



# the Queen City BUZZZZZZ

Regina and District Bee Club (RD BC)

### Special Interest Articles:

Agribition 2016	1
Agri-Ed	2
A Hobby or a Small Business	3
What is your Song	4
Events	4

### Individual Highlights:

Honey in the Kitchen	5
Geoff's Corner	6
About Our Club	6

## 2016 Agribition Report

This was my first year running the product table in the Food Pavilion at Canadian Western Agribition 2016. Actually, it was my first time at the Agribition. It was truly an experience and I am deeply grateful to all the volunteers, vendors, Saskatchewan Beekeeper Association and members of our club for contributing in this event. The product table was set up to not only sell honey and other bee related products, but help promote the beekeeping industry to the general public.

Along with the Agri-Ed booth, we interacted with so many people: people who had an interest in becoming

a beekeeper, people who were beekeepers and people who were retired beekeepers. We met people who loved bee products but didn't like bees. We learned the many uses of bee propolis. We met people who just moved to our country and wanted more information about our bee products. Angie Benson (volunteer) and I even met one gentleman from Syria who was a beekeeper. How great was that?

This year, the Canadian Western Agribition is November 20<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in volunteering, or selling your product, please contact me at [ads@reginabeeclub.ca](mailto:ads@reginabeeclub.ca).



### What You Should Know:

The major issue this coming year will be the new rules with antibiotics. Veterinary oversight will now be required for antibiotics, which were previously available to beekeepers. There are many concerns about the impact that this will have on AFB. Fortunately, provincially speaking AFB is currently under control. There were only two confirmed cases in Saskatchewan in 2016 and they were both in equipment that had been sitting in storage.

High winter losses are expected in the spring of 2017 due to very high mite levels throughout the province this fall.

## Bee Club Family Agribition Booth a Success Again for 2016

The Bee Club's education booth at Agribition was another success for 2016. Running from Monday, November 21 through the following Saturday, the booth drew the interest of many visitors to the Family Ag Pavilion. Traffic was busy - there were Agribition registrations for 1,700 students for each of Monday through Thursday, and 1,500 for Friday, in addition to the many other families and individuals coming through the pavilion. Visitors, as always, were very interested in seeing the observation hive, and especially in being able to see the queen. There was a lot of interest in the challenges and rewards of Saskatchewan beekeeping, and there may have been a few people encouraged to become new beekeepers from what they heard at the booth.

There was also a lot of interest from the public in the general

state of bees, both domestic and wild, based on all they've heard in the media. And among the many other topics that came up in discussions with members of the public, there was a lot of interest in the possibilities of urban beekeeping, and the importance of bees as pollinators.

I'd like to again thank, very much, all the volunteers who helped out at the booth this year. They all did a wonderful job of informing visitors about the booth, and answering questions. I think the volunteers also found it a rewarding experience, through educating the public and meeting their fellow beekeepers, and picking up some new knowledge along the way.

If any of the volunteers have comments or suggestions

about the booth's operations, please feel free to let me know. And for anyone who would like to be a volunteer for Agribition 2017, please contact me (or I believe there will be a sign-up sheet at the annual Bee Club meeting this coming March).

Thanks also to Andrew Hamilton for providing the bees for the observation hive.

Finally, I'd like to thank Colette Stushnoff for her years of dedicated service as the booth organizer. She was very helpful with my transition to running the booth this time around, and has set a great standard for what the bee club can accomplish with the booth.

 *Ed Rodger*



### \*\*\*AGM Notice\*\*\*

Date: Saturday, March 11, 2017

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!

### Varroa Mites?

RDBC is selling Varroa Mite Treatment – **Apivar Strips**.

Price: \$3.00 x 1 strip  
\$5.00 x 2 strips

Contact: (306) 757-5958  
ilovebees@reginabeeclub.ca



## Beekeeping: A Hobby or a Small Business?

Some members have approached me about whether they can convert their hobby into a small business. I usually answer this question with a more important question: SHOULD YOU CONVERT YOUR HOBBY TO A BUSINESS? There is no right or wrong answer.

If you are considering opening a small business, there are numerous variables that need to be taken into consideration. I broke down the variables into four broad categories. These categories can be used as a foundation to help make your decision.

1. **Time.** Do you have the time to run a small business? Although it is richly satisfying, it is a lot of work. What's that saying? 'Don't bite off more than you can chew?' So true. I have a full-time job. I commute from Govan to Regina every day. I volunteer at the bee club. I have a husband and a 'zillion' pets. Last year, I wanted to expand my bee business and I increased my hives from 2 to 10. Every waking minute was consumed by work, home life, bees, extracting or selling honey. It was too much.
2. **Financial situation.** Do you have the funds to start your business? Running a business is expensive. There is a cost for



marketing, packaging, delivery, transportation, etc. The list goes on. People that I have met in the past borrowed money to start their business. Ask yourself if it is really worth it? I hate debt. There is no good debt and bad debt. Debt is debt. Ask yourself if you want to start with a debt hanging over you. (I sound preachy, but I really dislike debt.)

What are the tax consequences when running a small business? It depends on your financial situation. Your accountant is the best person to ask this question.

3. **Family Support.** Will your family support you in this decision? I'm not saying that you need their support, but it does help. Are you going to rely on the business profits to support your personal cash flow needs? While the business is growing, do you have other income to rely on?

This category would be a very interesting family discussion.

4. **Education.** How much research have you done to help you make this decision? Check out the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and see what is required. A food safety course? A Small Business course? It might be a good idea.

All of this can be daunting at times. Who can help you with this decision? Reach out to beekeepers who also have small businesses. Seek advice from your accountant, mentor, banker, friends and family.

 Mimi Mouthaan

*(Disclosure: Mimi Mouthaan is not a lawyer, nor an accountant. Her advice in this article is based on her experience working as a Small Business Advisor at one of the large Canadian Banks.)*

## What is your song?



When you approach your beehive, do you hum a little song? If yes, you are not alone. Mentors and instructors say that the beekeeper needs to remain calm when working with a hive. Humming a song helps. Bees pick up on your mood. The calmer you are, the calmer the bees are. Right?

My song is the Darth Vader theme.

I jokingly call myself Darth Vader and the hive the Rebel Base.

The bees are the rebel fighters. When the bees fly out to confront me, I call them the x-wing fighters. It sound crazy but it helps set the mood. So what song do you hum? Think about it.



*Mimi Mouthaan*



## Up Coming Events

### AGM

**When:** March 11, 2017  
9am – 4pm

**Where:** Knox-Metropolitan United Church  
2340 Victoria Ave, Regina

Come out, meet other beekeepers, and find out what works and doesn't work. Listen to informative, educational presentations on a variety of different topics to be announced. Buy items from Beemaid and sign up for nuc orders.

**Cost:** Members free with member renewal and guest \$15

**RSVP:** by Friday March 3, 2017  
by email [ads@reginabeeclub.ca](mailto:ads@reginabeeclub.ca)  
or phone/text (306 540-3111)

### Intro course: So, you think you want to keep bees ... What you need to know.

**When:** April 22, 2017

This is an introductory course on beekeeping. That will cover all matters to inform a person who is trying to decide whether to get into keeping honeybees. It will also provide some basic information for a person who is starting with bees.

Watch our Facebook page and website for more details

Or contact by email  
[ilovebees@reginabeeclub.ca](mailto:ilovebees@reginabeeclub.ca)  
or phone/text (306 540-3111)

### Beginner Beekeeping Course

**When:** May 13 & 14, 2017  
8:30am – 3:00pm both days

**Where:** St. Josephs Hall

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.

**Cost:** \$300 CAD (you can have a child 14 or under attend with you for an additional \$35 for lunch)

Mail **Registration Form** and fee to:

### SBDC

ATTN: Linda Haggerty  
Box 682Dundurn, SK S0K 1K0

**Inquiries contact:** Hannah Neil  
[hannah.mae.neil91@gmail.com](mailto:hannah.mae.neil91@gmail.com)  
Phone: 343-540-9008

## Honey Inspired Recipes

### Honey-Peanut Butter Protein Energy Ball



- 1¼ cup - old fashioned oats
- 3 tablespoons - shredded coconut
- ½ cup - sliced almonds, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon - hemp seeds, shelled (optional)
- 1 scoop - whey protein powder
- ½ cup - honey
- ½ cup - dried apricots, chopped
- ½ cup - peanut butter

In a medium bowl add the oats, coconut, almonds, hemp seeds and protein powder. Stir until well distributed. Add the honey, apricots and peanut butter and stir well. Put mixing bowl into the refrigerator for about 20 to 30 minutes. Then roll into rounded balls. When chilled, they can last about 5 days.



### Honey Braised Pork Hock with Southern Corn and Potato Chowder

#### Pork Hock

- 2 lb. - pork hock
- 4 tablespoons - Cajun seasoning
- 1 lb. - dark mire poix
- 1 cup - honey
- 2 cups - dark chicken stock
- 1 - cinnamon stick

#### Chowder

- 8 oz - Vidalia onion
- 8 oz - heavy cream
- 16 oz - chicken broth
- 1 tablespoon - rosemary
- 1 lb. - Yukon gold potato, diced
- 1 lb. - kernel corn
- 6 oz - red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 oz - pea tendrils, seasoned with ¼ teaspoon smoked paprika



Score pork hocks and season with Cajun seasoning and salt, to taste. Place pork in braising pan with lid and add dark mire poix, then add 1/2 the amount of honey, chicken stock and cinnamon stick. Bring to a simmer and place in 350-degree oven for 3 hours.

In a medium pot, sweat onions until translucent. Add cream, chicken broth, rosemary and potatoes. Add 1/2 the amount of corn and red peppers. Cook until potatoes are soft.

Scoop out 1/2 of chowder mix and set aside, puree remaining chowder and then re-add reserved chowder. Add salt and chili flakes to taste.

Pull pork hock meat away from the bone and chop into fork friendly pieces. With remaining honey and 1 cup of pan stock, glaze pork pieces in a hot sauté pan. Add remaining peppers and corn to chowder and simmer for five minutes.

Ladle 6 oz of chowder into a large soup bowl, and top with ¼ oz seasoned pea tendrils and the honey glazed pork hock.



See something you like?

Have questions?

Do you have ideas or feedback?

Let us know!!!

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ilovebees@reginabeeclub.ca

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 \$5.25/lb during January 2017.

 Retail Honey was averaged at \$7.35/lb during January 2017.

 Canadian Bulk Honey was averaged at \$1.06/lb during November 2016.

*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 honeybees 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 April. Deadline for submissions is April 8, 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.

