

Ph 204-299-0648 1193  
Lorette Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB R3M 1V8  
Email: mowiebe@mts.net

### **Treasurer: John S**

Ph 204-222-3007  
Box 16, Group 555, RR 5  
Winnipeg, MB R2C 2Z2  
Email: jurnss@outlook.com

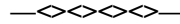
### **MBA Delegate: Margaret**

Ph 204-254-4509  
1051 Porcher Rd  
St Andrews, MB R1A 3N4  
Email: margshoney@gmail.com

### **RRAA Web Site Adminis**

Duane Versluis  
Ph 204-268-4223  
Box 12  
Tyndall, MB RoE 2Bo  
Email: rraaweb@gmail.com

## *Presidents Comments*



Our January meetings bring our electoral process to a head and this year brought a lot of changes to your executive committee.

Waldemar announced that he was taking a one year leave of absence, and with both our long time secretary and our newsletter editor stepping down it left 3 openings and some big shoes to fill.

As acting interim president, I look forward to working with our new secretary Monica Weibe, and our new vice president Paul Faurschou. Tim Kennedy who was appointed as 2nd Vice President mid 2017 has done an amazing job of organizing topics and presenters for this year. Tim deserves more than a little recognition and our gratitude for all of his hard work.

Our first session of the 7:00 pm pre-meeting gathering of novice level beekeepers went well. I look forward to February's group where the prime topics will be a quick discussion leading off from last month's presentation (climate changes impact on your beekeeping practices) and Equipment: New, Used, and D.I.Y. Also a follow up on Dead Bees at the Hive Entrance.

Our newsletter will be moving towards a collaboration style model, and individual members can expect some changes in format, and content, as we move forward into the new year.

I look forward to seeing you all on February 13th!

Please consider contributing to our loonie draw, and bring along some baking for our coffee break!

Regards,

**John Russell**

**Newsletter Editor: John R. Badiuk**

**Email: [honeyb@mymts.net](mailto:honeyb@mymts.net)**

**Red River Apiarists' Association  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

**January 9th, 2018**

—//\—

**The evening began at 7:00 pm with a get together of new bee keepers. John Russell was the convener and this will happen in future meetings.**

**The regular meeting started just after 7:30**

**Monica Wiebe was present to record meeting minutes, with assistance from Art Quanbury**

**John Russell chaired the meeting as Waldemar is taking a year off.**

**Executive Members who are stepping down:**

**Ken Rowes - editor**

**Waldemar Damert - President (one year break??)**

**Art Quanbury –Secretary**

**2nd vice president position is vacant**

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**Timothy Kennedy will be heading up a team for the Education Committee.**

**The Minutes of the last meeting were approved. Moved by Natasha Kaplonski seconded by Bert Beal. Carried**

**Senseless Vandalism of Bees in the United States**

Both California and Iowa had incidents of mass vandalism last month. In Sioux City, juveniles allegedly destroyed 50 hives at the Wild Hill Honey business in Sioux City, exposing the hundreds of thousands of bees to bitter cold. "All of the beehives on the honey farm were destroyed and approximately 500,000 bees perished in the frigid temperatures," Sioux City police said in a release.

Meanwhile in Prundale, California 100 hives were knocked over and sprayed with diesel fuel, causing total loss of all bees and equipment.

The Iowa incident can be attributed to bored delinquents but the 100 colonies in Prunedale was a targeted extermination. No charges have been laid yet in that incident .

Ongoing education of the public, especially school age children is one way to perhaps make those think twice about senseless slaughter of such environmentally precious pollinators. It also bears to mention that when as beekeepers we are choosing our yard sites, we need to do our homework to ensure we are not causing distress to neighbors or territorial disputes with other apiarists.

Always factor in the following: Just because you have a legal right, does not mean you are exempt from social niceties. Communication, goodwill, and reason help prevent situations from escalating into barbaric and destructive acts like this.

It can and has happened here. Manitoba has not been exempt from incidents of this nature. -J.R.

John Speer reported a bank balance of \$848.54. Renewals are due. Please renew if you haven't already.

Marg Smith gave a report from the MBA: Convention fee for folks with under 50 hives will be \$25 and for an extra flat rate of \$30 they will get an associate membership.

The RRAA association idea of displaying Manitoba honey at the convention was tabled until next year. It was suggested that RRAA spearhead this display at the 2019 convention which will be a joint effort of the Canadian Apiarists' Association and Canadian Honey Council.

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Waldemar indicated this was the last week for him to order mating boxes on sale. To contact him if interested.

John reported that there is currently only one RRAA bee yard and that is in Stonewall.

...Continued on page 8

## Manitoba Beekeepers' Association Report to RRAA

By: Margret Smith

The first part of our meeting consisted of hearing a presentation by Jen Demare, who will be speaking both at the Convention and at an upcoming RRAA meeting this year. Jen is a **Veterinarian who has oversight of Antibiotics** used with animals here in the province. Her message is well worth hearing. Her approach to the whole issue of the use of antimicrobials is one of education and she wants to work especially with the beekeeping community in a supportive, rather than a restrictive manner.

Rheal Lafreniere will be conducting workshops on Bio-Security in March. Notice of these workshops will have reached most of you by the time you read this column. Please make sure that you register for this opportunity to keep yourself knowledgeable and up to date on the latest information on Bee Bio-Security. Contact Rheal at Rheal.Lafreniere@gov.mb.ca or 204-945-4825 for more information.

...Continued on page 5

## The Next Silver Bullet, and the (...continued) Dangers that come with

**it:** Sounds fantastic doesn't it? Lithium is cheap

and plentiful and easy to acquire. Adding it to

- Caution and Patience counseled over new and not

your feeding schedule is uncomplicated

findings.

ingested the lethal RNA via bees' hemolymph and subsequently died.

### Lithium chloride could kill Varroa destructor

mites without harming bees, so states a new study that was published on January 12th/2018. The scientists detailed their incredible findings in the January 12th publication of Scientific Reports. The study and its preliminary findings can be read here:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-01719137-5>

Scientists at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem to experiment with a technique called RNA interference. In their study, they fed bees double-stranded RNA via a sugar solution to knockout vital genes in Varroa mites. The mites

Inspired by those results, German researchers sought to replicate them by repeating the experiment. The results were duplicated but it was observed that the mites in control group also died which focused attention on the cartime consuming at all. However:

Lead paint is wonderful in that it covers very well and is weather resistant. We don't use it anymore because we now know the downside of applying it. Remember Neo-Nics?

Holy Grails and Silver Bullets need extra scrutiny in follow up research and field tests, and it calls for Patience in the beekeeping

community. Every scientist dreams of major breakthroughs. Every business man dreams of rushing that breakthrough to market, and every beekeeper dreams of the one cheap and easy fix for those darn mites.

But, buying lithium chloride on E-Bay and whipping up a batch of medicated syrup is NOT

rier: Lithium Chloride. A battery of subsequent examinations confirmed their hypothesis. The scientists then carried out numerous experi-

ments testing lithium chloride against Varroa

mites, including ones that approximated field studies. They found that feeding honeybees minuscule amounts of lithium chloride (at a concentration of no more than 25 millimolar)

over 24 to 72 hours wiped out 90 to 100 percent of Varroa mites without significantly increasing

the way to go. The impacts on lithium on neurodevelopment, honey residue, hive residue, and a thousand other potential drawbacks have not been even been examined. Prudence and patience are called for.

At best, this is promising news. Much more work needs to be done before any ethical and

responsible beekeeper worth his salt dabbles

(illegally I might add...) with the lives of his bees and the health of his customers.

So cross your fingers, and keep an eye on this in

the months and years to come. -J.R.

## **MBA Convention and AGM**

**When : February 15th to 17th 2018**

**Where : Hilton Winnipeg Airport Suites  
1800 Wellington Ave. Winnipeg, Mb  
Registration form is available here:**

**[www.manitobabee.org](http://www.manitobabee.org)**

## **Dead Bees in Winter** by Rusty Berlew

Many new beekeepers are concerned about dead bees in winter, especially the ones that accumulate on or near the hive entrance. Every week I receive several questions about this, so I want to elaborate.

Even in the healthiest of colonies, bees die every single day. According to Bees of the World (O'Toole and Raw) a normal -sized colony loses about a thousand bees per day in the summer. These losses are replaced by a busy queen that may lay upwards of 1500 eggs per day. Most of the summer losses are foragers that die on the job and we never even notice them. Since they are out of sight and out of mind, most beekeepers aren't too concerned about these daily losses.

### **Bees dies in winter, too**

But bees continue to die every day even in winter. The losses are not as high because the bees are not foraging and because winter bees have special adaptations that allow them to live longer than summer bees. Still, many die every day, and they die at home where we can see them.

If you consider that your healthy colony may have 50,000 or maybe even 60,000 members going into the fall but may have only 20,000 come spring (WSU Extension) somewhere along the line you lost 30,000 to 40,000 bees. That's a bunch.

For the sake of argument, I'll take the smaller number of 30,000 and divide it by 182, which is the number of days in October, November, December, January, February, and March. That gives me 164 bee deaths per day. The larger number of 40,000 gives me 220 bee deaths per day.

### **Hauling out the dead is normal**

Of course these numbers are approximations. But most people who write to me are concerned about "five or six dead bees" on the landing board or "two dozen dead bees on the snow." As you can see, those numbers are just natural attrition and are nothing to worry about.

For years now my own hives have been within a short walk of my house. Nearly every day I walk up there (for my benefit more than theirs) and I flick the dead bees off the landing boards. What I've noticed is that a new pile of bees every day is a signal that all is well inside. Only a healthy colony has the manpower—er, beepower—to dispatch undertaker bees to clean up the bodies. On warmer days they fly them off and drop them on the ground, but on colder days they just shove them out the entrance. In either case, all is well.

*Continued —>*

*(...continued)*

Now I begin to get concerned when I see no bodies, because then I wonder if the colony is as strong as it should be. In fact, in several instances this was my first clue of a failing colony. It's not a sure thing, but it is a piece of information you can use when making management decisions or when you are trying to decide if you should peek inside.

### **Look before you flick**

But don't forget to look before you flick. A couple of years ago, I found the queen among the five or six dead bees at the entrance. I was able to combine that queenless hive with a nuc in the middle of winter, and I ended up with a vibrant, healthy colony by spring.

-Rusty Berlew

## **MBA Report ...continued from page 3**

—//\—

We hope that you have or will be registered for the Convention, or at least for the Saturday afternoon workshop on Hive Management. Three different speakers and a panel discussion will be part of that workshop. Remember the dates for Convention are February 16-17, 2018, at the Hilton Hotel and Suites on Wellington Ave. In Winnipeg. The Early Bird registration date has passed, but there is still time to register. You have the option of registering as an Associate Member of the MBA (for those with under 50 hives) for \$50.00 which gives you a reduced rate for this year, with the workshop for free.

After the one year membership, the cost of Associate Membership is \$60.00/yr. You would receive the MBA Newsletter, The "MB Beekeeper", and the Canadian Honey Council magazine, "Hivelights" for that year and several other privileges. The only thing you would not be able to do is to vote at the AGM.

Fraser Auction will be holding auction(s) for nucs in the Spring, so check out their website for those dates.

Over the next year, the MBA website will be revamped and updated.

That's it for now! See you at Convention!

-Marg Smith

**National Bee Diagnostic Centre Public Notice!**





The 2018 Color for marking  
queens is RED

NBDC will not be receiving samples for processing between February 1 and March 31 as we adjust to shifts in capacity, accommodate the ongoing construction, and prepare for the opening of our new laboratory.

## Editorial Notes

### **Article source links:**

#### **Vandalism of Bees:**

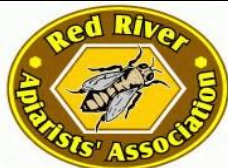
<http://www.kansascity.com/news/nation-world/article195336334.html>

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2018/01/17/vandalssuspected-after-20000-honeybees-killed-100-hivesdestroyed-in-california.html>

#### **Lithium Chloride study / use against Varroa:**

<https://geneticliteracyproject.org/2018/01/16/tackling-bees-greatest-threat-lithium-chloride-kill-varroa-destroyer-mites-without-harming-bees/>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-017-19137-5>



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.

## **Video Documentary Review: Netflix Series: "Rotten" S1 Ep:1 – Lawyers, Guns & Honey**

By: Rebecca Krowelski

A new Netflix documentary series may change the way you look at food. Rotten delves into the fraud and corruption that is part of today's global food industry. Laid out as a true-crime exposition, viewers will think twice about what they are putting on their plate after watching this series.

The first episode Lawyers, Guns and Honey reveals various honey crimes including honey laundering, hive heists, and vandalism along with other difficulties beekeepers in the United States are confronted with. Although there is nothing substantially new to those in the beekeeping industry, it is a must watch for everyone.

The film makes an undeniable dispute that honey production is dropping, yet consumption is on the rise. The math simply doesn't make sense, there seems to be an unexplained surplus. The only way to explain this gap is through honey adulteration. In China primarily, they are cutting pure product with inexpensive filler, some of which can be harmful for consumption. Although the final product is not honey, it passes the official tests and can be labeled as such.

They dive even deeper into this topic describing how the lure of quick cash led to a honey-smuggling scam known as "honeygate." This undercover inquiry caught two of the biggest honey firms in the United States, who agreed to pay large fines after admitting to buying Chinese honey illegally.

They go on to cover more, including the 50% loss of bee population due to parasites, insecticides and monocrops, bee thefts in California, and the almond pollination business. Although the documentary is based on the US industry, Canada faces many similar problems and it is tough go for today's beekeepers worldwide.

Overall, there is too much squeezed into one hour and it barely scratches the surface of the honey trade, but it is a worthwhile watch. The impact is high and the message is clear, our food choices matter and a more informed audience is a healthier one. Consumers should put their purchasing power to work and buying local is a start.

After watching this series, it's hard to imagine any viewer not being compelled to be more thoughtful about their food choices for the future. - **R.K.**

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 2

**R.R.A.A.**  
**Classified**  
**Advertisements**



**For sale:**

**Inner covers @ \$ 12.00 each**  
**Contact: Ted Scheuneman 204-338-6066 (West St. Paul)**

**Wanted:**

**For Sale:****Abby Road Distribution**

25 years of supplying the Beekeeping Industry. We carry a wide range of fasteners, tooling, shipping supplies and packaging materials suited for your industry: staples, nails, bulk screws, coil nails, strip nails, plastic & steel strapping stretch wrap & tapes service on most makes of stapling and nailing equipment

1075 Keewatin Street, Winnipeg, MB, R2X 2Z3 ph.:

**(204)694-6800 / [info@abbeyroaddistribution.com](mailto:info@abbeyroaddistribution.com)**

**For Sale:****Bees For Sale Local Manitoba Stock,**

Taking early orders for 2018

4 Frame Nucs, Splits and Spring and Summer Queens.

**Wooden supplies:**

Suppers, bottom-boards and inner covers on pre-order

till March 15.

**Wax Foundation**

moulded from clean capping wax.

Contact : **Waldemar** at text ph. **204-266-2276** or e-mail [wdamert@yahoo.ca](mailto:wdamert@yahoo.ca). (Beausejour Mb.)

**For Sale:**

**Top bar hive.** Comes with 30 frames, moveable dividers, 2 queen excluders, viewing window and a beautiful gabled roof. Photos available. Offers. Also long hive. Takes 21 regular frames. Same size as 2 supers. Comes with vertical queen excluder and beautiful gabled roof. Contact: **David 204 424 5042 (St. Annes, Mb)**

**Wanted:**

**Specialty HONEY ( Wildflower, Dandelion, Basswood, Vetch, Sow Thistle, Fruit Tree, Saskatoon, ETC.)**

**Premium Prices Paid!** Contact: **John** at **204-943-0166**  
e-mail: [Honeyb@mymts.net](mailto:Honeyb@mymts.net)

**Wax Cappings: Candles for Hope**

If you have honey cappings or rendered wax that you're willing to give us, we can turn that into hope for new impoverished moms in the Philippines and in Winnipeg.

Mercy in Action in the Philippines

([www.mercyinaction.com/philippines-clinic](http://www.mercyinaction.com/philippines-clinic) )

&

Crisis Pregnancy Centre ([www.pregnancy.ca](http://www.pregnancy.ca)) Winnipeg

Contact: **204-667-9932** or [candlesforhope@live.com](mailto:candlesforhope@live.com)

For more program information: [www.candlesforhope.ca](http://www.candlesforhope.ca)

Thank You Warmly, Marlese

**Classified Advertisements are FREE**

**For members in good standing of the  
Red River Apiarists Assoc.**

**Non member rates as low as**

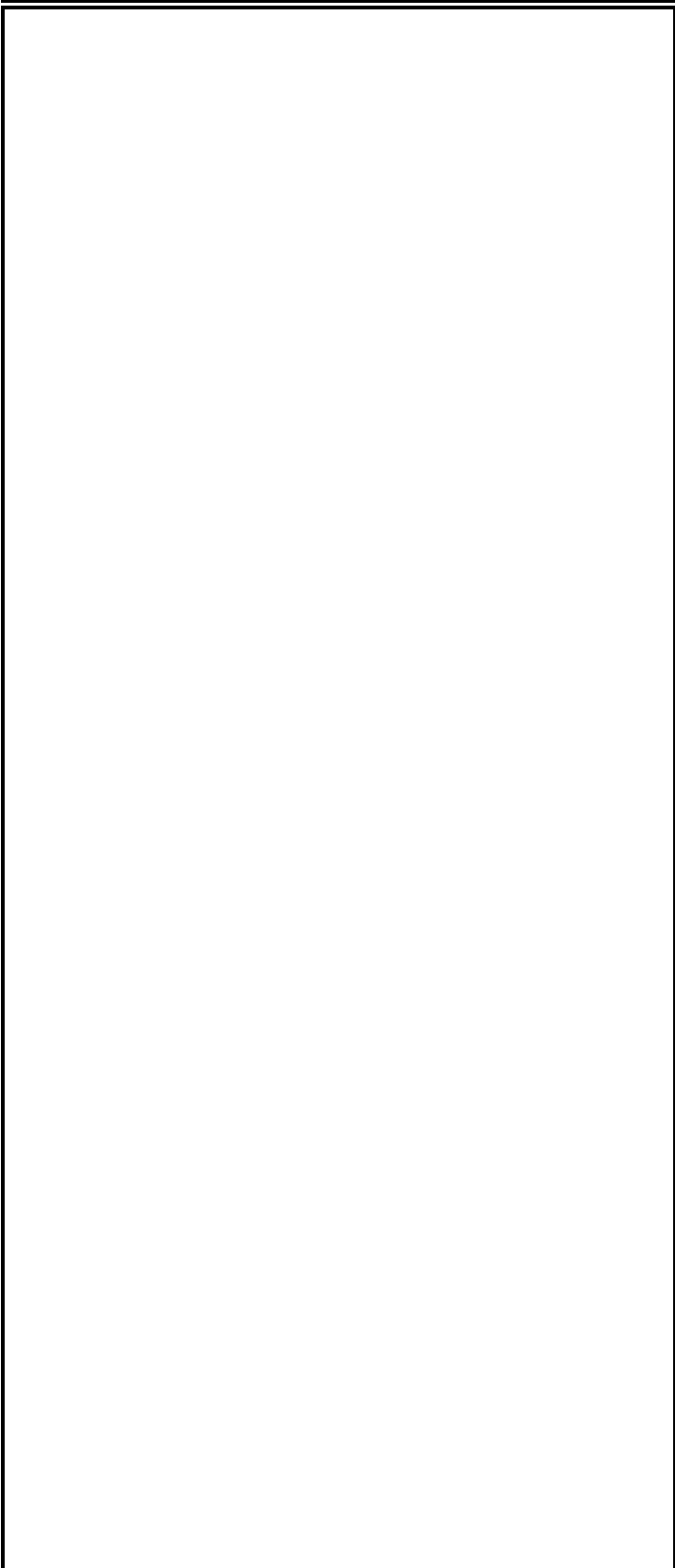
**\$10.00 per issue.**

**For Sale:**

- **20 Frame Stainless steel extractor with variable speed motor and honey gate \$2000**
- **Stainless steel bottling tank, holds up to (1) 45gallon barrel and wood stand \$750**
- **Custom made honey sump with 3 Stainless steel screens \$650**
  - **Summer Lids approx. 200 \$5 ea.**
- **New Frames half assembled & half unassembled approx. 400 (unwaxed) \$2.10 ea.**
  - **(23) 2-way pallet board system \$14 ea.**
  - **(63) 4-way pallet board system \$28 ea.**
    - **30 drone frames \$1 ea.**

Contact: **Justin at 204-381-9038**

**[jandjhoneyfarms@gmail.com](mailto:jandjhoneyfarms@gmail.com)**



# Photo Of The Month

THE BEE CAUSE

....cont.

John R Announced Future plans for the club:

Courses to be offered if interest is there

(Email John Russell if interested):

Swarm Control Queen Rearing Bee Keeping 101

John Russell asked for folks to let him know if they were interested in these topics and he would provide more information if so. Also, he requested members send him any articles of interest for the Newsletter.

—Coffee—

Tim Kennedy introduced Jay Anderson, Meteorologist, Storm chaser and photographer who presented on how weather trends are calculated, what has happened in weather over the years and trends in climate in Winnipeg. He also commented on what he thought the effect of weather change would be on bees and beekeeping. He felt the major effect on bees and beekeeping would come from the changes in farming practices of Manitoba farmers as they respond to climate change.

(ie: different crops being grown). Loonie

draw

Meeting Adjourned.



Photo Credit: Yeshy Dorji

Oriental or Crested Honey Buzzard from Bhutan.

A specialist feeder, living mainly on the larvae of social bees and wasps, and eating bits of comb and honey.

Do you have an interesting or beautiful picture to submit?

Email it to: honeyb@mts.net with RRAA Newsletter in the subject line. Please include photo credit and permissions.

## RRAA Jan 9th meeting minuets ...cont. from pg 3

**General Annual Elections were held:**

**John Speer: Treasure (will continue)**

**Duane Versluis: Web administrator**

**Moved: John Badiuk, Seconded: Victor Dyck;  
Carried**

**John Russell Badiuk - From 1st vice President to  
President**

**Moved: Duane Versluis and seconded by Ken Rowes;  
Carried**

**Timothy Kennedy - Second Vice President -**

**Moved by Duane Versluis and seconded by  
Armand St Hilaire; Carried**

**Nomination from the floor for vice-president**

**Paul Fauschou – 1st Vice President -**

**Moved: John Russell Badiuk and  
seconded by John Speer; Carried.**

**Paul put his name forward. He is new beekeeper who  
has taken the UofM course who wants to become more  
involved in beekeeping community.**

**Monica Wiebe - Secretary -**

**Moved: by Tim Kennedy, seconded by Natasha  
Klaponski; Carried**



**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!***

**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!*

**TOGETHER WE ARE BETER!!**



**Red River Apiarists' Association—Winnipeg, Manitoba**

**2018 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

I hereby apply for membership in the Red River Apiarists' Association.

~~Membership includes one years subscription to the newsletter "The Bee Cause" (8 issues)~~

RRAA membership fee (cheque payable to RRAA or Red River Apiarists' Association.@ \$25.00/year

Optional Beekeeper Liability Insurance (details on RRAA web site, Links, Insurance@65.00 +\$5.20 = \$70.20

Total payment Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

New Member : [  ] Renewal : [  ] Student U of M Beekeeping course : [  ] (free 1st year)

Newsletter is distributed via email in a PDF format.

This completed form may be brought to the meeting or mailed with your cheque to:

**John Speer, RRAA Treasurer    Box 16, Group 555. Winnipeg, Manitoba R2C 2Z2 RRAA**

**Membership Commentary**

**Comments & Suggestions:** The RRAA strives to provide information and presenters on current topics and at our meetings that would be most meaningful to all members. ( Of all levels of skill and experience.) Your comments are valuable and appreciated! Fill in the below space and return to any RRAA executive.

All submissions are confidential.

THE BEE CAUSE

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# Survey

## **Subject: Participation in the annual R.R.A.A. Fall Bee and Honey Show competition**

Every year the R.R.A.A. organizes and presents the popular Fall Honey Show, which is scheduled for the last weekend of September. This event includes a contest where club members may submit honey bee related products that fall into specific categories. Examples of products that are entered might include various kinds and colours of honey, refined bees wax, and subjects like beekeeping photographs, food prepared with honey, and honey submitted by novice “bee-ginner” beekeepers. The entries are judged, with the awarded winning entries put on display for public viewing at the Honey Show. In order to make continuing improvements to the honey contest, please take time to respond to this survey and include any remarks that may help to improve our honey contest and encourage participation. Additional remarks can be left below. Thank you for your input!

- 1) Have you heard of the R.R.A.A. honey contest before today? Y / N / n/a
- 2) Have you participated in a previous R.R.A.A. honey contest? Y / N / n/a
- 3) Are you able to find the R.R.A.A. honey contest rules? Y / N / n/a
- 4) Was it easy to find them on the internet? Y / N / n/a
- 5) Could you get the rules from someone? Y / N / n/a
- 6) Did you get the rules from a R.R.A.A. club meeting or newsletter? Y / N / n/a
- 7) Can you find R.R.A.A. club members who will give you advice for the honey contest?  
Y / N / n/a
- 8) Is September a good month for you to prepare and enter the R.R.A.A. honey contest?  
Y / N / n/a
- 9) Are there too many contest options to consider when deciding what to enter? Y / N / n/a
- 10) Are the contest rules clear enough to understand and follow? Y / N / n/a

**Additional Remarks:**

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If you have entered an R.R.A.A. honey contest in previous years, or are new to our club, please feel free to express your views and suggest areas where improvements can be made. Details about the honey contest are included on the RRAA website and have been printed in the September 2017 edition of the RRAA newsletter. Your questions can be answered in person at our monthly meetings by speaking with Armand St. Hilaire or other experienced club members. These meetings include a thirty minute question/answer slot for beginners, from 7:00 pm -7:30pm. If you would like to participate in any aspect of a Spring Bee Show or Fall Bee and Honey Show, you may contact the organizing committee by email at [asthil@mymts.net](mailto:asthil@mymts.net).

Red River Apiarists Association (RRAA)..... [www.BeekeepingManitoba.com](http://www.BeekeepingManitoba.com)  
Contact RRAA President: John Russell, Ph: 204-612-2337 Email: [honeyb@mymts.net](mailto:honeyb@mymts.net)