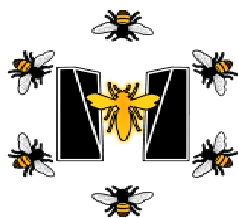


January 7, 2013  
2013 Winter Issue



# the Queen City BUZZZZZZ

Regina and District Bee Club (RDBC)

## Special Interest Articles:

Saskatchewan Beekeepers Conference	2
Executives Report	3
Agribition - continued	4
Organic Connections	6
Honey Today	7

## Individual Highlights:

Royal Agricultural Fair	6
Geoff's Corner	7
About Our Club	7

## Annual General Meeting

The AGM is tentatively set for the third Saturday in March (March 16). Speakers will be organized for the event in the coming weeks. If there is any subject matter that you would like to hear about or a specific speaker that you would like to hear from, please contact the executive board with your ideas.

This year the meeting will be held at the Royal United Services Institute of Regina. This is the same venue as the past few years. Membership notices and

meeting details will be sent out in February. If you know of anyone interested in attending, please let them know.

The AGM is also when we elect new executives so start thinking of who you would like to elect to be on your executive board for 2013. Another part of the AGM is making any resolutions to our clubs constitution. If you have anything you want added to or changed in the constitution please make sure you inform the executive. This will give us

a chance to add it to the agenda. Looking forward to seeing you all in March, until then enjoy your off season,



Andrew

## BEE KEEPERS WANTED!



## Agribition

### Agri-Ed

Every year for the past 26 years, our bee club has organized a booth at Agri-Ed, an educational component of Agribition that currently targets grades K-8.

The booth was set up Friday the 16<sup>th</sup>, open to the teacher tour on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup>, then open from 9 to 6 on Monday through Saturday of Agribition. There were 6000 children registered with school tours from Monday to Friday. This is almost 2000 more than last year. Saturday is a general public day, but that does not mean our booth is less busy!

The observation hive is the

main attraction. It draws people into our booth. Children and adults are fascinated by bees. They ask lots of questions, so we need several volunteers at the booth to answer them. There was a lot of interest in becoming a beekeeper this year. Many names were collected to invite to the AGM, and many more cards with the website address were handed out. Once again, I would like to issue a great big THANK YOU to all the volunteers that made it happen. The weather was challenging mid-week, and these dedicated people still

showed up to work. I was so grateful. It took 27 people, some volunteering for more than 1 day, to teach the kids and general public about bees. You do not need to be a master beekeeper to help out. On the contrary, it is a good opportunity to meet other beekeepers and learn more about bees. If you are inclined to help out next year, you can call me at 699-2599 or email me at [fort.trail@yourlink.ca](mailto:fort.trail@yourlink.ca). Let me know anytime. I will put your name on my calling list.



Colette

## Saskatchewan Beekeepers Conference

This year's SBA Conference was filled with some very interesting subject matter. There were a few main focuses of the convention. Pests and disease control as always, breeding or queen rearing, and insecticide use (those wonderful spray planes). The SBA board of directors had a busy year. They had several issues arise that needed to be dealt with. Some of these issues included border issues, hive mortality insurance, a change in Ag minister (Lyle Stewart), pesticide reporting (Pest Management Reporting Agency, PMRA), and the small hive beetle find in Manitoba. The bear fence program had a busy year paying out \$96000 in claims.

Geoff Wilson, our provincial apiculturalist, addressed the members on the year's outcome. It seems most beekeepers had a depressing season with the spring looking so good and then the weather turning for the worst. The province's total colony count is up 25% to almost 125000 hives. There were issues with poor queens being brought in, many had noseema problems. There were also some issues with American Foul Brood, most occurred in the Saskatoon region. It is very important to treat and monitor your hives properly. There were also a few issues in the Nipawin and Tisdale region with treatment

resistant mites. The Honey Council Report addressed a few issues. Apivar has been given full conditional registration, although there are some major concerns with the disposal of strips. The Canadian Food and Inspection Agency continues to have concerns with the level of bee repellents found in honey, as well as a new concern this year with the HMF (Hydroxymethylfurfural) levels found in honey. HMF is a chemical reaction between the sugars in honey when heated above 104. This would be a problem with wax melter honey which is not typically mixed in with regular honey. There is a concern about the food safety of honey produced by non registered beekeepers and the traceability of honey.

Three speakers addressed the topic of breeding. Dr. Albert Robertson with Saskatraz discussed their progress and the goals of the Saskatraz bees: honey production, over wintering ability, mite resistance, brood disease resistance, and decreased susceptibility to viruses. Sue Cobey gave two talks. Her first talk was about the closed population breeding program. Her talk discussed genetic diversity, having more drones and more drone diversity, hives not raising drones till there is a

natural source of pollen, and drones taking 12 days to mature for mating. She also discussed the ranking system she uses to select breeding hives (point system) and the attractiveness of a queen to a hive depending on the number of drones with which she has mated. The second talk was about instrumental insemination of queens. This talk was very technical, but very interesting.

Liz Huxter was the third breeding speaker. She also gave two talks dealing with Varroa Sensitive Hygiene (VSH) and breeding and the overwintering of bees in B.C. Their B.C. valley operation takes a more holistic approach to beekeeping. They burn hives with AFB and use screened bottom boards to deal with Varroa. They use breeding to deal with European Foul Brood (EFB) and chalk brood. One of their major goals is VSH (Varroa Sensitive Hygiene). This means the mites are less reproductive and the bees remove infected brood. Signs that bees have VSH qualities include immature brood body parts on the bottom board, drone eyes protruding from cells, and polka dotted brood resulting from the bees opening up a cell to check for disease and then resealing the cell. VSH deals with tolerance (the build-up of mites that does not affect the hive) and resistance (the bees not

allowing any form of mite build up). They were very interesting talks.

One of the major subjects at the convention was insecticides, and more specifically, their application. We were fortunate enough to have Allan Bakke speak. He is the provincial pesticide investigator and he had a busy year. The biggest problem with spraying is the application. How much wind (drift) there is and the time of day (are the bees still out foraging) are factors that contribute to damage. The main focus of his talk was to stress the importance of communication and education. It is the land owners' responsibility to tell the spray applicators that there are bees in the area. This becomes a problem if the land is rented or the bees happen to be in a field directly adjacent to the field being sprayed. The best suggestion that was put forward was a website where the locations of beehives could be registered. Then the spray applicators would be able to avoid those areas. This idea poses its own issues as beekeepers generally don't want to give away the location and number of their hives.



Andrew

### Executives Report

Well it has been a busy few months since the last newsletter. By now your bees are all settled down for winter, and you are enjoying the cold weather. This is the time of year when you think about your plans for next year. Do you expand or downgrade or just stay the same? Inevitably there will be winter loss to make up for and that can affect your plan as well. The spring also can be a major factor depending if it is early or wet. If you are unsure of what you should do, talk to other members. The AGM is coming up and that is

always a good chance to network with other beekeepers. A note about the executive board: we will be electing four new directors this year, so start thinking about who you would like to nominate. This is a good opportunity to help shape the club for the coming year. So if you are interested, don't hesitate to put your name forward. I would also like to thank all the people that help out with the operation of the club throughout the year. These are the people that collect swarms, manage the extractor rental, keep

the website functional, visit schools, work agribition, help with AGM organizing, address funding issues, organize educational material for the public, host field days and other club functions, and mentor new beekeepers. These people keep our club going and we would not be able to function without them.

 Andrew

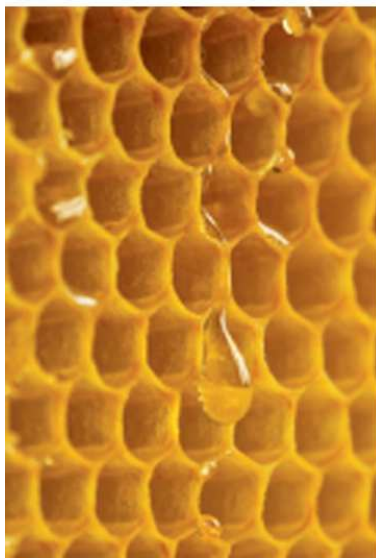
**Queens**  
Available from early June to mid August  
Arrangements can be made to rear queens from a beekeepers own genetics

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<p>Visit our website: <a href="http://www.beemaid.com" style="color: white;">www.beemaid.com</a> Shop at: <a href="http://www.beemaidbeestore.com" style="color: white;">www.beemaidbeestore.com</a></p>		



## Agribition - Continued

### Tradeshow Booth

Well, another Agribition has come and gone. We had a record number of members contributing honey products and had a good variety to offer the public this year. We did struggle a bit with finding volunteers - we plan to work to try and make things better for next year so our volunteer's aren't stretched too thin and worn out! It's a busy week for all of us but we always seem to have a great time. Once again this year there was a lot of interest in "bees" in general, particularly their decline. We spent a lot of time answering questions regarding the media's reports on colony collapse, mites, and the loss of bees around the world. Angela supplied our booth with a beautiful frame of honey in a glass show case. This generated a lot of conversation and made a good connection between the hive and the tubs of honey we were selling. This year Old Man Winter decided to give us a blast right in the middle of Agribition Week. The ice and snow definitely slowed things down for us bringing our sales down from last year. As true beekeepers though.....we are optimistic that next year will be better!

 Michelle



A great big thank you to all the volunteers that helped out with Agribition this year. We had a total of 31 volunteers who worked over 400 hours to run both our booths. We could not do Agribition without your support.

Colette Stushnoff,  
Angela Fuller,  
Michelle Frischholz,  
Jean Fletcher,  
Rick Stushnoff,  
John Burke,  
Erin McArthur,  
Doreen Bradshaw,  
Conrad Schultz,  
Andrew Hamilton,  
Yves Descottes,  
Robin Lawless,  
Nicole Descottes,  
Justin Lueke,  
Joe Kleisinger,  
Henry Stadnyk,  
Daphne Murphy,  
Bob Krause,  
Al Katona,  
Linda Kletchko,  
Laurie Gavel,  
Gary Keller,  
Garnet Kumick,  
Azure-Dee Farago,  
Wybo Ottenbreit-Born,  
Rob Langford,  
Perry Langford,  
Kevin Puffalt,  
Jack McKenzie,  
Dennie Fornwald,  
Amy Cruson

 Executive Board

The SBDC is a major sponsor of our Agribition Booth every year!



Above: Picture of a future beekeeper studying the observation hive

## Research Proposals

Bee Maid Honey Limited will consider project proposals in any area of apiculture, hive health or honey production. Preference will be given to the area of honey quality and good practices of producing pure quality Canadian honey in the Canadian beekeeping industry.

Proposals for projects must be submitted to the Bee Maid Honey Research Committee by March 31, 2013. Projects are expected to be completed within one year of funding, although renewal applications will be considered. Please submit five complete hard copies plus one electronic copy of your application by March 31st, 2013.



Would you like a T-shirt? Trade Show booth and Agri-Ed Volunteers will receive a discount!!!!

### For Sale: Hardy Sask. Bees

#### Qu'Appelle Area

Bees For Sale in May, 2013:  
Approx. 50 doubles, some nucs.  
Also supers, wraps & feeder pails.

Email Colette or Rick Stushnoff at

[fort.trail@yourlink.ca](mailto:fort.trail@yourlink.ca)

or phone 306-699-2599

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- Fumagilin-B; Oxytet-25, bee-repel

### **NOD Apiary products**

- bee brief; bee cozy wrap
- liquid formic acid drums
- mite-away quick strip\*

### **FW Jones products**

- frames/supers

### **Mann Lake products**

- rite-cell foundation
- excluders
- sideliner extracting equipment

### **FeedBee supplement**

- 1 x 12 ponderosa pine lumber



## Royal Agricultural Fair



For those that don't know, the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair down in Toronto is a big deal. It started over 90 years ago so that breeders, growers and exhibitors could come together and show off their best of agricultural produce and livestock.

The Royal continues to hold an important place in the world of agriculture and its participants are now over 340,000. So, yeah ...it's a big deal and this year our own **Michelle Frischholz** from **Zee-Bee Honey** entered the competition.

Zee-Bee Honey entered two classes: Class 1 - Liquid Honey, White (open to provinces west of Ontario) and Class 9 - Granulated (open Canada wide). They won 1st place in both Classes.

And it doesn't stop there! After those two impressive wins, they found they had

also won a Trophy from the Canadian Honey Council for the Best Exhibit of Granulated Honey.

As Michelle so elegantly put it in her email, "Hooray for Saskatchewan Honey!!!!" ...and our hearty congratulations go to Michelle. It's not every day we stubble-jumpers get to rub elbows with the "Eastern Elite", let alone bring home the big prizes.

Hopefully Michelle hasn't told her bees about the prizes their honey won, likely they'll be demanding special feed patties come the spring!



Robin



*You can order a subscription to the ABJ on your 2013-14 Membership*



## Organic Connections

The Regina and District Bee Club was invited to participate in an educational event for children hosted by Organic Connections on November 2-3, 2012. Organic Connections is a non-profit organization established to organize

conferences and trade shows for the prairie organic industry and to facilitate activities that enhance and promote the organic sector through education and awareness. In partnership with the Saskatchewan Science

Center, the 2-day event took place at the Science Center. On Friday, Colette Stushnoff and Michelle Frischholz set up and operated our booth. Approximately 100 middle-years children from Regina schools attended in groups of 8-10 to hear a 15 minute presentation about the importance of pollinators, the threats to their survival, and how the kids can help. They then spent 5 minutes looking at some equipment, and viewing an observation hive made and supplied by Andrew Hamilton. On Saturday, Colette Stushnoff and Dennie Fornwald manned the booth. They did a presentation to a group of kids registered through the conference. Most of the visitors were general public visiting the Science Center. Michelle

and Andrew came in the afternoon to help tear down the booth. Other booths presented information about soil critters, vermicompost, soil conservation, grain, sprouts, brix, and reading the label. The kids were supplied with organic snacks. The organizers were very pleased with our participation, and requested that we be part of future events.



Colette



Above: Picture of Colette Stushnoff and Dennie Fornwald (missing Michelle Frischholz)



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](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 \$4.29/lb during Dec. 2012.

 Retail Honey was averaged at \$5.78/lb during Dec. 2012.

 Bulk Honey was averaged at \$1.78/lb during Oct. 2012.

*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 April. Deadline for submissions is March 20, 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.

