

May 16, 2011  
2011 Summer Issue



# the Queen City BUZZZZZZ

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## Annual General Meeting (AGM) News

The April 9<sup>th</sup> AGM was a success! This year it was held at the Royal United Services Institute on Elphinstone Street. We had guest speakers from Bee Maid and Geoff Wilson there throughout the day.

We started things off by taking care of business. Some highlights are: The club will be purchasing a 4 frame crank extractor for use at Agri-Ed and will also have it available for rent to RDBC Members on a first come, first serve basis. There were also 3 new executives elected brining our executive team to 5 members, welcome Jeff Tholl, Linda Kletchko, and Daphne Murphy (more info on the new executives on pages 2 and 4)

Geoff Wilson did three talks for us, one in the

morning about the top four disease types and two in the afternoon. The first afternoon talk was directed to new beekeepers. He went through the hive from top to bottom in detail, describing what everything was, the main tools a beekeeper uses, and how to use them. He discussed feeding, wintering, and good practices of movement while working with bees. There was a lot of excitement coming from the new beekeepers during this one. The second talk was a presentation on the results of the recent experiments with treatments for mites and varroa. He also discussed a few other statistics: colony losses, causes, and treatment effectiveness, and gave some details on the experiments gearing up

this spring.

Bee Maid made presentations by Karen Miles and Josh Kolesar. They discussed the BeeMaid operation, company history, options for selling honey to BeeMaid, products, and shipping ideas to reduce cost to our club. They also brought some 'squeeze bees' and keychain lights that were a big hit!

Another big hit at the AGM were the door prizes and the raffles. There were 4 door prizes and 4 raffle prizes in total. A big thank you to Sig for donating a painting for the raffle. Ticket sales were a whopping \$178!

We hope that everyone that attended enjoyed themselves and look forward to ideas for next year's AGM.

Pictures are on Page 3.

## Swarming

Swarming season is soon upon us. Hopefully none of your bees swarm. (Once trick to avoid swarming is to swap the brood boxes).

We had several calls about swarms last year. If you would like to be on the "Swarming List" and be notified of a swarm, please email or call



Conrad at  
ilovebees@reginabeeclub.ca  
or 535-9520. Generally  
these are found to be  
bumblebee nests.



Above: Pictures from Conrad's April 4<sup>th</sup> Feeding Adventure

## A Feeding Story

April 4, 2011

I figured I would share an anecdote about feeding my bees this past weekend. 'Tis the season to start feeding, especially since it appears that it is a "late" year. Michelle F. told me that the willows were late this year. So, taking advantage of the weather before the snow fell this past weekend, I decided to make sure that the girls had a ready supply of pollen for when the weather gets better (hopefully that will be sooner than later). My wife and I had checked them out about a month ago, sweatily blazing our way through waist high snow to get to their cozy little position about 300 meters off the road. At that time the snow was quite thick and we eventually had to crawl the last 20 metres so

that we didn't sink into the white stuff (no snows shoes for us!). The bees were active on the hives that had the sun on them, but from what I could tell all of the hives had bees.

A couple days later I went out again the snow was depleted, except for around the actual hives. My goal was to simply fill up the pollen feeder with supplement. When I arrived I found that the pollen feeder was completely filled with snow. To the right is a quick drawing of my pollen feeder that I made last fall and some pictures of it. It's made from 2 coffee tables screwed together with some boards nailed to the top. A door on the one side lifts up so I can refill the containers that carry the pollen.



 Conrad

## New Executives

As mentioned in the AGM News on Page 1 and the President Report on Page 3, we have 3 new Executives. Here is a bit about each of them.

### Linda Kletchko



Linda Kletchko and her husband Greg are located

20 miles east of Regina in the hamlet of St. Joseph's Colony. They have been 'beekeeping' for going on 14 years and have often wondered who's 'keeping' whom!

Linda became a member of the Regina and District Bee Club in 1997 and has held different positions within the Club over the years.

Linda has volunteered many years with Agribition working at Agri-Ed or the Trade Booth and admits to

loving every minute of it.

"It's great to see how much interest is being expressed by many in, not just the honey bee, but bees in general. People are realizing what a vital role these little gals play in the production of food and that 1/3 of all food has been touched by a bee! GO BEES!!"

 Linda

Continued on page 4

### FOR SALE

Equipment for a 15 hive operation

Passed inspection

Asking \$6000 obo

No bees

Paul 306-925-2001


Oxbow, SK


## President Report


Well another year has past and we are looking at another wet one ahead! Sounds like the year is a little late already. Michelle Frischholtz mentioned that the willows started blooming several weeks earlier last year. This wet ground makes it hard to get to bees but is usually pretty good for growing flowers (although this can be variable too - the dandelion growth was disappointing last year. (Ha! Only a beekeeper would say that!). I was at the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association AGM last year and it sounded like the 2010 year, for most beekeepers, was a good haul. Hopefully this year will be the same.


Our AGM was a big success. Thanks to everyone that participated in adding to the event - with special thanks to our former executive team -

## Did You Know?

 Value of bee pollination in Canada is greater than \$2 Billion

 An apiary dating from the 10th century BC has been discovered in northern Israel.


 Nectar as gathered by the bee contains about 70% water (Honey is about 17% water).


 The honey bee was designated the official state insect of Missouri on July 3, 1985.


your contributions to the club have been great (Keara, Michelle, and Colette). I have to say that I am quite happy about the direction the club is taking.


Our new executive team consists of 5 members now. The board elected myself as president (for this last year of my current term which will end at the AGM next year), and I happily accepted. We all have a variety of skills, experience and ideas to contribute and I think the club has chosen wisely.

Mentor "pairings" have been sent out already - thank you all experienced club beekeepers for volunteering for this. I have seen a growing interest in beekeeping in my short time of beekeeping (this is my third year) and the future looks bright. With your experience and help, another "generation" of beekeeping is on the way.

 Utah is known as the beehive state.


 South Dakota adopted the honey bee as the state insect in 1978.


 The honeybee, *apis mellifera*, is the New Jersey state bug.


 Honey is one of the safest food - most harmful bacteria cannot live in honey for any length of time


A special thanks goes out to Michelle and Perry Frischholtz for all their help and support, even to date, with everything beekeeping as well - you have been great mentors for me.

Events this year will include our yearly field day (held at Sig's place this year. Date to be announced), a fall meeting (Justin suggested that it could be a potluck with all honey recipes...mmm. Date to be announced), and Agribition in November. We'll need volunteers for both the Trade Show booth and Agri-Ed Showcase for the duration of the show. Thanks to all those who have signed up for this already. Ah yes, and although the club isn't planning anything particular to date for the Annual Day of the Honey Bee, I think it's worth mentioning here - Sunday, May 29th (I think I'll give my bees some more drawn comb that day).

 The honeybee is the official state insect of Maine.

 Bees remove the excess moisture from nectar by rapidly fanning their wings over the open cells in the hive.

 A honey bee flies up to 15 mph and its wings beat 200 times per second or 12,000 beats / minute.

 In ancient Egypt, citizens paid their taxes with honey.

By the time you are reading this the bees will have started growing their new 2011 batch of brood, have been treated for mites and disease, and will have been fed sugar water and pollen supplements. Soon the liquid gold will come, and the flow will begin. Good luck with the spring and beginning of summer! May the flowers be plentiful & sweet, and the Varroa be manageable.



*Conrad*



Above: AGM Pictures

**Beginner Beekeeping Course**

June 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> at U of S campus in Saskatoon.

Approximate run time is 10:00am to 6:00pm.

\$150 for Registration, including 2 lunches and course material.

Contact Lee at 306-260-7681

or [mlg208@mail.usask.ca](mailto:mlg208@mail.usask.ca)  
[saskatoonbeeclub@yahoo.ca](mailto:saskatoonbeeclub@yahoo.ca)



*May 29 is the Day of the Honey Bee. What will you do that day to celebrate bees?*

**Queens**

Available from early June to mid August

Arrangements can be made to rear queens from a beekeepers own genetics

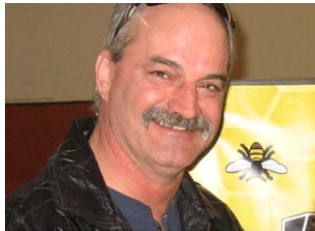
To place an order contact Lloyd Harris

(306) 347-2847

**New Executives cont'd**

Continued from page 2...

**Jeff Tholl**



We are located at Windthorst approximately 90 miles southeast of Regina. We have been involved with bees for 5 years. Starting with 2 hives and expanding to currently 30 hives. Our operation has its own little niche market as we have 4 flavours of honey. And no, there is no favourite. We are in the process of attaining CFIA accreditation.

Since we have joined we have also been involved with Agribition. With all the press associated with CCD the interest in our industry as grown tremendously. So even with the negative impact this has had on the industry, it has also had a silver lining. Thanks to all for your help at Agribition and keep up the good work spreading the news about bees and our products.

With the variety of operations in our club we feel this offers many advantages. From the hobbyist to the major producers, beginner to seasoned veterans, the wealth of knowledge right here locally is endless. So if there is some way we are

able to assist you don't hesitate to give a shout.

May the flow bee with you,



**Daphne Murphy**



Bats, butterflies, birds and bees - apparently loving all things beginning with 'B', Daphne has had a fascination with bees since she was a little girl and spent days sitting on the fence in her mother's garden watching the bees that visited the asters stuff pollen into their leg sacs and swearing one day she would keep some. That day is getting closer. Although Daphne does not own any hives (yet) she plans to keep a few in the City of Regina soon. In the mean time she keeps busy tending and growing her hummingbird, butterfly and bee garden and prairie plant wildflower garden.

An ecologist first and educator second, Daphne works for the Ministry of Environment as her day job. Daphne has been involved with Agribition and the Agri-Ed bee booth

and finds the time spent talking to the public about bees both invigorating and

rewarding. She is grateful for the opportunity to support the Regina Bee Club and other local bee keepers, partly for selfish reasons of ensuring the support is there when she gets her own bees, but more because of the importance of this tiny organism to our environment. Her ecologist side plans to study the impact of the introduction of honey bees to an area on the native bees already there when she gets around to setting up her own hives.

As a future Urban Beekeeper, Daphne is interested in supporting the development of a network of urban beekeepers each keeping small hive numbers but between them a strong and robust community of hives - and learning a lot about keeping bees in the meantime.

"As a member of the RDBC for the past two years I have enjoyed getting to know all the wonderful people who are members of the club, getting to experience 'beekeeping' and getting out into the field on field-days, and the friendships I have developed through these activities. Moving forward, I'm excited about the challenges and opportunities being on the executive will bring and look forward to working with a great group of people."



## The Beginning of a Beautiful Adventure

I had been thinking about keeping bees for many years so, when a friend of mine told me about the annual meeting of the Regina and District Bee Club in April, I decided to attend. I was pleasantly surprised to see the number of novice beekeepers like myself who were there for the first time and spent a wonderful day. It was suggested by one of the members that the new beekeepers pair up with a mentor as the hands-on approach is by far the best way to learn about this fascinating and mysterious world. By the end of the afternoon I had

the pleasure of meeting and talking to Doreen Bradshaw who had been keeping bees since 1974 and was graciously willing to become my teacher. I met Doreen at her home in Regina the following Monday where she showed me how to check for mites and discovered that indeed some of her hives did have them. We then proceeded to drive out to Bethune where Doreen works with Alvey Halbgewachs. They now have 56 hives after unfortunately losing 12 over the harsh winter. Wearing the full suit, veil and gloves for the first

time lent to me by Doreen, we spent the next four hours opening up the hives and treating them for mites. I was so impressed by this magical world that I came back to my acreage in Lumsden and ordered everything I needed to start my own 2 hives this spring. I have gone out a few more times with Doreen who patiently answers all my questions and guides me along this new path. In a few weeks, I will be getting my 2 nucs which I ordered from the Bee Club and then the real adventure shall begin.

 *Alyce Hamon*

*Below: Pictures of Alyce during her first mentoring session.*



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## Buzzing Connections

**Hivelights** is a quarterly publication of the Canadian Honey Council (CHC). Must be a member of the SBA, which includes a membership in the CHC. It also includes a quarterly newsletter from the SBA.

For beekeepers with less than 100 hives, membership is \$85 a year.

For more than 100 hives it is calculated at \$0.35 per colony + \$100 or more for CHC.

For Membership, contact SBA Secretary:

Wink Howland  
Box 55, RR3  
Yorkton, SK S3N 2X5  
Ph: 306-783-7046  
Fax: 306-785-6001

Cheques payable to Saskatchewan Beekeeper's Association.

For schools, libraries, non-beekeepers, university or gov't personnel, it is possible to receive Hivelights as a "Friend of Canadian Apiculture".

Call CHC at 403-208-7141 or email to [chc-ccm@honeycouncil.ca](mailto:chc-ccm@honeycouncil.ca)

## Recipe Box

### Burnt Honey and Thyme Ice Cream

600 ml (1 pt) milk  
568 ml carton double cream  
8 fresh thyme sprigs  
150 ml (5 fl oz) dark runny honey, such as Mexican honey - plus extra for drizzling  
6 large egg yolks  
Orange Tuile Biscuits to serve (see below)

1. Place the milk, double cream and thyme sprigs in a pan and bring to the boil. Remove from the heat and set aside for 20 to 30 minutes to infuse. Strain the milk and discard the thyme sprigs.

2. Place the honey in a small pan and heat gently. Bring to the boil and bubble for 4 to 5 minutes, or until it has a slightly burnt caramel smell. Remove from the heat and immediately place the pan in a bowl of cold water to stop the cooking process. Set aside.

3. Place the egg yolks in a bowl and whisk in the infused milk slowly until thoroughly combined. Return the mixture to the clean pan and cook over a gentle heat, stirring until thickened, but do not boil. Strain it into the honey and stir until well combined. (It may be necessary to warm the mixture gently.) Allow to cool, then cover and chill for 30 minutes.

4. Place the chilled mixture in an ice cream machine and freeze according to the manufacturer's instructions. If you do not

have an ice cream machine, place the custard mixture in a clean enamelled or stainless steel roasting tin and freeze for about 1 hour. Stir the ice cream as it begins to set around the edges and return to the freezer. Repeat until the ice cream is completely frozen (this will take 4 to 6 hours), then transfer to a freezer proof container and return to the freezer. Serve the ice cream drizzled with honey and accompanied by the Orange Tuile Biscuits (recipe below).

### Orange Tuile Biscuits

3 large egg whites  
100 g (3 1/2 oz) icing sugar, sifted  
100 g (3 1/2 oz) plain flour, sifted  
1 orange, rind grated  
75 g (3 oz) unsalted butter, melted

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C/180°C fan oven/Gas Mark 6. In a large bowl, lightly whisk the egg whites with the icing sugar. Lightly stir in the flour, orange rind and butter. Cover and chill for 30 minutes.

2. Line two baking sheets with non-stick baking parchment. Place 3 teaspoonfuls of the mixture in mounds, spaced well apart, on the baking sheet and spread them out to 9 cm (3/4 in) circles. Bake for 12 minutes until just brown around the edges.

3. While still warm, quickly shape each biscuit over a rolling pin, to curl. Repeat with the remaining mixture.

### **For Beekeeping Supplies and Honey Containers**

in the Regina Area

Contact

Perry or Michelle Frischholz at  
781-4457 or email us at  
[sales@zeebeehoney.ca](mailto:sales@zeebeehoney.ca)

*Burnt Honey and Thyme Ice Cream from Cook it Simply (pictured below)*

*Preparation time: 5 min, plus 30 min infusing, 30 min chilling and 6 hr freezing*

*Cooking time: 20 min*



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We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
[www.reginabeeclub.ca](http://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](mailto:geoff.wilson@gov.sk.ca)



## Honey Today

 Wholesale Honey was averaged at \$3.78/lb during April 2011.

 Retail Honey was averaged at \$5.22/lb during April 2011.

*Statistics taken from the National Honey Board*



## 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 August. Deadline for submissions is July 29th.

## 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.

