

February 28, 2011
2011 Spring Issue



the Queen City BUZZZZZZ

Special Interest Articles:

President's Report	2
AGM Notice	2
Packages vs. Nucs	4
SBA Annual Meeting (Cont'd from cover)	5
Honey Today	6

Individual Highlights:

Trade Show Booth	3
Buzzing Connections	4
Recipe Box	5
Geoff's Corner	6
About Our Club	6

SBA Annual Meeting

The Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association (SBA) Annual Meeting took place in Saskatoon on December 1-3, 2010.

Geoff Wilson updated us about varroa treatment:

Apivar is renewed for use till June 31/11, and another emergency registration will be requested for 2011/12. Hopefully it will be fully registered after that. It is recommended that 3 strips per colony be used in the spring, as many strong colonies last spring did not have adequate treatment with two strips.

Thymovar (a slow release thymol) has just received

registration. It is very temperature dependent, but 2 treatments can provide up to 80-90% efficacy.

Formic acid will not be legal after March 2/11 unless someone registers a product. Apparently Medivet is trying to register a 65% formic acid treatment. No other formulations are currently registered.

The small hive beetle (SHB) has been found all over Hawaii. Canada imports over 100,000 queens a year from Hawaii. Import protocols will have to be re-evaluated. SHB was also

found in the Windsor area of Ontario. There is currently a quarantine, but no decision had been made to destroy affected colonies. The beetle flies, and can disperse quickly over large areas and the USA remains a source of future beetles.

Geoff has been seeing more American Foulbrood. He is working on including a Nosema test with the tracheal test.

Janet Tam from the Ontario Beekeepers Association's Tech Transfer Team told us that SHB pupa do not develop below 10°C, in fact, they die.

Continued on page 5

Agri - Ed

Agribition took place on November 22-27 in 2010. Once again, the bee booth was a popular attraction at Agri-Ed. The observation hive is such a people magnet. A BIG thank you to all the members and non-members that helped staff the Agri-Ed booth this year. We cannot promote the value of honeybees without you! We had approximately 4500 pre-registered children, teachers and chaperones go through the exhibits

during the week. We also talk to many members of the general public and several international visitors. Saturday has no school tours, but our booth is almost as busy as any weekday. We handed out quite a few RDBC business cards to people interested in beekeeping. (the cards have our website address on them)

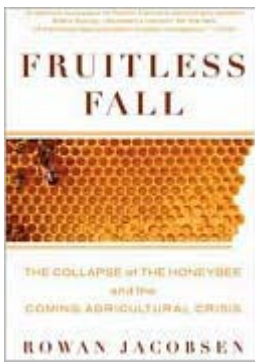
Pierre the Bear (Thanks Conrad!) came to visit the children on Wednesday.

He is always a big hit! He presented the beehive for sale at the Kid's Auction, and then hung out around our booth for several hours.

Thank you to Wink Howland for supplying an extractor for demonstration this year, and to the SBA and SBDC for their support of our education efforts.



Colette



"To witness an orchard full of bees merrily nuzzling flowers and packing honey into the hive - 'on the flow,' as beekeepers say - is to feel that all is right with the world. We may not get food from flowers, as bees do, but at some primordial level, we share the same tastes. We are attracted to the same shapes, scents, and colors. We may not be able to 'get' a fly or a dung beetle, but we get a bee.

And we admire them. The techniques bees have developed to help in their mission (dancing, navigation, pheromone communication), the extraordinary array of products they make (honey, propolis, wax, royal jelly), and the amazing social structure of the hive are all signs of an estimable intelligence wholly unlike the human variety and well worth comprehending. Bees can do things no other creature can."

Quote from Rowan Jacobsen's, *Fruitless Fall - The Collapse of the Honey Bee and the Coming Agricultural Crisis*

President's Report

Winter seems to be flying by so quickly. In late March, we'll be thinking of checking our hives, sampling for tracheal mite and treating for varroa. It is not unusual to see dead bees in front of the hives during the winter, so don't be alarmed if you see this in your operation—old bees need to die all winter long. We had a couple of days in late January when temperatures rose to a sunny, balmy 2°C, and we had bees that broke cluster for a cleansing flight—the clean, white snow suddenly turns a

dirty brown in the bee yard. Some of those old bees don't make it back to the hive.

For those of you new to beekeeping, wanting to rapidly expand your operation or needing to make up for winter losses, package bees are an option. I do not recommend packages if locally available, Saskatchewan-adapted nucs are available. Fourteen years ago, we started with package bees and later the same year

replaced the offshore queens with Sask-hardy queens as soon as they became available. We did this with about 110 packages over 3 years, and it was a big job to find all those queens! The "Packages vs. Nucs" article is my biased opinion and experience with package bees. I would never say "*Do not get packages*", but there are several things for you to consider.



Colette

Annual General Meeting (AGM) Notice

Please consider this your official notice of the following motions that will be presented at the AGM, April 9, 2011.

Notice of Motion:

Motion #1: Be it resolved that the club buy an extractor for the Agri-Ed display at the Agribition and have it available to club members for rent during the year.

Motion #2: Be it resolved that one delegate from the Regina and District Bee Club Executive attend the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association Annual Meeting, expenses paid by the club, and they must report back to the club on the event.

Motion #3: Be it resolved that the following proposed changes to the Executive section of the Constitution be accepted and take effect immediately (all additions in *italics*, deletions are stroked out):

III.1 There will be a President, Secretary-Treasurer, and ~~two~~ *three* Directors.

III.2 An Executive position will be for a two year term *and may be held by an individual for a maximum of 2 consecutive terms. After a minimum of 1 year off, that individual may again serve as an Executive. If the circumstance arises that no names are put forward to be nominated, an individual that has reached their maximum two terms, and would otherwise not qualify, may run.*

III.3 Elections will be held on Year One and alternate years to elect a ~~President and one Director~~ *three Executives*. Elections will be held on Year Two and alternate years to elect ~~the Secretary-Treasurer and one Director~~ *two Executives*. *At the first meeting of the Executives, they will decide amongst*

themselves who will take each role. The position of President may only be accepted by an individual who has previously served on the Executive.

Motion #4: Whereas Canadian Western Agribition will be holding its annual fair November 21 to 26, 2011, be it resolved that the Regina and District Bee Club enter a display into the Agri-Ed Showcase with live bees for the full period of the event at the 2011 Agribition.

Motion #5: Whereas Canadian Western Agribition will be holding its annual fair November 21 to 26, 2011, be it resolved that the Regina and District Bee Club will enter a display into the Tradeshow section to sell products of the hive.

***Note: A copy of the Financial Report will also be available for early viewing on our website.

Trade Show Booth

Agribition has come and gone for another year. We had a fun week promoting the beekeeping industry. We see a lot of old friends and meet a lot of new ones.

This year we spruced up our booth with a new banner. We had a yellow and black theme going that was a real eye catcher. We also handed out quite a few of our new club business cards that directed any interested people to the our website. Perhaps we will see some new faces in the upcoming year??

This year we had six contributors of honey and supplies to our booth and we sold more than we did the previous year. People are becoming much more

health conscious it seems, and honey is becoming an important staple for many of these health conscious people. The club kept 25% of all sales items so it was a great fundraiser for the club. Buckwheat honey sold out quickly this year. We had many students from Russia, Sadie Arabia and Israel stop by to purchase the darker honey as it was similar to the honey from their homeland.

We answered many "honey" and "beekeeping" questions from interested people. So many had heard reports and were genuinely concerned about the decline of the honeybee. It was good to see that more people knew of the important role the honeybee plays in our

food chain. It was also a great place for us to try and encourage people to read product labels and try and buy local.

I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who helped out with the booth this year. A lot of work goes into the set-up, take-down, design, preparing and providing product, and volunteering hours during the sale. These types of efforts are what help to keep the club going and subsidize other Club Events for all our members.

We are always looking for ideas and suggestions to improve things. Please drop us a line and let us know what you think.



Michelle

Call for Nucs

Will you have nucs available this year?

The club is looking for members interested in proving nucs this spring.

Please call Keara at (306) 539-2729 with the number of nucs you would be willing to provide.



Left to right: Jean Fletcher, Doreen Bradshaw, and Jocelyn Parsons at the Trade Show booth during Agribition 2010. Look at that spiffy new banner!!!

BeeMaid

Proudly Owned by Canadian Beekeepers

Carrying a full line of beekeeping equipment from several manufacturers:
 -Dadant & Sons Ltd. -Mann Lake Supplies -Maxant -Dakota Guinness -Walter T. Kelley -Medivet -Perma-Dent Foundation -Pierco -Cook & Beals -Cowen Manufacturing Co. Inc -Lewis & Sons Enterprises Ltd -Plus many more!

Whatever your requirements we would be glad to help. Quality products for the beekeeping industry, including:

-Woodenware -Queen Rearing Supplies -Package Bees and Queens
 -Beekeepers Apparel -Honey Containers -Extracting Equipment
 -Beekeeping Tools -Novelties -Foundation -Medication & Chemicals.

Buyers of Light and Dark Beeswax at competitive prices. We can arrange your sugar requirements, dry or liquid sugar in small lots or delivered trailer loads.

Alberta Honey Producers Co-Operative
 Box 3909 70 Alberta Avenue
 Spruce Grove, AB T7X 3B1
 T: 780-962-5667 F: 780-962-1653

Bee Outfitters
 625 Roseberry Street
 Winnipeg, MB R3H 0T4
 T: 204-783-2240 F: 204-783-8468

Bee Outfitters
 Hwy 3 West
 Tisdale, SK S0E 1T0
 T: 306-873-2521 F: 306-873-3455



Visit our website: www.beemaid.com Shop at: www.beemaidbeestore.com



Keep an eye out for your 2011 order forms to subscribe to the American Bee Journal

New Beekeeping Supplies for Sale

20 Unassembled Supers (interlocking joints)
\$10.00 each

Standard Wooden Frames: \$1.07/each
Standard Permanent Plastic Foundation
\$.91/sheet

Pre-order for pick-up at
AGM

Perry/Michelle Frischholz
781-4457

"Issues that arise will be similar for packages and nucs, but the nuc supplier can be a little handier for advice."
from Packages vs. Nucs

Buzzing Connections

The **American Bee Journal** was established in 1861 by Samuel Wagner and has been published continuously since that time, except for a brief period during the Civil War. The Journal has the honor of being the oldest English language beekeeping publication in the world. Today, Dadant and Sons has the privilege of publishing the American

Bee Journal for subscribers throughout the world. Readership is concentrated among hobby and commercial beekeepers, bee supply dealers, queen breeders, package-bee shippers, honey packers, and entomologists. This publication on bees has been helping beekeepers for almost 150 years. Scores of interesting and

informative articles to make beekeeping more fun and profitable. Monthly crop and market information, practical information, scientific and experimental reports, industry news, and display and classified ads. A staff with many years of experience to research and answer questions.

It is a monthly publication that contains, on average, 100 pages per issue.

Packages vs. Nucs

Most packages come from subtropical areas and may not be adapted to our climate. This affects their winter hardiness and winter feed consumption. I'm often asked about feeding in spring. We almost never do so because our bees come through winter with adequate stores to get them through spring.

A nuc (nucleus colony) is a small, fully functioning colony with brood in all stages, while a package is a bunch of bees and a caged queen. Packages are usually available much earlier in the season than nucs. Packages come from the southern hemisphere at the end of their season, and may be composed of a lot of old bees that have to rear brood in their old age. Bee population will dwindle for about a month after installation (assuming the queen is well-mated and starts laying quickly).

Be ready to install the package bees the evening of the day you bring them

home. Delays increase the risk that the package will not become a productive colony. (We once installed packages while it was snowing lightly.) Nucs are a little more flexible in terms of immediate management. Depending on the strength of the nuc, they may be fine in their nuc box for a few days, or they may need to be put in a full size box quickly. Nucs that we sell are usually available late May/early June and good weather to work bees is usually available.

You need to be prepared to install package bees on fully drawn comb, ideally with some honey and pollen as well as open space for the queen to lay. Be prepared to feed them regardless of honey stores. Spring weather can be a significant limitation to these bees. Expecting these bees to draw out foundation (as is often recommended in the US) will be very hard on them until you have a couple of boxes of bees and a strong honey flow

(canola).

When you buy bees, you get what you get (such as poorly mated queens, mites, and other pests/disease). Issues that arise will be similar for packages and nucs, but the nuc supplier can be a little handier for advice. NZ packages probably have varroa mites, as do most nucs. As far as I know, Australian packages are still mite free; this is their best feature, especially for a new beekeeper.

I believe beekeeping and honey production to be a fairly environment-friendly industry. Bringing in bees from the other side of the world enlarges the carbon footprint. If you decide packages fit your needs, go ahead and do it, but don't depend on them as your long-term source of bees. Self-sufficiency with locally adapted stock should be your long-term goal.



Colette

SBA Annual Meeting Continued from page 1

This fact makes it difficult for larvae that pupate in prairie soils to survive the winter. Adult beetles will be able to survive in the cluster. They tested some beetle traps using cider vinegar as attractant. Strong colonies do not allow many larvae to develop, while weak colonies allow lots of larvae to pupate.

Janet also talked about trials for Miteaway Quickstrips, Thymovar and Thymol dust. They did find increased mite mortality in the brood caused by the Quickstrips. There is also some queen mortality caused by the Quickstrips in their summer treatment. Fall treatment efficacy was 97% for Miteaway2, 94% for the Quickstrips, and 43% for the control, but a fair amount of damage to emerging brood in some colonies.

Thymovar works at $>10^{\circ}\text{C}$

and requires 2 treatments of 3-4 weeks, therefore a treatment window of 6-8 weeks in the fall. It is more temperature dependent than formic acid. Its efficacy was 43% control, 95% Miteaway2 and 72% Thymovar.

Thymol dust was tried 2 ways: 30 g/wk for 4 times or 60 g/2 wk twice. Dust was piled on a paper in center of top bars. Efficacy for 30g was 96%, 60g was 95%, Apilifevar was 93% and icing sugar was 52%.

Albert Robertson reported that fecal analysis can be used to determine hive death. He is suspicious that Apivar (and maybe other miticides) may hinder the bee's ability to manage mites, as he saw a huge spike in varroa 5 months after treatment. He suspects that exposure to the miticides may change the bee's genetic expression of

genes as they develop.

Dr. Ibrahim Abdullah reported on his research on *Nosema ceranae* using spring and fall treatments of Fumagillan. He also talked about Varroa Sensitive Hygienic (VSH) bees that remove more mite-infested brood than Hygienic (HYG) bees. VSH bees remove reproductive mites, leaving non-reproductive mites. There is also a "brood effect", meaning mites that feed on VSH larvae produce less offspring than mites that feed on HYG larvae.

Our president, Colette, gave a presentation about our club, our new website development, and reviewed the projects (Agribition and Ag in the Classroom) to which the SBDC and SBA support financially.



Colette




*Pictured above:
Colette Stushnoff,
President of the RDBC
presenting at the SBA
Annual Meeting*



*Pictured above:
Honey White
Chocolate Fondue*

Recipe Box

 What used to be a thing of the past is now resurfacing as a hot trend. Fondue evokes a sense of specialness, decadence, fun and romance. What could be better than bread, fruit, meat, or anything for that matter, drenched in a delicious, gooey dipping sauce?! If we're being totally honest, the fondue is definitely the star – the food being dipped is just a vehicle to get the fondue onto your taste buds and into your belly! From sweet to savory, honey adds the perfect flavor note for

fondue that will please any palate. Enjoy!

Honey White Chocolate Fondue

(makes 2-1/2 cups)

- 3/4 cup whipping cream
- 3/4 cup honey
- 1/3 cup scotch
- 12 oz. white chocolate, coarsely chopped
- 1/2 Tablespoon vanilla

In a heavy pan or fondue pot, heat cream, honey and scotch over medium heat until bubbles begin to form at edge of pan. Add chocolate and allow to stand 5 minutes. Whisk in

vanilla until mixture is smooth. Serve immediately.



Compliments of the National Honey Board

**It's about time you
had a website...**

**www.topwater.ca
306.535.9520**

See something you like?

Have questions?

Do you have ideas or feedback?

Let us know!!!

RR2 Box 17
Regina, SK S4P 2Z2

PHONE:
(306) 539-2729

E-MAIL:
ilovebees@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 \$1.60/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 mid May. Deadline for submissions is May 6th.

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.

