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2010 Fall Issue



the Queen City BUZZZZZZ

Special Interest Articles:

Queen Marking Colors	2
Swarms in Regina	3
Field Day 2010	4
American Foulbrood, a Perennial Concern	5
Honey Today	6

Individual Highlights:

What We've BEEN Up To – Executive Update	2
Life Memberships Awarded	2
Website Update	3
Buzzing Connections	4
Did You Know?	4
Recipe Box	5
Geoff's Corner	6
About Our Club	6

Field Day 2010

Well, can't believe our luck with the day we picked for the Field Day. No rain that day! Unbelievable considering we seemed to get dumped on everyday this spring! The only bad part was that every beekeeper who attended was I'm sure itching to be home with the bees on such a perfect "bee" day!!! I truly thank all those that came. We had a turnout of around 41 people so it was perfect for mixing and mingling!

Lots among us that day were newcomers or

"newbees" as Conrad likes to say. We were glad to see some new interest emerging in the younger generation! We also had the President of the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association join us, Mr. Calvin Parsons. It is great to see that kind of participation and support for our club!

One of the highlights of the day was the "Greatest Inventions" table, where members shared the ideas that they have come up with to make life around the hive and the

honey house a little bit easier!! One of my favorites was the handy, dandy hive lifter that Garry Barber brought. My husband has already made us one. I noticed a few others taking down the measurements!

We had a honey tasting contest with 17 samples to taste. Thanks to those that brought us some samples. It is always great to try new things.

Continued on page 4

American Foulbrood, a Perennial Concern

In the past few years there has been a lot of attention given to new diseases and problems that are affecting honey bees. While the importance of these new problems which include mites, pesticide resistance, *Nosema ceranae*, Colony Collapse Disorder and elevated colony mortalities should not be understated, we should not forget some of the traditional problems like American Foul Brood (AFB).

AFB is a microscopic rod shaped bacteria which typically infects larvae up

to 3 days old that have eaten AFB spores. The sick larvae grow enough to cover their cells and then they die under the cappings. During this time the bacteria are in the vegetative reproduction state obtaining nutrition by feeding on the larvae. Each infected larvae can contain 100 million spores which will in turn infect many more larvae.

AFB is a very serious disease and in some ways is worse than Varroa mites. AFB spores will remain viable almost indefinitely and can

tolerate heat, making decontamination of comb virtually impossible.

There are 2 useful options to deal with infected comb:

1. Disposal so that bees do not come in contact with the infected comb
2. Irradiation.

For hobby and small scale beekeepers disposal by fire or burial makes for a simple, fast and inexpensive solution.

Continued on page 5

What We've BEEN Up To – Executive Update



Michelle Frischholz with Grade 1&2's at Judge Bryant School in Regina on June 17, 2010

The RDBC Executive Team met again on June 28th to touch base and have a status update of things on the go. Some of the highlights are:

- Club Brochure
- New/Current Member Protocol
- New Member Welcome Package
- Privacy and Information sharing
- Website (more on page 3)
- Advertising: protocols, prices, mediums
- Agribition - Agri-Ed and Trade Show Booth: teacher packages, location, participation, displays and ads
- Ag in the Classroom: funding and items to include
- School Visits: Doreen Bradshaw and Michelle Frischholz visited an elementary school in Regina to teach kids about bees
- Newsletter: If you have ideas or suggestions please let us know.
- Lending Library: we are looking at having a library lend items out for us
- Club Inventory
- Observation Hive
- Club Meeting: another meeting before year end, nothing is finalized yet, we will keep you posted!
- AGM 2011: items for the agenda – if you have anything please let us know so we can add them to our list.
- General Admin, procedures and finances.

Queen Marking Colors



Since Honeybee colonies and hence queen honey bees can survive a number of years an international system of Queen marking colors has been devised which, if followed, give an indication of the age of the Queen.

The Queen is marked with a spot of paint on her thorax (between the head and abdomen) and the color scheme is noted in the 2 tables.

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Red	Green	Blue	White	Yellow

The following mnemonic helps remember the order:

Be	Warned	You	Require	Gloves
Blue	White	Yellow	Red	Green
0	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9

The numbers are matched with the year end number.

Below is a picture of the honey pot that was awarded with the Life Memberships



Life Memberships Awarded

At this years' field day the RDBC presented two Life Memberships for outstanding performance and lasting contributions to the club.

Doreen Bradshaw and Alvey Halbengewachs (who

was unfortunately not present) have both volunteered many years and have been part of all areas of the club.

The certificate was presented along with a locally made honey pot

filled with honey candy.

On behalf of all the RDBC members we thank you, Alvey and Doreen for all the hard work and dedication over the years!



Website Update

Thanks to everyone that gave their input for what they wanted to see on our website

Despite being in heart of honey hauling season, we will be starting and hopefully completing the website by the end of August. After we create and launch the website, we will be sending out instructions on how to get into the website.

The following is a list of things we have listed for the website. The site will be created for both public eyes and our membership. Many areas of the website will link to other areas.

- Secure Members Area - this area will require a login. To get a login you must be a member and have an email address. Once set up, a member can update and add to their profile, which can be viewed only by other members. This area will allow members to communicate with each other privately. All members can "author"

articles and info/pictures of interest to the different areas of the site - these articles have to be approved and published by the Executive. There will also be a sub area for new members.

- Events/Calendar Area - Show a listing of Up Coming Events for public eyes
- Contact - an online form that shows how to contact the club and will show the main club contact information.
- FAQs - Area that has a list of the most Frequently Asked Questions and their answers.
- Did You Know area - shows random bits of beekeeping related information.
- Bees – The name of this section is still to be determined. This will be the main informational area of the website and will show product information, information about bees and bee types, pollination, honey, health info, etc.



- About the Club - Area to show information about the club and its history.
- Executives Area - An area for the Executives only to post information in a central location. As the Executive changes, who has access to this area will of course change as well.
- Advertising - Part of the club's new advertising packages. Ad's will come in different forms and will be shown across the entire website. Education - Show Agri-Ed information, club grant information, and will show teachers packages.
- Links - Show industry related links to other websites.
- Search - will allow members and the public to find what they are looking for by searching the all articles and areas with information on the website using keywords.
- Facebook - Area the links to the clubs' Facebook page.

We are always open to receive more ideas and suggestions on things you would like to have on the website. Let us know what you think!

Swarms in Regina

The club has had many calls from people having trouble with swarms, mostly in Regina.

Typically these would likely be bumble bees and wasps, but the odd time it turns out to be honey bees.

We've had interest from one member that would like to be notified when we find out about swarms.

If you have interest in helping with swarming, please let us know.

Buzzing Connections



Bee Culture is The Magazine of American Beekeeping, is designed for beginning, sideline and commercial beekeepers who want the latest information on the beekeeping industry. It is published once a month.

As a member of the RDBC, you are eligible for a discount. Please let

them know that you are a member when you order a subscription.

Before the club discount the prices for subscription are:

1 Year for \$40.00 US
2 Years for \$78.00 US

Send you money order, bank draft, express money

order or check to:

Bee Culture
623 W. Liberty Street
Medina, OH 44256

Or order by phone with a credit card, call:

1-800-289-7667 ext. 3220

They will answer with a company name of 'Root Candles'.

After the Smoker Contest: Linette Puffalt, Shawn Puffalt, Conrad Schultz and Roux Fyfe (left to right) enjoy getting a little smoky



Field Day 2010 continued from page 1

We couldn't get out the Apiary that day as the back roads were so muddy, but we did manage to bring a hive into the yard so we could open and poke around in. It was great to see the little kids all dressed up in their oversized suits leaning in for a closer look!

We did an alcohol wash mite test and found no varroa! It is a test highly recommended by Geoff

Wilson our Provincial Apiarist, and we hope that everyone will be doing it at home on a regular basis. Can't stress enough the importance of TESTING!!!!

All in all, had some good food, good fun...good sun...and lots of good "Bee Buzz"!

Who wants to host it next year? It's always great to see other peoples places...and the Executive has decided to hand out a really nice hostess gift for


anyone who wishes to volunteer! Don't worry; there will be a great committee to give you lots of help! Something to think about...the club would greatly appreciate the offer!


Well, happy beekeeping everyone! Hope your honey flow comes in with as much abundance as the rain this spring!!!




Perry & Michelle Frischholz


Did You Know?

 European settlers introduced European honey bees to New England in about 1638. North American natives called these honey bees the "white man's flies." Honey was used to prepare food and beverages, to make cement, to preserve fruits, to concoct furniture paste-polish and varnish and for medicinal purposes.

 The popular and varied uses of honey as a medicine in ancient Egypt can be seen in Egyptian medical texts dating back to about 2,500 B.C. In these texts, honey is listed in hundreds of remedies.

 In the 16th century, Conquering Spaniards found that the natives of Mexico and Central America had already

developed beekeeping. A distinct family of stingless bees (not true honey bees) was native to these regions.

 Since honey has the ability to absorb and retain moisture, it is used in the baking industry to keep baked goods fresh and moist.

Christie Langen
306-550-7681

- Registered Massage Therapist
- Certified Yoga Instructor
- Experienced Doula



Prairie Lotus
Therapeutic Massage & Yoga

American Foulbrood, a Perennial Concern continued from page 1

Irradiation requires shipping infected boxes to an irradiation plant to be processed. The logistics, expense and volumes needed make this process unsuitable for small scale beekeeping. Irradiation may make more economical sense for very large beekeeping operations with very large AFB problems.

In the long run, keeping AFB out of your operation is the best option. To do this most beekeepers use Oxytetracycline as a prophylactic antibiotic. This includes treating every spring and/or fall with oxytetracycline, as directed on the label, before AFB becomes a problem. While this is usually very effective in controlling AFB, it is also important to know what to look for incase the disease does get started.

Beekeepers should inspect for AFB every time a brood chamber is opened regardless if antibiotics are used in the spring and fall or not. To find AFB infections, look at the capped brood for sunken cappings, small holes in the cappings and discolored (darker) cappings. If any of these symptoms are found, remove the capping to see if the larvae underneath is a healthy pearly white, or a toffee colored brown. If it is a coffee brown color, use a stick to stir the infected larvae and then slowly pull the small stick out of the cell to see if it makes a long string (Picture 1). In heavily infected colonies there are often scales present as well. Scales are hard dried up infected larvae that sit on the bottom of the cell and are full of spores (Picture 2). The

scales are very distinctive but can sometimes be difficult to see, especially in dark brood combs. These scales can remain infective for 50 years and if the frame is placed in a healthy colony, can make treated colonies show symptoms of disease, so all brood frames from dead colonies should be inspected and not used if scale is found.

AFB is a perennial problem that needs constant attention. The best treatment is to be vigilant and keep it out of your bees. If it is found in a beehive, take care of it immediately and don't let it spread to other colonies. Remember, it is much more satisfying to keep healthy colonies than constantly loose sick colonies.

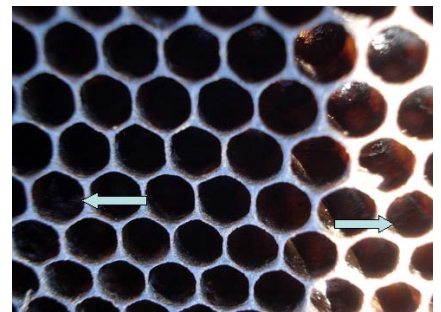


Geoff Wilson



Picture 1 (above)
Field test for vegetative AFB. Notice the long, stringy, sticky larvae attached to the small stick. No other disease has this characteristic.

Picture 2 (below)
Field picture of scales, the scales are at the bottom of the cell, are very hard and difficult to remove from the cell.



Recipe Box

Honey Roasted Potatoes

2 pounds of large baking potatoes
1/2 tbs. of Dijon Mustard
1/4 cup of honey
1/2 tsp. crushed thyme leaves
Salt and pepper to taste

First peel potatoes and cut in several pieces. Cover potatoes with water in large pot and bring to a boil, about 10 to 15 minutes. Drain when tender. In a small bowl mix the following ingredients: mustard, honey, and thyme. Coat potatoes with mixture. On a foil-lined baking sheet spray non-stick cooking spray and place the potatoes on it.

Bake at 375° for 20 minutes or until potatoes begin to turn brown around the edges.

HONEY glazed Salmon

1 onion, diced
1 cup dry wine
1 cup tomato juice
1/2 cup of ketchup
1/2 cup of honey
1 tbs. Worcestershire sauce
1/2 tsp. chopped garlic
1/2 tsp. chili powder
4 Salmon steaks

Combine onion and wine in large pan. Bring to a boil. Add remaining ingredients (except fish). Mix it all very well. Cook it all for about 10 minutes. Put glaze in blender or food processor. Mixture must be smooth. Grill salmon over medium hot coals, basting with sauce. Salmon is done when it flakes easily.



See something you like?

Have questions?

Do you have ideas or feedback?

Let us know!!!

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.reginabeeclub.ca



Geoff's Corner

Have questions and need information about beekeeping in Saskatchewan?

Do you want to become a registered Beekeeper in our Province?


Contact Saskatchewan's Provincial Apiarist:

Geoff Wilson (306.953.2304)

Email: geoff.wilson@gov.sk.ca



Honey Today

 Honey bulk price in 45 gallon barrels is approximately \$1.50-\$1.60/lb.



About Our Club...

The Regina and District Bee Club has been active in the City of Regina for over fifty years as a cooperative for ordering honey bees and as a network for education and information on beekeeping.

It is a priority to inform members about current issues in the beekeeping industry to ensure that a proactive role is taken with all industry issues such as bee diseases, mites and pesticides.

The Regina and District Bee Club participates in the Agri-Ed Show Case at Canadian Western Agribition. The focus is to educate children from Grades 4-6 about agriculture and food. Club members volunteer their time to speak about the

bees and beekeeping to well in excess of 10,000 visitors each year.

The Regina and District Bee Club in partnership with the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association profile the bee keeping industry as a whole in the Trade Show area in order to:

- Promote and sell products of the hive;
- Inform visitors about the industry and its role in the Saskatchewan economy; and
- Develop a relationship with other Saskatchewan agriculture producers.

Want to Advertise in the Queen City Buzzzzzz?

Business Card \$10.00

1/4 pg \$25.00

1/3 pg \$30.00

1/2 pg \$45.00

1 pg \$80.00

Our next Newsletter will be early November. Deadline for submissions is October 27th.

Membership Benefits:

- A cooperative for ordering bees;
- At the annual meeting, guest speakers are invited to give presentations on current issues;
- Communication of industry issues to enable members to have a voice in provincial decision making;
- Hold "Field Days" to enable members to learn about beekeeping best practice methods; and
- Information and support system for fellow beekeepers.

