



# The **BEE CAUSE**

*The Official Publication of the Red River  
Apiarists' Association*

<http://www.geocities.com/ve4tg/>

February 2002

Free to Members

Volume 5: Issue 2

## **Important Dates:**

Next Meeting Date is:

**19 February 2002 (Note change in Date)**

7:30 PM Upstairs Meeting Room

Program: The Do's and Don'ts of Collecting  
Pollen and Propolis by John Dolinski

Door Prize: Door Prizes for the February 19  
meeting will be a hand crafted barrel scraper  
donated by Ron Rudiak.

## **Meeting Location:**

River Heights Community Centre  
1370 Grosvenor St.

(Intersection of Oak & Grosvenor  
Door Prizes will be offered, Guests are  
welcome and free coffee will be avail-  
able.

The Bee Cause Newsletter is published by the  
**Red River Apiarists' Association** eight times  
per year excluding June, July, August and De-  
cember.

Membership in the **Red River Apiarists' As-  
sociation** is \$20.00 per year and includes a  
subscription to the **Bee Cause**.

**Web Site at:** <http://www.geocities.com/ve4tg/>

## **President's Comments**

Lively discussions continue to be the en-  
couraged norm, with about 18 people at-  
tending our Annual Meeting which is also  
the first meeting of 2002! As I reviewed the  
past years activities, I was reminded about  
the social aspect of our organization. We  
do some business, yet have time to help  
each other through the relationships at cof-  
fee time.

Your leadership team for 2002 is identified  
on page two of the newsletter. Thanks to  
the members of the Nominations commit-  
tee for helping with this task. We look for-  
ward to a SUPER bunch of people to lead  
the RRAA's Thirty Ninth year.

During our business session, we reported  
our bank balance has dropped slightly to  
retain a surplus of \$2704. An outstanding  
cheque of \$320 is subtracted from the Dec.  
31<sup>st</sup>, 2001 balance of \$3024 to give the  
\$2704 in the financial report. Options to off-  
set the net loss of \$253, such as increasing  
fees, did not get much of a response. If you  
have some ideas for the executive, please  
let us know. By the way I gave out some  
incorrect information at the meeting, sorry

*(Continued on page 2)*

## RRAA Executive Members

**President:** Jim Campbell  
Ph 467-5246  
Box 234  
Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0  
Email: jaycam@mb.sympatico.ca

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Rhéal Lafrenière  
Ph 945-4825  
Manitoba Agriculture & Food  
204-545 University Crescent.  
Winnipeg, MB R3T 5S6  
Email: Rlafreniere@agr.gov.mb.ca

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Gilles Lantagne  
Ph 885-6047  
1018 Cavalier  
Winnipeg MB R2Y 1E1  
Email: lantagne@mb.sympatico.ca

**Secretary:** Ron Rudiak  
Ph 326-3763  
Box 1448  
Steinbach, MB R0A 2A0  
Email: manbeekr@mb.sympatico.ca

**Treasurer:** Dennis Ross  
Ph 878-2924  
Group 125, Box 10, RR1  
Vermette, MB R0G 2W0  
Email: rosskr@mb.sympatico.ca

**MBA Delegate:** Jim Campbell  
Ph 467-5246  
Box 234  
Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0  
Email: jaycam@mb.sympatico.ca

**Reporter:** Ron Rudiak  
Ph 326-3763  
Box 1448  
Steinbach, MB R0A 2A0  
Email: manbeekr@mb.sympatico.ca

**Past President:** Ron Boudreau  
Ph 885-3344  
795 Pepperloaf Crescent  
Winnipeg, MB R3R 1G2  
Email: goldrod@netcom.ca

**Newsletter & Website:** Doug Henry  
PH 757-4694  
Group 321, Box 6, RR3  
Selkirk, MB R1A 2A8  
Tel: 757-4694  
Fax: 833-2566  
Email: ve4tg@rac.ca

*(Continued from page 1)*

for that. In our Research category, \$500 went to Rob Currie (given at picnic), and the remainder to the Barry Fingler Fund.

The Executive met to plan the next few meetings. Education is still high on our priority list. The usual items of medication and management will be considered. Please feel free to let us know of your favourite topic.

### **NOTE: THE NEXT MEETING HAS BEEN MOVED BACK TO FEBRUARY 19.**

Hopefully many of you will have been able to attend the Manitoba Beekeepers Association Convention on February 11 & 12, 2002, at the Victoria Inn, Brandon. Lots of great topics planned. The panel discussion is always interesting also. The group agreed to delay our meeting as several would be in Brandon on Tuesday, and may not return to Winnipeg in time for our regular 7:30 p.m. meeting. Thanks for the postponement.

There was a suggestion to include the costs for joining MBA in our newsletter. Be sure to see the insert. Any one can join for basic fee of \$50 plus colony fee. If you don't care about voting, the fee is \$25.

Our favorite past time is fast approaching--- TAX Time. I do my preparations on a program called "Quick Tax". This program includes sheets for both Farming and other Business. I love the planning tool which lets me see tax figures for various options I am considering .

A copy of the new book "Prairie Gold" was displayed at our last meeting. This is available for \$42.95 at Bee Maid. It looks good with lots of pictures of beekeeping from the past 50 years.

**Red River Apiarists' Association  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
November 13, 2001**

The regular meeting of the Red River Apiarists' Association was held at the River Heights Community Club on November 13, 2001. Jim Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

**Minutes:**

Jim Campbell reviewed the minutes of the previous regular meeting.

**Celebration Evening:**

Red River Apiarists' Association marks its 38th year: Jim Campbell reminded the members and guests that 2001 is our 38th year of meeting as an association. Walter Wright was one of our founding members and still is active in beekeeping. Walter has held many positions in the organization. Walter and his wife, Zelda, are always present at meetings, field trips and social events. Everyone enjoyed coffee and cake while we looked at Jim's photographs of our activities for 2001. It was a busy and enjoyable year.

Ted Scheuneman detailed his experience with sending a colony of bees by air to Great Bear Lake in June of 2001. The bees worked long days and produced some surplus honey from this far northern region.

**Nominating Committee:**

Our nomination committee is comprised of Rhéal Lafrenière, Brian Schewfelt, Gilles Lantagne and Fred Jones. Anyone wanting to participate on the executive committee is requested to contact one of the election committee members. Nominations from the floor may be made as well.

**Canadian Honey Council:**

The annual meeting of CAPA and the CHC will be held in Banff, Alberta Jan. 31 - Feb. 2, 2002

**MBA Annual General Meeting:**

The annual general meeting will be held on Monday, Nov. 26, 2001 at the Polo Park Canad Inn. The meeting agenda was discussed.

**Whereas:** The RRAA is concerned about the continued health of honey bee stocks in Canada, therefore, be it resolved that the RRAA support the continuation of the present status of the border closure for the importation of bees and/or packages from the USA mainland. Moved by Charles Polcyn, seconded by Walter Wright. Motion was carried (none opposed).

**Suggested Meeting topics for 2002:**

Control of AFB without chemicals as is done in many parts of the world.  
Beekeeping information exchange (bull session).

Ron Rudiak (Secretary - RRAA)

---

**Red River Apiarists' Association  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
January 8, 2002**

The regular meeting of the Red River Apiarists' Association was held at the River Heights Community Club on January 8, 2002. Jim Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM with 17 members and guests present.

**Minutes:**

Ron Rudiak reviewed the minutes of the November 13 regular meeting. Rhéal Lafrenière noted that Gilles Lantagne's name was omitted from the list of persons on the

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

nominating committee. The minutes were accepted with correction noted.

### **Committee Reports:**

Annual Report, 2001 in review:

Jim Campbell presented a slide show on the RRAA activities for 2001. Included in our activities were regular meetings, newsletter, May field day with presentations on wintering, spring management, pest resistance, disease control, research projects, queen rearing and remote hive monitoring and lunch.

Photo slides included pictures from the Honey Show at St. Vital Shopping Centre, Honey Promotion, Displays, Honey Competition, Awards, and children around the observation hive.

Jim noted that many persons asked questions about bee activities, and the health benefits of natural hive products. Photos showed several persons who attended from the media and St. Vital Shopping Centre management as baking judges and participants in the honey tasting contest. Rhéal Lafrenière coordinated the judging of honey baked items.

Three vendors were on hand to sell colorful containers of various types of honey to eager shoppers. The RRAA had two tall colorful signs made with large lettering to promote honey. The concerns of the members of the RRAA are similar to those of commercial beekeepers with larger numbers of colonies, profitability, research, health of the industry, wintering, disease prevention etc.

### **Other Happenings:**

The minutes are regularly included in the Bee Cause as well as all Honey Show winners. Score sheets are provided to contestants for each entry submitted. Planning

ahead a year in advance. It was suggested that the RRAA include an application in the Bee Cause for membership in the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association.

"Prairie Gold - The First 60 Years of Manitoba Co-Operative Honey Producers" a history book that was three years in the making is now available from the Honey Co-Op for \$42.95.

### **Nominating Committee:**

Rhéal Lafrenière gave the report for the nominating committee. The following persons agreed to let their names stand for election:

President - Jim Campbell

1st Vice President - Rhéal Lafrenière

2nd Vice President - Gilles Lantagne

Treasurer - Dennis Ross

Secretary - Ron Rudiak

Newsletter - Doug Henry

Reporter - Ron Rudiak

MBA Representative - Jim Campbell

Rhéal Lafrenière called for further nominations for each position. There were no further nominations. Moved by Walter Wright that nominations close, seconded by Herb Schon. Carried. The nominees were declared elected.

### **Financial Report:**

Dennis Ross circulated copies of the yearly financial statement for 2001. Moved by Dennis and seconded by Emil Rekrut that we accept the report as presented. Carried. Jim requested suggestions from the membership on ways to increase our income. It was suggested that we could spend less as well. Jim said that we are going to save some money on printing and postage for our newsletter by sending it electronically to our Honorary members where possible.

### **Loonie Draw:**

The Loonie Draw proceeds totaled \$15.00.

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Continued from page 4)*

The winner of the screened bottom board from Ted Scheuneman was Murray Porter. The wall plaque from Jim Campbell was won by Ron Rudiak and the camera from Jim was won by Emil Rekrut.

**February meeting:**

Because Feb. 12 would conflict with the MBA meeting in Brandon the date of our next regular meeting was changed to Feb. 19 (same location).

**Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM**

**Program:**

A queen survey and questionnaire was circulated. A summary of the results will be available in a future issue of the Bee Cause.

Ron Rudiak (Secretary - RRAA)

---

**Red River Apiarists' Association  
Minutes of the Executive Meeting  
January 10, 2002**

The executive meeting of the RRAA was held at Perkins restaurant, Kildonan Crossing, 1615 Regent Avenue with Jim Campbell, Dennis Ross, Rhéal Lafrenière, and Gilles Lantagne present. (Ron, Doug absent)

Jim Campbell called the meeting to order at 3:40 PM. The committee decided to forego the minutes from the previous executive meeting.

**Committee Reports:**

**Finance Committee:**

Dennis reported several members were already paying 2002 membership. He provided a copy of last year's membership to be sent to Doug Henry for update to the

mailing list.

**February General Meeting:**

Jim noted our membership agreed to delay the meeting until February 19. It is important to get the newsletter out in time to avoid anyone showing up on the regular date of Feb. 12. The group agreed that spring feeding and medication is required again. Rhéal agreed to contact John Delinski to speak to our group. He has written several books on beekeeping, and could talk on Pollen and Propolis collecting. Rhéal could lead the meeting, as Jim will be out of town. Dennis Ross will notify the River Heights Community Club of our meeting dates for 2002.

**March General Meeting:**

Rhéal agreed to give a presentation on Spring Management.

**For the good of the Association:**

As identified at the Annual meeting, we should demonstrate support for MBA by including an ad of their membership rates. We could also ask MBA members to speak to us. i.e. Art Bergman - NISA/AIDA, Paul Gregory - pollination in the USA, Phil Veldhuis - candles, Dale Willard - farmers market tips, etc. The group discussed the fact that some of our members have been doing private research that could benefit all beekeepers. Presentation at some future meeting.

**Motion 02-01:**

That RRAA contribute \$100.00 to Ted Scheuneman in support of his beekeeping research. Carried.

**Picnic ideas:**

Suggestions for picnic include tours - Ted S., Phil V., etc. Ideas to be discussed later.

*(Continued on page 6)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

### **Newsletter:**

Note meeting date moved to Feb 19. Ron to include queen survey with newsletter. Possibly include ad for new book (Prairie Gold) at Bee Maid. Prelim. Queen survey results. Rhéal to provide MBA application form to Doug for stuffing into newsletter envelop.

### **Next Exec. Meeting:**

Thursday 21 Feb. at Perkins. Rhéal to lead as Jim is away. Topic for March is set.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Jim Campbell for Ron Rudiak (Secretary - RRAA)

---

**MBA Report** by Jim Campbell,

### **New Executive named for 2002**

A new slate of Executives for the Manitoba Beekeepers Association was confirmed on 7 January 2002. At their regular Directors meeting, recently held in Brandon, the MBA Board nominated their officers for the upcoming year. In addition to the Executive positions, all Committees were struck.

It was a busy day for the MBA Board, as the meeting was attended by a full contingent of the Board members. Welcomed, were the newly elected Board members consisting of Bryan Ash - Gilbert Plains, and Todd Yakimishen - Dauphin, and returning members Melvin Dueck - Kleefield, and Merv Malyon - Kenmay.

Phil Veldhuis - Winnipeg, was elected Chairperson and Canadian Honey Council delegate, with John Clark - Wawanessa as Vice Chair; Todd Yakimishen - Dauphin as Executive Member; Art Bergman - Steinbach, as Keystone Agriculture Producers delegate. In addition, the following standing

committees were formed; Research, Pollination, Promotion, Safety Nets, Pest and Pest Management, Annual Meeting and Convention, plus Newsletter. Don Dixon was appointed Secretary and Lois Simpson appointed as Treasurer.

The Board continues to work on items such as Resolutions presented at the Annual Meeting, Newsletter timing, Resistant Varroa find at U of M, and a Family Picnic. Plans are also underway for a survey to be done of all beekeepers to assist in setting direction for the board. The survey should be issued within the next months. Stay tuned for details of this in future newsletters.

---

## **PEANUT BUTTER 'n HONEY COOKIES**

### **INGREDIENTS**

- ½ cup butter or margarine
- 1/3 cup peanut butter
- ½ cup sugar
- 1/3 honey
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 egg
- 1 ¾ cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- peanuts

I

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

In a large mixing bowl, cream together butter and peanut butter. Gradually beat in sugar and honey. Beat in vanilla and egg. Sift dry ingredients and add to creamed mixture, stirring thoroughly. Form into small balls; place on a cookie sheet and flatten with a fork dipped in flour. Top each cookie with a whole peanut. Bake at 350 degrees F for 8-10 min. (makes 3-4 dozen cookies.)

A BeeMaid Honey Recipe

**MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION  
2002 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____	COMPANY NAME: _____
MAILING ADDRESS _____	POSTAL CODE _____
TELEPHONE _____	
NUMBER OF COLONIES TO BE OPERATED IN 2002 _____	

**MEMBERSHIPS**

**MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**    NEW \_\_\_\_\_    RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_  
 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP - \$50.00 BASIC FEE, PLUS \$0.20/COLONY (TO A MAXIMUM OF 1,000 COLONIES)    \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 ANNUAL ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP - \$25.00    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE TO OUT-OF-PROVINCE BEEKEEPERS  
 AND OTHER INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS.  
 NOT AVAILABLE TO MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS WITH 50 OR MORE COLONIES

**CANADIAN HONEY COUNCIL**    NEW \_\_\_\_\_    RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_  
 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP - \$40.00 per year    \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 1 - 99 COLONIES - \$40.00 per year    \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 100 - 499 COLONIES - \$75.00 per year    \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 500 and up COLONIES - \$150.00 per year    \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 INDUSTRY RELATED BUSINESSES \$200 per year    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**KEYSTONE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS**    NEW \_\_\_\_\_    RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_  
 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP - \$107.00 per year (including 7% GST)    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**BEE RESEARCH FUNDS**

BARRY FINGLER MEMORIAL FUND (Manitoba Beekeepers' Association)    \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 CANADIAN BEE RESEARCH FUND (Canadian Honey Council)    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**JOURNALS - THIS SERVICE AVAILABLE TO MBA MEMBERS ONLY**

AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL    - \$51.00 per year    \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 BEE CULTURE    - \$52.50 per year    \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 CANADIAN BEEKEEPING    - \$16.05 per year    \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 SPEEDY BEE    - \$27.50 per year    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Paid by: CASH \_\_\_\_\_    CHEQUE \_\_\_\_\_    TOTAL AMOUNTS    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I request that the above amount be deducted from my account at the  
 Manitoba Co-operative Honey Producers Limited.  
 THERE IS NO "AUTOMATIC" DEDUCTION FOR PAST MEMBERS.

Please signify by initialing here. \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_    SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this completed application together with payment to:  
 Manitoba Beekeepers' Association  
 c/o Lois Simpson, Treasurer, Lot 19, Kingsway Kort, RR No. 1., Brandon, Manitoba R7A 5Y1

## Honey of an idea launched through Food Development Centre

BY Jodi Ferguson

Manfred Villing has a honey of an idea.

The Winnipeg inventor and entrepreneur knew if he could combine the delectable flavour of honey with the smooth, spreadable consistency of butter, he could revolutionize the breakfast-spread industry. But much like oil and water, honey and butter do not mix without a lot of hard work and coaxing. And that's where the technical staff at the Food Development Centre came in.

"I was tired. I was disappointed. I was spending thousands of dollars. I needed to find a place for acceptance," says Villing, President of Wittmann Foods International Inc. "I found the right place finally."

Villing, 57, says he immediately felt at home with the qualified staff at the Food Development Centre. At a technical and laboratory level, they helped him with research and development he would not have been able to carry out on his own. The Centre was also instrumental in helping him gain access to the Manitoba Milk Marketing Board and a major honey producer for the raw products he needed.

Villing has had a diverse career. His first job as a boy in his native Germany was working in his father's bakeshop, decorating cakes and making gingerbread men. Later, he studied and was employed in window dressing and interior design. After coming to Canada in 1961, he applied his considerable creative abilities to residential construction. But his entrepreneurial mind was always coming up with new ideas for products that would one day hit the market. One of those ideas was a patented

easy-pour spout for milk and juice boxes.

His heart never strayed far from the food industry where he started forty years earlier, and he became interested in developing and marketing a breakfast spread consisting of the two delicious tastes of honey and butter. The concept had been tried years ago in Europe with little success. Villing felt that the product had potential, if only he could get the two key ingredients to combine without risk of separating.

He began experimenting in his kitchen at home and then brought a sample to the University of Manitoba's food science department for testing. In the meantime, he performed further research and educated himself by taking courses in dairy science. What he discovered strengthened his resolve: Canada has an abundance of both butter and honey and Villing knew it would be no problem to find excellent quality raw ingredients for his product.

Then fate intervened. Seven years ago a professor at the University of Manitoba introduced Villing to a consultant at what was then the National Agri-Food Technology Centre (NAFTC) in Portage la Prairie. Villing welcomed the suggestion to bring his fledgling product out to the Centre, now FDC, for further testing and development. And Villing has never looked back.

The food product consultants and pilot plant technicians at FDC faced major challenges in helping Villing develop his honey butter product. First, they had to find an effective binding agent to keep the honey and butter together and give the product a shelf life of at least six months. Next, they had to figure out a way of preventing the honey from crystallizing. Villing also was committed to maintaining the product's high quality taste, consistency and nutritional

*(Continued on page 9)*



*(Continued from page 8)*

value while using the least amount of preservatives.

One of Villing's first moves was to launch a marketing survey to gauge the consumer perception of a honey butter spread. Villing has traveled frequently to trade shows, handing out samples of his honey butter, and the reaction has been extremely positive. Because of the way it is processed, the honey butter is lower in fat than regular butter and combines with the natural goodness of Manitoba produced honey.

The refrigerated version of the honey butter is now complete and will be shelved with products like butter and cream cheese in the dairy section of grocery stores. Along with food product consultants at FDC, Villing is now working to perfect a shelf-stable version of the honey butter that he is hoping to export. The product will be located in grocery store aisles with other spreads such as peanut butter and jams.

In addition to the original honey butter flavour, Villing and the FDC product development staff have been experimenting with variations, including strawberry, banana and lemon honey butters.

Despite the myriad challenges in launching a new food product to the general public, Villing expects to see Wittmann's Original Honey Butter on grocery store shelves by autumn of this year. He also hopes to launch the shelf-stable version in such distant locales as Chile and Brazil and he welcomes help exporting the product.

Now that Wittmann's honey butter is ready to make its debut, Villing will have to find a place to produce it. He is considering a facility close to FDC in Portage la Prairie.

*Jodi Ferguson is a freelance journalist in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.*

## CHOCOLATE PEANUT BUTTER CHEWS

### INGREDIENTS

- 3/4 cup honey
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup salted peanuts
- 3 cups Rice Krispies
- 10 large Marshmallows

### INSTRUCTIONS

Melt honey and peanut butter on stovetop or in the microwave. Bring to a boil. Remove from the heat and add the chocolate chips and marshmallows until melted. Add the peanuts and Rice Krispies. Pat firmly into a 9" x 9" pan. Cut into squares and enjoy.

A Bee Maid Honey Recipe



Bee Keeping in New Zealand

## Items for Sale:

### **Presenter Wanted:**

Roma Falsarella, teacher at Precious Blood School, St. Boniface, 233-4327 is looking for a French speaking Beekeeper to do a presentation on Bees and Honey for her class. If you can help, please call her and arrange a time. Please let Jim Campbell (467-5246) know if you agree to help her, so he will stop looking for a presenter.

### **Desperate Requirement for Buckwheat Honey:**

Pierre Charbonneau desperately wants 8 to 10 barrels of buckwheat honey. Please pass this message on to anyone who may be interested in making a sale. Pierre may be reached at 1-450-295-2667



Beekeeping on a Bear Platform in the Yukon

## Editor's Comments

I noticed a few dead bees on top of the snow in front of my hives, so I know there a few still alive in there. Hopefully yours are doing well too.

Please note that there is no charge for members to place ads in the newsletter. I also post copies on the RRAA web site so you might get wider coverage if the web site gets more widely known. Please check it out at <http://www.geocities.com/ve4tg> and let me know if you have any suggestions for additions or improvements.

Doug

---

### **A Beekeeping Joke**

A beekeeper was driving from his farm to bee yard. His truck got hit by a lawyer's sports car.

The lawyer saw that the beekeeper was really upset. "Here," he said, "Have a swig of some whiskey I've got in the trunk." The beekeeper took a long drink, handed the bottle back to the lawyer.

"No thanks," said the lawyer, "I won't drink anything until after the police have been here."