

The Bee Cause

Election Results for 2021 Executive

Inside this issue:

<i>President's Message</i>	1
<i>Getting to Know the KRTP</i>	2
<i>The Who, What and Why of Honeybee Inspect.</i>	4
<i>Stories and Studies from Around the World</i>	8
<i>Adventures in Mead Making</i>	10
<i>The ABCs of Bee Culture</i>	12
<i>RRAA Education Committee Objectives</i>	14

President's Message

I'm watching the thermometer as I write this, and the weekend is sinking into the -30°C range with the rest of next week looking unpleasant. We have been blessed with a mild winter and a return to normal temperatures seems to shock us and cause dismay. Perhaps we are getting soft? (Or just me?) The closer we get to spring, the more stressed the beekeeper. Out come the thermal guns, the stethoscopes, and the

anxiety. Hard to keep the perspective that the outcomes are pretty much predetermined by our actions months ago. It's like fretting about the cheque when the dessert menu is passed around. The damage is done, or not. Put your energy into preparation and planning as it yields better returns.

You have been hearing a lot about the KRTP in the last few months. This initiative will be a benefit to all beekeepers in Manitoba regardless of size or experience, but the



Bee Gathering the Dandelion Nectar

question is how, and perhaps how much? Derek Micholson will be answering that question and more when he presents an overview of the program at our next RRAA webinar general meeting on the 16th. →

Keep Reading—There's More

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Bee-Witched: Learning About Bee and Beekeeping	7
Holiday Toonie Draw Winners	5
About the RRAA & You. 16	

RRAA Standing Committees	17
BeeCause Call for Submissions	17
RRAA Membership Application	18
RRAA Minutes	19

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Photo Submission, p.13
- MBA Report, p.21
- Classifieds, p.22

Next Virtual Meeting
February 16th, 2021
7:30PM

Zoom Link TBA

Speaker:
Derek Micholson

Topic:
Knowledge & Research Transfer Program

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

A big warm welcome to our two new executives, Laura Wiens and Aleks Tucovic! This change in the executive lineup is the first in many years and the fresh ideas, opinions, and energy is most welcome. I look forward to serving the general membership with them in 2021.

Need Bees? Well, you are not alone. Expect nucs and queens to be in demand this season and do not procrastinate in pre-ordering as soon as you can. This also helps the breeders in

forecasting and planning but most importantly it gets nucs into your hands faster. The RRAA publishes a list of members who breed local queens and nucs from fine Manitoba stock, and you can find the short list on page #(_) and also in our classifieds section.

I want to thank the volunteers that stepped up to help form the By-Law Review Committee. The committee will be convening twice over the next number of weeks to examine our by-laws and make suggestions to the

executive committee for any revisions, additions, or changes. The Executive committee will then present the proposed changes to the general membership for approval. Updates of the process will be published in the BeeCause as events occur.

I look forward to seeing all of you on February 16th. Until then, take care and stay safe!

John Russell

Getting to Know the KRTP

Hello Red River Apiarists!

The Manitoba Knowledge & Research Transfer Program (KRTP) is about a month old now and I have been working hard to get the program up and running.

The overall aim of the KRTP is to help our entire beekeeping industry—from hobbyist to commercial beekeeper—adapt and

improve the management and health of honey bee colonies across the province. As the program is meant to be an industry-lead service, receiving regular input from beekeepers and beekeeping associations is important to help develop and adjust our programs as desired. I have been meeting with each of the local associations to discuss their wishes and

priorities for the program and to figure out ways to work together going forward.

Based upon the survey that was sent out a while back, KRTP activities will be developed around 4 main pillars: education, communication, monitoring services, and demonstrative research. Under education, the KRTP is developing a series of intermediate and

GETTING TO KNOW THE KRTP (CONTINUED)

advanced beekeeping workshops and has also partnered with the University of Manitoba to help with the beginner Beekeeping for the Hobbyist course. Instructional videos will also be developed on an on-going basis.

Communication with each of the local associations is important, as is maintaining connection with the University of Manitoba, Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Development (MAFRD), the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA), other Tech Transfer Teams across Canada, the Canadian Honey Council, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and others. Program information will also be disseminated through various online platforms, including the KRTP website and social media.

An important priority identified by the beekeepers of Manitoba in the survey is to develop a Bee Health Monitoring Program to help monitor

parasites and pathogens across the province, which will commence this spring. To complement this program, miticide resistance testing will also be implemented to gain a better handle on the situation in Manitoba.

Under demonstrative research, plans are underway to develop fall oxalic acid trials to better understand the effectiveness of different application methods, doses, and timing of applications under different conditions.

More information to come at the meeting on February 16th. □

Derek Micholson
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Knowledge & Research Transfer Program

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www.manitobabee.org/hive/category/krtp

@krtymb



“Keeping of bees is like the direction of sunbeams.”

Henry David Thoreau

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The Who, What and Why of Honeybee Inspections



"It's not knowledge sitting on a shelf."

By Laura Wiens

I have had the pleasure of being a small piece of the Honeybee Inspection Program the last 3 summers. First under Daryl Wright and then under DLJ Consulting. I personally only inspected 1-2 days/week and generally hobby beekeepers and a few sideliners.

In this article I'm going to try to cover the basics of the program and why it exists.

First of all, who is it for?

The program benefits and includes all beekeepers in Manitoba. From those with a single hive to those running thousands. It is free for the beekeeper and is part of the provincial registration, which is also free. Anyone who keeps bees in Manitoba is required by law to register under the Bee Act. If you are not registered, please contact Rheel or the RRAA for a copy of the form. It will take you less than 10 min to fill out and the benefits are definitely worth it. Also, if you are already

registered, please remember to update your information. Keeping your phone numbers, hive locations and numbers up to date makes our job as inspectors much easier as we try to make appointments.

Second, What is an inspection looking for?

When an inspector comes to visit your hives, we are looking for 3 main things. American Foulbrood (AFB), Small Hive Beetle (SHB), and signage for your bee yard.

I am sure most of you have at least heard of the bacterial infection of AFB. It is an ugly disease to find in your hives and can be spread through used equipment, hive tools and bee drift/robbing. When I found a case, the hives looked fantastic from the outside. They had honey supers nearly full of fresh nectar, good adult populations and lots of activity at the entrances. To look at them from outside they looked happy and healthy. When I started to pull brood

frames the story changed. Brood was spotty with sunken cappings and when I opened them, the pupae were ugly, brown and roped when tested with a toothpick. There is nothing shameful about finding disease in a hive, it simply needs to be managed when discovered. If an inspector finds a case, we mark the hive, remove a sample frame, double bag it in garbage bags and bring it to Veterinary Diagnostic Services for laboratory confirmation. We also are very careful to sanitize our hive tools with both fire and bleach and use disposable gloves when we find a sick hive. If the sample is confirmed as positive for AFB, Rheel will contact you and walk you through the process of management. If you as a beekeeper find a frame you suspect, you can snap a photo or bring a frame in as well. It is always good to have a second set of eyes checking for problems and Rheel is gracious and incredibly helpful.

(continued on page 6)

Holiday Toonie Draw Winners!

Drawn on January 19th

1st Prize

- ⇒ A complete double hive set up - A \$350.00 Value!
- ⇒ Bottom board-wax dipped
- ⇒ Twenty-five assembled frames with black Ritecell foundation
Donated by **Brad Hogg of Faith Apiaries.**
- +
- ⇒ Two wax-dipped commercial grade deep hive bodies
- ⇒ Inner cover-wax dipped - telescoping cover-wax dipped
Donated by **Lewis and Sons**
- +
- ⇒ One Jester box - One Bee-Cozy
Donated by **BeeMaid** Donated by **NOD**
- +
- ⇒ Metal queen excluder - 4 Frame Nuc of Bees (June/21)
Donated by **Dancing Bee**
Donated by **John Russell Honey**

Winner: Zelda Bilski

Runner-up Prizes

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1st Runner-up: Nelson Szwaluk

\$ 50.00 **Beemaid** gift certificate
2nd Runner-up: Heather Deneka

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The Who, What and Why of Honeybee Inspections (continued)

Small hive beetles are not established in Manitoba, but we are simply keeping an eye out to ensure it stays that way and to be prepared if we find any here.

Signage can seem a little silly on your own property, especially on city lots, yet they are required by law under the bee act and inspectors are looking for them and giving out warnings to those who do not have them. Your signs do not need to be visible from the street but need to be seen when someone can see your hives. For those out of town it helps for people to contact you

if needed and helps manage some of the random drop offs at field edges.

Third-Why would you want an inspection?

Inspections benefit beekeepers by offering a second set of eyes in your hives. In addition to inspecting for AFB and SHB, we can also point out other things we notice and chat with you as we work. I have been able to point out other problems to newer beekeepers such as queenlessness, Chalkbrood or initial signs of swarming. I can then point them to resources such as Rheal or RRAA so that they can receive the help they need. I also get the chance to learn a lot as I visit with beekeepers. Chatting while working is definitely one of the best parts of the job. Beekeepers are such a varied and wonderful group of people. That

said, you are not required to be present during an inspection. All inspectors work hard to be respectful of your hives and do our best to leave things as we found them. Including those rocks, sticks and bricks people use to mark hives for various things.

Another reason you want inspections in Manitoba is so that you can buy bees and equipment with confidence. When someone is inspected, the information is filed and you can always email Rheal to see if someone has had AFB in the past before you buy used frames or bees.

I hope this gives you a small window into the inspection program. Please feel free to ask questions and I can do my best to answer. Maybe I will even get a chance to visit you and your bees in the future. □

Need a New Fundraising Idea? **Think Honey!**

Schools, sports teams, daycares, band trips, cadets, and scouts. It seems that every organization needs support to provide those extra curricular activities for our kids. Our easy to manage, and no minimum fundraising program offers a large line of pure Manitoba honeys and flavored honey blends, along with other products from the hive such as candles, bath products, pollen and honey comb. No money up front and 100% guaranteed, this fundraiser offers your supporters our products at below the store price to encourage participation and help you reach your fundraising goals.

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

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

Bee-Witched: Learning About Bees and Beekeeping

K	R	A	G	U	S	O	J	R	I	H	I	V	E
L	N	O	S	E	M	A	X	E	O	M	S	I	K
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E	P	F	O	K	F	M	T	B	T	L	A	A	M
H	E	U	F	N	O	W	H	A	F	E	Y	L	S
C	S	M	R	O	E	B	O	M	O	E	T	T	M
A	T	A	F	B	R	Y	G	R	L	R	P	G	I
R	I	G	C	J	U	M	L	I	K	R	R	E	O
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E	I	L	Q	U	E	E	N	C	D	B	R	R	V
N	D	L	S	P	E	R	M	A	T	H	E	C	A
R	E	I	B	E	E	K	E	E	P	I	N	G	A
O	E	N	L	L	D	P	O	L	L	E	N	H	K
H	L	M	S	R	O	T	A	N	I	L	L	O	P

- HORNET
- SPERMATHECA
- HONEY
- ROYAL
- TRACHEAL
- PESTICIDE
- WORKER
- FUMAGILLIN
- FORMIC
- OXYTET
- JELLY
- SMOKE
- POLLINATORS
- POLLEN
- VARROA
- HIVE
- AFB
- MITES
- SUGAR
- NOSEMA
- BEEKEEPING
- CCD
- QUEEN
- EFB

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1855419/>



Need Frames? Turn to the classifieds, p. 22

Stories and Studies from Around the World

Murder Hornets Repelled by Poop

Asian honeybees have come up with a crappy way to defend their hives against murder hornets - and it is proving effective!

The bees have shown remarkable innovation by using animal feces as a (s)tool to deter the predatory bees from ravaging their hives.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7513396/honey-bee-murder-hornet-poop/>



Death by 1000 Cuts

Insects are crucial to our ecosystem and we are losing them at a rate of one to two percent each year.

Climate change, insecticides, herbicides, light pollution, invasive species and changes in agriculture and land use are like a jigsaw puzzle of death for insects - and there are still pieces missing.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/scientists-decry-death-1000-cuts-worlds-insects-rcna220>



If you want to take on big problems, try thinking like a bee

<https://ideas.ted.com/if-you-want-to-tackle-big-problems-try-thinking-like-a-bee/>



Beehive Art

<https://www.keepingbackyardbees.com/bee-hive-art-zbwz1803zsau/>



How Bees Avoid Bumping Into Nature's Obstacle Course

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/26/science/bees-obstacles-collisions.html>



Drone With Bubble Machine Can Pollinate Flowers Like a Bee

<https://spectrum.ieee.org/automaton/robotics/drones/drone-bubble-machine-pollinate-flowers-like-a-bee>



Stories and Studies from Around the World (continued)

Oxfordshire Natural Beekeeping Group

<https://oxnatbees.wordpress.com/2020/07/01/book-review-interviews-with-beekeepers/>



The Mystery of the Blue Flower

<https://theconversation.com/the-mystery-of-the-blue-flower-natures-rare-colour-owes-its-existence-to-bee-vision-153646>

A Quarter of All Known Bee Species Haven't Been Seen Since the 1990s

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2265680-a-quarter-of-all-known-bee-species-havent-been-seen-since-the-1990s/>



Looking for an EZ-Fill Portioning Machine? Look no further than BeeCause classifieds.

Struggling to get to the store in time?

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Call 204-786-8977 For Details



Adventures in Mead Making

Just to set the story straight I consider myself a novice mead maker on my way to grander titles. My first experience with mead was fall of 2019 and the starter recipe was Joe's Ancient Orange Clove and Cinnamon Mead. I have copied the link below. We enjoyed it and have made several batches of this recipe. It is pretty straight forward to follow with minimum of equipment and can be ready to drink inside 8 weeks. After doing a few 1-gallon batches I tried a 5-gallon recipe and was not as impressed. So, my advice for beginners is start with the 1-gallon basic recipe as outlined in the link below.

<https://gotmead.com/blog/recipe/joes-ancient-orange-clove-and-cinnamon-mead/>



Joe's Ancient Orange, Clove, and Cinnamon Mead – Got Mead? The Largest Mead Resource on the Web

Sorry Patrick, I missed this. I would suggest making Joe's Ancient Orange the way it was designed. It is a 'starter' mead, we like to call it a 'gateway mead' because it is easy, and if the recipe is followed as written, nearly foolproof.

The next recipe I tried was a 5-gallon Chokecherry Mead titled



Joe's Ancient Orange Cyser Bubbling in the Sunshine

"To the Bitter End". I have been making Chokecherry wine for a number of years with wild choke cherries we pick around Springfield and Birds Hill Park. We have really enjoyed the wine from these berries. So, with great expectations we tried this recipe back in September and The Bitter End was a bitter loss of chokecherries and honey.

My best guess is a fruit fly or two managed to get in the primary fermenter and shut everything down. I still have lots of chokecherries in the freezer and will try again with a smaller batch and possibly a different recipe.

Most recently we started an Apple Cyser (apple mead).

This recipe called "Fall Bounty Cyser" is from Ken Schramm's "The Complete Meadmaker" and is modified slightly. My wife ordered this book online as a Christmas gift, but it turned out it was not available. We ended up getting it locally through McNally Robinson (around end of January).

We started this December 16, 2020 and it was finished and settled out January 31. Tastes great on its own and a 6oz glass at 15% alcohol is more than enough to take the edge off a trying day of self-isolating. As you can well imag-

Adventures in Mead Making (continued)

ine there is no possible way this will age for 6 months to one year for the best possible flavor unless we step up production.

I used the following recipe for a 2.5-gallon batch.

2 gallons cider
4.75 pounds honey
1.5 tsp nutrient
1 cup dark brown sugar
3/4 cup chopped dates
3/4 cup raisins
1/2 cinnamon stick
5g (1 packet) Lalvin D47 yeast

Original Gravity: 1.115
Original Brix: 27
Alcohol Potential: 15%

What we used for cider was juice we had from Burwalde Juice Company - we have a 16-year-old apple tree that gives 300 plus pounds of apples each year. I pressed about half of them in my own press and took the other half to Burwalde for pressing. What you get back from them is a wonderful blend of apples they take in from all kinds of Manitoba backyard apple trees. It is very thick with pulp and has great flavor.

I used honey from my first extraction at the end of July. It was probably the nicest lightest tasting honey I have had in 10 years. So, if I can add my advice on honey - use your best tasting honey on any recipe you try. No use trying to turn old dark yeasty honey into something drinkable (not saying anybody would have.)

The local wine/beer supply stores did not carry the Lalvin D47 Yeast - I used Lalvin K1V - 1116 (described as a vigorously fermenting dominant strain that will overcome wild yeast and ferment well in a must that is low in nutrients). With enough sugar/honey in your recipe it can take ABV to 16%.

We just started a second batch yesterday afternoon (Feb. 6), and it is bubbling away nicely this morning. I had to use a mix of the juice I had from Burwalde and PC Fresh Pressed Apple Juice (pasteurized though).

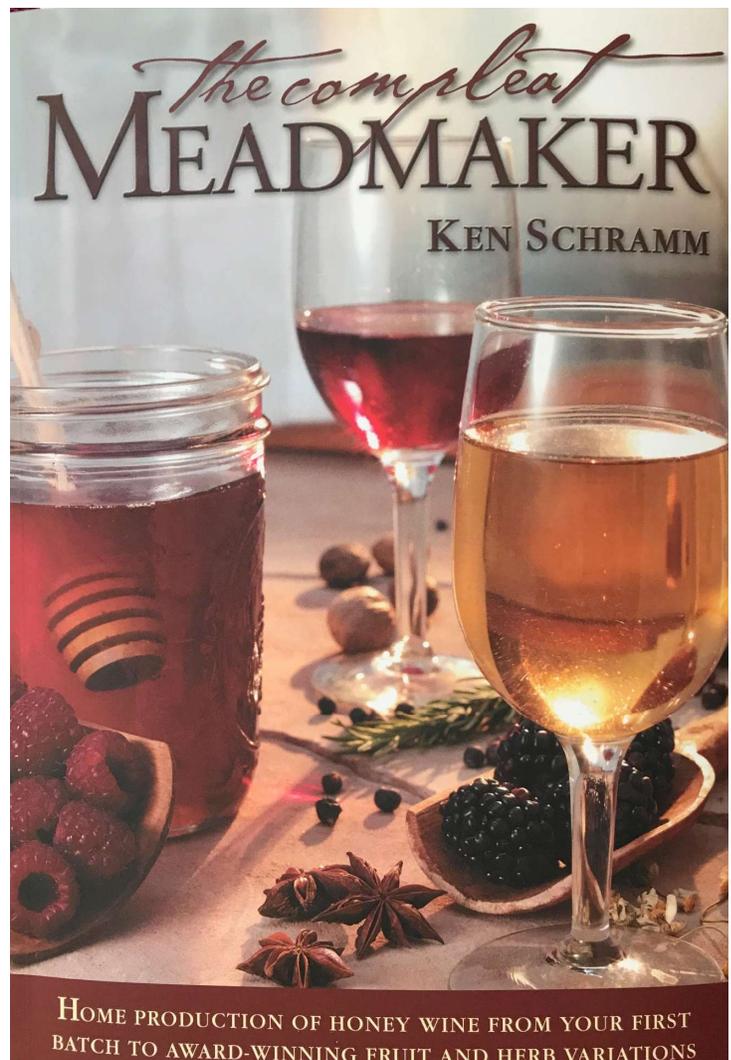
Other notes:

I let everything start and finish in the carboy. It is really easy and works well with the 10 litre size. With a 5-gallon batch I would start with primary fermenter pail or bucket large enough to accommodate the initial fermentation and then transfer to carboy after 2-3 weeks.

I am using well water - unfiltered in any way except a coarse particulate cartridge on my cold line. It has moderate mineral content but not enough iron to need softening and no sulphur. I have been told this can make a difference. I am quite happy to supply my well water for anyone who wishes to use it in their own recipe. Bring a few sterile containers and I will fill them up. Then of course you will be obliged to share a taste of what you turn out.

I know this is kind of abbreviated, but I hope this gets everyone started. I am quite happy to answer any questions via email or text. □

John Speer



The ABCs of Bee Culture—Part 2

Here is another excerpt from *The ABC's of Bee Culture*, first published in November of 1877 by Amos Root. My copy dates from 1905.

At the back of the book is a series of engravings that A. I. Root included with the following rationale:

“These engravings were executed at considerable cost; and as they are instructive, and suggestive of many ideas in regard to apiaries and exhibits, I have thought to put the better parts of them in permanent form right after our biographical sketches. Instead of going to a large expense in visiting different apiaries, one

can see how different beekeepers arrange their lives, and how their apiaries look.”

I chose this picture of the two women with a swarm because the authors comment under the picture is different than any of the comments under any of the other engravings. The author has written under this picture what I suspect he thinks is an amusing comment: “There, Tom, you said I couldn't, and dassen't”.

In his notes attached to this picture he writes:

“The girl holding the bees certainly has about her an air of the unconscious ease that meets all the requirements of the

case, considering the possibilities bound up in that swarm. And equal praise to be given the other girl for standing so calmly by. But after all, what is there to make a bee mad in the presence of such womanly gentleness on the one hand and gentle womanliness on the other, in so beautiful a yard, near so fine a home? Never were bees under obligation to behave better than here. Some might wonder why no man is to be seen. Two reasons might be given. First, he got scared and took to his heels: second, the girl with the bees is looking at him while he takes a picture, hence he is invisible.”

Mary Chown



NO. 9.—“THERE, TOM, YOU SAID I COULDN'T AND DASSEN'T.”



"Bees may take flight on sunny February days"

Photo by Jim Campbell

"Being Grateful for Snow Cover During Winter 2014"

Photo by Jim Campbell



RRAA Education Committee Objectives

RRAA Education Committee Objectives:

It is hard to believe that it has already been three full years and we are now into the fourth year of our new Educational mandate, with a specific focus on pertinent topics. The work continues!

It was requested that a small write up of our focus and objectives be shared with the RRAA membership. This is my attempt to provide a historical report a current update and to show future direction.

In 2018 in preparation for an educational focus, but with an undefined mandate, we set out to determine where and how to proceed. Many discussions over coffee and lunch with industry professionals and beekeepers soon began to fill out the agenda of topics and necessities for

the years ahead. We also reviewed our RRAA By-laws, expectations, and directives:

RRAA Objectives & Purpose: (As in By-Laws)

- To provide members with continuing education in beekeeping skills and a forum for the exchange of beekeeping ideas.
- To increase public awareness of the values of beekeeping
- To support research in bee products, markets and merchandising, management, pollination, bee genetics, bee diseases and treatments.

After reviewing the By-laws and after further discussions with our Provincial



HONEY BEE COLONY BUILDING BLOCKS



RRAA Education Committee Objectives (continued)

Apiarist amongst others we began to build what we call “Pillars in the Bee Keeping Industry”.

Bees: Livestock knowledge, and management

Equipment: For raising, processing, aids

Sustainability: Successful raising and develop stock

Marketing: Distribution of various products

From these early beginnings, we have developed over these years a more complete focus: for a more complete platform I draw your attention to the following slide used by Rheal Lefreniere (Provincial Apiarist) in his presentation.

A review of our past 3 years shows our offerings to have included:

- Hive Management and techniques:
- Controls: Disease Mites & Pests
- Importance of Nutrition:
- Environmental Diversity:
- Technology:
- Reports and Research from industry Professionals:
- Marketing & Merchandising

At this time in 2021 we have an Education Committee consisting of Veronica Larmour, Keith Bamford, Timothy Kennedy who will work together as Educational Coordinators for RRAA.

Together we welcome your thoughts ideas and suggestions of topics and areas

of interests, as they pertain to our mandate for future presentations or workshops. Currently we are working on a list of presentation that should keep you at the edge of your seat, and returning for more:

Zoom offers great opportunities to include presenters from out of Province. So, stay tuned, check your monthly newsletters and attend our meetings.

Timothy Kennedy

Manitoba Raised Bees

The RRAA has many members who raise queens and sell bees. Keep these numbers handy for your next seasons plans. Book early for a happier spring!

Rod McCulloch 204-803-7437

Waldemar Damert 204-266-2276

Border Hills Honey 204-362-9364

Westman Honey Bees 204-728-9129

Want to be on this list?

Text 204-612-2337 or

Email honeyb@mymts.net

About the RRAA and You!

About RRAA

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 a subscription to this newsletter.

The RRAA and the Bee Cause for and by 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, January to May and September to November when membership meetings occur.

Articles can be best submitted in Word document by email attachments. Though they may be edited for spelling and basic grammar, no changes will be made to their content, message and opinions without the author's written and expressed consent. They are those of their originator and not of the Red River Apiarists' Association.

Deadline for submissions 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. Physical meetings have been suspended due to Covid-19, and will resume as soon as it is safe to do so. Webinars will take place in their stead.

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YOU ARE AWESOME!!!

What makes a great association greater?

Involvement and contribution!

When everyone does one small task for one hour a month to help the RRAA then we all benefit.

WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

Mentoring a novice beekeeper, join a RRAA committee, submit an article or a book review for the newsletter, share experiences and advice with new beekeepers in novice webinars, network with novices to source Manitoba bred bees, equipment demonstration, and teach a class!

TALK TO AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR MORE DETAILS

Call 204-612-2337 to lend a hand.



RRAA Standing Committees

Taken from the RRAA by-laws:

5. Committees

Appointed standing committees may include: Program, Social, Honey Sales Promotion, Library, Newsletter, or other committees as required by the Executive Committee.

Current Committees:

- Education
- By-Law

On Hiatus due to Covid-19:

- Honey Show
- Social

On the Web

www.beekeepingmanitoba.com/

www.facebook.com/RRAAManitoba/

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgrWfdXTaArPFyCZdRdOv1A>

Bee Cause CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Have you come across an interesting article?

Would you like to share an observation?

Care to 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?

You want to take part in RRAA food for thought?

Or do you just want to plain advertise?

Answer the call. Tell the Editor!

Taking submissions at: honeyb@mymts.net

Pick up this gently used stainless steel tank. More info in the BeeCause classifieds.



Red River Apiarists' Association

Membership Application

The RRAA membership extends for one calendar year and renewals are due in January.

Membership includes subscription to 8 issues of the RRAA BeeCause newsletter.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Signature: _____

Please check one of the following:

New Member

Renewal

Payments:

I hereby apply for membership to the RRAA \$ 35.00/year
or

I am an UofM Beekeeping Course Student (first year free)..... \$ 0.00/year

Optional: Beekeeper Liability Insurance: \$65.00 + \$5.20 \$ 70.20/year

** Note: Liability Insurance fees must be submitted before April 1st.*

Total Payment \$ _____

Cash

Cheque

E-Transfer (Send To: jurnss@outlook.com)

Completed form and payment may be brought to a RRAA regular meeting, or mailed to:

John Speer (jurnss@outlook.com), RRAA Treasurer

24063 Oakwood Road

Sunnyside, MB

R5R 0H4

RRAA Minutes

January 19, 2021

RRAA President, John Russell Badiuk opened the association's first ever Annual General meeting conducted by a video conference call, at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday January 19, 2021. Fifty-eight members attended the meeting using "Zoom" conferencing service to facilitate the duly called elections, since COVID-19 pandemic preempted face-to-face meetings since March 17, 2020.

The Following reflects the meeting and the elections:

A. Club Business:

- Minutes from Nov. Moved by Margaret Smith and seconded by Jim Campbell
- Treasure: Financial Report, Budget Review
 - § Bank Balance Shares \$3.22
 - § Account amount at end of year: \$7443.17
 - § Revenue: \$6967.65
 - § Expenses: 3382.92
 - § Surplus: \$3664.74
 - § Executive will meet to plan budget, room rental is an issue as space requirements may necessitate the rental of a larger room
 - § John Speer moved accepting of the financial minutes seconded by Jim Campbell

B. Membership Update, renewals are January 1 to January 1, calendar year. Everything should be directed to John Speer either with mail or email. About 30% have renewed. As of March 1, 2021 John Speer will start sending out reminders to those who have not renewed.

C. MBA Report - Marg Smith Rep.

- § Thanks to Jim for writing a connection between MBA and RRAA. Original intent was not voting but just was having a RRAA member on the MBA but Marg had more than 50 hives so she could vote, but she will be retiring soon. A future new person does not have to be someone with him 50 hives or MBA full member- just reporting back.
- § Canadian Honey Council – queens coming from outside of Canada very expensive
- § Honey prices trending up – last year \$1.65 and this year possibly \$2.01
- § Nathan – Saskatchewan beekeepers looking for funds for research, and Rheal gave good thought instead of competition, cooperation across the prairies.
- § Question – would you be willing to increase membership fees if the extra went to research?
- § Rheal – interprovincial movement of bees will become very strict because small hive beetle found in various pockets.
- § Convention: Feb. 27th virtual
- § 3 awards:
 - o Lifetime member – retiring beekeeper
 - o Bedford – family involved for many years
 - o Beehive Award
- § KRTP – Derek Micholson – KRTP MB
 - o Disease monitoring and Apavar resistance
 - o Looking for donation of 100 mite and disease - free hives – bee sample to be sent to lab
- § Marg had call from Bruce Smerl lots of American Bee Journals available

D. Club Business – Brad Hogg – Honey Show

Honey Show Roadblocks: Covid - everything got shelved, not yet regrouped but if allowed they will move ahead. St. Vital in holding pattern and will get in touch when everything is up and running. Priority if possible to do so.

E. Elections: John Russell Badiuk announced each position and asked for volunteers from the membership. Two new executive members were added from the members attending the meeting via Zoom, Laura Wiens and Alex Tucovic.

President: John Russell Badiuk

1st Vice President: Tim Kennedy

2nd Vice President: - Laura Wiens

Secretary: Monica Wiebe

Treasure: John Speer

MBA Rep: Margaret Smith

New Letter Editor: Aleks Tucovic

Technology and Communication: Duane Versluis

F. Volunteer Positions:

Coffee Crew – The ones who came in early - Adelle Kennedy and friends

Brad Hogg – technical help with Zoom

Swarm Team – thanks to all who helped, we even made it into the news

Clean up Team – Thanks for moving tables and chairs, etc.

BeeCause – Jim Campbell, Brad Hogg, editing team, plus all the community who has contributed

G. By-Laws Review Committee: Club is looking for volunteers to review the by-laws.

Expect to see something in your inbox. Please consider volunteering

H. Presentation: Feeding Bees in the Winter – Brad Hogg

Don't Do it. All beekeeping is regional. Feed Up in the Fall, until safe to open hives. Don't be too late and don't mess up treatment. 5 Gallons in fall starting on labour day, first 2.5 GAL. fast and the rest not as quick. Now has 6 frame nucs, stacked 4 high. Nasty to crack lid, they worked hard. Sugar cakes on light hives, not sure if it was the right thing to do. Hive insulation if well insulated heat loss less due to warmer temps. Feed consumption slows at 4 degrees.

Does adding insulation cause a change to amount of feed used? If not sure, don't crack lids, use tricks and toys. Don't crack – Sugar boards a trick, ziplock with honey – and finely ground sugar in 2.5 lbs ziplock and pull back the bag and the bees take it.

Keith: bags in March in April, mix water with sugar - makes sugar cakes. Don't rush liquid feed – adds moisture and rushes the bees

The Bee Chat with Randy Oliver – watch

Need a cleansing flight if they eat too late in the season and this means they go into winter with full guts. Could be causing Feb. Dwindling. Start in August for feeding and they can do cleansing flight in October.

Waldemar, upper entrance for temp regulation. Bees looking good, but some still bringing in pollen in November which can cause problems by early brooding. Protein triggers brooding. Protein in spring 8% doesn't stimulate more brood, but best emergency, honey, sugar patty (ground sugar because icing sugar has cornstarch) and only use liquids after cleansing flights

I. Prize Draw: E-transfer and mail-ins and name sent to John Russel and he collected names. 56 members – 686 tickets bought. Drawing for: Lewis + Sons – 2 deep wax dipped cover, bottom board, 20 frames, bees, metal queen excluder, winner Zelda Bilski

Dancing Bee \$50 — winner Nelson Szwaluk

Bee Maid \$50 H – winner Heather Deneka

J. Meeting adjourned at 9:??

Submitted by Monica Wiebe

MBA Report for the BeeCause by Marg Smith

Convention 2021

Convention Committee Report

Under the current public health orders, we have decided to host this year's 115th annual MBA Convention/AGM on zoom. This year's event is planned for the afternoon of February 27th, 2021. It will be free admission for members, \$25 for non-members. Our theme this year has been focused on a Research Symposium/AGM directly related to MBA business and research activities. I would like to thank everyone on the committee for their help and their involvement as we put the pieces together for this online event! A call for resolutions will be made 6 weeks prior to the meeting with a deadline of 1 week before the held event (FEBRUARY 21).

Please contact Daryl Wright, d.l.wright@shaw.ca.

115th Manitoba Beekeepers Association Convention/AGM

Saturday, February 27th, 2021 – Free Admission for MBA Members,

- 12:00 - opening of the meeting - Advertisement Display
- 12:15-12:45 - opening remarks (housekeeping) - Mark Friesen
 - o adoption of the agenda
 - o secretary report
 - o motion to allow vote on financial budget, resolutions, and director elections to be held through the zoom survey option.
- 12:45-1:30 - Amro Zayed – “BeeCSI Health Diagnostics Tools for Honeybees”
- 1:30-2:00 - Rheal Lafreniere “Provincial Update”
- 2:00-2:30 - MBA AGM
 - o welcome from the Minister of Agriculture Blaine Pedersen and Marie-Claude Bibeau
 - o president's remarks – Mark Friesen
 - o committee Reports
- 2:30-3:30 - Rob Currie – “Integrated Management of Varroa and its Interacting Stressors to Enhance Winter Survival of Honeybees”
- 3:30-3:45 - coffee break, advertisement display
- 3:45-4:00 - KRTP Introduction and Presentation on programming – KRTP lead, Derek Micholson
- 4:00-5:00 - Financial and budget
 - o director elections
 - o resolutions
- 5:00 - adjournment

Please see the Executive minutes for other details from the MBA.

That's it for now. BEE safe, BEE well, BEE happy! M

RRAA Classified Advertisements

FOR SALE

HIGH QUALITY BEES

Taking early orders for 2021

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

Winter Hardy! Selected & Bred for 24 years for Outdoor Wintering.

Wax Foundation: molded from clean capping wax.

Wooden Supplies:

Supers, Bottom Boards, Inner Covers available on pre-order until March 15th.

Email for Price List!

Contact : Waldemar Damert

Ph: 204-266-2276

E-mail: wdamert@yahoo.ca

BORDER HILLS HONEY

Now purchasing yellow settled beeswax, willing to make arrangements for pickup/delivery on any amount of wax.

Taking preorders for Nucs:
4 Frame nucs, 2020 Manitoba Queen, 3 frames bees and brood, 1 honey

204-362-9364

contact@borderhillshoney.ca



ASSEMBLED FRAMES

Selling 9-1/8 assembled frames for Honey production. All joints are glued and stapled using permanent white plastic foundation, in bundles of 10.

100 or less \$3.00 + gst per frame

200 & more \$2.80 + gst per frame

Contact: Mark Waldner

204-771-0672.

FOR SALE

Stainless Steel Tank: with an electrically heated water jacket. will hold more than 2 barrels of honey.

It has a bracket on the sides near the top for holding a screen mesh which could be used for filtering honey into the tank. The heater element is thermostatically controlled. There are two outlets near the bottom of one side of the tank. One is for a honey gate and the other for attaching the portion machine.

EZ-Fill Portioning Machine:

Once one sets it to dispense a certain amount of honey it consistently dispenses that amount and the gears back up a bit to prevent drips. Pays for itself in accuracy and waste reduction!

Sold as a Set: \$5500.00 + G.S.T.

Rob Smith, 204-254-4509

We still have supers, bee escapes, excluders, nuc boxes etc. for sale as we continue our downsizing. In the spring we expect to have hives and nucs for sale.

margshoney@gmail.com

31060 Rosewood Road (PR 501) (15 mins E of Wpg., left off Hwy #1)

Dufresne, MB R5K 0P2

Main: 1-204-866-2402

Second Line: 1-204-230-4870

Email: sales@dancingbeeequipment.com



NOTICE

Some advertisements were changed from this summer's submissions due to seasonal availability. Resubmitting your ads at least every two months is wise, so sayeth the editor.