

April 22, 2013
2013 Spring Issue



the Queen City BUZZZZZZ

Regina and District Bee Club (RDBC)

Special Interest Articles:

May 29 – the day of the Honey Bee	2
Field Day 2013	4
Regina Agriculture Adventure	5
Introductory Beekeeping Course	6
Honey Today	7

Individual Highlights:

Annual General Meeting Report, Continued	3
Executive Report	4
Welcome, New Executives	6
Geoff's Corner	7
About Our Club	7

Annual General Meeting Report

This year's AGM had a good turn out with quite a few new members joining the club. We had a few speakers drop out at the last minute, but had excellent talks from those speakers that did make it. We heard from Geoff Wilson our Provincial Apiculturist. Geoff described the 2012 season in Saskatchewan. Some of the things he highlighted were the high honey prices, poor honey crop for 2012, increased problems with sprays, the Small Hive

Beetle discovery in Manitoba, some AFB finds in the Saskatoon area, and the importance of testing your bees.



Graham Parsons gave a report on the 2012 CAAP Technical Adaptation Team results. Jessica Morris

talked about the beginner beekeeping course and queen rearing course, as well as Apimondia which took place last November. Colette Stushnoff spoke about the book "Honey Revolution", and the importance of volunteers to the club. Lloyd Harris gave a short talk describing a research project he was looking for help with.

Something new we did this year was a hands on frame inspection.

Continued on page 3



Discover Saskatchewan

The Regina & District Bee Club is very excited to announce that we will be participating in the May 10 and 11, 2013, "Discover Saskatchewan" Trade Show being held at the Agribition Building at Evraz Place.

It is being hosted by "We \$hop Local", a group determined to promote the province of Saskatchewan and all the exciting things it has to offer.

A two-day Trade Show has been organized to allow Saskatchewan-based businesses to showcase their products, services and opportunities.

We \$hop Local's goal is to help people rediscover what is offered and available locally in Saskatchewan.

The Regina & District Bee Club is taking advantage of this opportunity to promote the local beekeeping industry and to "show and sell" products of our hives.

If you are interested in participating in this two-day Trade Show event, please contact Linda as soon as possible, as the number of participants is being limited to six.

The Bee Club's honey and products guidelines and standards will be shared with you at that time.



Contact Linda by email at ads@reginabeeclub.ca
or by phone at
(306) 771-2053



May 29 – the Day of the Honey Bee

Honey Bees are, you can say, a passion of mine. Since I was young, I have been enthralled with this wondrous creature. When I became an adult, as soon as I found out that I could keep Honey Bees in my back yard, I acquired a hive of my own. I have been a hobbyist beekeeper in Saskatoon, SK for the last 6 years. Unfortunately, over the winter I lost my last two hives. They were weak and infected with *v. destructor*. They were like a part of the family and as important to me as air is to breathe. Yet mine are not the only hives to be lost and my heartbreak does not compare to beekeepers that have lost their livelihoods as well as all their bees.

Honey Bees are under such enormous and severe threats that I decided I had to do something about it. For this reason I began a campaign in 2009 that still amazes me in its efficacy. It started with a letter I sent to Council of Saskatoon. In that letter I asked that a Proclamation be issued dedicating May 29, 2010 to be recognized as “Day of the Honey Bee.” This was something that had never been done before. City Council of Saskatoon heard my passion, was alarmed by what I told them and was made aware of the threats facing, not

only the Honey Bee, but ourselves as well. I merely painted a picture of what the world would be like without Honey Bees. The Council unanimously supported the Proclamation.

With this encouragement, this project snowballed into an international sensation; reaching as far away as Swaffham, Norfolk, UK and Ardahan, Turkey. Closer to home, I began sending thousands of letters to all levels of government in Canada; particularly to municipal governments and each Minister of Agriculture in Canada (both provincial and federal). There were over 70 Proclamations issued in 2010; 163 issued in 2011 and 183 issued in 2012. What is surprising by these numbers is that it shows support for “Day of the Honey Bee” is growing and they now represent over 25 percent of all Canadians! Some of these Proclamations included support from the Provincial Governments of British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. With close to a month left to go until “Day of the Honey Bee,” there are already 122 Proclamations. I have no doubt there will be more support for Honey Bees and Beekeepers this year

than in previous years.

Irresponsible pesticide use is listed as the most likely culprit leading to the decimation of thousands of beehives in Canada. Honey Bees are also under constant threat due to diseases such as parasites, fungal and bacterial infections. In addition, they face severe hardship due to current agricultural practices such as monoculture, GMO, and Neonicotinoid-based pesticides. The entire purpose of the creation of this day is to make the public aware of the threats facing Honey Bees and to increase respect and appreciation for the hard work of Beekeepers that feed our nation.

I am uncertain why the Government of Canada cannot follow in the footsteps of three other provinces and a quarter of Canadians. There is literally no opposition to this idea from any political party. While a Proclamation dedicating May 29, 2013 as “Day of the Honey Bee” is only a piece of paper, it represents so much more. It represents concern and a proactive stance to protect Honey Bees, Beekeepers, agriculture, farmers, food security, and our environment. This special piece of

paper would represent a government taking responsibility by informing its public about Honey Bees; who deserve to know where their food comes from and that Honey Bees are under threat. This Proclamation, if given official support by Canada, represents respect to Honey Bees and Beekeepers, which have been taken for granted for far too long. Therefore, I passionately urge all readers to send letters to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada to give answer to this call – Authorize a National “Day of the Honey Bee” by issuing a Proclamation dedicating this May 29, 2013 as the first “National Day of the Honey Bee” in Canada; in perpetuity so that future generations may never again take for granted the efforts of our nations beekeepers and the Honey Bee that feeds the world.



Clinton Ekdahl

You can contact Clinton for more information or letter templates by email: ccssseee@hotmail.co.uk phone: (306) 651-3955 text: (306) 381-3172 or Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/81924612191/>

International Code for Marking Queens

White	Yellow	Red	Green	Blue
2016 / 2021	2017 / 2022	2013 / 2018	2014 / 2019	2015 / 2020
1/6	2/7	3/8	4/9	5/0
When	You	Re-Queen	Get the	Best
Warned	You	Require	Gloves	Be

Annual General Meeting Report Cont'd

Geoff Wilson brought four frames with different things wrong with them. (pictured below)



Members were then given the opportunity to see some firsthand examples of things that could happen in a hive. I think this was a great addition

to the AGM and something we will try to include again in the future.

There was a lifetime membership awarded to Rick and Colette Stushnoff for their many years of volunteer service to the club. (pictured below)



Finally, we had an election this year for four new executives. It took three separate votes but eventually Linda Kletchko, Keara Lueke, Conrad Schultz, and Robin Lawless were elected. Keara and Conrad will serve two year terms while Linda and Robin will serve three year terms. The new executive looks forward to the upcoming year and serving the club.



Queens
Available from early June to mid August
Arrangements can be made to rear queens from a beekeepers own genetics

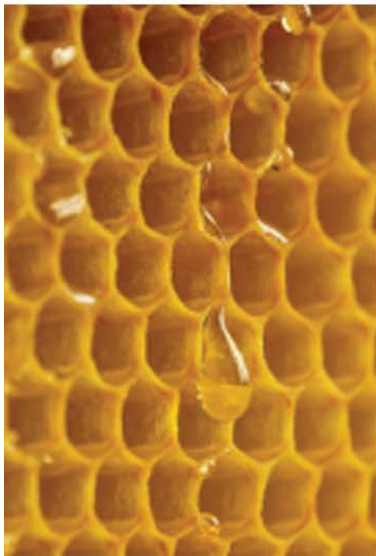
Honey
30 & 50 lb pails of honey for sale

To place an order contact Lloyd Harris
(306) 347-2847



BeeMaid

Proudly Owned by Canadian Beekeepers



Carrying a full line of beekeeping equipment from several manufacturers:
-Dadant & Sons Ltd. -Mann Lake Supplies -Maxant -Dakota Gunness -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

Executive Report

As I write this the snow is still on the hives and it's still cold out. Looks like it'll be a cool wet year again like 2 years ago. I'll be zipping out to the hives next week (mid April, which is waaaay late) to put out pollen supplement and give them sugar water. If you are on Facebook you'll know that I usually post sugar prices on the club page, from where ever I get the sugar from (generally the Whole Sale Club on 4th and Broad in Regina).

Biosecurity

During the past two and a half years the Bee Biosecurity Advisory Committee (BeeBAC) comprised of representatives from the producer associations, academia, provincial governments, the CFIA, and Agri-Food Canada have been active in developing material aimed at raising the importance of on-farm biosecurity.

I was one of hundreds of Canadian beekeepers that were involved in helping to give input into these efforts. I just received material that is the results of these efforts, which include the National Biosecurity Standard itself, a producer guide, and a field guide. After checking the web site (www.inspection.gc.ca >> Animals >> Terrestrial Animals >> Biosecurity), it doesn't appear that the government has these things online yet. Hopefully they will in the future.



Brochures

If you were at the AGM this year, you know that we were handing out the Sask. Beekeepers Development Commission (our sponsor for Agribition) brochures on BeeStings and Backyard Beekeeping. Contact a club rep to get a brochure. The SBDC is also making more brochures later this year.

Intro Course

I just found out that a percentage of the profits from the SBA intro. beekeeping course (that will be held at Linda's again this year) will be donated to the club. For more information on this course, and the Queen rearing Course in Prince Albert, go to the SBA web site. www.saskbeekeepers.com

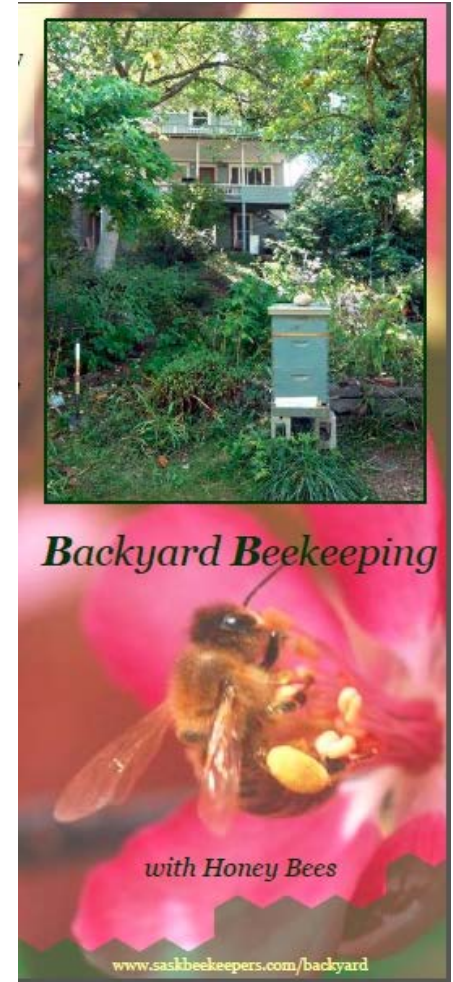
Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association Membership

I would suggest that if you are looking for Saskatchewan Beekeeping Industry updates, and contact information on suppliers etc., that you join the SBA. As an SBA member, you can be listed on the Saskhoney.ca producer listing, along with getting the quarterly newsletter (which has cool blurbs on stuff that you cannot find on the website - mead making, pesticide issues, special event info, etc.). Most of us in the club would fall under the "less than 200 colonies" category, so the cost for the year is \$85.

Extractor

We had some issues with the extractor last year. I'd like to remind everyone that uses it that the club spent money on this and provides it as a rental to beekeepers in our club, as a courtesy, to help support your beekeeping efforts. Please ensure you take care of this thing - we're still trying to pay it off with the rental money! To be fair, heavy use will end up wearing on it, but we'd like to keep it around for several more years at least. Angela has graciously offered to take care of rentals again this year. I'll be posting her contact on the web site.

Stay dry. Hope your bees are looking good this spinter (that's spring and winter combined into a nasty little word). =)



Testing Jars

There are still testing jars remaining from Jessica Morris that were left at the AGM. Feel free to contact Conrad to get one. These jars are used for sending samples into the bee lab in Prince Albert where they will be tested for Nosema, Trach. Mites, and/or Varroa Mites.

There's a cost involved for this of course.

Prices are on the [SBA web site](#).

Field Day 2013

Mark your calendars!

The 2013 RDBC Field Day will on June 15, hosted by Justin and Keara Lueke.

The Field Day is a great opportunity to visit with other members, get to



know some new people, and have a lot of fun!

Non-members will also be welcome. Full details will be sent out in May.



Regina Agriculture Adventure

On March 4th and 5th, the RDRC participated in an Ag in the Classroom event held at the Regina Science Centre. The Regina Agriculture Adventure Program was held in conjunction with Canadian Agriculture Literacy Week and was sponsored by Farm Credit Canada. It targeted Grade 4 children. There were 461 children registered (16 classrooms from 13 schools), mainly from Regina, but also from Pense, Moose Jaw, Shaunavon and Balgonie. Unfortunately, due to a severe snowstorm and terrible road conditions, most of the out-of-city schools were unable to attend.

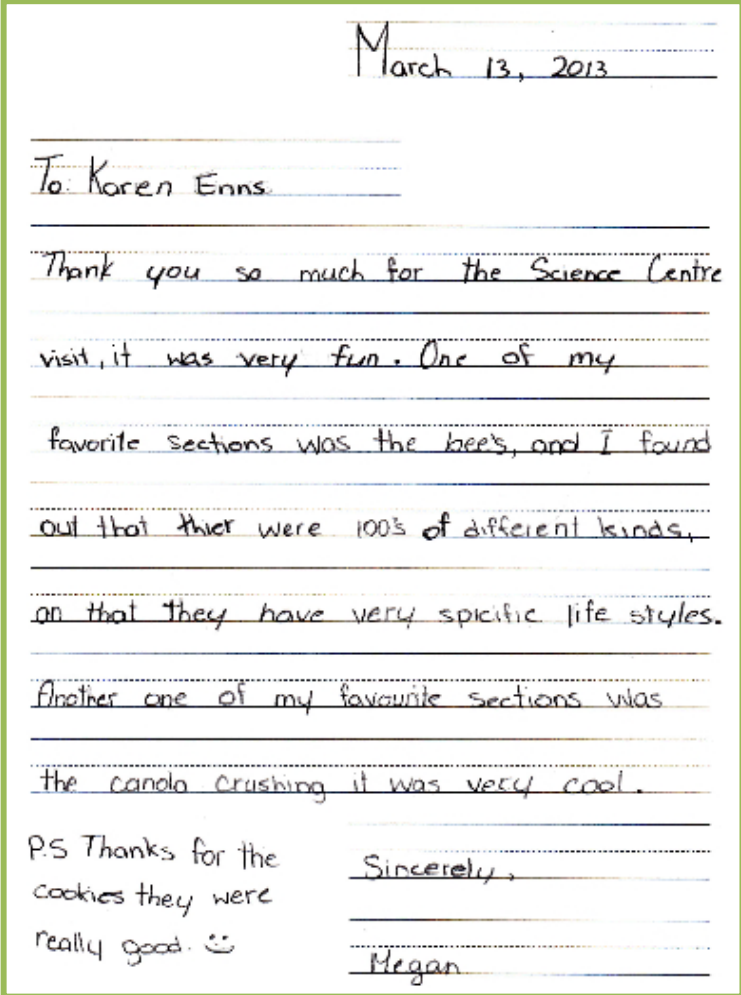
Colette Stushnoff and Angela Fuller presented information about the importance of pollination and pollinators. The kids and teachers expected to see live bees, but an observation hive was not included, mainly because it is such a stressful time of year for bees--they are at their most vulnerable, small in size, brooding, easily chilled if some bees are removed, getting low in feed, not to mention all the snow to deal with.

There were 7 stations, including chickens, sheep, and canola. We had 12 minutes to present/interact with the kids and they had 3 minutes to get to the next station, for a total each day of 7 presentations in the morning, and 7 in the afternoon.

The children were very enthusiastic and engaged with the presentation, however, they seemed to be very confused about pollination. They did not understand the connection to plant reproduction and food production. Instead, they seemed to think pollination and honey production is the same thing, and that honey is the only thing that bees provide for them. We helped them to connect bees to their food supply. We also addressed the difference between bees and wasps. We gave a plug for wild pollinators and conserving diversity of habitat: the basic needs of food, water, shelter, and how modern monoculture is not providing it. If we had time, we spoke about pesticide risks.

Ag in the Classroom staff did a great job of organizing the event, keeping the groups moving in a timely fashion, and providing a nice lunch for the presenters.

 Colette



Above is a feedback letter that was received after the the Ag in the Classroom event at the Regina Science Centre.



Introductory Beekeeping Course

The Saskatchewan Beekeepers' Association, the Regina Bee Club and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture are pleased to offer the second annual **2 day beginning beekeepers course in Regina.**

Come and enjoy this two day course which enables participants to experience both theory and practical field experience. Every one of all experience levels are welcome.

Workshop lessons include:

- Standard beekeeping equipment

- Honey bee colony assessments
- Basic bee biology
- Seasonal beekeeping responsibilities
- Extracting/ processing honey
- Disease and pest management practises

Lunch: Provided with registration fee.

Time: Saturday, June 8: 8:30am to 4:00pm and Sunday, June 9: 9:00am to 3:00pm

Location: East of Regina

Cost: \$150.00 CAD

Registration:

Registrations will be accepted up until and

including Friday, May 24. Refunds will be issued minus a \$25 administration fee up until this date as well. A charge of \$25 will be applied to NSF cheques.

You can find the registration form on the website, or by contacting Conrad.

Contacts:

Registration - Conrad Schultz
info@saskbeekeepers.com

Other inquiries - Geoff Wilson
306-953-2304
geoff.wilson@gov.sk.ca



Hope to see

you there!



Can't make it to the Regina course? Try the one in Saskatoon May 25 and 26, 2013.

- Standard beekeeping equipment

Registration:

Registrations will be accepted up until and

Hope to see

you there!

Welcome, New Executives

Following elections at the AGM, Andrew Hamilton was joined on the RDBC Board by:

Linda Kletchko



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 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!!"

Conrad Schultz



As many experienced keepers would suggest, there's always something new to learn in the world of beekeeping! Check out my web site which explains my operation: Isis Apiaries. I'm happy to be back on the RDBC board! If you have any questions regarding the website please let me know: info@topwater.ca I

am also the secretary treasurer for the Saskatchewan Beekeepers' Association and the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission

Robin Lawless



I have been keeping bees for two years now thanks to the Bee Club members, like my mentors Andrew Hamilton and Colette and Rick Stushnoff. I became interested in bees after watching a documentary on colony collapse disorder. That led to a club meeting to find out more info and consequently buying a Nuc from Colette and Rick.

I am particularly interested in adapting Buckfast queens into my hives. At present I have two hives in my backyard in town and four others at a farm north of

Frankslake.

This is my first term on the executive of the club.

Keara Lueke



This is my second term on the board and it is sure to bring more adventures and excitement!

Many of you may know me better as Keara Bistretzan. I am a third generation beekeeper. This summer I married my long time friend and love of my life Justin, who in the course of our dating also discovered his love of beekeeping. We live west of Regina and have kept bees together the last two years. This past winter I experimented making my own lip balm and body butter using our beeswax.

I look forward to seeing you all at club events!



See something you like?

Have questions?

Do you have ideas or feedback?

Let us know!!!

1132 Broadway Ave. E.
Regina, SK S4N 1A8

PHONE:
(306) 757-5958

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

 Wholesale Honey was averaged at \$4.24/lb during March 2013.

 Retail Honey was averaged at \$5.68/lb during March 2013.

 Bulk Honey was averaged at \$1.91/lb during February 2013.

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 in July. Deadline for submissions is July 15, 2013.

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.

