Red River Apiarists' Association

NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING:

TUESDAY January 19th/2021 /7:30 P.M.

Beekeeper Liability Insurance: An overview

R.R.A.A Executive Committee Elections — The Great Holiday Loonie Draw!!

Zoom invites will be emailed shortly!

58 Years

January 2021

2021 Issue 1

The Bee Cause

Bees at the Top Entrance in January. - Photo by Jim Campbell

2020 Executive

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R.R.A.A. Membership fees are due for 2021

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2021

Executive pending January Elections 01/19/21

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-RRAA Minutes from November: Pages 12 & 13

-R.R.A.A. Membership Application: Page 14

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

Newsletter Editor: John R.
Email: honeyb@mymts.net

MBA Delegate –What type of job? **By Jim Campbell, former delegate**

New Red River Apiarists' Association (RRAA) members may wonder why a "MBA Delegate" executive position exists.

Approaching RRAA Annual General Meeting, members some were invited to fill an executive position. When considering elections, you may notice usual positions, as identified in Bee Cause newsletters, of President, Vice President, etc., and yet another important position called MBA Delegate. Why does RRAA have this position and when did it begin?

Included in the 2020 Bee Cause newsletter header, the text "57 years", relates to RRAA beginning in 1963. Prior to 1963, Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) held honey competitions at November conventions, then desiring increased public industry exposure, joined Winnipeg Flower Show. Although great bee and flower publicity, MBA had difficulties staffing August shows during extracting time. The Provincial Apiarist was approached to determine if bee enthusiasts in Winnipeg could assist. Don Robertson called a meeting to encourage local beekeepers to organize to benefit from bulk supply purchases, educational sessions, and sharing of ideas. Once RRAA organized, Don, also MBA secretary, asked them to consider managing and staffing Honey Shows. MBA encouraged RRAA, by offering to help fund honey show expenses, and to name a representative to attend MBA board meetings. Local groups were first represented in 1923, and by 1938 there were 9 local organizations across Manitoba, and now only 3 exist outside of the MBA.

MBA Structure changed. In 1992 MBA and Manitoba Honey Marketing Board amalgamated under new Manitoba Farm Products Marketing Act regulations. MBA's bylaws now apply to registered producers with 51 or more colonies however three existing local associations were invited to send a representative with voice and no vote to Board Meetings.

For the past 4 years, Marg. Smith has been our MBA Delegate. Her role is to bring to the attention of MBA any events, programs, research suggestions, recommendations, or issues hobbyists have in managing honey bees, and conversely report to RRAA on activities and events considered by MBA. In addition, formally request a contribution toward Honey Shows.

RRAA members continue to enjoy various benefits provided by MBA, as they represent the voice of all beekeepers in the province. A lot of these are not common knowledge, or "behind the scenes services" easily taken for granted.

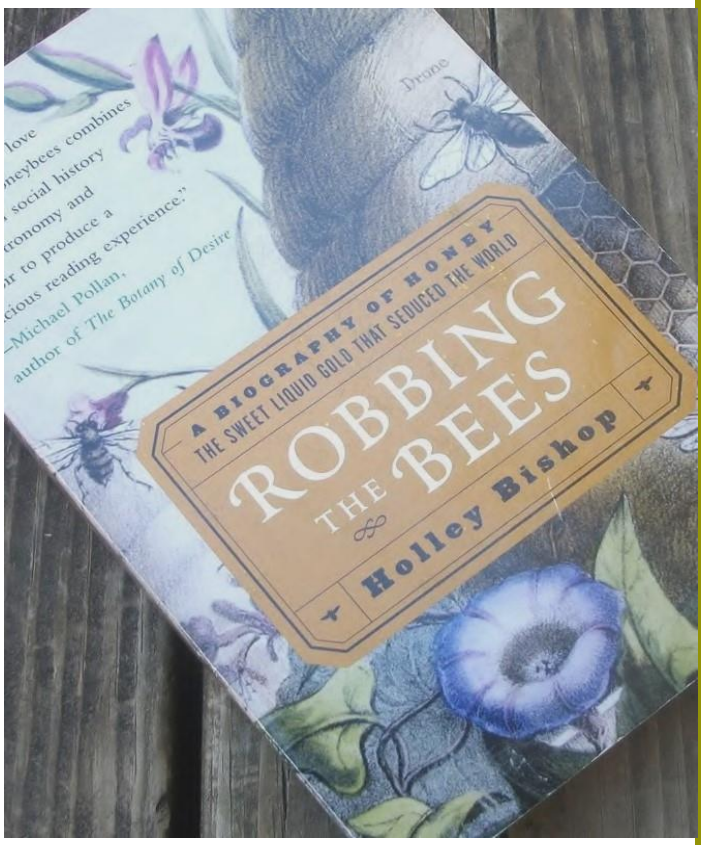
MBA Benefits for RRAA members include, yet not limited to:
Invitation to represent local association voice at MBA Board meetings.
Ensure Provincial Apiarist position exists, and Disease Inspection program continues.
Promote Honey Bee Analysis Lab availability in Winnipeg.
Provide $450 toward yearly Honey Show marketing promotion expenses.
Distribute CHC's IPM for Healthy Bees booklet in September 2011.
Distribute CAPA's Honey Bee Diseases and Pests booklet in March 2015.
Encourage manufacturer to pursue registration of Formic Acid Pad varroa treatment.
Support Canadian Honey Council during Oxalic Acid approval for varroa control.
Support Canadian Honey Council registering Fumigillin for nosema control.
Arrange liability insurance for the Honey Show, and honey industry individuals.
Set Industry values for MASC's Wildlife Damage and Honey Bee Mortality programs.
Invite industry expertise to present at yearly MBA hosted Conventions.
Work with CHC and Provinces to maintain Manitoba's Small Hive Beetle free status.
Develop protocols to protect industry while ensuring Queen Bee availability.
Support Dr. Pernal registration of Tylan soluble for antibiotic resistant AFB treatment.
Secure copies of Canadian Honey Council's Hivelights magazine.
Work with Provincial Finance to "Zero" rate tax on honey industry supplies.
Invitation to yearly educational sessions at MBA conventions.

Invitation to MBA's periodic Field Day events.
Support alternative varroa control research at U of M. (Thymol, Hop Gard, etc) Support Tick Research (Lyme disease source and spread) at U of M.

Jc 7ja2021

Recommended Reading:

Robbing the Bees



By Holly Bishop

When former New York literary agent Bishop bought a Connecticut farmstead, she began keeping bees as a way of savoring her newfound reverence for nature in the edible form of fresh honey, a passion that now yields this engaging study of the history, science and art of beekeeping. She details the biology of the "always gracious, economical and neat" insects; explores the complex, pheromone-besotted hive society that yokes the proverbially busy insects to the tasks of comb building, nectar gathering and larvae nourishing; and eulogizes their stubborn, self-immolating defense of their honey against human pillagers. And she chronicles humanity's millennia-long expropriation of the bee's gifts of honey, beeswax, pollen and venom to provide food and drink (a chapter of honey-themed recipes is included), nutritional supplements, arthritis remedies and even weapons of war. Tying it all together is a profile of salt-of-the-earth commercial beekeeper Donald Smiley, harvester of specialty honey gathered from tupelo tree blossoms in the drowsy hum of the Florida panhandle, and emblem of the fruitful alliance of two legs with six. Bishop's impulse to visit every flower of bee lore sometimes weighs the book down with quotes from bee enthusiasts of the past, but her combination of engrossing natural history and down-home reportage make this a fitting homage to one of nature's most admirable creatures.

Review by Mary Evans

RRAA EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS: JANUARY 2021

At the January general meeting, the general election for your executive committee will be held. Nominations for executive positions or those wishing to stand for election can contact John Russell at 204-612-2337 or by email at honeyb@mymts.net to forward your information and declaration of commitment.

Attendance at the January General meeting, (virtual) is important if you wish to have a say in the direction your organization is headed.

Any member in good standing may stand for election. A standard call for nominations and those who wish to step forward will take place at the meeting itself.

Put some thought into helping organize this wonderful group of people. The time commitment is not very demanding, and we'd love to have your insight and perspective in steering the RRAA in the upcoming year.

Positions in the running every year:

President - Vice President I - Vice President II - Treasurer - -Secretary -- Newsletter Editor -

Web and Audio Visual Administrator

YOU ARE AWESOME!!

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, 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 and equipment, Teach a class!*

TALK TO AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR MORE DETAILS

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

Happy New Year!

January comes, and although Covid keeps us physically apart, we may be able to meet again in the second half of this year. 2020 was challenging in learning new ways to communicate but it provided insight into how we can get access to more researchers and presenters to cover topics of interest. On January 12th, the David-Thompson foundation sponsored a marathon webinar on honeybee diseases. Twelve (!) hours of presentations by 7 researchers and their teams covering everything from mites, foulbrood, pesticide toxicity, basic biology and more. It was a fantastic production and would have never occurred without the new popularity of webinars. A silver lining in the cloud of isolation.

If you missed it, the Foundation plans to edit and post these on it's You Tube channel in a week or so for 4 months. Very much worth your time to explore:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvGM1s5wysXq-HGLAyZzClQ and on Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/CLDavisFoundation

You can expect to see the videos posted within the following week or so.

—

The Mother of all Toonie Draws will be happening live at our next meeting on the 19th.

You do not need to be at the webinar to win, but it would be great if you were!

I want to thank Dana Baluk for assistance with this months newsletter, she has been a great help. Along with contributions from Jim Campbell, and Mary Louise we are keeping the community spirit in your community publication. Fee free to send in articles or write a piece as it only makes the Bee Cause better with every submission!

There was an announcement about Bee-Cause advertising changes for 2021.

This is what has been decided: advertising will remain free of charge for members in good standing. Space will be capped at 1/4 of a page to prevent bloat. Submitted advertisements will be run automatically for 3 issues unless otherwise notified. If you do not contact the editor, it will be considered expired and then pulled. Keep track of your advertisement submissions. Don't advertise nucs in September, eh?

We also plan to give a short presentation of Beekeepers Liability Insurance that is offered in the RRA membership application. A lot of us were unsure of the need or benefits of having a policy, so this should provide ample information for all of the membership to make an informed choice.

- John Russell

MBA Report to RRAA: November 2020

- By Marg Smith

Due to meeting date schedules, Marg will be giving her report

verbally at the RRAA virtual meeting on January 19th 2021

Melissa's Musings

-Mary Louise Chown

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. It's arranged alphabetically, encyclopaedia style, but at the very beginning of the book the author has this note:

Strangely enough, some of our ABC scholars have attempted to take up each subject in this work it is consecutive order. As this is a cyclopaedia (sic) on bee culture, it should no more be read in this manner then a dictionary or any cyclopaedia. As a guide to the beginner, I would suggest then he takes for his course of reading the following subjects in the order named:

Beginning with bees

Hives

Frames: How to manipulate

Anger of bees

Stings

Rubbing, (and the list goes on)

However, I found this neat photograph in the book of a woman about to capture a swarm, and I was taken with her outfit. And so I will write a boat swarming as it appears in this cyclopaedia as the very first entry. The author calls them absconding swarms. He writes:

There is nothing more aggravating in bee culture than to have our bees all of a sudden "light out" for parts unknown, without so much as stopping to give us a parting word of farewell, or a single token of recognition of the debt they owe us, in the shape of gratitude for our past kindnesses in providing them with the home, shelter, etc. Perhaps no part of animated creation exhibits a greater love of home then does the honey bee: no matter how humble or uninviting the surroundings, bees seem much attached to their home: and as they parade in front of the doorway after a hard days work, plainly indicate that they have a keen idea of the rights of ownership, and exhibit a willingness to give their lives freely, if need be, in defense of their hard earned stores. (Long sentences seem to be a characteristic of writing in the 1870's!)

It is difficult to understand how they can ever be willing to abandon it all, and with such sudden impulse, and common consent. No matter if they have never seen or heard of such a thing as a hollow tree, but have for innumerable bee generations been domesticated in hives made by human hands, nonetheless have they that instinctive longing that prompts them to seek the forest as soon as they get loose from the chains of domestication.

It is possible that the bees, as they go out foraging, keep an eye out for desirable places for starting new homes, and it may be that they have the hollow trees picked out sometime before they decide to leave. (Well that's an intriguing notion.)

That's all for now. Next time I will tell you what he writes about the anger of bees.

-M.C.

Getting to know the KRTP

(Knowledge Research Transfer Program)

The KRTP is Manitoba's version of a Tech Transfer program which will work directly with Manitoba Beekeepers, at arm's length from Government and the MBA to deliver direct technical support services which will focus around 4 pillars:

-education -applied field research -monitoring services -communication

At our next RRAA Webinar which will be held on February 16th 2021, Derek Micholson the program lead, will present an overview of the KRTP, how it will benefit our RRAA membership, and answer questions about it's activities.

Struggling t
to the stor
time?

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

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shing to beat the 5pm closing time!
more putting off bee work because
u forgot to pick up supplies!

Call for details : 204-786-8977

Articles of interest on the Web: by Dana Baluk

Counting Bees

Thanks to honeybees and their colony collapse, the plight of the pollinators has garnered a lot of attention. But there are thousands of other bee species under threat due to habitat loss, use of pesticides and disease. In order to conserve them, we need to track them. To this end, scientists are taking a page from the birding community's playbook and enlisting the help of the public. How will they verify and organize the enormous amount of data that is certain to pour in from citizen scientists? You guessed it - there's an app for that!

https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/07/science/native-bees-census.html

Mexico vs Monsanto

When Monsanto began growing GM soybean crops in Mexico in 2000, they had no idea they would be taken out by a proud Mayan beekeeper woman named Leydy Pech. Pech led a coalition to file a lawsuit against the government after traces of a carcinogenic herbicide, glyphosate, were found in the water supply and GM soy pollen was present in the local honey supply.

Mexico's Supreme Court ruling effectively cancelled Monsanto's permits and prohibited the planting of GM soybeans in seven Mexican states. This is a precedent-setting win for the environment.

https://www.goldmanprize.org/recipient/leydy-pech/

Ticks and Lyme disease

Cases of Lyme disease in Manitoba are on the rise. This increases the possibility of contracting the rare but deadly complication of Lyme carditis. The family of Samuel Brandt, an otherwise healthy 37-year-old who died of this disease, is raising awareness around the topic. They urge health care providers to consider Lyme when a patient presents with typical symptoms and to act fast. But the first line of defence is you. Know how to prevent tick bites and what to do if you get one - it could save your life!

https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/lyme-carditis-manitoba-research-1.5583402

Bee Funeral

This video shows ants bringing flower petals to a dead bee, as if they were holding a funeral for it. While it's extremely unlikely that is what's happening, experts haven't been able to come up with a definitive explanation for this behavior. Theories include a case of mistaken identity, an attempt to mask the smell, or perhaps the dead bee is simply blocking the ant's nest entrance. Regardless of the scientific reasons, it's hard not to anthropomorphize the scene and feel sympathy for the ants mourning their bee friend.

https://www.treehugger.com/viral-video-shows-ants-covering-dead-bee-flowers-interspecies-funeral4863057

Scientists have created the first-ever map of bee species around the world.

Interestingly, bees favour arid climates and treeless terrain, with the majority of bee species living in two bands around the globe; one in the northern hemisphere and one in the southern. This is unlike most plant, bird, and other invertebrate species which tend to flourish in tropical regions. Why is this important? Being able to locate and track bees is one step o closer t being able to protect them.

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/scientists-create-buzz-first-ever-global-map-beespecies-180976348/

R.R.A.A. Classified Advertisements

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,

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

ASSEMBLED FRAMES

Selling 9 1/8 **assembled frames for Honey production.**

All joints are glued and stapled using permadent white plastic foundation.

Comes 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.

NOTICE:

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

High Quality Bees

Taking early order

4 Frame Nucs, Splits, and Sprin
Queens.

-Winter Hardy! Selected & Bred
Outdoor Winteri

Wax Foundation: molded from cle

Email for Price

Contact : **Waldemar**

Ph: 204-266-2

E-mail: wdamert@y

Wooden Supplie

Supers, Bottom Board
Covers available on pr
until March 15th

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. 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.,

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.

31060 Rosewood Road (PR 501)

Dufresne, MB R5K 0P2

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Taking preorders for Nucs:

4 Frame nucs, 2020 Manitoba Queen, 3 frames bees and brood, 1 honey

Border Hills HONEY

204-362-9364

contact@borderhillshoney.ca

November. 23, 2020. RRAA Meeting Minuets Beekeepers Zoom Meeting 7:30pm -Monica Wiebe

Beekeepers Zoom Meeting starting at 7:28 **Club**

Housekeeping:

Nov. still virtual. January is the executive election meeting

All positions are open and you can nominated from the floor to sit on the executive. Nomination committee will be phoning folks to see if they want to be on executive.

Twoonie draw starting tomorrow and going until Dec. 24th. Send check or e-transfer

John appreciated all the help folks gave with articles for the newsletter. If you find anything related send it in to John.

Issues from the floor: none

Minutes- see newsletter: Moved by John Speer moved and seconded by Stephen Bowen

MBA report from Marg Smith and Ian Steppler:

See the newsletter, Marg open to questions

Beekeeping Convention will be virtual on Feb. 27 2021

Ian Steppler reported KRTP got government approval for money in August, all associations, beekeepers and industry all sitting on the steering committee. John helped with finding the person to hire and Derek Micholson is hired for Jan..

Treasurer John Speer: Balance $ 6 087.12 One outstanding check for Zoom about $75

Feel free to start renewing memberships in December for the new year. Indicate renewal with no changes when sending in an e-transfer.

Presentation by Derek Micholson (involved in inspections and looking forward to the new position in Jan. 2021)

Mechanisms of Honey Bee Grooming Behavior and the Control of *Varroa Destructor* masters dissertation information.

Varroa came from eastern bees, 1989 came to Canada and spread across country

A. mellifera – several issues with varroa infestation- vector viruses, reduce detoxification ability, reduce honey production, winter overwintering mortality

Chemicals build up and mites become resistance so need more non-chemical including: drone brood removal, screen bottom boards and sticky boards, mite resistant bees through selective breeding

Social Immunity – hygienic behavior –detect and remove brood invested with varroa and grooming behavior –sensing mites and removing

Auto grooming – cleaning self and Allo-grooming- group grooming by vibrating comb

A. cerana high level of grooming as well as some sub-species

Heritable trait – but slow and labour intensive process looking at mite damage,

mite mortality rate and individual grooming assays

Continued on next page:

November minuets, Continued.

Research Question: What mechanism involved in in high grooming behavior and what are the sensitivities, body regions, how communicated

Picked 11 high and 11 low grooming colonies and checked

Mite Mortality rate & Mite Damage & Measured and videoed grooming

High grooming colonies had heightened grooming to abdomen chalk dust and mites and he observed removal, more dancing and piping Presentation followed by Q&A

Thanks given to Derek by John and Tim

Wrapped up at 9:17

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Wiebe

RRAA DROP BOX ARCHIVES:

Pollen Patties: April 2018 **Feeding Syrup: April 2018**

Urban Beekeeping guide: March 2018 **Packages VS Nucs: Feb 2018**

Local Queens: A breeders perspective March 2018

Dead-out autopsy April 2019

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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

Do you have an opinion you want to voice to the beekeeping community? Seen a video you found informative or would like a topic researched?

Send it in to the Editor!

Taking all submissions at: honeyb@mymts.net

Red River Apiarists' Association Membership Application

The RRAA membership extends for one calendar year. Renewals are due in January and includes access to 8 monthly issues of the RRAA BeeCause newsletter.

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

☐ *Optional: Beekeeper Liability Insurance - $65.00 + $5.20 KKKK.... $70.20/year

Total Payment $_____

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

****

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Signature: _____

Please check one of the following:

☐ New Member
☐ Renewal
☐ U of M Student Beekeeping Course (free first year)
☐

☐

☐ Payment Method:

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

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

John Speer, RRAA Treasurer
24063 Oakwood Road
Sunnyside, MB
R5R 0H4 Email: jurnss@outlook.com