

President's Message

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With mid-winter upon us and the first true cold snaps of the season, we look forward to the lengthening days and dream of an early spring.

Out come the stethoscopes, and the thermal guns and the temperature probes.....hopefully bringing relief to worried apiarists as the mercury dips.

Time for equipment and woodenware repairs, frame building, and mixing pollen patties and candy boards.

Here's hoping late February gives us a spell of warm weather to keep the bees more mobile in the colony, and perhaps even an opportune early cleansing flight.

The recent surge of coronavirus will keep physical meetings on hold until further notice....again. I hate to be the bearer of bad news but I'd rather see you all after the snow melts than to jeopardize anyone's health. In the meantime there is quite a lot of action in the beekeeping community in the next few

months:

The Brandon area Beekeepers Association and the South Central Beekeepers association have interesting speakers lined up on February 22nd and 15th respectively. Details on page 3.

The Manitoba Beekeepers Association is holding their Annual General Meeting on the 26th of February over Zoom. I personally am a non voting member of the MBA, as the speakers at the "Convention" are worth the price of the membership alone. Take a look at Ian Steppeler's Convention committee report on page 2-3 for this years line up.

If you are interested in joining the MBA, you can do so here:

<https://manitobabee.org/hi/ve/join/>.

Our January meeting will be our own AGM of sorts, with Executive elections and a presentation from our own **Laura Weins**. You will have received an email notifying you of the

upcoming elections, and I urge you to give this more than a passing thought. If you wish to become more involved with the running of your organization, or wish to nominate someone you think would serve well on the executive you may step up in two ways. One is to be present at the January meeting and put your name forward for one of the executive seats.

All positions can be contested every year. You can also contact me at honeyb@mymts.net beforehand to forward your name, and you can also nominate any member in good standing.

A gentle reminder as well, that dues for 2022 should be submitted as soon as possible.

I look forward to seeing you all again, even if it's only virtually, on the 11th!

Warm regards and stay safe.

John Russell

RRAA President

Next Virtual Meeting:

January 11, 2022

7:30PM-9:30PM

Zoom Link TBA

Speaker:

Laura Wiens

Topic:

How I Manage Bees in
Medium Boxes

MBA Convention Committee Report

This year's 116th Manitoba Beekeepers Association Convention/AGM will be held over Zoom, 1:00pm February 26, 2022.

The continued uncertainty of restricted public gatherings within Manitoba forced us online again. I know everyone is tired of COVID and its overbearing grasp on everything but the plan to continue with an online meeting this year relieved everyone's uncertainty of restrictions, the proposed risk to uncovered expensive venue costs and every other issue that's involved with vaccine requirements for public gatherings. This year's focus will again be on the promotion of honey bee research and activities within Manitoba and abroad.

Our key note speaker is **Dr. Pierre Giovenazzo**, Department of Biology, Laval University. Pierre has been involved with a number of projects and publications over the last few years, some of which are: Neonic dietary contamination to Microbiota activity, honey bees as environmental bio-monitors to assess air born pollution, traits of interest with the genetic progress achieved over the last 10 years of honey bee breeding, successful indoor mass storage of honey bee queen and the dynamics of honey bee gut microbiota throughout the overwinter period. We thought it would be appropriate to have Pierre provide an overview of all the work that he has been involved with at Laval to help us all catch up with these projects.

We will also have **Dr. Rob Currie**, head of the Department of Entomology, University of Manitoba to speak on his continued study of Integrated Management of Varroa and its Interacting Stressors to Enhance Winter Survival of Honey Bees. Rob's work aims on three goals:

- 1) To demonstrate the impact of restricted ventilation during winter storage on varroa mite control. Restricted room ventilation increases room CO₂ levels to 2% while in-hive levels reach 4% which results in increased mite mortality without harming the honey bee.
- 2) To clarify the potential for using early fall oxalic acid treatments to kill mites and its relationship to improved honey bee survival even though it didn't kill mites. Also, the look into correct dosage, number of treatments and application methods on its reliability of mite treatment efficacy.
- 3) To use the outcomes of aim 1 and 2 to examine the most effective combination of winter ventilation, oxalic acid and traditional acaricide treatment to develop the best recommendation for integrated pest management of varroa in Manitoba.

Rob has attracted world wide attention with his cutting-edge work into CO₂ and Oxalic acid. His work may revolutionize the way we manage our hives and we are proud to support this high level of study in at the University of Manitoba.

With the AGM and the convention within the same Zoom meeting this year, the committee has decided to bring this year's content speakers to our membership with help from our membership. The month prior to the Convention/AGM will welcome speakers to each of the three regional association within Manitoba.

Etienne Tardif, a Yukon beekeeper and president of the Western Apicultural Society will speak at the Red River Apiarist Association during their February 8th meeting. Etienne is a beekeeper who thrives on data sets, which he has built by using multiple hive sensors within his wintered hives. With his data set

MBA Convention Committee Report (continued)

information, he has detailed the behaviour of an outdoor wintered honey bee colony and he has developed appropriate winter strategies with that data set to better prepare his outdoor hives for winter. This November he had already experienced -40C winter weather!

Kamon Reynolds, a Tennessee beekeeper and well-known YouTuber will speak at the South-Central Beekeepers Association during their February 15th meeting. Kamon is an interesting character who has transitioned his livelihood from an off-farm trucker to a full-time southern state beekeeper. I'll host a podcast type presentation with Kamon as we talk about everything from keeping bees in Tennessee to his beekeeping YouTube ambitions to provide beekeepers a forum to get quality information, techniques, explore new beekeeping styles, equipment and pioneer better ways to encourage healthy beekeeping practices.

Cory Stevens, a Missouri beekeeper and a Varroa Sensitive Hygiene (VSH) queen breeder will speak at the Brandon Area Beekeepers Association during their February 22 meeting. Cory will present on his toils to select and distribute a hardy, mite resistant and productive stock of honey bees through his specialized and involved VSH breeding program. VSH is a behavioral trait of honey bees in which bees detect and remove the bee pupae that are infested by the parasitic mite, Varroa destructor. This trait was found to be heritable and through his extensive breeding program, he has mixed VSH with other desirable traits of the honey bee to develop commercially appealing mite resistant honey bee stock.

Derek Micholson, lead of Manitoba's first Tech Transfer Program, the KRTP will host a KRTP night, Thursday February 24. During that Thursday evening Derek will dig deep into his last season of work. With that Derek plans to bring in other speakers in from across the country to highlight some of the work currently being done which directly relates to beekeeper problems/situations at hand. This evening will be packed full of information so be ready for a content drop but also use this opportunity to reach out to Derek to provide feedback on issues you'd like to see addressed within our operations right now.

This year's AGM will run much the same as last years online AGM but the board has decided to manage resolutions a bit differently this year. The board has anticipated importance around one of the resolutions this year and because of that we have decided to manage the official vote of the resolutions through a mail in ballot.

This year's acceptance of resolutions will be February 13, 2022. This will provide the board adequate time to work with the members to prepare the proposed resolutions that will be presented at the February 26th AGM and to have the resolutions mailed out to each member prior to the AGM. The resolution portion of this year's AGM will be managed as a presentation and discussion of the resolutions only. Ballots are to be returned by mail; postmarked by March 1st. Ballots will be counted Monday March 7th , counted, verified and announced to the membership by email and/or by mail.

Please reach out to any of us if you have any questions or concerns:

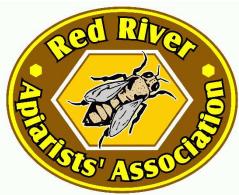
Ian Steppler, chairperson of the MBA, stepplerfarms@hotmail.com

Marg Smith, resolutions chairperson margshoney@gmail.com

Daryl Wright, MBA secretary d.l.wright@shaw.ca

Ian Steppler

Chairperson Manitoba Beekeepers Association

www.rraa.cawww.facebook.com/RRAAManitoba/www.youtube.com/channel/UCgrWfdXTaArPFyCZdRdOv1A

The BeeCause CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Have you **read** an interesting **article**?

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

Would you like to **share** an **observation**?

You want to take part in **RRAA conversation**?

Care to share an **anecdote** from your own bee-keeping **experiences**?

Or do you want to **adver-tise**?

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

Answer the call.

Send submissions to:
a.tucovic@gmail.com

Port Hope
5029 County Road 2,
Port Hope, ON L1A 3V5
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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT!

RRAA EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS: JANUARY 2021

We are reaching out on behalf of the Executive to inform you we are polling the membership for nominations of those you feel will benefit the association in the leadership positions, and to inquire if you have interest in running for a position on the executive committee of the RRAA.

- 1) Put your name forward for a position on the RRAA executive committee,
- 2) Nominate any member for any of the Executive positions for 2022.

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

Positions in the running every year:

**President - Vice President I - Vice President II - Treasurer - Secretary Newsletter
Editor - Web and Audio Visual Administrator**

If you wish to nominate a member, or register for an executive position in the elections next meeting, January 11, 2022, please contact:

John Russell / 204-612-2337 / honeyb@mymts.net

A Parable *submitted by John Speer*

In a midwest honey tree, there was a comfortable colony of bees. The hive was in a big basswood forest near a flowery meadow, so there was a good honey flow every year. Nearby was a small town where the young bees could hang out and mix and mingle. Bees had lived in the same tree for generations, queen after queen, healthy and happy. Into this wonderful family a new worker emerged one bright spring morning. This one was not an ordinary bee.

The new bee loved the cozy nest and loved her family, but decided to explore the world. She headed east and (after doing brilliantly on her SAT exams) attended Harvard. She quickly earned three PhDs – medicine, philosophy, and geophysics. She was so smart and popular that folks said she should run for president. She did and she won.

In her first term, she brought about world peace. As a bee, she knew a lot about nutrition, so she encouraged people to eat more honey and less sugar. People became healthier. As a geophysicist, she figured out a way to stop earthquakes. As a medical scientist, she funded the right people and they discovered a cure for cancer. She was wildly popular, so she was easily re-elected. Her achievements were even greater over the next four years. People wanted her to run for a third term, of course, but there were rules against that, so she said no, she'd retire.

Retired from saving the world and making the country strong, safe, and healthy, the bee suddenly remembered the cozy little nest back in the woods by the little town. She missed her sisters and decided to fly home. The reception was wonderful. Her friends took her to town for celebration drinks. The first pub had great beer but there was a long, long line, so after waiting for an hour to get in, they all flew off to another watering hole. It served cider. But again, the line to get in was much too long. So they flew off again, this time to get some fruit punch. They were in luck. When they finally reached the place, there was no punch line. □

RRAA Meeting Speaker, January 11, 2022

Title: How I Manage Bees in Medium Boxes

Speaker: Laura Wiens

Bio: I am a beekeeper and homeschooling Mom living in Ile des Chenes, MB. My bee-keeping journey started in June 2017 when I bought 5 nucs from Brad Hogg. Currently, I have 25 hives in the wintering shed and want to continue with 20-30 hives which I feel is about the most I can manage well and still have fun doing it. I am a bit of an odd one here in Manitoba and keep all my hives in medium boxes only, both for brood and honey. Beekeeping is a lot of fun, but also a lot of heavy lifting. As I am only 5'2' I decided I would be better off using smaller boxes. I have also had the pleasure of being a part timer on the inspection crew for the last 4 seasons. I really love meeting people and seeing so many different beekeeping operations. □



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About the RRAA and You!

About RRAA

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

The RRAA and the 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.



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.

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: treasurer@rraa.ca)

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

RRAA Treasurer

24063 Oakwood Road

Sunnyside, MB R5R 0H4

Minutes for Nov. 9, 2021 RRAA mtg.

RRAA President, John Russell Badiuk opened the RRAA meeting, which was conducted by a video conference, at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday Oct. 12 2021 50 screens attended the meeting using "Zoom".

John reminded that RRAA elections happening in January and encouraged folks to consider being involved at the executive level. No meeting in December. Not sure if we will be able to meet in person in January. Reminded that the hobbyist course registration happens starting in November. If you take course, one free year of membership and the option of a mentor to start out.

Treasure spot is not continuing, Secretary not continuing,

A. Club Business:

Minutes from Oct. 12, 2021: Motion to accept: Moved by: Brad Hogg and seconded by: Marg Smith. Carried

Treasure: Financial Report, John Speer

- Account amount \$ \$7932.28
- Membership Update, 180 members
- Memberships due in January.

Other committees/New Business:

- By-Laws -
- Honey Show - Brad Hogg - no report
- Website - No Report
- Social Media - Nothing
- Mentor Program 2021 - No Report

B MBA Report - Marg Smith

- Main thing to report is the report in the newsletter. The convention is the last week in February 2022, one day with evening before being either a workshop or panel discussion and next day being the main convention, online with an in-person event later in spring outside maybe hosted by RRAA. Any suggestions for articles and speakers appreciated contact Marg or Brad
- Canadian Honey Council - Mites high all across Canada, be vigilant and test regularly. Contact Rheal if you are having difficulty bringing numbers down.

C. Presentations:

Minutes for Nov. 9, 2021 RRAA mtg. (continued)

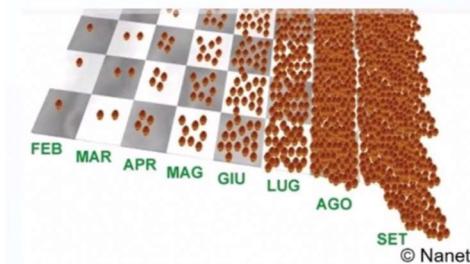
Dr. Medhat Nasr, Saskatchewan Bee Tech adoption Program Lead, Former Alberta Provincial Apiculturist. Dr. Nasr Introduced by Keith Bamford. New York bee wellness, many papers and videos and award. Presents with science and practical information.

Current and Future of Varroa Management Status in Canada medhat_bees@gmail.com

Dedicate to bees for 50 years - 30 years in Canada (1990) and 10 years in California and started as a youngster in Egypt.

Some history and science:

- In 1998 started hearing about varroa mites. Change in food for bees, hay has changed to canola.
- If we don't take care of the bees that bees will not take care of us. Varroa have been around for 30 years. They develop quickly and bring in other viruses in. They have a 70 day life cycle.
- If you start in spring at 3.5% then colonies will collapse in October and November. If you want healthy hive, no more than 1% in spring. One mite in spring can produce 3000 mites by August 15. He showed this graph and said keep it on our mind always.



Potential Growth of Varroa Destructor

- If we kill mites in fall, what is they still have virus. If we kill them in spring, we they cannot put virus in the bees. In addition fall planning, weather is unpredictable.
- In Feb put pollen patties and strips, then they start working on varoa right away. Varroa are winning. They are coming back.
- Apistan in the 1990s and worked for 10 years. Warnings of resistance. He was studying Formic acid but not taken up. If one mite lives, they start the developing resistance and within a few years resistance is developed. So, after 10 years mites were resistant. Check mite worked for 4 years and then stopped working. Now Apivar, but it to will be part of the treadmill.
- If we use the other treatments with Apivar, we can reduce resistance. Resistance varies from year to year and all bees need to be treated.
- We are on the edge of experiencing Apivar resistance.
- If we start using other' options oxalic, formic acid, thymofor, full resistance time period can be stretched out.
- The following are useful and might help- good genetics, drone pupae removal, screen boards with sticky boards - not enough for total control.

Minutes for Nov. 9, 2021 RRAA mtg. (continued)

Varroa Management Options

- Apivar -slow release and mites will be exposed apply 1 strip/5 frames bees. left in hive 6-8 weeks, not temperature dependant. If you move the strips then add 2 weeks to improve effectiveness.
- Thymovar applied 15-25 C. Good as fall treatment if temp is correct but not in spring.
- Oxalic Acid Strips/paper towels. Best applied during broodless period. Apply 2 every 10 -15 days.
- MAQS - formic Acid (15-25 C) - 2-40ml pads/colony once every 7-10 days for 3 times
- Hopguard 1 strip per 5 frames. 2 applications 10 days apart. (In process of being approved in Canada)

Monitoring is very important and do it more frequently. Sugar roll not effective. Wash is better. 100-200 bees a drop in the bucket 99% effective

Sticky board and counting is good but quite expensive.

Get Apivar in as quickly as possible in early spring (April May) and when you unwrap do oxalic, do it again. Do formic in summer. if you waited - virus load is to heavy.

Varroa treatment failure - mix soft chemicals with Apivar

Dr. Nsar is working on a possible replacement for after Apivar. Still at field study. It kills mites and does not contaminate honey - this takes time.

Oxalic Acid important tool if no brood in box. Keep monitoring - regularly to keep bees alive

Healthy Bee Colony. A good beekeeper can tell by examining a colony and monitoring whether the bees are sick or well. If ill, what disease or pest is present and must take action at the right time. We must manage the mites to manage the bees.

Dr. Nsar working on developing new chemicals - not same chemicals as used previously so they will reduce cross resistance.

Q&A MBA exploring getting bees from the US. any opinions.

Jim explained history - ban came due to tracheal mites and this caused damage. Then varroa came over the border. Not moving bees on comb is longstanding government law.

D. January Speaker:

Next Meeting: January

Meeting adjourned 10:20

Submitted by

Monica Wiebe

BeeMaid



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