



In This Issue

President's Message 1

Plants for Bees of All Types 2

The Italian Bee 3

Beekeeping/Guide to Essential Oils 4

Melissa's Musing 5

About the RRAA & You 6

Membership 7

RRAA Minutes 8-9

Call for Submissions 10

Classifieds 10-11

Report from MBA 12

Next Virtual Meeting

October 12, 2021

7:30PM-9:30PM

Zoom Link TBA

Speaker:

Brad Hogg,

A Beekeeping Journey

President's Message

What a Magnificent Fall

Hot afternoons, some nights double digit temperatures, some flora blooming a second time, and happy, happy bees.

After a challenging summer, it's a bit of a consolation prize but I'll take it. Good flying conditions for fall bees, lots of time to dry down syrup and get those pesky mites down. Lets enjoy it while it lasts!

Keep an eye on your drawn comb.....this fall has been a boon for mice as well. Proper equipment storage and plenty of bait is crucial this time of year. I sort my equipment when I'm prepping my winter storage areas as well. Needs repair? That pile over there. Needs paint? Stack those to the left. When the long days of winter come, it's better to putter and build then put it off till the spring when time is scarce.

It's a very good time to have a candid conversation with yourself in regards to some of the choices made and directions taken. Not necessarily a scathing critique, but what worked out well? How did one yard

perform over another? What could I have done differently and what changes should I implement for next year?

Having a plan is really crucial to your success but refining that plan, being flexible but also changing up the way we do things is also very beneficial. Relying on luck, weather, or "Oh, it will work itself out...." is hard on the bank account. The lack of rain this summer was a wakeup call for some. It certainly was for me. Alternate yards, watering stations, and improving communication with landowners is on my 2022 plan. What's on yours?

Fantastic fall weather will hopefully decrease winter mortality. This is a good thing, but it can also catch the hobbyist off-guard. Strong colonies in the spring need a plan, or they make their own and it involves being 40 feet up your neighbors' tree. Sometimes increasing your

colony count isn't desired, but is required to control swarming behavior. Ensuring you have some surplus equipment ahead of time is best done before May, not as an afterthought. Even pre-booking a few queens may be in order. Selling surplus nucs to others is lucrative and keeps your colony count at your comfort level. At \$250.00 per nuc, it also is a good income stream for your endeavors, and high honey prices should have some apiarists looking to expand. I hope this finds you all well, and I'm looking forward to seeing you online on the 12th.

John Russell



Fall Feeding
By Jim Campbell

Plants for Bees of All Types

By Jim Campbell

What thoughts come to mind while reading about the plight of wild bees? Periodic internet posts appear difficult to determine whether posts are scientific based or merely an interpretation of a perception of a problem or trend.

This past season, a few Sunflowers grew in close proximity to my apartment. This became a practical way to observe insects seeking pollen, and an easy way to capture photographs. Initially thinking Honey Bees might be the sole visitors, to my delight wild insects found the flowers attractive enough to visit.

Although Honey Bees did come and collect nectar

and pollen, other visitors included Rusty Banded Bumble Bees, Yellow Banded Bumble bees, Leafcutter Bees and Sweat Bees. Each variety were captured by my camera.

However, wild bees also visit other plants in flower gardens. For instance the Leafcutter also collects pollen from flowers such as Gaillardia, as does Sweat Bees. And not all wild bees visit the same type of flower, for example Sedum, at the Captain Kennedy gardens attracts both Bumble and Honey Bees. Similarly Wild Roses attract both wild and Honey bees.

A great idea for bee lovers and gardeners is to plant a variety of flower types, so that blooms appear throughout the season, for all types of in-

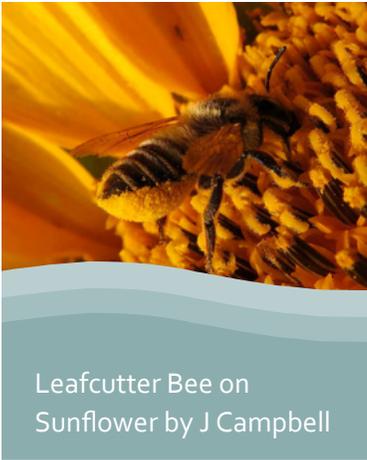
sects. Flowers such as Liatris, Sunflower, Sage, Aster, Sedum, and Borage could be a good place to start.



<https://www.pollinator.org/guides>

For suggestions for selecting flowers that attract pollinators, check out the Pollinator Partnership web for pdf files to download.

Or check out the following Manitoba pdf. □



Leafcutter Bee on Sunflower by J Campbell



<https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator.org/assets/generalFiles/LakeManitoba.2017.pdf>



Gaillardia with Leafcutter Bee by Jim Campbell

The Italian Bee

The Italian honey bee is thought to originate from the continental part of Italy, south of the Alps, and north of Sicily.

Worldwide distribution

- 1853 introduced to Germany
- 1854 introduced into the Poland by Dr. Jan Dzierzon
- 1859 introduced into the United Kingdom
- 1859 introduced to the United States
- 1862 introduced to Australia
- 1866 introduced to Russian Empire
- 1880 introduced to New Zealand
- 1884 (Easter) introduced to Kangaroo Island in South Australia, sourced from Brisbane where they were previously imported in 1880 from Italy by Chas. Fullwood. Jas. Carroll received a hive of Italian bees in Brisbane, Queensland, in 1877 when Angus Mackay accompanied a hive aboard the City of New York, packaged by Harbison in California. After a week's stopover in Sydney, the bees arrived in Brisbane. Honey from Kangaroo Island is marketed (in 2014) as being from the only pure Ligurian bees in the world.

Wikipedia contributors. (2021, September 15). Italian bee. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 18:21, October 9, 2021, from https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Italian_bee&oldid=1044486816

So, if you are ever in Australia, or want to add something to your bucket list, be sure to visit Kangaroo Island, the sanctuary of the last of the purebred Ligurian bees.

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/kangaroo-island-bee-sanctuary>

Link shared by John Speer



Beekeeping/Guide to Essential Oils

Essential oils are strongly scented oils that are created through the distillation of plant materials. Most commonly derived from the flowers, leaves or stems of a plant, they may also be derived from fruit or the skin of a fruit. Many of these oils have common uses in aroma therapy and alternative medicine. Beekeepers however, also may have a use for a select few of these common oils

Essential oils can often be found in health food stores or aromatherapy shops, the price may be high, but keep in mind that a little oil will go a long way.

Commonly Used Oils

There exist a wider variety of essential oils. In general, beekeepers are only interested in a few of them. The following is a list of some of the more common oils that may concern a beekeeper.

Banana

Though it is unconfirmed, reports state that banana oil seems to closely mimic the alarm pheromone of honeybees. Because of this it is advised against using banana oil, or other strong banana scented products near or around hives. It is unclear whether bananas can be safely eaten near honey bees, but it is likely that no adverse result would be seen.

Lemon Grass

Lemongrass works conveniently as well as the pheromone created by the honeybee's nasonov gland, also known as attractant pheromone. Because of this lemon grass oil can be used as a lure when trapping swarms or attempting to draw the attention of hived bees. Be warned, however, that lemon grass oil can cause a robbing behavior if it is used within or on a weak hive.

Peppermint

Peppermint oil is used as a gen-

eral-purpose pheromone masking scent. It does not apparently mimic any known bee pheromones and is simply used to mask others. In theory any other strong scented essential oil would work the same.

Spearmint

Spearmint oil is often used in conjunction with lemon grass oil during feeding to improve hive health and work as a recruiting scent.

Spearmint and Lemon Grass

Spearmint oil and lemon grass oil are two essential oils that are commonly used in conjunction to complete many tasks with bees. A simple general purpose essential oil mixture can be used for many things, including avoiding the reliance on smoke when opening hives.

Tea Tree

Tea Tree oil is often used in grease patties for control of mites. It seems as if Tea Tree oil can be interchanged with wintergreen oil with no loss of effectiveness.

Wintergreen

Wintergreen oil is often used in grease patties for control of mites. It seems as if Tea Tree oil can be interchanged with wintergreen oil with no loss of effectiveness. It also helps with Small Hive Beetles.

Essential Oil Therapy Versus

Varroa Mites

Essential oils, in regards to mite control, have two apparent modes of operation, primarily, direct toxicity. In the case of varroa mites, once a mite comes in to direct contact with an essential oil such as wintergreen or tea tree oil mixed into a grease patty they are usually killed within a few minutes. This however, requires that the infected bee actually contact the

grease patty. Due to this contact requirement, direct toxicity cannot eliminate mites, only aid in the control of mite levels. Secondly, it appears mite reproduction can be impaired when bees are fed a syrup containing essential oils. Essential oils are passed from feeding bees to other bees and larva through trophallaxis. Essential oils thereby pass to the brood and poison any female Varroa that attempt to parasitically feed on the larva.

Tracheal Mites

Similarly, essential oils appear to have an impact on the breeding and control of tracheal mites, however the effects of tracheal mites are difficult to observe and the mechanism that causes the control is in debate. It appears that the best therapy, in regards to tracheal mites and essential oils, is the usage of grease patties.

Treatment

It is recommended that that grease patties containing essential oils, and other medicaments as desired, are kept on the hives throughout the winter and any season when honey collection for human consumption is not taking place. Grease patties not containing any essential oils or medication should be kept on hives throughout the rest of the year. During times of the year that temperatures allow for flight, and honey is not to be collected for human consumption, colonies should be treated with syrup containing essential oils.

Reprinted from

https://en.m.wikibooks.org/wiki/Beekeeping/Guide_to_Essential_Oils

□

Melissa's Musings

Our bees were so vigorous this spring, more so than other years. A few years ago, my son and husband made a simple bench so that I could sit in the bee yard and keep the bees company. Sometimes I watch them leaving and returning with pollen and nectar, over and over again, until the steady humming alters my brain waves and I fall into a state of reverie. One day last week while I was sitting thus, and the bee yard was humming with activity, I was reminded of the poet's phrase, 'alone in the bee loud glade'.

William Butler Yeats wrote "The Lake Isle of Innisfree," one of his most famous works, in 1888. The poem gets its title from a very small, uninhabited island, called Innisfree, that sits in Lough Gill, a lake in Yeats's home county of Sligo, Ireland. It is a poem of longing, written by Yeats when he was still young and idealistic. He actually never made it to Innisfree to visit or live.

When we still lived in the city and made trips to our cottage, I especially liked the last 2 lines of the poem, when I used to long for a life outside the city. Merely visiting the cottage periodically wasn't enough.

While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,

I hear it in the deep heart's core.

Now that we live on a farm on the beautiful Whitemouth River, I can be alone in the bee loud glade whenever I wish. My husband and I are extremely lucky, during this time of Covid, to be away from the city, with lots of room to roam, and a reason to spend most of our time outdoors. Here is the poem in full.

The Lake Isle of Innisfree By William Butler Yeats

*I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made;
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.
And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet's wings.
I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.*

If you liked this poem, you may also feel the same as the poet Anthony Machado, in the following excerpt.

*Last night, as I lay sleeping
I dreamt-marvelous error!-
That I had a beehive here
Inside my heart.
And the golden bees were making
White combs and sweet honey
From my old failures and resentments.*

From last Night As I was Sleeping, by Antonio Machado and translated by Robert Bly.

Submitted by Mary Chown



Bench in Beeyard
By Mary Chown

About the RRAA and You!

About RRAA

The Red River Apiarists' Association, formed in 1963, represents the beekeepers of the Red River Valley and environs in southern Manitoba. The association provides a forum for the promotion of sound beekeeping practices through education, networking opportunities, meetings, field days, workshops, presentations by local apicultural experts, as well as a subscription to this newsletter.



EDITOR'S NOTE

QR readers are apps that make it easy to load URLs from the printed page or screen. Look for QR readers in your favourite app store on your phone.

The RRAA and the BeeCause for and by you.

The BeeCause is the official publication of the Red River Apiarists' Association for distribution to its members and their colleagues in the beekeeping industry. It is published eight times a year on a monthly basis, January to May and September to November when membership meetings occur.

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

Deadline for submissions to this newsletter is the second Sunday preceding the membership meeting to allow for publishing and mailing delays and the legal obligation to allow membership to review last meetings' minutes for errors or omissions before next meeting.

Regular membership meetings are normally scheduled 7:30 on the second Tuesday of every month at the Elmwood Legion 920 Nairn Avenue in Winnipeg except months noted above. Physical meetings have been suspended due to Covid-19, and will resume as soon as it is safe to do so. Webinars will take place in their stead.

YOU ARE AWESOME!!!

What makes a great association greater?

Involvement and contribution!

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

WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

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

TALK TO AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR MORE DETAILS

Call 204-612-2337 to lend a hand.

2021 Executive

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Red River Apiarists' Association

Membership Application

<https://rraa.ca/membership/>

Please check one of the following:

- New Member
 Renewal

Contact Information:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____
Signature: _____

Payments:

- I hereby apply for membership to the RRAA \$ 35.00/year
or
 I am an UofM Beekeeping Course Student (first year free)..... \$ 0.00/year
 Optional: Beekeeper Liability Insurance: \$65.00 + \$5.20 \$ 70.20/year

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

Total Payment \$ _____

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

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

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

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

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

Meeting Minutes for Sept. 14, 2021 RRAA meeting

RRAA President, John Russell Badiuk opened the RRAA meeting which was conducted by a video conference, at 7:31 p.m. on Tuesday Sept. 14, 2021 57 screens attended the meeting using “Zoom”. Fall prep a learning session is available on YouTube.

The Following reflects the meeting:

A. Club Business:

-Minutes from May 11, 2021 Motion to accept: Moved by Brad Hogg and seconded by: Dave Baluk.

-Treasurer: Financial Report, John Speer

Treasurer's Report

-Account amount \$ 10965.51

Expenses, donations 1250.00 to KRTP and \$1250.00 to Dr. Currie for total of \$2500.00

Return to in person-in discussion with legion and how to control all the protocols.

-Membership Update, 175 members

Other committees/New Business:

-By-Laws – John Badiuk- Draft was sent out and a brief discussion was undertaken starting with a recap by Jim Campbell highlighting the processes and changes. The major item was how to meet when not meeting in person but via electronic formats. Also brought up to date how the club will operate. Primarily adding Communication Officer. Secretary position mainly keeping minutes, much can be done electronically now. President can share the leading of meeting to do succession planning. First Vice President can take on role if comfortable. Treasurer and MBA just wording. Section J – Communication Director -new and on the Executive Committee to be in the know. Elections – fine tuning. Committees – some changes with priority in education. Some changes to make voting and other communication on electronics platforms safe and confidential if necessary. Question: Household membership was defined.

First reference to MBA should explained.

Motion: The bylaws that RRAA Bylaws that where circulated, presented and discussed and be accepted as of Sept. 14, 2021. Moved by Brad Hogg and Seconded by Laura Wiens

-Honey Show – Brad Hogg – no report

-Website – No Report

-Social Media - Nothing

-Mentor Program 2021 – No Report

(continued...)

(continued - Meeting Minutes for Sept. 14, 2021 RRAA meeting)

B MBA Report – First mentioned drought – MBA working with government and western Canada and relief was announced but a meeting will be held on Thursday to make a decision about relief. Bears an issue – MBA talking with conservation to create consistency with how to handle the bears. Ian Stepler and Derek (KRTP) talking with various folks regarding cooperation re canola council. Manitoba Heritage talking with Darryl to create a discussion to straighten out the public concern that honeybees being detrimental to native bees. KRPT doing well. Experimental hives set up to do oxalic acid trials with Rob Curry. What is good for Honeybees is good for native pollinators. John Badiuk asked MBA to consider providing an information packet that RRAA could publish about this topic. Veronica – urban setting interesting and bees very thirsty. Amazing yield with 2 hives – 700 pounds of honey. Mites took off and used formic acid and lost a queen, wasps attacked hives wondering if hives will be strong enough. John S. 15 colonies – Oakbank area not too effected by drought. 4 extractions canola, sunflower – everyday was fly time.

C. Round Table:

Sharing of Experiences and Challenges

John Badiuk said that alfalfa and sunflowers nectars were still available. Used miticide for the first time in a long time. Ian video documented his summer. July was tough, beekeepers across province helped revive native flowers and bees are in better shape. Left canola and hit the bushes, but reseeded kept some flowers going. He's been feeding since first week of August. Hives look good. Mites a problem after labour day.

Cindy Buss – no bees in the yard, but sunflowers came up. But a good flow. Low mite count.

Brad – good but weird. Started grafting queens and good mating rate. Lots of splitting with slight decrease in production. Low yellow jacket and hornet population and low mites. Nectar and water collection is equal, an interesting fact.

Derek Micholson – drought spotty -some worst and some best year ever. Honey production will be on average to slightly below average. Bee health monitoring – some provinces have noticed more mites, in MB haven't seen very high outside the norm. Only one yard high and that might be management. On average 1.5%, but anecdotal a bit higher but keep monitoring and treat. Thymol essential oil treatment works.

D. October – Speaker:

Next Meeting:– October

Meeting adjourned 9:49 Larry Bell moved Carol Wenaus seconded.

Submitted by

Monica Wiebe



The BeeCause CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Have you come across an interesting article?

Would you like to share an observation?

Care to share an anecdote or an observation from your own beekeeping experiences?

Do you have an opinion you want to voice to the beekeeping community?

Seen a video you found informative or would like a topic researched?

You want to take part in RRAA food for thought?

Or do you just want to plain advertise?

Answer the call.

Send submissions to:
a.tucovic@gmail.com

www.rraa.ca

www.facebook.com/RRAAManitoba/

www.youtube.com/channel/UCgrWfdXTaArPFyCZdRdOv1A

Prairie Sweetheart Honey
Workshops and Online Sessions

New to beekeeping? Learn how to responsibly raise and manage healthy colonies in your own backyard.

Various sessions available, both in-person and online, to give you a strong start to your beekeeping journey.

Only 2 spots left for the Nucs & Knowledge program:

- five 2-hour workshop sessions
- three 4-hour field days
- two 2022 nucs

Visit prairiesweetheart.com to book today!
Sessions begin October 26.

Questions? Call 204-391-4765 or email prairiesweethearthoney@gmail.com

Full set up extracting equipment for sale

15 frame extractor. \$2000

Honey storage tank with stand. 33" high, 29" diameter. \$750

Capping table with pump and reservoir. \$500

\$3000 for everything

Looking to buy 2-4 frame extractor

Larry Bell. 204-8662292

For Sale

10 frame single brood chamber hives with bees and queen. Moderate strength. Some available immediately. \$275 each.

Five frame nucs in Jester boxes with new queen available later in May \$250.

Honey supers from \$45 to \$60. Discount for quantities 50 and over.

Bee escapes.

Paraffin dipped 6 frame nuc boxes.

Empty supers.

Email margshoney@gmail.com

Text/Phone Rob 431-337-7774

Nucs for Sale

\$220

2020 queens.

Nucs will have 3 frames of brood and 2 frames of feed. My nucs are a little different and will come on Medium (3/4) frames. I have a write up available explaining how to transfer them into standard equipment.

Call/Text

Laura Wiens at 204-805-4809

Or

Email: hatgurl@gmail.com

HONEY FOR SALE

Sunflower honey strained and packaged in 4.5 (10lb) pails.

\$3.00/lb member price.

Text or call

**John Speer
204-222-3007**

For Sale

	Price Ea.	Units
Wax-dipped Screened Bottom Board with Slide Out Bottom	\$25	30
Super Box with Wax Frame Foundation	\$20	20
Inner Cover	\$10	27
Metal Queen Excluder	\$10	40
Empty Super Boxes	\$10	40
Insulated Top Covers	\$15	30
4-Frame Nuc Boxes	\$30	12
Bee Escape Boards	\$10	30
Pollen Traps	\$10	11
Steel Tube Frames with Plywood Sides and Winter Insulation. Holds up to 5 Hives; Fits My Own Bottom Boards.	\$100	5
Maxant Extractor Holds up to 30 Large Frames	\$2000	1

Call Tom 204-771-0500 or Dave 204-232-5358

RRAA Report from MBA

Not a lot has happened since the RRAA meeting in September. As we told you at that meeting, we met over Zoom on September 18, and decided, after much discussion, not to apply for the drought relief, as the reports from beekeepers in various parts of the province were mostly favourable.

MBA will meet with the director within the Dept. of Agriculture, to assess our industry's Business Risk Management tools, which includes promoting programs, as well as the development of new programs, where needed. The discussion will include the need to adjust AgiStability's reference margin trigger level to 80%; the impact of the additional costs in cleanup, prevention and lost production that are not currently covered under the Wildlife Damage Compensation program; continued support and increased investment into the Overwinter Bee Mortality program; the opportunity to implement a new honey production insurance program; the vulnerability of our industry has to large-scale honey bee pesticide poisoning.

The MBA has also been monitoring possible Apivar tolerance cases within Manitoba through the work done within the KRTP and Rheal LaFreniere's office. Surveillance for tolerance has been conducted using the Frank Rinkovich and Pettis methods. More information will follow as situations have been investigated.

That's it for now. Have a BEEautiful rest of the Fall.

Margaret Smith