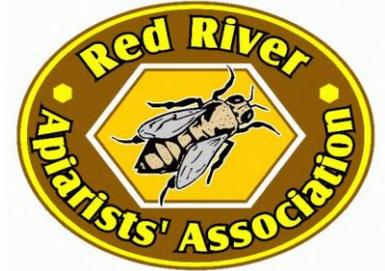


Red River Apiarists' Association

The Bee Cause

55 Years

October 2018



Volume 16, Issue 7

Next meeting:

October 9th, 2018

Elmwood Legion

920 Nairn Ave. Wpg, Mb

*Novice Group meets at
7:00 pm*

*Main Meeting: starts at
7:30 pm*

Speaker:

Ian Stepler

Topic:

Winter - Closer than you Think, Sooner than you Wish.

This fall.....wow; Just like our spring with below average temperatures but with more rain. I've always said that procrastination kills more bees than anything else because it's delay and putting off chores that creates trouble and crisis. Beekeepers that put mite checks, treatments, and feeding on the back burner are the ones that sometimes get away with it in an "Indian summer" autumn, but lose bees in larger numbers in the end when an early wet fall comes around.

One of the reasons why we were so stern and blunt in the September issue on feeding and treatment was in case of the weather we had in most of September. Bees don't take down syrup as fast in cool weather, and high humidity does few favors in how fast they can dry it down for winter stores. Some mite treatments like

formic acid are temperature specific to be at peak effectiveness and post treatment queen checks and mite checks require higher

daytime temperatures than what mother nature's been providing. Moving bees, even reorganizing them into quads on a pallet should not be left too long as it breaks up clusters and does you bees few favors.

If you were on top of your fall management, then you can breath a little easier knowing that a little discipline and promptness of your actions are cheap insurance against winter loss. If not, then you

Growing flora that provides proper nutrition for the bees, and how our landscape is changing.

negate the leverage you had in assisting your colonies towards a successful overwintering.

Record keeping is also one of a beekeepers commonly overlooked tools. What you did or did not do, or were unable to do this fall, should be recorded for reference for the seasons to come. I know that not everyone is eager to document ones mistakes, but it is how we can learn from them. Just as it's important to have detailed

notes to show how we got on the path of our success too!

Speaking of overwintering, this will be the topic of the 7:00 pm novice group. Bring your questions if you are unsure of your plans or wish to field check your method with other beekeepers! - J.R.

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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 Faurschou

Ph. 204-898-9669 PO

Box 242 Garson, mb

pfaurschou@gmail.com

2nd Vice President: Tim Kennedy

Ph. 204-269-0183

2 Baldry Bay, Winnipeg MB R3T 3C4

timothykennedy@yahoo.com

Secretary: Monica Wiebe

Ph 204-299-0648 1193

Lorette Ave.

Winnipeg, MB R3M 1V8

Email: mowiebe@mts.net

Treasurer: John Speer

Ph 204-222-3007

Box 16, Group 555, RR 5

Winnipeg, MB R2C 2Z2

Email: jurnss@outlook.com

MBA Delegate: Margaret Smith

Ph 204-254-4509

1051 Porcher Rd

St Andrews, MB R1A 3N4

Email: margshoney@gmail.com

RRAA Web Site Administrator

Duane Versluis

Ph 204-268-4223

Box 12

Tyndall, MB RoE 2Bo

Email: rraaweb@gmail.com

President's Comments



Happy Belated Thanksgiving!

All in all it was not the most thankful year for beekeepers, but it did keep our tenacity well exercised. General reports of a smaller crop, unfavorable weather, and abundant mites does not paint an appealing picture especially for the first time and novice beekeepers. However those of us with more than a few poor seasons under our belt know that looking forward to spring is better than dwelling on the could haves and should haves. Take care of your bees, and the honey will take care of itself. Nature will average out your yields.

I want to thank the Honey Show Committee and all of the volunteers who contributed so much time and effort for another successful event. The weather was cold and rainy, but that always works in our favor as the public stays inside and the show is better attended. A solid turnout of members were there to answer the questions from curious visitors, and we had a good sampling of honey, comb, wax, propolis, and mead to show off. More details and pictures on page three.

A reminder that the topic of a membership fee increase will be brought to the floor for discussion and a possible vote at the next meeting. The executive looks forward to your input & feedback to help steer your organization on the right path.

See you on October 9th!

-J.R.

Newsletter Editor: John R. Badiuk

Email: honeyb@mymts.net

The Bee and Honey Show September 2018



A fine and varied collection of
provided by the membership

The variety of colors found in
honey go a long way in



Donna Hourde and her family give the public the opportunity to buy farm fresh honey, pollen, candles, and cosmetics while they learn about the importance of pollinators and all about local Manitoba honey!

The R.R.A. wishes to thank Bee Outfitters and the Manitoba Beekeepers Association for their support towards another successful public event.



Of course, our ladies were present and on their best behavior.



equipment on display, answering questions about bees & educating the public about honey are the main focus of the members who volunteer their time over the two days we are set up. Hundreds of people come by to see the display hive, and satisfy their curiosity in finding out how their delicious honey finds it's way to the breakfast table!

honey and honey products of the R.R.A.A. This display demonstrates to the public

products from the hive that many have not seen before such as propolis and mead.

the samplings of donated

helping explain how unique and different honey can be from area to area.

Demonstrating the

RRAA Meeting Minutes for September 11th 2018 - Recorded by Monica Wiebe

7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Beginner's Session

Meeting called to order at 7: 35 p.m. John Russell chairing

Reminder to Sign In, Name Tags will be standard this Fall please grab one as you sign in.

Copies of by-laws are available on the entry table **Other Paper work:**

Minutes passed: Jim Campbell moved the minutes and seconded Ken Rowes, motion passed.

Financial: John Speer treasury report. \$823.36 after outstanding cheques. Expenses for honey show coming up.

Things discussed at first meeting:

Fall honey show – a show not a competition. Show all the types of honey. Asked for volunteers for 2 days, divided into half days. Sign up sheet to be circulated during coffee

General Floor comments report & discussion of industry results

What need to be done: Presented by Waldemar Damert - Feed and Treat for September. Poor conditions. Bees getting ready early. Bees not robbing because adults gone. Grey young bees lots, not as many dark bees. You should have 5-6 frames of brood.

Coffee: Thanks to all who brought goodies Loonie Draw at coffee break - \$74.05 raised

Keynote Speaker: Rheal Lafreniere -Provincial Apiarist: Industry Report

Recap. 2018 Honey Season – An odd year but different honey amounts harvested from different areas.

Winter – 2017-2018 cold and long. Issues: high varroa mite levels, Apivar resistance, low pollen reserves, late honey flow, starvation. Manitoba Winter Loss Indoor= 21%, Outdoor = 29.4%. Both =24.7%. 25% is considered high normal range. Reasons for loss: weather, poor queens, starvation, weak colonies in fall

Spring: Cool and Slow Issues: spring dwindle, high nuc demand, poor early season mating, No Fummagillan (Nosema will be ongoing problem), Low varroa mites

Summer Dry and Hot Issues: Condensed season for some beekeepers, lots off non-hB swarms (bumble bees), some pesticide poisoning, early brood shutdown. Great for making nucs.

Fall: Low and Don't-Know Issues: Low honey production in some areas, Low pollen reserves in some area, slow down the shutdown!!, Low mite levels, do I treat??(low levels use organic methods)

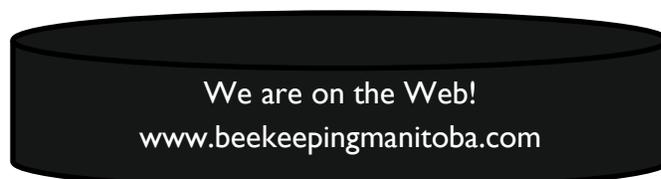
Mite-A-Thon: Promo to Demystify mite count – Bee-Cause article. Mite counts will be used for information and research. Show that we are concerned and taking it seriously. The mite count is anonymous and will help with the research.

Note: A Membership fee increase will be discussed next meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned: 9:30ish

Minutes Recorded by: Monica Wiebe



Tales From the Yard - By Brad Hogg

True Story: The 2018 honey season was a less than tremendous one. Thankfully the honey quality is spectacular but the volume of the harvest is down and for this reason, this year's extracting season was shorter than normal.

Of course, any time honey is pulled by the box, there is danger of getting a queen in the honey house. I seem to have a problem with queens above my excluders, something I need to work on, as a newer beekeeper. This year, a queen did indeed end up in the honey house...she was a tough old bird too!

As a frame of reference, I run an old time Cowen automatic uncapper and a 33 frame Kelley radial extractor. My spins in this extractor run up to 45 minutes if the honey is sticky and dry. One of my last days of extracting, I was, as usual, pulling frame by frame and loading the uncapper when I found a small cluster of bees that had managed to stow away into the honey house...this was not unusual at all . What was unusual for me was, there was a queen in there. Thinking fast, I snatched up a new queen cage and set out to cage the big gal. I'm not very good at this and in the process, she flew away, to somewhere in the honey house...where, I could not tell. Disappointed, I returned to my work, loading the uncapper, loading the extractor, spinning, unloading the extractor and loading the extractor again. After three entire spins of that extractor, likely a total run time of 90 to 120 minutes, I noticed this queen, wandering around on the cone in the center bottom of the extractor...she had previously flown into the open extractor, unnoticed, and had remained there for three entire spin cycles of the extractor...I bet it got breezy in there! I presented her with a frame of extracted comb which she took to immediately, placed the frame in a nuc box I had nearby, with her cluster of bees...and there she sat. Now...what to do with a homeless queen in the middle of September?? - B.H.

Submissions:

Beekeepers are like fishermen, except our tall tales are always true

What's the strangest thing you have seen, or heard in beekeeping?

The swarm that got away, the colony in the old refrigerator, the night of a thousand stings.....

Tales From The Yard will be an irregular feature of submissions from novices and veterans alike, sharing the wonders and the follies that the seasons bring.

So if you have a story, or if you have seen or done things that worked for no apparent reason or just dumb luck, share it here!

Submit you or legendary exploits to: R.R.A.A. Tales
128 Victoria Ave West
Winnipeg, Mb. R2C 1S5

Or: honeyb@mymts.net

Anonymous submissions accepted. (Of course!)



Did you hear the one about the guy who waited too long?

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.

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

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.

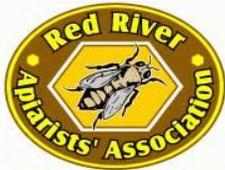
Articles can be best submitted in word documents as email attachments. Though they may be edited for spelling and basic grammar, no changes will be made to their contents, message and opinions without the authors' written & expressed consent. They are those of their originator and not of the Red River 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.

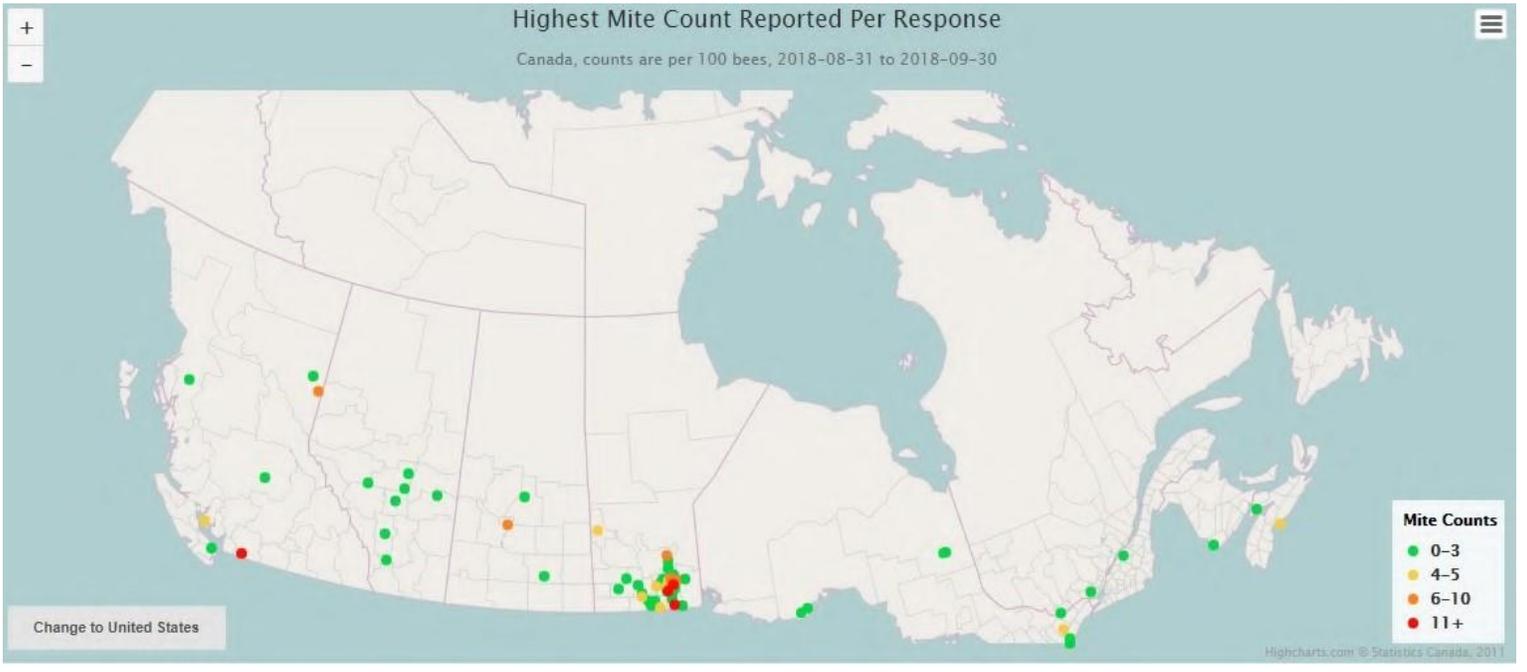
Mite-A-Thon 2018 shows a significant increase in submission for Manitoba.

According to the online map (<https://bip2.beeinformed.org/mitecheck/results>) Manitoba beekeepers stepped up from last year with over 35 submissions. While at first glance this may not seem significant, it is a much better response from 2018 and sets the bar for other provinces to follow our example. We very much hope the participation across Canada will keep it's momentum on this upswing trend for 2019 and the years to follow. This data is used to draw awareness to the importance of field checks for varroa mites, and assists research in combating this serious enemy of the honeybee.



Highest Mite Count Reported Per Response

Canada, counts are per 100 bees, 2018-08-31 to 2018-09-30



R.R.A.A. Classified Advertisements



For sale:

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

Bees For Sale:

Taking pre-orders for Spring 2019

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

Bees For Sale Local Manitoba Stock

Taking early orders for 2019
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 till March 15. Email for price list

Wax Foundation

molded from clean capping wax.

Contact : **Waldemar** ph: 204-266-2276
E-mail: wdamert@yahoo.ca.
(Beausejour Mb.)

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 permadent 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.



Indoor Wintering Space for Rent

Bev's Bee Barn
7.00 per Hive

For more info call Bev at
204-824-2275

**Classified Advertisements are
FREE for RRAA members in
good standing.
Non member rates as low as
\$10.00 per issue**

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 7

LOONY PRIZES! - One of our organizations means of paying it's bills come from proceeds from the Loony Draw. Bring a donation to the prize table, and buy a ticket yourself to help the R.R.A.A.!

Suggestions: Homemade preserves or baked goods. Bulbs, Seeds, or Garden Vegetables from your harvest. Bee books or other literature. Crafts, or objects of interest.

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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!*

Beekeeper's Blues

Words and arrangement by K. D. Rowes January 2017

I am just a beekeeper a hobbyist at best

And I love the darling honey bee

Began as a kid just out of school and at 73 I still have a
hive or two

I find the work hard and sticky sometimes hard to
bare

But I don't mind the stings at all

Chorus:

But I need four walls around me to hold my life and
keep me from going a stray

And a darling angel to hold me tight

And Jesus to keep me from slipping away

Now I've seen lot of sad faces lots of bad cases

Of folks with their backs to the wall

I can light up your smiles I can laugh at your jokes

I can help you get down on your knees

I can stand by you I can help you get back on your
feet

I can kneel and pray for your needs

Chorus:

Now the smoke fills the air in this apiary of mine

And I am thinkin' about where I'd rather be

But I've burned all my bridges

I've ran out of gas and I am close to the end of my
years

Chorus:

MBA report to RRAA by Margaret Smith

The MBA Directors' meeting, which took place, September 13, 2018, had a lot of material to cover, not having met face to face since April. In between, there were also two conference call meetings.

One of the items to be discussed was the MBA/RRAA field Day & Picnic in June. Many thanks went to Ian Steplar and his family for hosting this event. However, the thanks also went out to the members of the RRAA (some 75!) who not only arrived, some with their children, but brought activities and pot luck items to round out the delicious BBQ that was prepared for lunch. The observation hive was an interesting item for the children, the fire lighting contest was a whole lot of fun to take part in and the bee-beard that Ian sported was amazing to watch being created. All in all, it was deemed to have been very successful.

The MBA will be the leading organization for a 7 day Trade Mission to Chile, tentatively set for early December. The objective for sending a trade mission delegation from Manitoba to Chile is to enhance current trade of apicultural products and services, with the companies already doing trade with Chile being the focal point of the mission. The goal would be to use the influence of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) to explore what can be done to facilitate trade relations between Chile and Manitoba. Manitoba has been importing queens from Chile for several years. This mission is important to helping maintain Manitoba's beekeeping value chain which is to produce healthy honey bees in a healthy environment. Having high import stock would not only benefit Manitoba beekeepers that import queens but would also provide greater genetic diversity of quality drones for mating with Manitoba queens. More information will be forthcoming in the very near future. The MBA has Daryl Wright going and Bartel Farms, Oakwood Honey Farms (Todd & Ryan Yakamishen), Merv Malyon (Kemnay Apiaries) and Murray Lewis (Lewis & Sons) will be accompanying him. These people, or their represented businesses will cover their own meals, travel and accommodation. Trade mission funding will be applied for from the provincial government, to cover ground transportation and translation services in Chile. Hosting organizations within Chile will be approached to explore the access to funding for receiving trade missions to offset venue and meeting costs within Chile.

In August, MBA directors met with the Minister of Agriculture, on several issues, including the inspection program. It would seem that the Minister listened, but there wasn't much budging on the government's part.

Also in August, Allan Campbell, Past President of MBA and David Ostermann, our Provincial Apiarist in charge of pollination, reported on a pollinator enhancement project in North Dakota. He was part of a 40-person 2-day tour of various commercial operations. North Dakota has a Bee Health Coalition being piloted regarding the conservation, reclamation/restoration and preservation of land for bees and Monarch butterflies. They are trying to create a database to see what might work in Manitoba. Ag Canada is also working on this. The kinks still need to be ironed out of the project, but it sounded very interesting. It was interesting to note a few things from what David said. One was that Apivar is NOT working any longer in North Dakota against Varroa Mites. The other: We cannot dictate things, like what crops to plant, to the land owners – we must always remember that beekeepers are GUESTS on the landowners' land.

UPCOMING: 2019 Convention and AGM - February 22 & 23, 2019

Hilton Hotel again. DETAILS TO COME IN UPCOMING NEWSLETTER

The Canadian Honey Council will be holding their National Meeting February 21st, just before, here in Winnipeg!

MBA is wondering if there might be any interest in a joint venture with the RRAA to provide safety stickers to go on the top of honey containers. If you are interested in seeing what these MIGHT look like, go to the Ontario Beekeepers' Association (OBA) website to take a look at what theirs look like.

Please give me your opinion on this and anything else you've read here. I may be contacted by email - margshoney@gmail.com or by cell phone 204-794-9763.

Until next time, stay warm and take good care of those precious bees! Marg

R.R.A.A. Spotlight on scientific studies for October 2018

Two studies that were brought to the Bee-Cause editors attention are definitely worth reviewing by beekeepers of all levels. The first is: Persistence of subclinical deformed wing virus infections in honeybees following Varroa mite removal and a bee population turnover, sent in by Ken Rowes. This is a fascinating look at how deformed wing virus that is associated with high varroa levels can stubbornly persist after successful treatment of the mites themselves. A chilling reminder that eliminating varroa does not remove all the damage they bring as a disease vector. Constant monitoring and prompt intervention is so important to avoid long term impacts. The full study can be found here:

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0180910>

The second study is labeled: Glyphosate perturbs the gut microbiota of honey bees and this was sent it by Paul Gregory of the M.B.A. Bees rely on a specialized gut microbiota that benefits growth and provides defense against pathogens. The study investigates the impact of glyphosate in bee gut symbionts and bee health. Glyphosate is a broad spectrum herbicide and is a primary weed management system.

The full study can be found here:

<http://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/early/2018/09/18/1803880115.full.pdf>

“Melissa’s Musings” - by Storyteller Mary Louise Chown

In ancient times, Mead was the drink of the gods. It was actually believed to have come from Paradise. At one time, Great Britain was known as “the Honey Isle” and no feasts were held without the great vats of mead. This of course was before wine came to the country from continental Europe.

Sugar was not brought to England before the fifteenth century...before this time, honey was likely the only sweetening substance...so there were many laws regulating its uses, who was entitled to have it, whether wild or domesticated and there were laws to protect the mead maker who was considered a very important person. Freeman, or small freeholders, were entitled to the honey that was found in their woods. Anyone poorer than a freeholder was simply out of luck where honey was concerned, unless they did a little poaching in the forests.

But just like today’s market, there was adulterated honey and beeswax being exported from England in Queen Elizabeth’s time, to such an extent that she passed an act of Parliament that penalized anyone who adulterated the honey and made impure wax cakes for sale.

Queen Elizabeth herself was said to be very fond of a type of mead called Metheglin. This seems to be mead laced with herbs of any type and was drunk for medicinal purposes. We don’t know if people in those days were aware of honey’s antibacterial properties. Apparently metheglin was made by simply adding a cup of fresh herbs or a tablespoon or two of dried herbs to the fermenting mead... maybe nutmeg, oregano, black pepper, or more exotic herbs and spices such as ginger or coriander or vanilla beans.

Mead can range in alcoholic content from 3% to as much as 20%. Metheglin is described in the journal of Samuel Pepys, from the 17th century as “strong in the superlative, if taken immoderately, doth stupefy more than any other liquor and keeps a humming in the brain.” -MLC

Protecting against Mice and the Storage and Care of Unused Equipment

If care isn't taken, mice can be a major problem to the beekeeper. They will readily enter an occupied hive in winter where they will make a nest. They will destroy some of the combs and may cause so much disruption to the colony that it dies. Mice will also make a nest in stored equipment if not made mouse proof.

When bees are active they will deter mice themselves, but when they start to cluster on cold days in the autumn mice will seek entry. Mice are unable to get through a narrow gap of less than 8-9mm so some physical form of denying them entry works. If you have a deep floor you will need to restrict the entrance in some way. This could be a flat metal mouse guard with holes in it as sold by equipment suppliers or an entrance reducer with a shallow entrance. I use shallow floors that prevent entry of mice. Placing poison bait under hive pallets or around wrapped colonies is also standard practice. Mouse damage can make the difference between a surviving colony in the spring and a dead-out.

Spare beekeeping equipment is valuable and needs careful storage to ensure that it is kept in good condition and ready for use. Equipment that is stored needs to be protected, either by putting it in a mouse proof container, or if it is boxes of combs by stacking the boxes up with no gaps and put a queen excluder top and bottom. Again, baiting your storage area is

good insurance to limit bad surprises in the spring. Bottom boards, supers, and inner-covers should be scraped clean of wax and propolis. Particular attention should be paid to corners and recesses. External surfaces can be brushed clean, checked over for damage or wear, and set aside to be given a coat of paint or re-dipped if needed before the busy spring

Although equipment may not always cost much it is valuable when you need it and can't use it. The careful beekeeper will make sure that mice aren't a problem.

- Rodger Patterson



Never a welcome sight, any time of the year.

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\$25.00/year

*Optional: Beekeeper Liability Insurance - \$65.00 + \$5.20 6666.... \$72.20/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**