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2013 Summer Issue



the Queen City BUZZZZZZ

Regina and District Bee Club (RDBC)

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Food for Thought

Did you know that we rely on bees for nearly 1/3 of our entire food supply? Not to mention all the fibers, spices and medicines the plants they pollinate make possible.

Did you know that somewhere between 75% and 95% of all flowering plants on the earth rely on pollination to survive?

If you want to talk dollars and cents, pollinators contribute approximately \$217 Billion (with a capital B) to the global economy. In Canada, pollination by honey bees, native bees, and other insects produces \$1.2 billion worth of products annually.

Translation: Without the hard work of bees, modern society would not exist as it does today.

Because of their intimate relationship with the environment—and by extension the food we eat and the economy we rely on—bees are a perfect alarm system for our ecosystem. An integral switch in the complex system of checks and balances that only Mother Nature could devise. And when bees start acting strange, we know that something strange is happening in our environment.



*Basically,
bees are
magical
fuzzy*

*little
flower-
hopping
life-bringers.*

The sad truth is that, in Canada alone, honeybee populations are declining each year at rates over 30% since 2007, with losses over 40% in 2011. You may have heard of the mysterious disappearance of bees from their hives. Something is making worker bees that seem healthy one day not come back to the colony the next.

No worker bees, no pollen for the hive.

No pollen, no food for the hive.

No food, no queen.
No queen, no colony.
No honeybees.

Why, you ask. Scientists are learning more every day, but they know honeybees are facing all kinds of threats and changes in their environment—pollution, the misuse of chemicals, disease, even changes in climate. Nearly every scientist agrees that all bees need nesting habitats and a variety of healthy flower food to thrive—and those are in short supply.

Continued on page 2



In The News

Sunday, July 7, 2013, 8:14 PM - It was just a few weeks ago that 50,000 bees were found dead in an Oregon parking lot, and now the problem has hit closer to home at a much more alarming rate.

In the past, many scientists have struggled to find the exact cause of the massive die-offs, a phenomenon they refer to as 'colony collapse disorder'.

Dave Schuit, who runs a honey operation in Elmwood, Ontario, says he's lost more than 600 hives -- that's more than

37 million bees -- in 2012 alone.

Schuit says he's been seeing his bees die at a rapid rate every spring in the last few years.

"This is how they die," Schuit explained to The Toronto Star, pointing with a broad hand to a bee that's gone haywire, flailing erratically in the grass. "Their tongue sticks out and the venom drips out their backside."

According to the 48-year-old apiarist, neonicotinoid pesticides are to blame for

the loss.

The Collective Evolution finds that the deaths occur after the pesticide dust is blown into the air (used to coat corn seed with air seeders).

After record-breaking honeybee deaths in the UK, the European Union has banned multiple pesticides, including neonicotinoid pesticides.

Last year, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Industry began taking samples from dead bees

in Ontario and Quebec. Schuit's bees were a part of that study.

The agency is now "re-evaluating" the pesticides status while analyzing more samples this year.



Network

<http://www.theweathernet.com/news/articles/elmwood-ontario-apis-destroyed-at-sudden-loss-of-more-than-600-hives/8920/>



Food for Thought Cont'd

It's a real estate problem. Humans have used up all the land that once was left for the birds and the bees—we've planted crops from field edge to edge, lawns from yard to yard (no bee food there), and fancy ornamental plants where once scruffy natives used to stand.

In most agricultural settings today, bees find only one kind of food for days and weeks on end—it'd be like us having nothing to eat but green beans every day without a break. Not only would it be boring, but not very healthy.

Bees need health food from nature—native plants, the very plants that are designed to thrive in your climate, your soil, and your ecosystem. And when you plant them, wherever you plant them, bees will come. They will do their happy dance in your little habitat—whether it's in a

pot or on the edges of a 10,000-acre ranch. Every piece of ground counts and what we plant now can help provide for a more sustainable future.

Do Your Part

The simplest, most effective (and good-smelling) way to help bees is to create pollinator habitats in your community.

With some native flower seeds, a shovel and some elbow grease, you can transform a boring patch of grass into a veritable bee sanctuary. Even a 12 in. by 12 in. square is enough to create a thriving bee habitat.

And just imagine. If each of us shares a piece of our lawn, and we add up all those little squares, we'd pretty much have our own nationwide bee sanctuary!

Support with Your Spoon
Buy local and organic foods. Because bees need clean, healthy food and so

do we. But organic agriculture is still only 1% of agriculture in Canada. If we all buy more organic foods, farmers can grow more and offer better prices. Supply and demand really works.

Be sweet to your local honey makers. Beekeepers do just that—help keep bees around. Just go to your local farmers' market and you'll find them. Plus, is anything more delicious than fresh, pure local honey?

A Whole Foods store in Rhode Island removed all the produce made possible by pollinators. The result is shown below. Help us make sure this does not become reality.



Canada

<http://www.burtsbees.ca/wilddforsbees.html>



Baby Bee Announcement

The RDBC's newest member, Henry Atticus Dueck, was born on July 9th. He was 8 pounds, 15 ounces. Here is a photo of him being tickled by a drone. Parents Kris Dueck and Dennie Fornwald are thrilled to meet him. In the picture below Henry is being tickled by a drone.



Queens

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to mid August
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Field Day 2013

Even though the weather wasn't perfect there was a good turnout for this year's field day.

We were delighted to have Sandra come out and give us a demonstration of Encaustic Art – a 3000 year old technique. Using heat, resin, and beeswax (the medium) in multiple colors you can create

beautiful and unique pieces of art.

After she gave her presentation about what Encaustic is, the history, and showed off some of her techniques, members were invited to give it a try. We sure have a lot of talent in our club!

Andrew and Colette provided treatment demonstrations and

explanations. There was lots of food, bee talk, and visiting. It was a very enjoyable afternoon.

A big thank-you to everyone that made it out, Justin and I really enjoyed hosting this year and look forward to seeing you all at the next club event.

 *Keara*

Fall Social

The last RDBC Fall Social was a lot of fun and we hope this year's will be just as great! Watch for your notice of when, what, and where.

If you have any suggestions on themes or activities please let us know by phone or email.



Pictured Top Left: Colette's piece done by putting the paper on the heating element and 'drawing' with the medium.

Top Right: New member Atlas Maze with two of his pieces, one done by putting the medium directly on the heating element and then transferring it to the paper (left) and the other done by painting the medium on with paint brushes (right).

Bottom Left: A display of Sandra's art.

Bottom Right: Sandra demonstrating how to apply the medium directly to the heating element.



President's Report

The last few weeks have been quite a welcome change after our miserable winter and slow spring. The bees are finally kicking into high gear and the crops have started flowering. The intense heat and humidity do bring with them the increased need to monitor your hives for swarming. There have been several calls over the last few weeks regarding swarms. It is important to monitor your hives and make sure the bees have adequate space for honey and brooding. Make sure they have good ventilation and check them for swarm cells periodically. Some bees are genetically more likely to swarm but much of the time a swarm is the result of the bees not having adequate space in their hive. If you are

unsure about swarming ask a more experienced beekeeper about the best operating practices to reduce swarming.

The club recently took part in a new event. The Secret Gardens Tour is an event to raise money for the New Dance Horizons (NDH) organisation. This was the 16th year of the tour and the theme was "Buzzing with birds, bees, and butterflies." RDBC was contacted to perform some bee pollination presentations for the event. Joe and Gail Kleisinger teamed up with Cory Sheffield to talk to over 300 tour participants. The host gardener said that the observation hive was one of the highlights of her year.

The Introductory Beekeeping Course was

another success this year. Attendance was a little low however the hope is to make changes to address that in future. The first day was a rainy day so much of the time was spent in the class room. We did make it outside briefly for about half an hour. The second day was much better. There was sun and even a visit from Global Regina.

Apart from the above mentioned events club members have been volunteering their time to give school presentations. One of the common misconceptions is that bees are only for honey. The importance of pollination needs to be stressed more and kids are the front line of public education. The school presentations are one of our best methods of educating the public.

I hope everyone's bees are doing well and I look forward to seeing you at the fall social.

 *Andrew*



*Pictured Above:
A swarm Andrew and Robin moved on July 9 just west of Edenwold.*



CBC Interview: Bonding Over Beekeeping

The Monday, July 15 CBC Morning Edition featured an interview with two of our own beekeepers, Alyce Hamon and Doreen Bradshaw.

It was a story of how honeybees are fostering a sweet friendship between two women in Boggy Creek, Saskatchewan.

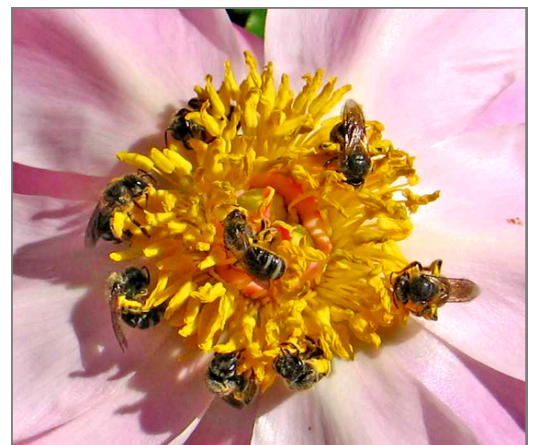
If you happened to miss it live you can have a listen here:

<http://www.cbc.ca/morningedition/2013/07/15/bonding-over-beekeeping/>

 *Linda*



These beautiful pictures of honeybees on peonies were submitted by a Regina resident that was very excited to see them in her garden.



See something you like?

Have questions?

Do you have ideas or
feedback?

Let us know!!!

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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 \$4.41/lb
during June 2013.

 Retail Honey was
averaged at \$5.81/lb
during June 2013.

 Bulk Honey was
averaged at \$2.10/lb
during April 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 pg \$80.00

Our next Newsletter will be in October. Deadline for submissions is October 2, 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.

