

November 9, 2010
2010 Winter Issue



the Queen City BUZZZZZZ

Special Interest Articles:

SBA Annual Meeting	2
The New RDBC Website is Here! Cont'd	2
President's Report	4
Bee Books	4
CAPA Statement on Honeybee Losses in Canada (2010)	5
Honey Today	6

Individual Highlights:

What We've BEEN Up To – Executive Update	3
Did You Know?	3
Buzzing Connections	4
A Wintering Story	4
More Ways to Pay	5
Recipe Box	5
Geoff's Corner	6
About Our Club	6

'Tis the Season... for Agribition

Agri-Ed

The Agri-Ed Showcase at Agribition runs from Monday, November 22 to Saturday, November 27. It is located in the Canada Centre Exhibit Mall (west side of grounds). The showcase is focused on Grades 3 to 8. Several volunteers are needed each day to answer bee-related questions from children, teachers, and the general public. The hours of operation are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on

Saturday. The club supplies a pass for you to get on grounds free of charge that day. It is very rewarding talking to the children - they love the bee booth. If you are available to work at the booth, give me (Colette Stushnoff) a call at 699-2599 or email me at fort.trail@yourlink.ca. If you don't call me, I may call you!!

Tradeshow

As you all know, the RDBC, in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association hosts a Tradeshow Booth during

Agribition in Regina.

It's a fun week of promoting our industry.

We will once again be in the Agribition Building – Booth #123. We are still looking for volunteers to help man the booth and supply some of the products we sell there. If you can spare some time, we would love to have you. Please send an email to

lovebees@reginabeeclub.ca

If you are planning on attending Agribition....please stop by to say hello!

The New RDBC Website is Here!

<http://www.ReginaBeeClub.ca>

As of writing this, we are still doing some updates to the website, but are about to launch it right away. We are launching Monday, November 15th.

Overview

We wanted to create a website that would help generate interest in the industry, while supporting our beekeepers. The structure of the website was created with advertising in mind, so that we can also generate income from the website. We ended up creating a site that will end up serving several functions

and purposes, one of those being to compliment and reflect the benefits of our newsletter. You will find similar things on the website that you can find in our newsletter. The website is good for those updates that need posting right away and having a public face for our club - we plan on doing regular updates to the site (hopefully with your help!), including News and Events updates, along with any content updates to the many areas of interest that can be found there. We are looking for our members to take part in updating the areas of the

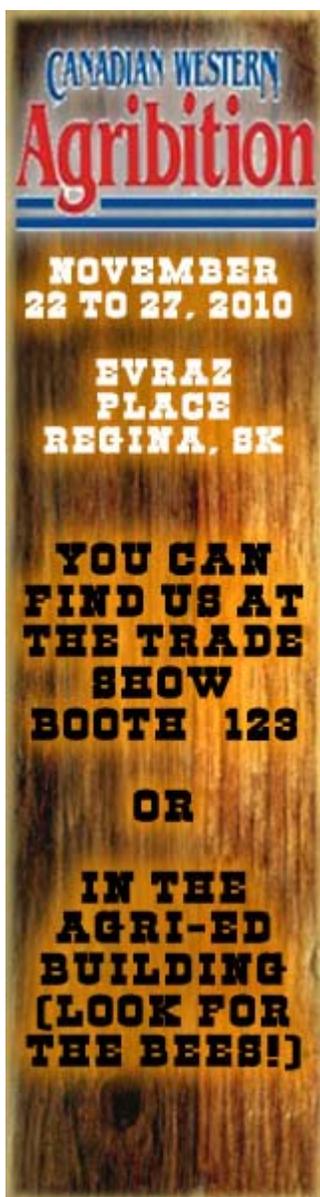
website as well, so if you have ideas, pictures or information please feel free to contribute.

I'll let you all take a look at the website, without explaining the whole thing here. I do want to point out some key things for you though.

Members

All members of the club, that have email, can register as an online member to our website. But first, what is there in the secure online members area?

Continued on page 2



SBA Annual Meeting

When:
December 1st to 3rd, 2010

Where:
Sheraton Cavalier Hotel
612 Spadina Crescent E.
Saskatoon, SK, S7K 3G9
Phone: (306) 652-6770 Fax:
(306) 244-1739

Special Offers on
Reservations:
(866) 716-8101

🐝 Medhat Nasr coming
from Alberta (Provincial
Apiarist), speaking on
Varroa and Over wintering

🐝 Steve Pernal speaking on
Nosema Control

🐝 Albert Robertson speaking
on his work on the Saskatraz
Project

🐝 Other speakers to be
announced

<http://www.saskbeekeepers.com/>

The New RDBC Website is Here! Cont'd

Security and Privacy - you choose what your photo (which is optional) and name will be - other members can contact you, but only through a web form that sends the communication to your email. No contact information is displayed to members or the public (except for our executives information), and only members can contact you through the web form. Member photos can only be viewed by other members. Only RDBC club members can be online reginabeeclub.ca members.

Free Classified Ads - Members can post their Classified Ads for other members to see, for free! These show up in the members side of the website, not publicly. If you would like to have public advertisements on the website, the normal prices apply for placing ads (see the ads area).

"Classifieds" include "For Rent", "Wanted", and "For Sale" items.

Documents - Download a variety of member exclusive documents, including meeting notes, beekeeping help, how to use the website, and more.

New & Notes - This is the place where we post the latest news and notes for members only. Please check here often as this is where we post the latest updates, including club info, industry info, etc. There is also a "News" area, found in the top and left menus, but this is for the public.

New Members Area - The place is where new members can go to get information.

Polls - This place is where you can put in your opinion on questions we pose to members only. We would love to get your feedback for all polls! We will use this information for AGM agenda items and club decisions later.

Post your Own Article(s) to the Website - As a registered reginabeeclub.ca member, you will have the ability to create and submit your own articles for the website, which includes website web page content (for the public to see, or for just members only) and all

the things you want to submit in the Classifieds area. Once you post your own article, it has to be approved by the executive before it gets published on the website, which means that we do a proof read to ensure for accurate and appropriate content. We'll make sure that you are posting it in the correct area as well. There is documentation for how to submit your own articles in the Documents area.

How to Login to the ReginaBeeClub.ca Website

1. Go to <http://www.ReginaBeeClub.ca> (capitalization doesn't matter)
2. Click on the "Register" Link, in the Members Login area, located on the right.
3. Follow the directions from there. If you have any questions on this let us know - we would love to see all members registering on the website. All membership website registrations have to get confirmed by an executive. The website's content and information will be ongoing, and with your help, we can make it a great website for supporting our beekeepers and the industry as a whole. Happy surfing!

Shelly Major RMT, MTAS

registered massage therapist • 2216 smith street

306.775.1588

What We've BEE'n Up To – Executive Update

Agriculture in the Classroom (AIRC) is a charity that promotes agriculture education and awareness in the province.



With support from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and the agriculture industry, AIRC helps students learn about the importance of agriculture to

Saskatchewan's culture and economy through provision of innovative, hands-on programs and curriculum-linked resources. AIRC works hard to provide balanced, factual information.

Because of our association with them at Agri-Ed, AIRC approached the Regina & District Bee Club to contribute some items to agriculture learning kits for grade 4. These kits are made available to any school in Saskatchewan.

At the RDRC's request, the Saskatchewan Beekeeper's Development Commission agreed to fund this project. AIRC now has 20 learning kits that include a poster about the honeybee lifecycle and

a DVD called "The Honey Files" that is produced and distributed by the National Honey Board in the USA. Also, they now have 3 DVDs in their resource library called "City of Bees: a children's guide to bees".

Did You Know?

Bee Stings and Venom

Queen Bees have a stinger, but will "likely" only sting another Queen.

Drones have no stinging ability.

Worker Bees have a stinger and will use it as necessary to defend the hive.

A Worker Bee that is out gathering nectar is not likely to sting, but if she is at the hive, and feels the hive is being threatened, she will attack and sting. If honey bees feel their hive is threatened, they will often emit "attack" pheromones. These pheromones will signal other worker bees to join in the attack.

The stinger on a honey bee is barbed and will lodge in the skin of its victim. Once lodged, the bee's abdomen will be ripped from its body and cause the stinging bee to

die within minutes. The Honey Bee is the only species of Bee's to die after stinging. The sting injects apitoxin (a bitter colorless liquid) in its victim, and also releases more "alarm" pheromones at the site. If you are stung, beware because there are likely more bees coming. The bee can inject approximately 0.1mg of venom through its stinger. The active portion of the bee venom is a complex mixture of proteins which causes inflammation and acts as an anticoagulant. Apitoxin is similar to snake venom and nettle toxin.

The main component of bee venom is the toxin melittin (a strong anti-inflammatory agent); histamine and other biogenic amines may also contribute to pain and itching.

If you are stung by a honey bee, it is important

to remove the stinger as soon as possible. This will reduce the amount of venom that is being injected. Once the sting has been removed, apply "ice" to help reduce pain and swelling.

A normal reaction to a bee sting would be itching and swelling that may last for up to a week and cover an area of 3 to 4 inches. For approximately 1 - 2 per cent of people, anaphylactic shock from certain proteins in the venom can be life-threatening and will require emergency treatment by a trained physician. This type of allergic reaction will force many to carry "epinephrine" in the form of an EpiPen just to be safe. Speak to your Doctor if you are concerned that you may be allergic to bee stings.

Apitherapy is the medical use of honey bee products. The use of Apitherapy, or "Bee Venom" Therapy, as it is more commonly known, has not been proven in the scientific community as yet. It has however been claimed to be of use in treatment of arthritis, bursitis, tendonitis, multiple sclerosis and other illnesses.

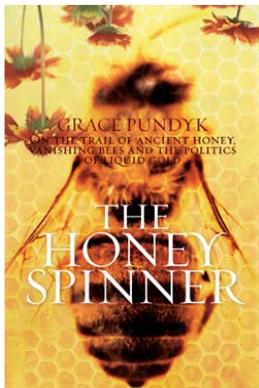
(Information gathered from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

WANTED
Maxant 1400P
"10/20" Motorized
Radial Extractor.
 (or something similar)

PLEASE CONTACT
Conrad
306.535.9520
info@topwater.ca







Have you read a book relating to bees? Do you think other members would be interested in it? Let us know!



Conrad's winter ready hive



Buzzing Connections

The Speedy Bee – Quarterly beekeeper's newspaper. The happenings of the beekeeping industry, plus

how-to articles. \$17.25 per year (4 issues) in US. Canada and Mexico add \$12.00 postage. Sample copy free.

Mailing Address:

The Speedy Bee
P.O. Box 1317
Jesup, GA
31598

President's Report

This was quite a challenging growing season for everybody, beekeepers included. We found that spring build-up of bees was hampered by lack of flying days, which created a lack of pollen in the hives, causing the bees to cut back on brood rearing right when we were looking for larvae to graft into queen cells. So bee numbers were lower than we liked to see early on. Being cooped up may have caused some swarming,

but I've seen worse swarm seasons.

There were lots of challenges getting into bee yards in a timely fashion. Either it was raining, or the road was muddy. Nice to have wings. The bees made good use of their flying days, though. As it turned out, all that flood-damaged canola just kept blooming - and it still is! How strange is that? It turned out to be a

very good year for honey production in our area. We fed the bees in September and early October. We usually wrap bees close to Thanksgiving, but it was so warm that we just finished that last job of the season on October 18, when it turned back to seasonal temperatures.

Hope all your bees are wrapped and fed and ready for winter!



Colette

Bee Books

The Honey Spinner

By Grace Pundyk

This engaging narrative non-fiction tale follows Grace Pundyk's journey from the wild Yemeni deserts to the jungles of Borneo, and from Russia

to Tasmania's leather wood forests, with many other honey producing destinations in between. Grace follows the sticky trail of this ancient food, and the people who make their living from it, to uncover the truth behind this 'food of the gods'.

A Wintering Story

My wife and I just wrapped the bees today (Oct.15) as it looks like it is getting chilly out there. I decided to do things a little different than usual. The wooden entrances that I drill over top of the black insulation were created a little larger, painted black on the front (good for attracting the heat of the winter sun), and I angled the perch on them slightly (water runs

down hill). We also made sure that the hives, once grouped together and wrapped, faced east and west, in order to get some sun on the entrances during the cold months ahead. Also, the tie-downs we used for the top cover were actually bungee cords from the back of my truck. I couldn't get those black rubber cords to stick to the pallet with my stapler

(hopefully the last the winter!). The bricks were already there so I just put 'em on top. Some red tape around the wrapper corners and over the cover sealed the deal for me (hopefully it also lasts). I plan on checking the hives again when there is snow, to see how they are fairing.



Conrad

CAPA Statement on Honeybee Losses in Canada (2010)

Over the winter of 2009-10, losses in Canadian beekeeping were twenty-one percent of the number of colonies that were wintered. Though this represents 1.4x the long-term winter loss rate for Canada, this is a substantial improvement over the previous three-year period during which losses averaged 32.6%.

In the years subsequent to the introduction of the ectoparasitic mite *Varroa destructor* into Canada, normal long-term overwintering mortality has been considered to be 15%. During the winter of

2009-10, mortality due to wintering losses and spring dwindling was 21.0%, or 1.4x the normal rate. This loss is substantially less than the 2008-09 mortality figures of 33.9% and is also less than rates of 35.0% and 29.0% recorded respectively for the winters of 2007-08 and 2006-07. Though encouraging, it is too early to determine whether this decline in mortality constitutes a sustained improvement in colony health.

Compared with the previous three years, mortality across regions

has been less variable and generally lower. Extension professionals in Canada attribute the improvement in colony losses, in part, to the availability of a new *Varroa* mite control product, Apivar®, which contains the active ingredient Amitraz. This product was made available to beekeepers under emergency use registration (EUR) for the fall of 2009. Effective use of existing mite control products, such as those containing formic or oxalic acid, also contributed to improved mite control in 2009-10.



Additional factors that contributed to increases in colony survival in 2010 were enhanced sampling and control for the honey bee internal parasite *Nosema ceranae* as well as greater intensity of monitoring for other pests and diseases in major beekeeping areas.

More Ways to Pay

The RDBC can now accept online payments through PayPal.

PayPal is a safe and secure way to make online payments for those

that would like to use a credit card or prefer online banking.

Using PayPal does have a small service fee per transaction, 3% + \$0.30.

If you would like to pay your membership or an ad, just let us know and we will send you an online invoice.



Recipe Box

Aunt Jean's Honey Chicken

Description: Aired Oct. 24, 2007; Jan. 2, 2008 (re-run)

This recipe has been in my family for at least 5 generations. It was passed down from my paternal grandmother's aunt. Need I say more about how good this recipe tastes?

Ingredients

½ cup liquid honey
¼ cup butter

2 tsp curry powder (you can also use the Indian-style curry paste, such as Patak's)
¼ tsp mustard powder
Pinch salt

Directions

In a greased oven proof lasagna pan (or similar), place 1 chicken cut up.

Place sauce ingredients in a glass measuring cup and microwave on high for 1 ½ minutes. Stir.
(Alternatively, place

ingredients in a saucepan and heat on the stove until butter is melted)

Pour over chicken pieces and bake about 40 minutes at 375F, basting occasionally. Serve with rice and a green vegetable.

Recipe compliments of CJ Katz of Savour life magazine.

Check her out online at www.savourlife.ca or watch her show Wednesdays at 12:15 pm on The Wheatland Café on CTV



Savour life
magazine
Local Living at its Best!

See something you like?

Have questions?

Do you have ideas or feedback?

Let us know!!!

67 Angus Road
Apt 22
Regina, SK S4R 3L1

PHONE:
(306) 539-2729

E-MAIL:
ilovebees@reginabeeclub.ca
ads@reginabeeclub.ca

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 \$1.55/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

We also offer advertising on our website.

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.

