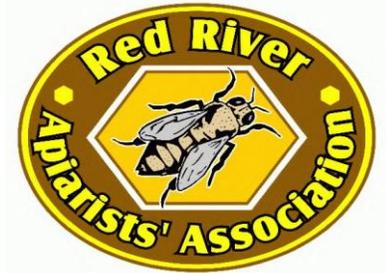


Red River Apiarists' Association

The Bee Cause

55 Years

May, 2018



Volume 15, Issue 4

Next meeting:

May 8th, 2018

Elmwood Legion

920 Nairn ave. Wpg, Mb

*Novice Group meets at
7:00 pm*

*Main Meeting: starts at
7:30 pm*

Speaker:

Daryl Wright

**Provincial bee
Inspector**

Topic:

What to Expect,

Tripping out of the Gate: Cold Springs and Late Starts.

There are two very common questions in the beekeeping world. The first is, : “How are your bees?” The second is, : “How was your crop?” Both tend to be answered like fishing stories: either exaggerated or with obscurities. Speaking with members of the beekeeping community the losses were ranging from very little, to up to 50%. Most of the experienced ones would just tell you to ask them again in three weeks, as they were just bringing them out from the wintering sheds. What seemed probable then, may not have made it through the winter due to an unfavorable spring. (To put it mildly.....) Spring dwindling will impact you every year, but the degree varies on the weather (How warm, wet, and early our spring is.) and most importantly how effective your fall program was in regards to feeding and mite control. Genetics plays a part in it, as the timing of the laying of eggs by your queen (Shut down and Start up) will impact remaining resource levels and cluster behavior.

So out of the three factors, the only one you have zero control over is the weather. Programs and genetics you have complete control over and with solid methods and queen stock in place, a methodical beekeeper worries much less about spring dwindling then the one who places his fate in the hands of...well.....fate.

So again, if you have been hit hard by dwindling this year, take a good look at your queen stock and your fall procedures & see if there's a shortcoming there that can be addressed. J.R

Tick Season Approaches!

It almost seems too soon to worry about ticks, but they have become one of the beekeepers greatest dangers in the past decade. Lyme disease is a very disabling condition and can have lasting impact on health and quality of life if not treated early.

Bullseye rashes may or may not follow a bite from a deer tick, so reading up on the

symptoms and identifying species of ticks found on your person is vastly important. Deer ticks at all life stages potentially carries the bacteria that causes



When Getting Inspected.

Inside This Issue:

- Tick Season!: Page 1 & 2
- President's Message: page 2
- E.U Bans Neo-Nics: page 3
- Promising Research on Bee-Gut Bacteria: page 3
- Goodbye, Fumagilin-B :page 3
- Honey price gap permanent?: page 4
- Bee Day at The Forks: page 5
- Classified Ads: page 6 - 7
- Photo of the month: page 7
- OTS Workshop: page 10
- Field Day & Picnic: page 10
- Bee & Honey Show: page 11
- Melissa's Musings: page 11

Lyme disease, so if you think you have been bitten, try to keep the tick as a sample and seek medical attention immediately.

There is a provincial service that accepts submissions to confirm the species of ticks. However due to the volume, they have made some changes this year to make the service more manageable and to provide people with information more quickly.

The first step is the Manitoba Tick Checker, where you upload a picture of the tick (link below). This is an attempt to reduce the number of wood ticks sent in, since the focus is blacklegged ticks, but many people can't tell the difference.

<https://forms.gov.mb.ca/tickSubmission/> (**keep the tick after the photo shoot**)

Normally, staff will provide you with the identification within a few business days, and may request you send the tick in. They will provide the information required for sending the tick in.

Continued on page 2

2018 Executive

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

1st Vice President: Paul Faurshou

Tick Season Approaches!

Continued from page 1

If you want to receive test results and the tick was removed from a human, then you also need to fill out a PHIA request form (link on the website). This form is not required if the tick was removed from a pet/non-human animal.

Please keep in mind, this is not a diagnostic service. Testing is done at the National Microbiology Laboratory and processing is dependent on their capacity. It will take months before you get any results back. The program is meant to orient surveillance effort from MB Health.

Special thanks to Rhéal Lafrenière, Dr. Kateryn Rochon, and Scott GrahamDerham from the province and the U of M for forwarding information about the program and it's changes.

-J.R.

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m

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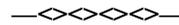
Tyndall, MB RoE 2Bo

Email: rraaweb@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: John R. Badiuk

Email: honeyb@mymts.net

President's Comments



May marks the last newsletter, and the last meeting before fall for the R.R.A.A. Meetings will resume in September on the 11th. However our late spring and summer activities calendar is packed with events to keep you learning and involved with the group!

Bee Day at The Forks is on May 26th. Come volunteer for a few hours, and answer questions about bees & beekeeping! Beekeeping 101 sessions will be happening at our little apiary in Stonewall Manitoba, as will swarm catching sessions and hopefully queen rearing classes weather permitting. Email honeyb@mymts.net to get on those mailing lists if you already haven't. Brad Hogg of the MBA is holding a workshop on some On The Spot techniques in late May, (See page 10 for details) and our field day at Ian Steplers apiary is scheduled for June 16th . (again, details are on page 10). Waldemar is holding an advanced queen rearing course for those more experienced in the practice. There are some spots left, and a fee is charged. Details are in the classifieds. Don't forget about the Manitoba Bee & Honey Show in September! Held at The Forks on September 22nd and 23rd, make sure you save and submit some honey to show off to the public! Jars, labels, entry forms and rules available at the RRAA meeting on May 8th, or at Bee Supply all summer.

Our New Website is up and running!! Many thanks to Duane Versluis for coordinating and overseeing it's progress.

Have a great summer season! Knowledge becomes greater the more it is shared. Take every opportunity to learn, and make opportunities to teach! - J.R.

EU agrees total ban on bee-harming pesticides

The world's most widely used insecticides will be banned from all fields within six months, to protect both wild and honeybees that are vital to crop pollination. The EU banned the use of neonicotinoids on flowering crops that attract bees, such as canola, in 2013.

But in February, a major report from the European Union's scientific risk assessors(Efsa) concluded that the high risk to both honeybees and wild bees resulted from any outdoor use, because the pesticides contaminate soil and water. This leads to the pesticides appearing in wildflowers or succeeding crops. A recent study of honey samples revealed global contamination by neonicotinoids. Bee health remains of paramount importance since it concerns biodiversity, food production and the environment."

Neonicotinoids, which are nerve agents, have been shown to cause a wide range of harm to individual bees, such as damaging memory and reducing queen numbers.

But this evidence has strengthened recently to show damage to colonies of bees. Other research has also revealed that 75% of all flying insects have disappeared in Germany and probably much further afield, prompting warnings of "ecological armageddon".

The EU decision could have global ramifications, according to Prof Nigel Raine, at the University of Guelph in Canada: "Policy makers in other jurisdictions will be paying close attention to these decisions. We rely on both farmers and pollinators for the food we eat. Pesticide regulation is a balancing act between unintended consequences of their use for nontarget organisms, including pollinators, and giving farmers the tools they need to control crop pests." Excerpts Taken from The Guardian article of the same name, published on April 27 2018
-J.R.

Goodbye, Fumagilin-B

Medivet pharmaceuticals announced that they will be shutting down operations, and dismantling their facilities early this year.

Sales of Fumagilin-B were the bread and butter of Medivet. They were informed by their raw material supplier that the active ingredient fumagilline dch would no longer be produced, and since there is no other place in the world to buy this from it effectively killed their best product line.

As of last reports, Bee Supply did not have any Fumagilin in stock, and were doubtful on any resupply. There are alternative methods involving comb sterilization, but a medicated substitute does not exist, or is not approved of in Canada as yet.

Reactions are mixed in the beekeeping community as some operation utilize Fumagillin prophylactically while others have not used it in years and years. Reports of it's lack of effectiveness with Nosema Ceranae variety may also lessen the impact of it's unavailability.

We are on the Web!

www.beekeepingmanitoba.com

Researchers attempt to solve problems of antibiotic resistance and bee deaths in one study.

March 14, 2012, Lund University

The stomachs of wild honey bees are full of healthy lactic acid bacteria that can fight bacterial infections in both bees and humans.

A collaboration between researchers at three universities in Sweden – Lund University, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and Karolinska Institutet – has produced findings that could be a step towards solving the problems of both bee deaths and antibiotic resistance.

The researchers have now published their results in the scientific journal PLoS ONE and the legendary science photographer Professor Lennart Nilsson from Karolinska Institutet has illustrated the findings with his unique images.

Today, many people eat healthy lactic acid bacteria that are added to foods such as yogurt.

"In our previous studies, we have looked at honey bees in Sweden. What we have now found from our international studies is that, historically, people of all cultures have consumed the world's greatest natural blend of healthy bacteria in the form of honey" says Alejandra Vasquez, a researcher at Lund University.

In wild and fresh honey, which honey hunters collect from bees' nests in high cliffs and trees, there are billions of healthy lactic acid bacteria of 13 different types. This is in comparison with the 1-3 different types found in commercial probiotic products, she explains.

The honey bees have used these bacteria for 80 million years to produce and protect their honey and their bee bread (bee pollen), which they produce to feed the entire bee colony. The researchers have now also shown that the healthy lactic acid bacteria combat the two most serious bacterial diseases to affect honey bees.

In the journal article, the researchers describe how the bees have these healthy bacteria in their honey stomachs and that they get the bacteria as newborns from the adult bees that feed them. The researchers have also seen that large quantities of harmful microorganisms such as bacteria, yeasts and fungi are found in the nectar and pollen that the bees collect from flowers to make honey and bee bread. These microorganisms could destroy the food through fermentation and mould in just a couple of hours, but in fact, the healthy bacteria in the honey stomach kill all the microorganisms.

"As humans have learnt to use honey to treat sore throats, colds and wounds, our hypothesis is that the healthy bee bacteria can also kill harmful disease bacteria in humans. We have preliminary, unpublished results which show that this could be a new tool to complement or even replace antibiotics", says Alejandra Vasquez.

The present study also shows that bees' healthy bacteria die when beekeepers treat bees preventively with antibiotics, which primarily happens in the USA. The bees have their own defence system against disease in the form of cooperative healthy bacteria. However, this system is weakened in commercially farmed bees that are treated with antibiotics, suffer stress, eat synthetic food instead of their own honey and bee bread and are forced to fly in fields sprayed with pesticides.

Read more at: <https://phys.org/news/2012-03-problems-antibiotic-resistance-bee-deaths.html#jCp>

Honey price gap may be permanent for Canadian beekeepers

Canadian honey producers are receiving US\$1 to \$1.35 per pound for their honey while U.S. producers receive \$2 per lb. or more.

The honey market continues to break a basic rule of economics. Normally, if two companies are selling a similar product the price should be similar. So, if company X sells apple juice for \$2 per litre and company Y sells a similar quality apple juice for \$1.40 per litre, company X will lower its price to compete. That's not happening in the honey market.

For the last 30 months American honey producers have received US\$2 per pound or more for their honey. Meanwhile, Canadian beekeepers, who produce honey of equivalent quality, have received \$1 to \$1.35 per lb., which is \$1.25 to \$1.70 per lb. in Canadian currency. The price gap doesn't just apply to Canada. There is now a two-tiered pricing system for honey — one price for U.S. producers and another for honey imported into the U.S.

“The domestic beekeepers are receiving prices that are two to 2 1/2 times greater than the prices received for equivalent honey from mature producing countries like Argentina and Canada,” Ron Phipps wrote in the International Honey Market Report, published earlier this year in the American Bee Journal. In late March the price of honey in North Dakota was US\$2.10 per lb. while western Canadian honey was selling for \$1.30 to \$1.40 per lb. The price that U.S. buyers pay dictates the price of honey in Canada because America is the largest importer of honey in the world.

Rod Scarlett, Canadian Honey Council executive director, said American honey packers imposed the two-tier price system two and a half years ago. “They basically determined that if you're importing honey (into the U.S.), it's got to be cheap honey,” he said. “(They're) not going to spend equivalent dollars bringing in imported honey.” One reason why is that U.S. honey packers can put a “Made in the USA” label on American honey and sell it at a premium. Another factor is more complex.

A number of people in America's honey trade believe Canada imports cheap and fake honey from other countries, blends it with Canadian honey and then exports it to America. Representatives of Canada's honey industry have told U.S. buyers that such cases are rare, but it's been difficult to dispel the idea.

Chris Hiatt, a North Dakota beekeeper and vice-president of the American Honey Producers Association, said he sympathizes with Canadian beekeepers. “They have just as good as honey as I do, but the price is so much less.” He said honey producers in Canada and the United States are facing the same issue — fake honey produced in China and then shipped to North America through another country. “It's laughable. Little countries like Myanmar or Taiwan ... for 20 years half a million lb. (of honey) gets exported (annually),” he said. “(Then) overnight (it's) five or 10 million lb. That's absolutely impossible.... It's all honey from China trans-shipped through those countries.” Hiatt said Canadian honey packers are also guilty of importing Chinese honey and blending it with domestic product. “That's what's coming across the border and being bought by a lot of big American packers,” Hiatt said, noting the practice may explain the price discrepancy. “To me it (the lower price) just points to cheap imports that are being blended into good-looking Canadian honey.”

Whatever the reason for the price gap, it's now a market reality. Canadian and American honey sold at similar prices before the fall of 2015, and many Canadian beekeepers initially assumed the two-tier system was a blip and prices would return to parity. However, it could be here for a while. “Particularly given the political climate in the States,” Scarlett said, referring to the America First movement in the U.S. Canadian beekeepers and the honey sector may need a strategy in response because shipping honey to the U.S. at a sizable price discount isn't sustainable, Scarlett said. Canada's honey trade may need to put the Maple Leaf on bottles of honey and market it as a superior product in the U.S. “I think it might be time to go into competition (in the U.S. market),” Scarlett said. “Worldwide, Canada has such a good reputation for agricultural products. Maybe, in honey's case, we should be taking advantage of that.”

Guy Chartier, chief executive officer of Bee Maid Honey, which is owned by beekeepers, is skeptical that “made in Canada” honey would be successful in the U.S. market. Canada's reputation as a source of clean and trustworthy food may hold weight in countries such as Japan and China, but less so in America. “On the American side I'm not as convinced that it would have a large impact, just because they are pro-American flag.”

Canadian honey facts and figures

In 2016 Canadian beekeepers produced 92.2 million lb. of honey.

The value of Canada's honey crop, from 2012-16, ranged from \$157 to \$210 million.

Canada exported \$50.9 million of honey to the U.S. in 2016.

The U.S. imported \$559 million worth of honey in 2016.

In 2012 there were 690,000 honeybee colonies in Canada. In 2016 there were 750,000.

Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan account for 83 percent of Canada's honey production.

Source: Agriculture Canada

Editorial Notes

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

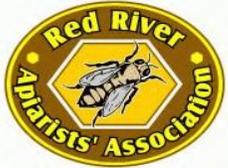
Have you come across an interesting article? Would you like to share an observation? Share an anecdote or an observation from your own beekeeping experiences?

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

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 4



PAGE 5



BEE - DAY!

May 26th -

2018 at The

Forks

Spring is here and so is our annual Bee Day at The Forks. A great time to showcase beekeeping in Manitoba as people turn their attention to gardening and flower beds.

A few hours of your time is requested to promote nature's pollinators and local honey. Volunteering on Bee Day at The Forks is also a good opportunity to socialize with other beekeepers and meet parents and children (future beekeepers).

The Bee Show Committee will organize and set up all the equipment and displays early on Saturday May 26th. With the help of volunteers Bee Day will be an educational and promotional success filled with happy memories for all visitors.

Please sign up at our May 8th meeting in the time slot of your choice:

(9am to Noon); (Noon to 3pm); (3pm to 6pm).

Thank-you and Bee Well,

Your Bee and Honey Show Committee



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 except 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.

Links to full articles:

<https://www.producer.com/2018/04/honey-price-gap-may-be-permanent-for-canadian-beekeepers/>
<https://phys.org/news/2012-03-problems-antibiotic-resistance-bee-deaths.html>
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0932473917301001>
https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/apr/27/eu-agrees-total-ban-on-bee-harming-pesticides?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Copy_to_clipboard

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 4

R.R.A.A. Classified Advertisements



For sale:

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

Queen Rearing Workshop.

For beekeepers that are interested in learning how to raise their own Queen bees.

I am offering an advanced hands-on Queen rearing workshop for experienced beekeepers.

Weather permitting, the workshop will be held in the month of May and June 2018.

The workshop will be held on two Saturdays at my home bee-yard near Beausejour MB.

Limited amount of places are available.
 Please pre-register if interested.
 A deposit will be required.

Fees: \$120.00 for the two days of classes.

Discounted fee for RRAA members \$110.

RRAA Members may be eligible for and additional \$10.00 bursary upon completion.

Drinks and lunches will be provided / bring your own lawn chair.

Contact: Waldemar Damert:
 Cell: 204-266-2276
 Email: wdamert@yahoo.ca

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

Email info@abbeyroaddistribution.com

ASSEMBLED FRAMES

Selling 9 1/8 assembled frames for Honey production. All joints are glued and stapled. We are using permanent white plastic foundation. Comes wrapped in bundles of ten. 100 or less \$3 plus gst per frame. 200 and more \$2.80 plus gst per frame. Contact Mark Waldner. 204-771-0672.



This is a notice to beekeepers who would like to be listed on the "Manitoba Bees for Sale" page, hosted on the MBA website <http://manitobabee.org/hive/1977/20118-manitoba-bees-for-sale/>

Please email Rheal.Lafreniere@gov.mb.ca with the following information:

Name > contact ph#(s)> Town> Nucs, Singles or Doubles> When they will be available> Price (optional)

For Example: ► Beekeeper X > 555-5555> frame Nucs > May 15

Winnipeg> 4

Nucs for Sale: 5

frame 4 frame and 3 frame.

Can be purchased with last years marked queens.

5 frame \$180, 4 frame \$150 and 3 frame \$120,
single hives may be available

Contact: Dennis Ross,

Ph: 204 878-2924 Email: rosskr@mts.net

Please note that only beekeepers with no restrictions for selling bees will be posted on the list. Any beekeeper with a history of AFB within the last three inspection years or beekeepers with moving bees or equipment restrictions due to resistant American

Foulbrood disease (rAFB) or small hive beetle (SHB) will not be added to this list. The MBA may also put some posting qualifiers

FOUR FRAME SPRING NUCS FOR SALE

Please Call Chris Argiriou

204-296-4848**Classified Advertisements are FREE for RRAA members in good standing.****Non member rates as low as \$10.00 per issue****R.R.A.A. Classifieds**

....cont.

Bees For Sale Local Manitoba Stock.

Taking early orders for 2018

4 Frame Nucs, Splits and Spring and Summer Queens.

**Support offered (Via Phone and E-mail)
to Customers who are New Beekeepers****Wooden supplies:**

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

Wax Foundation

molded from clean capping wax.

Contact : Waldemar at text ph. 204-266-2276 or e-mail
wdamert@yahoo.ca. (Beausejour Mb.)**Hot Dipping****Wooden ware: Boxes, bottom boards,
hive top lids, Or any other wooden ware
exposed to the elements.****Hot dipped in rosin and paraffin****We have boxes dipped about 30 years ago
and are still very well preserved.****For beekeepers interested in preserving
their equipment for the decades to
come. I will be dipping in the
Month of May.****New Boxes only please.****Contact Ben for price.****email: production@csnp.ca****Text only number: 204 515-9610****Nucs For Sale:****Short or Late Nuc orders Available****Photo Of The Month**

For those that needing nucs/bees but are unable to get due to late ordering or other extenuating circumstances. We are offering an additional 15 more nucs from our stock to help others out.

Limited quantity available. Contact Justin at 204-381-9038 or at jandjhoneyfarms@gmail.com for more information.

3 4 frame Nucs: 2018 laying queen
3 frames of bees and brood at varying stages
1 frame of feed

or

4 5 frame Nucs: 2018 laying queen
4 frames of bees and brood at varying stages
1 frame of feed



Thirsty Bees!

With the dry weather and masses of brood rearing going on the bees are desperate for water. Two gallons a day are being consumed from this water feeder. Do yours have enough to find?

Photo Credit: David Dawson

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.

Equipment for Sale

Used Summer Lids approx. 200 \$5 ea.

New non-spacing Frames assembled approx. 400 (unwaxed) \$2.10 ea.

(23) 2-way pallet board system \$14 ea.

(63) 4-way pallet board system \$28 ea.

Contact: Justin at 204-381-9038
jandjhoneyfarms@gmail.com

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! Email to: datamule@hotmail.com All submissions are confidential.

Your Committees Need Your Help!

We are currently soliciting members to help with some of the ongoing tasks that help the organization run behind the scenes. We need members to contribute to the following:

Newsletter Committee: Contribute articles and write for the newsletter (2 hours or less a month)

Social Committee: Set up / take down coffee before & after monthly meetings (Less than 1 hour/month)

Honey Show Committee: Participate in planning and facilitating our off side annual events.

Donate Some Time To better Your Organization. Talk to an Executive Today!



YOU ARE NEEDED!!

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

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

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

April 10 Meeting Red River Apiarist Meeting Minuets

The evening began at 7:00 pm with a get together of new bee keepers. John Russell was the convener.

The regular meeting started just after 7:34

Chair: John Russell. Recording Secretary: Monica Wiebe

—John Russell started by encouraging everyone to wear a name tag and sign in. New bee keepers are encouraged to ask questions of the more experienced keepers at coffee.

—List of experience keepers being compiled to ask as phone or email mentors. One or two people didn't get newsletter.

—The Minutes: Acceptance moved by Art Quanbury and seconded by David Weselak: Carried

—John Speer (Treasurer) reported club has about \$1500, and plans to pay insurance and liability, May to May about \$500. Membership 134 members, grace period if membership is paid after August.

—Duane Versluis talked about the sound system. Just under \$500. Website issues, moved domains, redoing site. Volunteers doing it. Hoping to be done by the end of the month.

—MBA Report: by Marg Smith Mark Friesen sent email about meetings.

MASC- bee mortality overwintering insurance- decrease fees for no loss and increase if you have heavy losses.

Discussions with Agriculture Ministers: a.) Funding assurances for Provincial Apiarists and Inspection program; b). Wildlife competition ie bears; c). Land Management - drainage and loss of bee habitat.

Picnic June 16th at Ian Steppler's farm starts at 11. Honey House tour, lunch, 2:00 demonstrations, hands on working with E.Z. loader, bee bearding. Red River Apiarist contest to be created

—Honey Show Report by: Armand St. Hilaire Survey showed- interest but with changes, 46 responses to survey.

Time for a change - show to be educational and promotional - show there is a variety of types of honey. Instead of contest, it will be a display, so people will know what is produced. One sample of honey and one other item (frames, combs, etc). Lots of products to show. Criteria shared. Entry from Aug. 1 to Sept. meeting.

Complete form and labels provided, drop off at Bee Maid, or if you cannot drop it off there, bring to Sept. meeting.

Coffee

—Rheal Lafreniere Integrated Pest Best Management Practices for Varroa Mite Control

Pest awareness if it successful, works at monitoring, thresholds, and solutions Varroa - conduit for other problems keystone species set stage for secondary pests 30-year evaluation, ever changing

Ability to reproduce in drone brood is 1 to 5 versus 1 to 2 in a worker cell.

Signs of Varroa: Mites on adult bees and in brood / Spotty brood / Parasitic Mite Syndrome (PMS) / Bees with damaged wings. Sick brood with symptoms resembling disease infections /Reduced adult bee population / Bees with damaged wings.

When varroa 3% Damage to bees: -reduced longevity -deformed wings -vector disease -secondary infections
—more winter loss

Monitoring: -Natural drop (# of mites in/24 hr) -Mite wash (# mites/100 bees) -Mites in drone brood -Presence of DWV
-Sentinel hive vs Pool sampling May 21-June Fall over 3% treatment is critical Mites divided by bees x 100 is the % of mites in the colony.

Darryl Wright private investigator

Controls in the arsenal: -Anitra's (Apivar) -Flumethrin (Bayvarol) -Fluvalinate (Apistan) -Coumaphos (CheckMite+)
-Formic acid -Oxalis acid -Thymol (Thymovar) -Drone brood removal -Genetic stock

Loonie Draw - \$93.85 collected

Respectfully submitted, Monica Wiebe



OTS Exploratory Workshop (On The Spot)

hosted by Brad Hogg, Faith Apiaries

This workshop will be a two part workshop.

Some excellent articles to read before attending can be found here: Please read up for familiarity!

Swarm Prevention With OTS Queen Rearing-Part 1

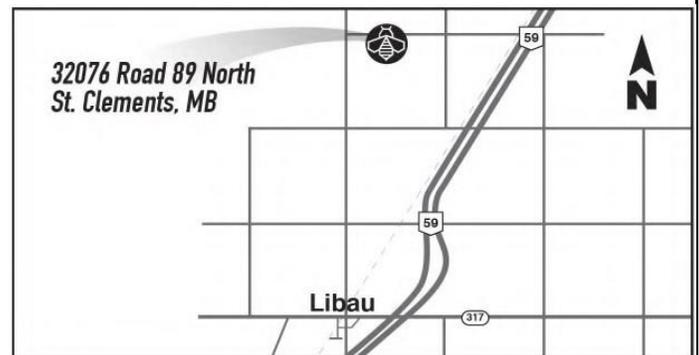
<https://www.thebee.farm/blog/2018/4/9/swarm-prevention-with-ots-queen-rearing-part-1-of-3>

OTS Queen Rearing and Knowing Your Local Swarm Dates-Part 2

<https://www.thebee.farm/blog/2018/3/19/ots-queen-rearing-and-knowing-your-local-swarm-dates-part-2-of-3>

The workshops will be two part. Part one will be making our queen-less cell builders and making a nuc with the old queen. To me, this is the hardest part, I hate trying to find queens. Part two will be taking those built cells and placing them into mating nucs or other queen-less colonies or splits.

I'll be running two workshops, one day apart so you can attend a Friday or Saturday then the following week, you can attend another Friday or Saturday workshop for part two. This is an exploratory workshop, so it will be a new experience for myself as well, but knowledge shared is always a good experience. Bring your own lunches and lawn chairs!



**Workshops will be held at Faith Apiaries home yard May 18 & 19 (part one) and May 25 & 26 (part two).
RSVP please to: Brad@faithapiaries.ca**

Field Day / Apiary Tour June 16th
Ian Steppers' Farm, Miami Manitoba.

Starts at 11 with a Honey House tour.

Lunch will be burgers, drinks and chips, but we are calling on members to bring a Pot Luck offering of salads or cookies to share.

The afternoon will be consisting of demonstrations on splits, summer management, operating an EZ- Loader, and more. A Bee Beard & a couple of contests are in the works.

A \$10.00 donation to the Barry Fingler Fund is requested.

Please sign up at the next RRAA meeting
so we can prepare accordingly! Directions:

6 Miles west of Miami on #23 highway 2 1/4
Miles south on rd #41w



September is months away, but don't forget!! Bee and Honey Show Sept 22-23rd at

The Forks

As described in detail at our last RRAA meeting, our Fall Honey Show is no longer a competition but rather a showcase of local Manitoba honey. Every member is encouraged to enter a sample of his/her honey to promote local honey from every corner of Manitoba and Winnipeg.

At our next RRAA meeting on May 8th all required supplies will be available to enter a sample of your honey in the show (and other items):

- Entry Forms and Rules
- Jars and lids
- Labels



Get ready for that beautiful next crop of honey!!



Thank-you and Bee Well,
Your Bee and Honey Show Committee



“Melissa’s Musings”

We welcome Storyteller Mary Louise Chown, who also keeps bees along with her husband, Art Quanbury, who offers a new addition to the Bee Cause Newsletter, an offering called “Melissa’s Musings”.

The scientific name of the European honey bee is *Apis Mellifica*, “the honey maker”, and its history can be traced back to a period long before man appeared on the earth. Some of the oldest fossil bees are found in the amber of the Baltic coast and they are surely ancestors of our modern bees, so similar are they.

Bees and honey are mentioned in some of the oldest literature of the world, stretching as far back as 3500 BC, and possibly even earlier. These writings are found in India, Egypt, and ancient Persia. In fact, Egypt is mentioned in the Old Testament as “flowing with milk and honey”. Agriculture came early to the lands surrounding the Mediterranean, and along with crops came flowers for the bees. In those early, pre-Christian days, the goddess was worshipped as the Great Mother. She had many names, one of which was Melissa. Melissa’s worker bees, or priestesses, were often called “the Melissae”, which simply means, “the bees”.

At River Hills Farm and Apiary, we like to keep all of our pulls separate and we give each one a name, e.g. “Solstice” honey for honey harvested on June 21 or thereabouts, and so on. One

year we had “Blue Moon Honey”. We have taken to calling our last harvest “Melissa Honey” as a way of thanking the Queen and her ladies for all their hard work.

In each issue of The Bee Cause, I plan to tell you stories featuring bees, or interesting mythological facts about this fascinating insect.

- M.L.C.

MANITOBA HONEY SHOW ENTRY FORM

I hereby enter the Honey Show with the exhibits herein described, and agree to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Honey Show.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

LABELS: NAME _____ or INITIALS _____ (check one)

EXHIBIT ENTRIES

LIQUID HONEY 1) White _____ 2) Amber _____ 3) Dark _____

CREAMED HONEY _____ CHUNK HONEY _____ COMB HONEY _____

FRAME OF CAPPED HONEY _____ REFINED BEESWAX _____

BEEKEEPING THEMED PHOTOGRAPHY _____

HONEY BEVERAGE _____ FOOD WITH HONEY INGREDIENT _____

APIARY LOCATION: _____

(Town and Manitoba Region) or (Winnipeg and Neighborhood)

RULES & REGULATIONS

- 1) Honey exhibitors shall be Manitoba beekeepers with pure honey from current year of production of their own apiary.
- 2) An exhibitor may submit one entry in each category.
- 3) All entries must have attached and completed RRAA-supplied labels and be submitted in a box or bag with a completed entry form.
- 4) Entry deadline: between August 1 2018 and second Tuesday of September 2018.
- 5) Drop-off locations: 1) Bee-Outfitters (Bee Maid), 625 Roseberry Street, Winnipeg;
2) If Bee-Outfitters drop-off is not possible, submit labeled entries at September RRAA meeting.
- 6) All entries must be picked up at the end of the Show, 4PM Sunday. Items remaining become the property of RRAA and may be donated to charity.
- 7) The Manitoba Honey Show is a consumer-oriented educational and promotional event, sponsored by the Manitoba Beekeepers Association and organized and staffed by members of the Red River Apiarists Association (RRAA).

