

January 15, 2014
2014 Winter Issue



the Queen City BUZZZZZZ

Regina and District Bee Club (RD BC)

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Agri-Ed at Agribition 2013

Agribition took place on November 11-16, 2013. It was a week earlier than usual this year due to the Grey Cup being held in Regina. It was a busy year at the Family Ag Pavilion (also known as Agri-Ed). Over 6550 children from 180 classes registered with the program, more than I have experienced in the many years I have organized this booth. Monday was Remembrance Day, and as a holiday, no school children were registered for that day. That did not mean a slow day, however, as the general public turnout was high (nothing like free gate admission to attract a crowd!). The rest of the

school week was very busy because all those children had to be squeezed into 4 days instead of 5. Saturday was steady, but not as busy as expected, perhaps because a lot of people took advantage of free admission on Monday.

Once again, I must thank all the volunteers who took time out of their busy schedules to help educate children and adults alike. You all did a great job. I really appreciate your volunteer spirit and enthusiasm, and it makes my job easier—Thank you so very much. The club could not set up the education booth and advocate for honey bees without your assistance.

Even after years of speaking to people at this booth, I still feel great pleasure in people's genuine interest and reaction to the bees. By reaching out to such a large number of children and adults every year at Agribition, we are doing a great service for the bees, the public and for the beekeepers. Thanks again everyone for a job well done!

Agribition runs from November 24-29 in 2014. Mark it on your calendars and keep some time open to help out again. We will be calling!

 *Colette*



Shout Out to Agribition Volunteers

The RD BC would like to thank the following volunteers for all their time at Agribition – we could not have done it without you!



Schultz, Rick Stushnoff, Janine Heinrich, Al Katona, Michael Robertson-King, Sharon Kaminski, Yves & Nicole Descottes, Tony Bistretzan, Joe Kleisinger, Gregor Beck, Justin Lueke, Yens Petersen, Doreen

Bradshaw, Kevin & Caroline Puffalt, Pat, Elias & Atlas Maze, Garnet Kumick, Jack McKenzie, Andy Kuderewko, John Burke, Daphne Murphy, Bob Krause, Perry & Rob Langford, Azure-Dee Farago, Sherri Andrews, and Andrew Hamilton. A huge thank you to Colette Stushnoff for being the Agri-Ed coordinator again this year – another year well done!

Trade Show

Andrew Hamilton, Doreen Bradshaw, Judi Gazda, Garnet Kumick, Jean Fletcher, Justin Lueke, Christine Rybchuk, Rita Bistretzan, Eugene Fletcher, Lloyd Harris, and Jody Salway. A big thank you to Keara Lueke and Linda Kletchko for being the organizers of this year's Trade Show!

 *RD BC Executive*

Trade Show at Agribition 2013

2013 Agribition took place a week earlier than usual due to the Grey Cup taking place in Regina. Starting Remembrance Day Monday and running through to Saturday November 16, we sold honey, candles, creams, lip balms, and spread the word about the goodness of honey. Remembrance Day ceremonies being held in the Brandt Centre and free parking brought

the people out in droves – or should we say - swarms.

Business cards and brochures were handed out as well as many questions answered. People are genuinely interested in the welfare of honey bees and bees in general. The media is doing a fine job of alerting people to the declining bee populations.

An unusual number of inquiries into bulk honey purchasing occurred with, as we were told, much of the purchases being destined for foreign countries. Bulk wax was also sought. Contact information was taken, so if you have large quantities of honey or wax you would like to sell, please let us know.

Six contributors supplied

honey and hive products to the booth including something new: honeydew honey. The love-it-or-hate-it Buckwheat honey was not available for sale this year. A surprising number of people asked for it and were sent away disappointed.

Continued on page 5



SBA 2013 Convention and Tradeshow

This year the SBA convention was held in Waskesiu at Elk Ridge Resort, November 27-29. The location was beautiful and besides convention activities there was lots for families to do! Cross country skiing, snowshoeing and even elk watching was enjoyed by many of the attendees at the convention. For more information on the location visit <http://www.elkridgeresort.com>.

Wednesday Nov 27 being the first day of the convention was kick started with the following speakers:

Graham Parsons SBA Technical Adaption Team lead researcher discussing –Winter Healthy: Factors Affecting Wintering Honey Bees (results of this study are featured in the SBA summer 2013 newsletter).

Dr. Julie Sorok- A Swede Midge Update. For more information visit: <http://www.farms.com/Commentaries/video-canola-school-swede-midge-a-pest-on-the-rise-68936.aspx>.

Guy Chartier- Bee Maid Honey: Is The Co-Op Right for Me? For more information visit: <http://www.beemaid.com>.

The meeting portion of the day concluded with committee reports

and members only business meetings. Followed by an evening wine and cheese soiree.

Thursday November 28 speakers included:

Geoff Wilson- Provincial Apiarist Report

Dr. Steve Pernal- National Bee Diagnostic Centre-Inaugural Year Activities. For more information visit: <http://www.saskbeekeepers.com/index.php/the-news/179-national-bee-diagnostic-centre-open-for-business>.

Geoff Wilson- AFB- pests and more pests

Graham Parsons- Honey Bee Queen Quality Survey Results (results of this study are featured in SBA fall 2013 newsletter).

Dr. Steve Pernal- The Bee IPM Project: Advances in Disease and Mite Resistance Using Marker-Assisted Selection

Jessica Morris- SBA Outreach and New SBA-Technical Adaption Team Projects for 2014

The meeting portion of the day concluded with a business meeting to have elections to determine the 2014 SBA president and directors. The new list of directors and SBA president are as follows:

Jake Berg President, Serving 2nd year of 2-year term; **Jorden Proctor** Vice-President, Serving 2nd year of 2-year term; **Dani Glennie** Director, Serving 1st year of 2-year term; **Calvin Parsons** Director, Serving 1st year of 2-year term; **Sasha Howland** Director, Serving 1st year of 2-year term; and **Simon Lalonde** Director/Convention Organizer, Serving 1st year of 2-year term.

For more information on present and past SBA board representatives go to: <http://www.saskbeekeepers.com>.

The meeting portion of the day concluded with a business meeting followed by a beautiful banquet, live auction and the annual presentation of the Shovel, and I'm pleased to announce that John Sochaski of Bee Maid in Tisdale was awarded the Shovel for 2014!

Friday November 28 speakers included:

Dr. Albert Robertson- Project Update

Murray Belyk- Bayer Crop Science for more information visit <http://www.cropscience.bayer.ca/>.

The convention was a great success, the SBA thanks all the sponsors for their generosity as well as all the people who have given their time and support to the SBA throughout the years! See you all next year!

 *Jessica Morris*

President's Report

Hopefully you are all well and enjoying your off season. Doubtless the time that had been spent beekeeping has been filled up with some other activity. Perhaps though you have had some spare time with which you have used to do some planning for next year.

While there is a basic format of what to do when approaching beekeeping the weather always determines your scheduling. It seems there is always something new a beekeeper wants to try each year. It may be a different management

technique, a new drug or chemical, different yard locations, different feed, or different equipment. I myself have been keeping my eyes open for new yards to use this year, near the farm I bought last summer. I also have been spending time planning out how I will be extracting next year (location and equipment).

All these plans are entirely dependent on your bees surviving winter of course. Those extended cold snaps are always nerve racking especially if you are a

new beekeeper or have your bees somewhere they have not wintered before. It is always a big sigh of relief when the weather warms a little and you see some dead bodies outside your hives and know that the hive is still alive.

There have been a lot of new people making enquiries this year. I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know all these new people. Just the other day I had a conversation with a woman from Moose Jaw. She had done some preliminary reading and

had many questions, some of which surprised me at their complexity and depth.

While there is our traditional method of acquiring new members every so often we manage to gain new beekeepers other ways. One of these new people is of Dominic Justin Lueke who came to us in December. A big congratulations to Keara and Justin, I look forward to hearing about all your new experiences.

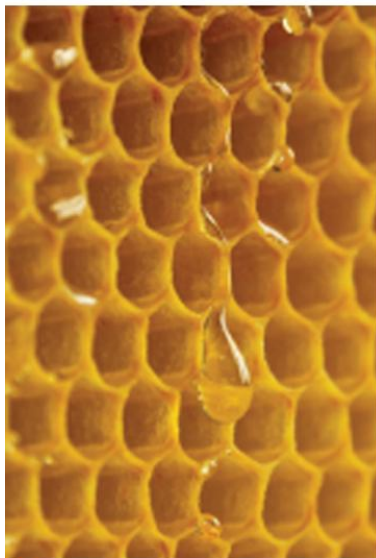
Hope everyone has a good and honey filled year.

 *Andrew*



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Taking Care of the Minor Things Pays in a Major Way

Many beekeepers claim that beekeeping is as much of an art as it is a science. While this may appear true at a superficial glance, all of the reasons for the greatest success in beekeeping base back to dealing with the bees based on their needs. These needs are founded in the typical behaviour of bees and their responses to environmental situations. Dealing with bees most effectively can be broken down into three key topics: Timing, proper use / application, and proper equipment.

Timing: Beekeepers must be aware of what is happening in their colonies in order to base their management decisions. Timing is crucial for optimal management of colonies and knowing what is happening and when it is happening is very important. A key example where this is important is in applying honey supers. In the spring the first honey supers must be put on the colonies at a time that does not set the bees back by causing too much area to heat or applying

them too late, causing congestion and swarming. Proper timing is essential to having optimal sized colonies of bees for the honey flow.

Proper application: In beekeeping, the manner in which products are used is very important. A very evident example of this principle is with disease control products. For optimal results with the least risk of honey contamination the disease control products must be used effectively. This does not only mean timing to ensure that the product is effective and does not leave residues, but it also includes placement of the product in the colony. Varroa control strips like Apivar, Apistan and Checkmite+ must be placed vertically between the frames and have contact with the bees to be effective. Organic acid products like formic acid, Thymovar and Oxalic acid must also be placed correctly in order to be most effective. Each product was designed in a specific manner and acts according to its design the product will be most

effective and safest to use when used as directed.

Proper equipment: Using the proper tool for an activity can make a big difference in the amount of time required for a task, stress on colonies and enjoyment of the task itself. A prime example for all of the benefits of proper equipment is effective use of a smoker. When beekeepers do not use smoke, the bees often become very agitated, and defensive. This results in many more stings for the beekeeper and bystanders, crushed bees and damage to the colony and equipment. When too much smoke is applied to the colony the bees run out of the colony and tasks like finding the queen become almost impossible. When opening a colony give a puff to each entrance and between the supers as you are removing the box. After opening, use just enough smoke to keep

the bees off of the topbars. Correct use of smoke will result in calmer bees. Calm bees means that the beekeeper can work in a more relaxed manner because of fewer stings. This will reduce the negative effects and increase the enjoyment of working bees.

Success in beekeeping is usually as simple as giving the bees what they need, when they need it and in the proper way. Attention to detail, proper timing, and proper equipment are important aspects in doing things properly. The examples cited in this article are only single examples of each general topic; in the upcoming newsletters, I will examine these areas in more depth and expand with more examples and further discussion on why each is important.

 *Geoff Wilson*

*****AGM Notice*****

Date: Saturday, March 8, 2014

It is almost that time of year again. Mark your calendars for the AGM and stay tuned for more details on the schedule of the day's events that will be mailed out. The AGM is a great opportunity to visit with other members, catch up on the latest bee news and find opportunities to get involved in the club. We hope to see you there!

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

Trade Show at Agribition 2013 Cont'd

We increased the percentage of sales kept by the supplier from to 75% to 85% - with the remaining 15% staying with the Club. This 15% helps pay for the booth rental, meals, parking passes, as well as many of the Club Events.

To the contributors: Thank you. Without your willingness to supply your product and volunteer your time, the Trade Booth would not be possible.

It seems to me, the number of people approaching the Club to help them get

started beekeeping keeps going up. Everyone we spoke to was directed to our website and made aware of the Beginner Beekeeping Course held in June. We tried to stress to all the Beginner Beekeeping course is a must.

The Club Executives are already discussing changes to improve the 2014 Trade Booth. If you have any ideas you would like to share, please let us know. We'd love to hear them.

 *Keara & Linda*



Farewell to K.B.

K.B. Sterling born June 8, 1962 in East York, Ontario left us too soon on January 10, 2014 at the age of 51 years. K.B. goes to be with her mother Joan and little brother Cully who also died too soon. K.B. leaves behind her children Alec and Madeleine Gordon as well as her husband Chris Rothecker, step-children Carter and Skylar Rothecker, father and sister James and

Susan Sterling, brother-in-law Matthew Baldwin, nieces and nephews Ethan and Seamus Hall, and Ewan and Ellie Baldwin. K.B. also leaves behind many, many other relatives and friends too numerous to mention. K.B. had a passion for life and kindness in her heart that left a bright light in every life she touched. She enjoyed

life with no reservation or apology. She bathed in sunsets, drank rain from the sky, danced to thunder storms and lived every day in the most sincere celebration of life. Friends and family will say goodbye and celebrate her life at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 190 Massey Road, Regina, SK at 1:30 PM on Thursday, January 16, 2014.



Do It Yourself: Facial

Get rid of black heads and clogged pores in five minutes: use half a lemon from the fridge (doesn't matter if some juice is already squeezed from it) and put 3-4 drops of honey on it. Rub the lemon on your face, emphasizing trouble areas. Leave the lemon and honey mixture on

your face for five minutes and then wash it with cold water.

You will be able to see the results immediately. Additionally, lemon juice will also fade other marks/spots on the face and the honey will moisturize your skin. Raw honey is best.



See something you like?

Have questions?

Do you have ideas or feedback?

Let us know!!!

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PHONE:
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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 \$4.53/lb during December 2013.

 Retail Honey was averaged at \$6.04/lb during December 2013.

 Canadian Bulk Honey was averaged at \$2.26/lb during October 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.

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1/2 pg \$45.00

1 pg \$80.00

Our next Newsletter will be in April. Deadline for submissions is April 4, 2014.

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.

