

2017 Annual Report

Presented to the membership at the March 10, 2018 Annual General Meeting

Education

Last year was busy on the event front. The club hosted the following events:

- April 22nd, an introduction: What to Expect With Bees at Andrew Hamilton's Apiary
- May 13th and 14th, Beginner Beekeeper Course at Lynda and Greg Kletchco's St. Joseph Honey
- June 10th, a custom Safe Food Handlers Course in partnership with Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region June 10
- September 9th, a field day at Grandpa's Garden near Moose Jaw where we did several demonstrations about feeding bees, testing and treating for mites, and AFB and Nosema
- September 18th to November 20th, an Intermediate Beekeeping Course was offered at the University of Regina. Curriculum was developed by Yens Pedersen and the course was taught by Andrew Hamilton in class and on site at his apiary.
- February 4th, a Candle Making class featured Barry Brown in Regina.

As well, many individual members went into schools, libraries and the community to deliver educational presentations about honey bees.

Programs

The club ran numerous programs:

- Mentor – new members were paired with experienced beekeepers so they could have a direct source for guidance and help.
- Bulk Shipping – once a month during the summer months, members can order beekeeper supplies from BeeMaid in Tisdale to save on shipping costs.
- Drawn Comb – members can exchange new frames and foundation for drawn out comb that has been provincially inspected.
- Extractor and Refractometer Rental - members can learn how to use an extractor and save money by renting the club's equipment instead of having to purchase their own right away.
- Apivar Strip Purchase - the Club purchases Apivar in bulk and passes those savings along to members who can purchase individual strips at the reduced cost.
- Swarm collection and bumblebee relocation – the Club received over 70 inquiries from people with concerns or questions about bees in their yards, resulting in approximately two dozen site visits.
- Nuc purchase program - members order nucs in February and receive them about the end of May in time for the summer honey season.
- Bulk honey container program - members collectively order honey containers from Dominion and Grimm in Montreal and save on shipping.

Advocacy and Marketing

Because many members can't make it out to club events, the club created new content that they can access online in a more self-service style.

- Upgraded our newsletter to a quarterly and it is now available digitally with a broader distribution that also saves printing and postage costs.
- Produced two new brochures – one about honey bees and the second about our Club and native bees.
- Launched Regina Bee TV on YouTube where we create small videos featuring local beekeepers.
- Managed a very active Facebook community with 468 current members.
- Completely overhauled the club web site with new content and a more user-robust platform which is much more user friendly for those using mobile devices.

Community Events

The Regina and District Bee Club attends several local trade shows and community events where members interacted with the public and sold honey and products from the hive for sale during those events. The club hosted booths at three events this past year:

- May 27th, Cathedral Village Arts Festival in Regina.
- August 26th, Regina Symphony Orchestra's Symphony Under the Sky at Motherwell Homestead.
- November 20-25th, Agribition in Regina we staffed two booths, one in the education area and the other in the trade show area – with financial support from Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission.

New Publications

Yens Pedersen wrote “Regulatory Requirements for Saskatchewan Honey Producers Selling Honey”. The new guide clarifies federal and provincial laws and regulations as they might apply in connection with the sale of honey. Anyone selling honey should review the document to ensure that they are abiding by law.

Since year-one is where a new beekeeper is likely to make mistakes and kill their bees, Louise Yates wrote a two-part Beekeeping for Beginners book to help local people understand beekeeping and know where to start.

- Book 1: A Hobbyist's Photo Guide to learn basic beekeeping terminology and as a reference when doing hive inspections.
- Book 2: A Planning Guide for Regina Hobbyists to make informed decisions to set up and move through the first year of beekeeping.

These documents are available for download on the club web site.

Volunteers

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Yves Descottes, Andrew Hamilton, Conrad Schultz, Cam McIntyre, Colette Stushnoff, Linda Kletchko, Grandpa's Garden, Jason and Amanda Istead, Janine Heinrich, Michelle Frischholz, Keara Lueke, Angela Fuller, Ed Rodger, Mike Andrews, Doreen Bradshaw, Mark Bunney, Susan Clark, Nicole Descottes, Azure-Dee Farago, Maureen Ferguson, Greg Kletchko, Andy Kuderewko, Lawrence Laxdal, Marion Leniczek, Reid Leniczek, Lu Narine, Christine Rybchuk, Winter Sie-Holland, Rick Stushnoff, Russ Temple, Wil Waters, Jan Whitridge, Shawn Draper, Donald Folk, Louise Yates, Karen Pedersen, Julie-Anne Howe, Angie Benson, Daphne Murphy, Celine Holloway, Mimi Mouthaan, Janelle Quigley, Yens Pedersen, Conrad Schultz, Doreen Bradshaw and Kaitti Beverage

And please accept our sincere thanks and humble apology if we missed your name on this list.