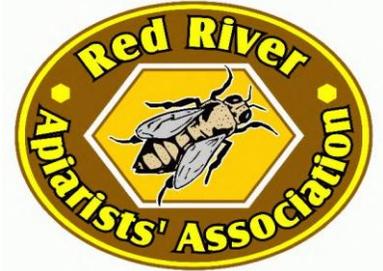


Red River Apiarists' Association

The Bee Cause

55 Years

October 2018



Volume 16, Issue 8

Next meeting:

**November 13th,
2018**

*Elmwood Legion
920 Nairn Ave. Wpg, Mb*

*Novice Group meets at
7:00 pm*

*Main Meeting: starts at
7:30 pm*

Event:

Social Night!

Featuring:
- Ask the
Experts!

-Gadget Night

- Food and good
conversation!

Who we are, is what we do.

That's a noble little catch phrase, isn't it? It describes our both our actions and inactions, but also what we stand for. Decades ago the Red River Apiarists was a larger and more prominent organization. Member benefits included access to an in house library, a supply of packages, and bee equipment, among other things. Times changed, services became redundant, changes in industry and the beekeeping landscape segregated beekeepers into large and very large operations compared to part time and hobby level apiaries. Go big or go home was a survival tactic or you blended beekeeping into mixed farming activities to guarantee an income.

The MBA represents primarily the larger commercial beekeeper, with a mandate to work with and be the voice of all beekeepers to the province in regards to concerns and industry developments. The Brandon Area Beekeepers Association (BABA) have a mix of small and large beekeepers and formed specifically to network and address challenges in their own area. Each organization has it's own focus, and thus it's own agenda and priorities (although most overlap).

Over the last four years Red River has grown back to a reputable size. We adopted a mandate in part that focused on education and providing resources to new beekeepers. We solicited and recruited speakers to address changes and challenges in the current beekeeping landscape. We developed classes and sessions for basic beekeeping, queen rearing, swarm catching and established a mentoring program. All of this falls under the basic ideology of **keeping bees healthy.**

Healthy bees equals successful beekeepers. Successful beekeepers can mentor new beekeepers and we need them! No one in their right mind starts a commercial apiary without any experience and hopes to become viable. Successful hobbyists are the next generation of commercial operators unless you were born into a family of them. Also, more beekeepers mean more

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pollinators, which is a component of a healthier environment and supports food security. My grandfather always said that you take care of your bees and the honey takes care of itself. So this is a big part of what the R.R.A.A. does: **We teach beekeepers how to take care of their bees.**

Sounds simple and straightforward.

So what happens when a controversial subject comes up that impacts the health of the honeybee? What if that subject puts you in a confrontational position with other agroindustry and associations? Perhaps even beekeeping associations? continued on page #2

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Who we are, is what we do.

...continued from page 1

The use of neonic pesticides, subjected to being banned in Canada, and banned in Europe for years, is one of these subjects. We all have our personal opinions but as an organization where does the Red River Apiarists' Association stand on topics of this nature? And why is it important that we take a stance?

The topic falls under bee health. As we grow into a larger organization, we are frequently contacted by the press and public on current events involving honeybees. We hold large events twice a year to answer questions and educate the public about bees and the importance of pollinators. Neonics come up frequently. We are an education focused organization, and we should have a position on neonics if we wish to be seen as professional and credible, WHATEVER that position may be. "We don't have one" falls flat.

That position isn't to be written in stone either. Education should be an ongoing endeavor in any area. There is always new research, new findings, and new technology that provides us with data and discoveries that can change our outlook and opinions on any given topic. Being open-minded and willing to change your opinion and position is crucial to functioning in an enlightened world. Organizations adopting a position on any issue isn't one that should be viewed as permanent, but should evolve as new findings come forth.

Our upcoming meeting in January is a very, very important event. Elections are held to either establish or confirm your executive. As well, the traditional A.G.M. (Annual General Meeting) format will be reintroduced as stated in our constitution. This opens the floor to open discussion of important matters such as where the organization is heading, establishing new mandates, and discussing our positions on sensitive subjects and developing frameworks to establish them. We need to give feedback on executive board members performance, explore new directions we want to focus on, and general suggestions from all members in good standing on what you want from the RRAA in areas of representation, activities, speakers, and content.

Regardless of your level of involvement, this is an annual opportunity to take part in what you wish the R.R.A.A. to be, and what it stands for. By helping choose what we do, you then define who we are.

On November 13th, 2018 come out and share your opinions, your experience, your voice.

...and bring cookies!

-J.R.

Newsletter Editor: John R. Badiuk

Email: honeyb@mymts.net

Presidents' Message

Beekeepers have an ethically lofty position over many types of farmers when it comes to environmental impact. Comparatively honey production not only has less of a carbon footprint but the parallel benefits, seed and fruit production, and even providing tasty bees to the food chain gives us a moral high ground.

I don't raise chickens, or produce eggs. I don't ranch cattle, plant grain, soy, canola, or corn. So to take the position that if I did, I wouldn't compromise the environment to obtain every monetary advantage will certainly be met with skepticism. Every one is going to defend the way they make a living, and no one wants to take a step backwards on their quality of life or the progress towards their goals. Being able to justify our actions however does not erase their impact.

The presentation: Honey Bee Nutritional Requirements and Our Changing Landscape last meeting really highlighted how we can seem so short sighted when it comes to leaving so much less for nature. I applaud the initiatives of ALUS and other land conservation groups but it seems a shame that on our own we cannot be better stewards to our own holdings when it comes to leaving some acres to anything other than profits. "Farmers gonna Farm". As individuals we all need to be better than this. Just remember that our excuses can become our epitaphs.

Tim Kennedy and I had the pleasure of attending the Brandon Area Beekeepers Association meeting last month. This was our second visit, and we like to drop in on occasion to build bridges and to see what other areas of the province are up to. They are a good group of experienced beekeepers, mostly commercial in size but amicable towards hobbyists and novices. We were made to feel most welcome and appreciate their hospitality. Thanks to Jeff from Bee Supply for letting us ride along.

The MBA executive will be meeting with the Director of Primary Agriculture to address the future workings of the provincial inspection program for beekeepers. The R.R.A.A. was asked, and has given it's support for the continuation of a provincially administered inspection program and for it to be expanded to address the challenges facing us all in the new beekeeping landscape. The future of this program affects all of our members regardless of how many colonies you run, so we optimistically look forward to a positive outcome.

Our January meeting will consist of the R.R.A.A. executive position elections, and group discussions on the organization as a whole in regards to what the membership desires in content, direction, mandates, and the opportunity to provide feedback on what we have done over the last 12 months. Consider also this my personal invitation

for YOU to get directly involved with the operations of the R.R.A.A. All executive positions are open for candidates, so put some thought into submitting your name for one, or perhaps even for running one of the many committee's that benefit us all.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the 13th!

- J.R.

RRAA Meeting Minutes for October 9th 2018 - Recorded by Monica Wiebe

7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Beginner's Session: On Overwintering. Host: Justin Kolano J& J Honey Farms

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

-Reminder to Sign In -Reminder to wear Name Tags -Thanks to all who brought items for the loonie draw, all who brought food for coffee break. -Copies of by-laws are available on the entry table

Keynote: Ian Stepler, YouTube blogger and executive member of the MBA

Topic: Nutritional Requirements of Honeybees and our Changing Landscape

Brief summary: #1 need = Bee nutrition because we need to be sustainable Pollen primary source of Nutrients, including protein, Sterols and amino acids. Ratios of amino acids is key to good nutrition

Bees need a healthy Environment. Healthy environment = more Agriculture Changing last 10 years Landscape dedicated to crops our honey bees need have been forgotten

For April food we are losing trees, dandelions are sprayed, creating huge crops in summer and dearth the rest of the time. Result: Malnourished Animals = Sickly Animals . Sickly bees are unable to cope with stress Factors increasing issues with parasites, fungus, winter kill. For Ian the tension of being a modern farmer and a Beekeeper is ever present. He is encouraged by: Manitoba Forage and Beef Initiatives. Pollinator Habitat Preservation and Rehabilitation Projects. Syngenta pollinator seed mix - flowers in the grass. ALUS (alternative Land Use Services) ALL stakeholders to drive it forward to preserve the fringes, wetlands, ditches.

What can Beekeepers do: Feed during pollen dearth, when? -Spring time growth switch from winter into spring. In fall make sure winter bees are well fed. Aug. Sept find a place with pollen and supplement to ensure fat bees going into the winter.

Other Club information:

Queen rearing class - please return the queen boxes as soon as possible.

Minutes passed: Waldemar Damert moved the minutes and seconded Albert Anderson, motion passed.

MBA minutes summarized in the news letter

Fall honey show: Thanks to the organizers of the Bee Show at the Forks and thanks to all who let us display their honey.

Financial: John Speer treasury report. \$930.59 after outstanding cheques.

Other business discussed at first meeting:

Membership rate was discussed. Executive suggesting \$35.00.

Discussion: why not \$40, value is appreciated by the membership. Like a family, members are willing to share expertise. Keep membership lower and ask for small fees for courses.

Motion: by Guy B. Raise membership fee to \$50 and still give students for the first year. Seconded to Armand St. Hilaire. Motion is defeated.

Justin Kolano moved, Albert Anderson second. Membership to be changed to \$35.00 and students will receive one year free. Motion Passed. This will start with next year's fees for the Jan. 2019 -Dec. 2019 year

Coffee Break & Loonie Draw - \$65.35 raised. Lots of cool donations, thanks all.

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

Meeting adjourned: 9:30ish

Respect fully recorded by,

Monica Wiebe

*****PLEASE NOTE***** Due to the length of the minutes this is a condensed version. A more detailed copy is available upon request by emailing: honeyb@mymts.net

We are on the Web!
www.beekeepingmanitoba.com

Experiments with Propolis Dissolved in Hot Water

-By David Dawson

As I have got older I have developed a very common condition known as (from Wikipedia): “Seborrheic dermatitis, also known as seborrheic eczema or simply as seborrhea, is a chronic, relapsing and usually mild dermatitis. In infants seborrheic dermatitis is called cradle cap. Dandruff is a type of seborrheic dermatitis where inflammation is not present. Seborrheic dermatitis is a skin disorder affecting the scalp, face, and torso. Typically, seborrheic dermatitis presents with scaly, flaky, itchy, and red skin. It particularly affects the sebaceous-gland-rich areas of skin. In adolescents and adults, seborrheic dermatitis usually presents as scalp scaling or as redness around the nose.” For me this condition has principally been at the top of my nose between my eyebrows, and in my mustache and chin. It can get very sore, and although cortisone will keep it under control, I prefer not to use cortisone, so I decided to conduct an experiment on myself.

Last year I had collected some very clean propolis from a plastic propolis trap. I put a good tablespoon of this in a jar and added about 150 ml of boiling water and stirred/mashed up the propolis with a small piece of wood - actually a popsicle stick. When it had cooled there was a layer of hardened beeswax on the surface and a lump of undissolved propolis on the bottom, which I discarded along with the stick. At this time my seborrheic dermatitis had flared up again so I applied this propolis water to the affected areas twice per day using a Q-tip. After three days it had cleared up completely, though I doubt it will be a permanent cure.

So here’s the thing. Is there some active chemical in propolis that was extracted in hot water that is effective on my seborrheic dermatitis? Around here we have lots of black poplar and of course aspen trees, and I suspect much of the propolis comes from that source. My propolis water is runny - just like water - and difficult to apply. It needs some kind of thickening agent like methyl cellulose (wallpaper adhesive) to make it into a gel: probably a preservative too. Perhaps this is an opportunity for some entrepreneurial person, younger than me, to experiment with different sources of propolis and other people with dandruff or dermatitis. -D.D.

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

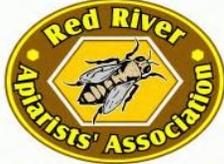
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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



VOLUME 16, ISSUE 8

PAGE 6

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.

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!**

R.R.A.A.
Classified
Advertisements



Bees For Sale
Local Manitoba Stock

Taking early orders for 2019
4 Frame Nucs, Splits and Spring
and Summer Queens.

Support offered (Via Phone or 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.

Abby Road Distribution

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

1075 Keewatin Street, Winnipeg, MB, R2X 2Z3

ph.: **204-694-6800**

Email: info@abbeyroaddistribution.com

ASSEMBLED FRAMES

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



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

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.

R.R.A.A.
Classified
Advertisements

(continued.....)



Early 2019 Bees for Sale J N'J Honey Farm

Do you want get started in beekeeping?

As members of the R.R.A.A. we at JN'J Honey are proud to offer phone and email mentoring support with the purchase of our Nucs to fellow members.

We also offer hands - on training and practical experience.

As a bonus, any novice that buys a Nuc from JN'J Honey, we offer a start-up kit with all the essentials available at cost!

WANTED:
I'm interested in obtaining a
4 frame electric extractor

204- 750-0559

judydyck49@gmail.com



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA

Beekeeping for the Hobbyist

COURSE REGISTRATION IS
CURRENTLY OPEN
REGISTRATIONS AND PAY-
MENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED
UP TO AND INCLUDING
JANUARY 30th, 2019

**THE R.R.A.A. OFFERS A
FREE ONE YEAR
MEMBERSHIP TO
CLASS PARTICIPANTS!!**

More information and registration
is available here:

<http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/afs/dept/>



[entomology/Beekeeping.html](http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/afs/dept/entomology/Beekeeping.html)

Do you plan to expand your Apiary?

For members that want to expand we offer 10% off any new equipment
when buying a Nuc!

Spring Nucs, Spring & Summer Queen Orders

Our nucs and Queens are produced from high quality, winter hardy,
and Manitoba raised stock.

Our early 2019 spring nucs come with 2018 Manitoba bred Queens.
Limited quantities are available.

4 frame Nuc:

2018 laying queen

**3 frames of bees and brood at varying stages
1 frame of feed**

Note: To all new or novice beekeepers that want to learn about beekeeping or want
more experience: We offer spring/summer/fall hands on training.
Get involved as much or as little as you'd like!

Taking Pre-Orders till March 10 2019

Contact Justin at JNJ Honey Farm for more information.

Ph: 204-381-9038 or

Email: jnjhoneyfarm@gmail.com





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.

Emergency Feeding:

Although now is not the time, or if it is your straits are very dire indeed, some thoughts should go into preparing an emergency feeding plan should the need arise. This fall was not very conducive to the bees taking up adequate feed with the cool damp weather we had. In the new year, early checks would be prudent as soon as weather permits.

#1 Make a Plan!

- What are you going to feed in an emergency situation?
- How are you going to administer that feed?



Here are some options to consider: A dollar short, and a day

late.....

Frames of Honey: Full frames of honey can be frozen in the fall, then thawed and warmed to insert into the colony. There is a risk of overly disturbing the cluster, or placing the frame too far from the cluster for the bees to discover as they can be reluctant to move if the population is low.

Feeding bags: Zip-lock bags with a thick syrup (2:1) laid on top of the frames with a few pinholes is an effective way to feed. However this will introduce moisture into the colony which may be undesirable. Do not use old syrup! Old syrup increases in toxicity over time. (HMF)

Honey Bags: Zip-lock bags containing honey are filled in the fall and left to sit flat and crystalize. Bags are slit open and left on the top of the frames for the bees to access. Crystalized honey takes work and effort for the bees to liquefy and consume. I'll be trying this method with creamed honey to see if they can take it down faster this spring.

Feed Patties: 74% icing sugar, 6% Bee-Pro, 20% liquid honey. Mix well, form into patties and lay across the top of the frames for the bees to access. Remove Bee-Pro and add more icing sugar if you do not want brood stimulation. Choose a brand of icing sugar that does not contain cornstarch as an anti caking agent.

Fondant: Heat up 4 cups of water (=940 ml), till boil. Add 15 lbs of sugar (7=kg), mix well with water. Boil to 234 (110 C) degrees, Put the lid on for 3 minutes. Let it cool to 200 degree (90), then whip for no more than 2 minutes (you will see white bubbles). Pour mixture into a pan that provides the thickness you wish, lines with silicon baking paper. Let it cool for one day or overnight and cut into desired shape and quantity to lay across the top of your frames for the bees top reach.

Dry Sugars: Bees will take up dry sugars, but they do need to work it with moisture present in the hive to utilize it. Sugar can be poured onto a piece of paper on top of the hives for bees to access. Use pure white granulated sugar. If you are thinking of using anything else, this link will direct you to an article detailing why other forms of sugars and sweeteners are inferior at best, and toxic at worst.
www.keepingbackyardbees.com/what-kind-of-sugar-should-i-feed-my-bees/

YOU ARE NEEDED!!

**What makes a great association great? Involvement, co-operation, 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.)**

MBA report to RRAA for November 2018

-by Margaret Smith

Since my last reporting, in early October, the MBA Directors have met three times, once in person and twice by conference call. Numerous emails have been circulated covering a variety of topics, some of which pertain to the membership in RRAA.

We can be thankful that our president, John Russell, has written a letter to Minister Eichler, in support of the MBA's position regarding the need for our Extension Services personnel, Rheal Lafreniere and David Ostermann. The MBA will be meeting on November 7th, with Miles Beaudin, Director of Primary Agriculture, to discuss four major areas: the concept of self-regulation in relation to the MB Association's development; the pressing need for a robust and effective apiary inspection program; extension services targeted toward supporting the industry and the need for local diagnostic services for assessing colony health. More will be forthcoming from that meeting, I am sure, as the MBA aims to keep all beekeepers on the same page.

I reported extensively about the Chilean Trade Mission, which was to have taken place in Early December. Our proposal for this event has been in the works, and we anticipated hearing sooner than this regarding its acceptance. Since submitting the proposal, several of the participants have had to withdraw their participation for a variety of reasons. After much discussion, the Executive and Directors have decided to withdraw the Proposal, perhaps change it and re-submit it later. Daryl Wright has decided travel to Chile to start the negotiations on improving queen quality and package bee imports to Manitoba by the transfer of Canadian genetics to Chile. Daryl will be meeting with the local University apiculture staff, SAG (equivalent to CFIA), government officials, the Canadian embassy and local exporters of queens and packages. We are supporting him in this generous offer.

MBA is in the process of interviewing for a new Treasurer. At the time of printing, this is still in the works, so I will report on the outcome in January. That's it for now. If you have any questions regarding your membership in MBA (Regular or Associate), do not hesitate to contact me: 204-794-9763 (call or text) or via email margshoney@gmail.com

Hope that your hives were all fed, tested, treated and wrapped before the snow!

-Marg

TALES FROM THE YARD
..... This time, from a bees perspective

Sweet Nothing ... in a land flowing with honeydew

"I can't help feeling bitter about the attitude of youngsters today. They always seem it's the heavy loads they have to carry. They ought to thank their lucky stars they were when I was six days old. No 10-day minimum age in those days. I was up at four and dropped. It was far more dangerous last year too when antirrhinums were still on the that way. They got trapped inside and couldn't get out.

"The old queen was a terrible Tartar. She used to sit in the middle of the hive all day humming madrigals. She didn't care for mating flights. 'Mating is vulgar' she used developed into drones. Well, obviously, something had to give. Eventually, in despair Argentine ants in if she didn't agree to a fairer arrangement. There wasn't much she could do enough. Soon afterwards we formed our first union, and not long after that we were sound so tremendous now. but it was heaven in those days.

"Things started to go pretty well for us after that. Nectar was very plentiful that year what to do with. We started to give it away to all comers. Ants, wasps, and even bees good for a time that we actually had a few hours off on Sundays. Whole swarms of us were flies for fun. And look at the flowers. Funny how you never notice them when you're busy

"One day something most unusual happened. It seemed like an incredible piece of appalling repercussions. Three or four workers had been foraging across the river carrying samples of a 'rare new kind of nectar'. When the queen heard about it she seemed interested in it, whatever it was, because they were locked in secret session for the first time. Apparently the queen had been so impressed with the quality of the nectar, that she could rather taken aback I must say. However, it wasn't our place to question the wisdom of

"We all set off in a huge swarm. None of us knew what to expect, and we got a great with milk and honey' was an aphid reservation. The vegetation was thick with them. and excreting this delicious nectar at the other. Apparently the native aphids have 'honeydew'.

"We set to work. For three weeks I fetched and carried without a break. I lost weight began to think my wings would actually drop off, the queen called a halt. The hive was honey and stacked our precious new brand into cells for the winter.

"Every year, about the end of September, we seal off the hive and have a big celebration we were going to sample the honeydew. Many a mouth-part was watering as we waited from the queen, we began to eat. In no time at all the floor was strewn with pile upon pile happened: we got hungrier and hungrier! The more we ate, the more ravenous we became one more mouthful, we felt famished to the point of collapse! Clearly, something was to panic and the festival broke up in confusion, leaving everybody bewildered, frightened

"The next morning, the queen addressed the hive. After a few acid remarks about particular, she let out the stunning news. The 'nectar' we had been eating was composed no nutritional value to us at all. It has a rather unusual structure, and its decomposition beyond the ingenuity of the enzymes in our salivary glands. There was nothing for it, get out and collect whatever we could find from late-flowering blooms.

I would like to be able to say that everybody behaved with commendable restraint unwittingly precipitated the crisis, but I cannot. We were in an ugly mood. and I pray who were victims of unofficial lynch mobs that swept through their reservation that day. Endless flights through freezing rain, when one drop would seize up your wing muscle pitiful amounts of watery nectar sucked from withered blooms tossing drunkenly in a those too weak to continue saying casually, 'I'm going for a stroll; I may be some time again.

"By the end of that savage winter a handful of workers and about 50 grubs were left year. We were just thankful the hive had been saved.

"We're almost back to normal now. Nobody mentions honeydew, and nobody talks doesn't do to frighten the youngsters and they wouldn't understand anyway. I wish, though much. And I can't help feeling a bit resentful when I'm accused of not pulling my weight

"All I want is a bit of peace and quiet. Somewhere to die without causing any trouble

Originally Authored by Dr Dominic Recaldin PhD, senior science editor of Ginn and C Submitted by David Dawson. Edited for form.

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

The Mother Goddess is the oldest deity in the archaeological record world wide, and she is often depicted as a dancing Bee. In the ancient world, dancing Bees were special – the Queen Bee in particular, for she was the Mother Goddess – leader and ruler of the hive, and was often portrayed in the presence of adoring Bee Goddesses and Bee Priestesses.

In ancient times, honey was considered to be a unique and vital medicinal drug. It has been suggested that the ancient Sumerians of the Middle East invented Apitherapy, or the medical use of Honey Bee products such as honey, pollen, royal jelly, propolis and bee venom.

The title Melissa, the Bee, is a very ancient one; it constantly occurs in Greek Myths, meaning sometimes a priestess, sometimes a nymph. There was a tradition of a dancing Bee goddess surrounded by bee maidens known as Melissas. Additionally, the Greeks frequently referred to ‘Bee-Souls’ and bestowed the title of ‘Melissa’ on unborn souls. So if any women beekeepers are names Melissa, or if you are looking for a name for your baby daughter, why not choose the name “Melissa”, as it has an ancient and honorable bee lineage.



Bee Goddess drawing 5000 BC
– Neolithic Spain



Ban With A Plan

The Canadian Wildlife Federation is a charitable organization that works with Canadians to make a difference to the kind of legacy we leave behind ... not just for wildlife, but also for our children. They also are active in advocating for pollinators and wild bees.

CWF are currently running a “Ban with a Plan” petition event to counter the harmful effects of neonicotinoid pesticides. Health Canada has proposed the phase out of two neonicotinoid insecticides. CWF is calling on Canadians to support the proposed ban and push for further action to eliminate the impacts of neonics and give farmers alternatives.

On August 15th, Health Canada launched a 90-day public consultation on its proposal to phase out all outdoor agricultural and turf uses for clothianidin, and all outdoor agricultural and ornamental uses for thiamethoxam in the next three to five years. Final decisions are expected at the end of 2019. CWF’s goal is to collect 100,000 signatures on its petition for a more comprehensive Ban With A Plan during the public consultation period. . This petition would be presented to Ginette Petitpas Taylor, the Minister of Health Canada.

One of the key differences from CWF’s efforts is that it’s not just out to support a total ban on Neonics but it also focuses on giving farmers alternatives and incentives to use them, including sharing knowledge with farmers on alternate pesticides and pest management technologies and techniques – and provide incentives to use these, including crop insurance that protects farmers from crop failure for farmers who choose not to use neonics. A welcome focus is the encouragement of research and development of pest-specific chemicals (or biological agents) with limited environmental effects – to encourage the development of longer term, directed products.

They further call upon the government to improve risk assessment methods for pesticides, including oversight and greater transparency in how pesticides are licensed and regulated, to ensure the seriously harmful pesticides are not licensed by the Canadian government and end the licensing of systemic pesticides.

The Canadian Wildlife federation is a very reputable and balanced conservation group. Their website is very much worth a browse.

More details, and the petition can be found here:

<http://blog.cwf-fcf.org/index.php/en/ban-with-a-plan/>



Bees Take a Break During Total Solar Eclipses

Research as far back as the 16th century has documented how eclipses have affected animals. In 1544, "birds ceased singing" during a total eclipse of the sun. Fourteen years later, "birds fell to the ground." In 1932, crickets chirped across northern New England when an eclipse darkened portions of New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont. Frogs also croaked. In 2017, when portions of the United States went black during the latest total solar eclipse there, bees stopped buzzing and postponed all activity until the eclipse passed.

That part about the bees was the conclusion of a University of Missouri study that looked at how bees reacted during the Aug. 21, 2017, total solar eclipse. The results, published in the Oct. 10, 2018, issue of the *Annals of the Entomological Society of America*, used more than 400 school children, scientists and ordinary citizens to report on bee behavior during the eclipse.

Researchers organized each of these groups in the path of the solar eclipse, setting up monitoring stations to eavesdrop on the insects. Scientists expected the bee's activity would drop as the lights, well, went out. What they found is that bees stopped flying entirely and went silent during totality, the point in a solar eclipse when the moon completely blocks out the sun and all goes dark.

Microphones hidden among flowers in specific geographic areas (Oregon, Idaho and Missouri) picked up nary a buzz. The recordings didn't differentiate between bee species, but most bees in the study were bumble bees (*Bombus*) and honey bees (*Apis mellifera*). In areas where totality was 90 percent, the microphones picked up only a single buzz every few minutes.

"We anticipated, based on the smattering of reports in the literature, that bee activity would drop as light dimmed during the eclipse and would reach a minimum at totality," Candace Galen, professor of biological sciences at the University of Missouri and lead researcher on the study," said in a statement released by the Entomological Society of America. "But, we had not expected that the change would be so abrupt, that bees would continue flying up until totality and only then stop, completely. It was like 'lights out' at summer camp! That surprised us."

Interestingly, there have been only a smattering of studies describing the behavior of insects during an eclipse, which is why no one knew exactly what the bees would do. During totality the bees stopped all activity; however, researchers found, the bees were active in the moments leading up toward totality and after totality. Their buzzing lasted longer, as did their flight time, suggesting the insects were flying longer and slower due to limited light, or they were heading back to their hives.

"The eclipse gave us an opportunity to ask whether the novel environmental context — mid-day, open skies — would alter the bees' behavioral response to dim light and darkness. As we found, complete darkness elicits the same behavior in bees, regardless of timing or context. And that's new information about bee cognition," Galen said.

- J.Perritano

The full study can be accessed here:

<https://academic.oup.com/aesa/advance-article/doi/10.1093/aesa/say035/5123345>

Last months R.R.A.A. meetings presentation by our guest speaker Ian Stepler has been posted on his channel on YouTube. You can find it at the link below:

Honey Bee Nutritional Requirements and Our Changing Landscape.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QfmrWO1mSQ&feature=youtu.be>

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 &&&&.... \$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**

Scientists buzzing over whether blueberry fields pose a health risk to bees.

-Ainslie Cruickshank

VANCOUVER—Most of the honeybees were still snug in their hives when they flew past the farmhouse and onto the Delta, B.C. blueberry field. The sun was hiding just below the horizon and the telltale buzz of the bees was subdued.

Researchers from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the University of British Columbia had risen well before dawn to catch the bees at home — before they set out for a long day of pollinating the delicate white flowers that dotted each bush. This relationship, between the bees and the blueberries, is critical for the berry industry, and growers — like beekeepers — are keen to find out what might be ailing the bees.

Each spring growers pay beekeepers thousands of dollars to bring hives into their fields for a few weeks of pollination. If the bees do their job right, the flowers turn into plump blueberries ripe for the picking.

The future of that arrangement was called into question earlier this year by some B.C. beekeepers who worried that weeks in the blueberry fields were making their honeybees sick. Some threatened to stop offering pollination services for blueberries altogether. Though, in the end, many beekeepers did take their bees to the fields, in some cases, it cost the growers a premium.

Honeybee health isn't just important for beekeepers and blueberry growers. The tiny buzzers are a significant economic contributor for the province. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, the bees contribute \$538 million to B.C.'s economy through crop pollination alone — not to mention their importance for food security. According to the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization, 75 per cent of global crops that produce fruit or seeds for food rely in part on pollinators.

In response to ongoing concern, researchers from Agriculture Canada undertook a new study in partnership with the National Bee Diagnostic Centre, UBC and the British Columbia Honey Producers' Association this spring and with financial support from the BC Blueberry Council.



Asian hornet spotted in Amsterdam, bad news for bees and insects.

An Asian hornet has been spotted in Amsterdam, according to several photographs submitted to website Waarneming.nl, which monitors the arrival of 'rare' species in the Netherlands. The insect was spotted in the Westpoort area of the city on Wednesday and the arrival is bad news for the honey bees and other pollinating insects which form the hornet's prey, wild-life experts say. Asian hornets were first sighted in the Netherlands in Zeeland a year ago and that nest was quickly destroyed. 'But it is not good news that the insect has been spotted so deep into the Netherlands,' Wilfred Reinhold of the Invasieve Exoten website told broadcaster RTL. Asian hornets, which can measure up to 45mm, are the largest of the hornet species and have been on the EU list of invasive alien species since August 2016. This means the authorities are obliged to track down and destroy their nests. That will not happen in the case of the Amsterdam sighting because the drones are now dying and the queens have also left the nest, Reinhold said. This means the hunt for the monster hornets will have to resume in the spring, he said. 'It is great that the lady who spotted this one



did not run away, but dared to take photographs,' he said. 'We hope that more people will dare to do the same in the future.'

-Dutchnews.NL

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Secret Beekeeper

The Magazine for People who Secretly Keep Bees

Now
Incorporating
Clandestine
Apiarist

101 Plausible Excuses For Why You've Got So Much HONEY

*Is it a Weather Station?
...Is it a Dog Kennel?
...Is it a Compost Bin?*

**The TOP TEN Ways
to Disguise Your Hive**

**"What's That Buzzing?"
-Convince Your Partner
They Have TINNITUS.**

*"I kept bees for
FIFTEEN YEARS whilst
my wife thought I was
presenting BBC Breakfast!"*



Bill Turnbull Tells All

**Our 2013 Survey:
50,000 Bees...
Where do YOU keep YOURS?**

PLUS...

**WE ROADTEST
THE BRAND NEW
SAVANNAH
BEEKEEPERS
GHILLIE SUIT**



**NOT JUST FOR
BEEKEEPERS:
10 VAGUELY CREDIBLE REASONS
TO OWN A HAT WITH
A NET ON IT**



**DIVERSIONARY TACTICS:
HOW TO FAKE AN
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