

April 25, 2016
2016 Spring Issue



the Queen City Buzzzzzz

Regina and District Bee Club (RDBC)

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AGM Report

Our 2016 Annual General Meeting was held at Deer Valley Golf Club. The attendance was a staggering 115.



Figure 1 Large attendance at the 2016 AGM.

The executive committee of the Regina & District Bee Club were thrilled with the turnout and the amount of interest in bees and beekeeping in Regina and surrounding areas.



Figure 2 Graham Parsons, Provincial Specialist in Apiculture's Intern, discussing Pest and Disease Management



Figure 3 Karen Pedersen, commercial beekeeper, presenting on Operating Singles.



Figure 4 Linda Kletchko receives lifetime member award by club president, Andrew Hamilton

In our meeting, we discussed the club's current programs and social/education events which occurred in 2015. We also mentioned the success of 2015 Agribition and Field Day. We are looking forward to participating and hosting these two events in 2016.

We introduced a new beekeeping course: 'So You Think You Might Want Some Bees', that was held on April 23rd. This course is a prelude to the Beginner Beekeeper Course on May 28th and 29th. This course will help you decide if beekeeping is something that you would like to do.

Myself, Janine Hamilton and Alisha Thompson joined the Executive Committee. We replace the wonderful Andrew Hamilton, Judi Gazda and Linda Kletchko.



Figure 5 Yens Pedersen showing off our new display hive.


Check our website for more information on the AGM and any of our programs and courses.





Beginner Beekeeping Course


The Regina Bee Club, along with the Saskatchewan Beekeepers' Association, are pleased to offer the 5th Annual - 2 day Beginning beekeepers course near Regina.


Come and enjoy this two day course which enables participants to experience both theory and practical field experience. Instructors include the Saskatchewan Beekeepers' Association, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture staff and experienced beekeepers from the Regina Bee & District Bee Club. Every one of all experience levels are welcome. [Click here for complete course description.](#) Workshop lessons include:


 Standard beekeeping equipment


 Honey bee colony assessments

 Basic bee biology

 Seasonal beekeeping responsibilities

 Extracting/ processing honey

 Disease and pest management practices

 As much bee information as we can teach in two days!

Dates: Saturday May 28 and Sunday May 29, 2016.

Lunch: Included with registration fee.

Materials: "Honey Bee Disease and Pests, 3rd Edition" and "Beekeeping in Western Canada" included with registration fee.

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. both days



Location: Regina area course will be located in St Josephs, SK.

Cost: \$300 CAD

Registration form: Can be found on our webpage (mail-in registration deadline May 23). Currently (subject to change): 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. **Please note that this workshop is limited to a maximum of 34 participants.** Please bring a bee hat and veil, a bee suit and proper footwear, there will be hands-on instruction in the bee yard. Note: Please contact Graham Parsons if you need a bee hat and veil.

Contacts:

Mail registration and fee to: Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association, ATTN: Pam Yule, Box 441, Hafford, SK, S0J 1A0 306-314-9571 info@saskbeekeepers.com

Other inquiries – Graham Parsons 306-940-8061 graham.parsons@gov.sk.ca



Historical Legal Tidbits

The law as laid down by Blackstone (1723-1780) and other law writers of his time is briefly as follows:

That bees are wild by nature; therefore, tho they swarm upon your tree they are not yours until you have hived them, any more than the birds that have their nests in your trees or the rabbits that run wild thru your fields. But when they have been hived by you they are your property the same as any other wild animal that you may have reduced to possession. Animals that are wild by nature and have been captured by you, should they escape, you still have a right in them if you follow them with the idea of recovery. A swarm of bees that has left your hive continues to be yours so long as you can keep them in sight and under any probability of recovery; 2 Blackstone Com. 392

The finding of a swarm of bees in a tree on the land of another, marking the tree and notifying the owner of the land does not give the finder property in the honey. Fisher vs. Steward, Smith 60.

Where one discovers wild bees in a tree, and obtains license from the owner of the land to take possession of them, and marks the tree with his initials, he gains no property in them until he takes them into his possession. Gillett vs. Mason, and Ferguson vs. Miller.



New Additions to the RDBC Board



Mimi Cornelis Mouthaan – ‘My husband and I moved from Calgary to Govan in June, 2013. We wanted a simpler life and to change our concept of ‘Live to work’ to ‘Work to live’. We purchased a small farm outside of Govan, and amassed 5 dogs, 2 cats. All live under the same roof with a certain level of harmony.
I work in Regina as the Compliance Manager of a small investment firm. I took up beekeeping as a way to give back to nature.’



Janine Hamilton – ‘I’m a beginning beekeeper, started in spring of 2015. Just one hive at my family’s farm 2 hours north of Regina; I am hoping to expand this summer. I am the new program coordinator for the Regina & District Bee Club, so if you have questions about drawn comb, nucs, mentoring, or rental of the honey extractor give me a shout! I enjoy spending my time outside, taking care of my bees, gardening, and camping, and when I have time I like to make jewelry. I can’t stop learning, after graduating I went to SIAST for Outdoor Power Equipment Technician, Lakeland College for Adventure Tourism and Outdoor Recreation, I’m currently back at SIAST for Parts Management and the U of R for Mandarin. I just want to know everything :D. Currently, I take care of the parts department at the Regina branch of a forklift dealership and am selling microgreens at the Regina Farmers Market that I grow in my basement.’



Alisha Thompson - Alisha Thompson is from a seed farm at Naicam, Sk. She attending the College of Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan and obtained her Bachelor of Science in Renewable Resource Management. Her interest in beekeeping is a relatively new venture and began when her family started 10 new hives in 2015.



Canadian Honey

You may have noticed an online petition gathering momentum about Canadian honey. The complaint is directed at McCormick (Billy Bee, Natural Honey Farms) which has been importing cheap Chinese and Argentine honey and blending it with Canadian. Chinese honey has been particularly problematic due to concerns about antibiotic residues, heavy metals and adulterated product (e.g. corn syrup). If consumers want to buy Canadian honey the label should say “Pure honey” and “Product of Canada”.

Please make sure your family, friends and neighbors know that “Canada No. 1” is only a grade and does not refer to the source of the honey.



Changes to the Website

Over the last several months, we have made a few changes to the website, including getting rid of the members only section. All content is now open to the public. This is partly due to the fact that the Club’s Facebook group has been the most active forum for sharing advice. There remains a spot where members can post classified ads on the website. We have also simplified the organization of the site.



President's Report

This has been a busy spring for the Club. Interest in bees continues to grow almost exponentially. We 115 people at the AGM on March 12 – shattering last year's new record! We also have 40 people registered for our second annual course for people interested in getting into bees. This course assists people with the decision on whether to get into bees and what to do the first month you have them. We will once again be offering a full weekend intensive course to teach new beekeepers what they need to know, in conjunction with the SBA. With the early spring, that course will be on May 28-29. With the mild winter and spring, we expect an early start to beekeeping. A few beekeepers even reported checking on their bees in a warm spell in February!



Proudly Owned by Canadian Beekeepers

Reminders



Save the date: The Club will jointly host the Saskatchewan Beekeepers' Association's annual field day on June 18 at Hamilton Apiaries. Stay tuned for details.



Canadian Western Agribition 2016 will be November 21 – 26. If you want to sell honey at the event you should start looking into getting a CFIA number or start going through the Sask Health approval process with Max with the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region.



The RDBC is providing Apivar treatment strips for \$3.00 up to 40 maximum purchase.



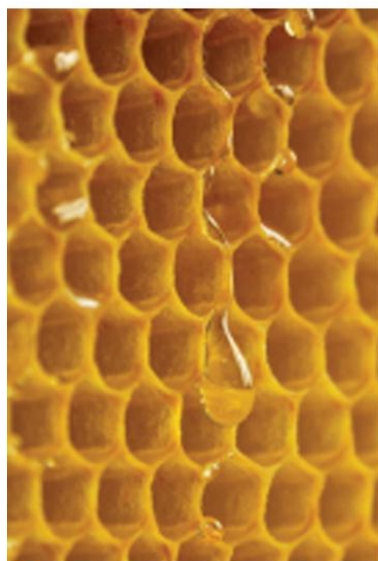
This year's Trade Show is looking for value added products include wax, candles, hand cream, soap, lip balm, and really anything that was made from bee products.



Make sure to add ads@reginabeeclub.ca to your safe senders list so that you don't miss any of our emails.



Remember to check out the clubs website periodically as we post new and exciting things, www.reginabeeclub.ca.



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Spring Recipe's Sweetened with Honey



Hungry Monkey Honey Oats

Hungry Monkey Honey Oats

Overnight oats are a great way to have a delicious and nutritious breakfast ready to go in the morning.

Makes 4 servings.

- 4 teaspoons - honey
- 2 teaspoons - ground flax
- 2 cups - old fashioned oats
- 3 cups - milk
- 4 tablespoons - almond butter
- 2 - bananas, divided

On a flat surface, place 4 bowls or lidded glass jars. Fill each with 1/2 teaspoon ground flax, 1/2 cup oats and 1 tablespoon almond butter. Peel and mash one banana. Divide mashed banana into the four oat mixtures. Pour 3/4 cup of milk over the banana and oat mixture and with a spoon, combine ingredients. Refrigerate for 8 hours or overnight. When ready to eat, serve cold or warm up for 30 seconds in the microwave. Slice remaining banana, top each oat mixture with banana slices and drizzle with 1 teaspoon of honey over the top. Combine and enjoy.



Honey Forest Bowl

Honey Forest Bowl

Do your kids like takeout? They will love this tastier recipe!

Makes 6 servings.

- 1/2 cup - honey
- 1/2 cup - reduced sodium soy sauce
- 1 cup - beef broth
- 4 - cloves garlic, grated
- 1 tablespoon - sesame oil
- 1 tablespoon - rice vinegar
- 1 tablespoon - fresh ginger
- 1 teaspoon - chili paste
- 1/2 teaspoon - onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon - pepper
- 2 1/2 pounds - boneless beef chuck roast, cubed
- 2 tablespoons - corn starch
- Sesame seeds
- 2 - green onions, thinly sliced
- 2 cups - white rice
- 1 1/2 pounds - broccoli florets, about 2 crowns

Inside the bowl of the slow cooker, place honey, soy sauce, beef broth, grated garlic, sesame oil, vinegar, ginger, chili paste, onion powder and pepper. With a whisk, combine all ingredients. Place cubed beef inside slow cooker and toss to combine with sauce. until

high 4 hours. In the final 5 minutes, just prior to serving, add sesame seeds and green onions. In the last 30 minutes of cooking, prior to serving, cook 2 cups of rice according to package directions. Meanwhile, steam broccoli on a steamer or microwave. To serve, build a bed of rice, about 1/3 cup cooked, top with beef and steamed broccoli.

Safari Honey-Butter-Cinnamon Popcorn

This is no ordinary popcorn. This is the ultimate movie-time (or anytime) snack!

Makes 6 cups.

- 2 tablespoons - honey
- 1/2 cup - corn kernels, popped to yield approx. six cups of popcorn
- 2 tablespoons - butter
- 1/4 teaspoon - cinnamon
- Pinch of sea salt

Air pop or microwave the corn kernels and transfer to a large bowl. In a small microwave safe dish, add butter, honey, cinnamon and salt. Place in microwave for 20-30 seconds, until butter is melted. Using a fork, combine the honey-butter mixture. Pour over popcorn and toss until the mixture is distributed throughout.

 *National Honey Board*



Safari Honey-Butter-Cinnamon Popcorn

Spring Recipe's Sweetened with Honey (Continued)

Healthy Granola Bars

- 2 cups (500 mL) rolled oats
- 1 cup (250 mL) whole wheat flour
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) ground flaxseed
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) packed brown sugar
- 1 tsp (5 mL) ground cinnamon
- 1 cup (250 mL) raisins, chocolate chips, or your favorite unsweetened dried fruit
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) sunflower seeds
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) honey
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) canola oil
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) applesauce
- 2 tsp (10 mL) vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). Oil 9 x 13 inch (22 x 33 cm) baking pan.

In large bowl, mix together oats, flour, flaxseed, brown sugar, cinnamon, raisins, sunflower seeds, and salt. Make a well in centre; set aside.

In small bowl, combine honey, egg, canola oil, applesauce, and vanilla. Add liquid ingredients to well and mix. Pat mixture evenly into a prepared pan.

Bake 20 to 25 minutes, until bars begin to turn golden at edges. Cool 5 minutes, then cut into bars while still warm. Do not allow bars to cool completely before cutting or they will be too hard to cut.

Notes:

Yield: 24 pieces, Serving: 1 piece

See more at:

<http://www.diabetes.ca/diabetes-and-you/recipes/lunchbox-granola-bars#sthash.kcY9PIFC.dpuf>



Special Acknowledgements

Jens Hansen



The RDBC would like to send its condolences out to the family of Jens Hansen. A long standing member of our club, Jens Hansen passed away Friday January 29, 2016. Jens served as a director on the RDBC board for two years and volunteered countless hours at the Agri-Ed booth. He was very knowledgeable about bees and was a good teacher.

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Club BeeMaid Order

In an effort to minimize the shipping costs members have to pay on orders from BeeMaid the RDBC board has made arrangements for bulk orders to be shipped to Regina. If you want to participate in a bulk order this is the process:

- RDBC member contacts John Sochaski with BeeMaid in Tisdale and submits order with the request to be included in the monthly RDBC bulk order; the member will pay for the order at this time.
- Orders must be submitted no later than the 25th of each month.
- Orders will be assembled and weighed by John and should arrive by the 30th of each month.
- The orders will be distributed from Mimi's place.
- Participants of the month's bulk order are contacted and must make arrangements to pick up their order within a week.
- When a member arrives to pick up their order they will be charged their portion of the shipping based on weight (payable to the RDBC).

There is no guarantee that each month there will be multiple participants and therefore cheaper shipping. The shipping will be based on a flat rate with an added fuel surcharge. The club will pay for the shipping when the order comes in and will retain any orders that are not picked up on time or that shipping is not paid for. The percentage of shipping a member pays is based on weight, so if there is one order that is 100 lbs and an order that is 5 lbs the heavier order will pay more. You must pay your portion of the shipping at pickup before you will receive your order.

This arrangement has the advantage of lowering an individual's overall shipping cost (no matter the shipping method). The disadvantage to the arrangement is that an order placed at the beginning of the month would not arrive until the end of the month.

RDBC bulk monthly orders will operate from March 30 to September 30.

Drawn Comb Program

Many new beekeepers start out by purchasing a hive or a nuc, and then build all the remaining equipment they need. A problem arises with this process. New frames containing foundation require the comb to be drawn out (built). This is the case for both wax and plastic foundation. The issue is that the bees really have no interest in moving up into a super that contains nine frames of foundation.

In order to coax the bees up into the new super of foundation you need to alternate frames with every second frame being one which has already been drawn out. For new beekeepers the problem is where do you get that drawn comb from?

The Regina & District Bee Club has a stock of drawn comb which we offer to new members to help them get started. The program works like this:

1. A new member brings two brand new standard deep supers with 9 (or 10) brand new frames each (foundation included).
2. The new member receives one of their supers back filled with 9 (or 10) frames of one year old drawn out light comb.
3. The new member can then make two supers of alternating comb and foundation to be applied to their hive(s).
4. The new frames are then drawn out in preparation for next year.
5. One super of foundation is received from the club for every two supers of foundation they get drawn out.

It is important for members to know that bees require around 10lb's of feed for every pound of wax they produce, so it is important to make sure they have an adequate food supply when trying to draw out comb.

The new supers must be standard Langstroth size, supplied by BeeMaid or Propolis -- Peavey Mart equipment is not acceptable. The equipment should be properly constructed (supers assembled using glue, clamps and nails; frames constructed using a double staple in the top bar).

Notes:

- The RDBC will maintain a supply of between 10 & 20 supers of drawn out comb.
- Excess equipment may be sold to members at current market value as determined by the board or may be raffled off at club events.
- New members who have purchased nucs will be given preference (limit of two drawn out supers each unless there is no other demand).
- Supplies may be limited from one year to another so equipment is available on a first come first serve basis.
- Anyone responsible for getting comb drawn out must be inspected by the provincial specialist in apiculture.



Andrew

Fall Social

This year's fall social has not yet been finalized. We are aiming for September/October so stay tuned for the information.

Do you have any suggestions for our fall social event? We are always interested to hear what you want to do and see or if you are interested in being a host so please let us know!

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Geoff's Corner

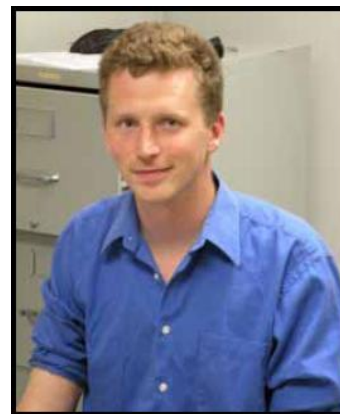
Have questions and need information about beekeeping in Saskatchewan?

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 \$5.20/lb during April 2016.

 Retail Honey was averaged at \$6.79/lb during April 2016.

 Canadian Bulk Honey was averaged at \$1.66/lb during November 2015.



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 August. Deadline for submissions is July 25, 2016.

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.

