



the **Queen City** **Buzzzzzz**

Official Newsletter of the Regina & District Bee Club, **2018 Spring**



Is anyone else excited about spring?

Your Bee Club is pleased to bring
you our spring newsletter.

In This Issue

Tons of upcoming events

Club program updates

Knowledge sharing

- Mites

- Free beginner e-books

- Prairie climate-hardy plant list

New Club web site is now live

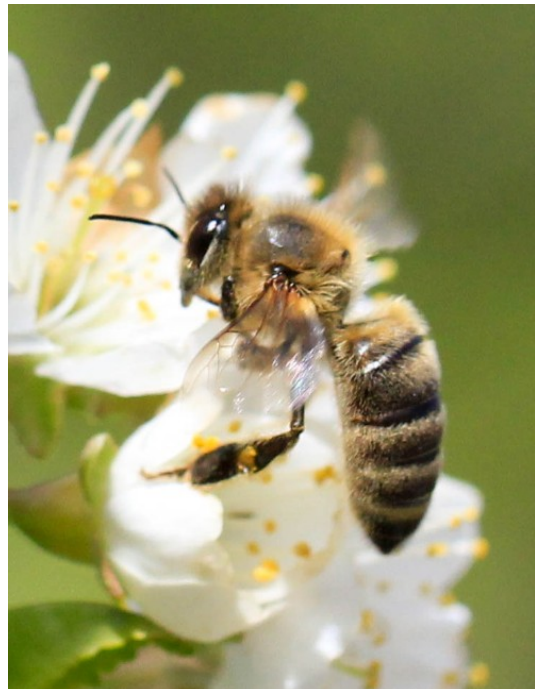
Candle making class was a hit

Antibiotics and American Foulbrood

Annual general meeting

Introducing your new board members

Sweet recipes



2018 Membership Renewal and Nuc Orders

Thanks to everyone for renewing your membership and attending our Annual General Meeting. And if you haven't already, you can still buy or renew for 2018. As well, it's nuc order time. The number of nucs available will be dependent on weather and subject to availability from suppliers. Orders will be filled in order received by the club. Members ordering nucs must sign a Nuc Waiver Form and provide payment.

This year's nuc price is \$265.

[Click here now to buy/renew your membership and purchase nucs.](#)

Upcoming Events



Introductory Beekeeping Course: What to Expect

April 21

[More information and Register Here](#)

University of Regina Intermediate Beekeeping

Mondays - April 23-June 18th
(excluding May 21st)



[More information and Register Here](#)



Regina Beginner Beekeeper Course

May 12 & 13

[More information and Register Here](#)

Regina Field Day: Mead Making & BBQ

June 9th 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Yens' yard - 3116 College Avenue

Mead making demonstration at two



stages (mixing and racking)
Followed by lunch.

[More information and Register Here](#)

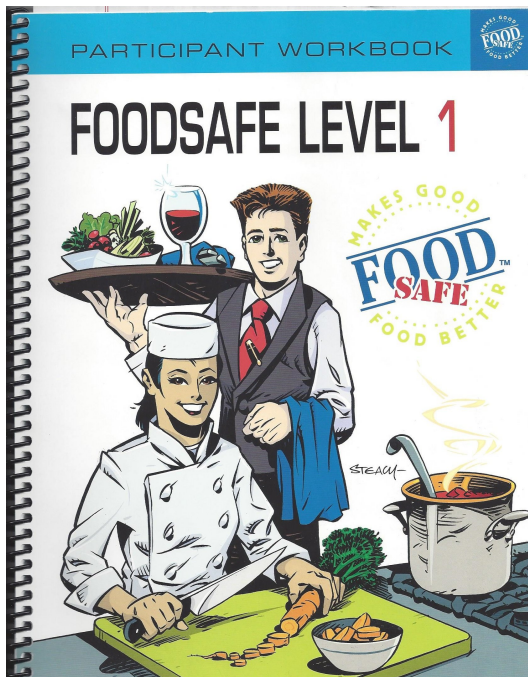


Saskatchewan Beekeepers' Field Day

June 16

Location TBD

[Check the Sask Beekeepers web site for details](#)



Safe Food Handlers Course

To comply with food safety laws, anyone selling honey must successfully complete food safety training. Courses are offered regularly through Saskatchewan Health Authority.

[More information and Register Here](#)

Club Program Updates

Bulk Shipping Program

The Club runs a bulk shipping program where once a month during the summer months, members order beekeeper supplies from [BeeMaid](#) in Tisdale and have

them shipped to Regina as a bulk Club order to save on shipping costs. Bulk orders officially resume in April with pick on the third Friday of every month throughout the summer. Place orders directly with BeeMaid then pick up on the designated date at Manitoulin Transport at 385 Henderson Drive in Regina.

Apivar Purchase Program

The Club purchases Apivar Varroa mite treatments in bulk and passes those savings along to members who can purchase individual strips at a reduced cost. The program is ideal for those with only a couple of hives. Individual Apivar strips are available for \$4 each by contacting Janine Heinrich. She can be reached by Facebook message or text/call at 306 527-6736.

Other hive treatments can be ordered through the Club's Bulk Shipping Program from BeeMaid in Tisdale or from Andrew Hamilton just north of Regina. Contact Andrew at crazy_bee_man@hotmail.com.

Knowledge Sharing

Dear Mentor.....

What's your typical mite approach for the full season? Any tips?



Photo provided courtesy of Saskatchewan Agriculture

By Karen Pedersen

My advice for dealing with Varroa is to test, test and test again with an alcohol wash. (No one has ever tested whether the bees from an icing sugar test actually live more than the few minutes that it takes you to add them back to the hive, but they have tested it to know that it does not give you an accurate test of mite levels.) Know what your levels are especially in spring and fall when you have a window to treat your bees. Follow the recommended treatment for your area and then test to make sure that it worked. I would also suggest following an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system for a couple of reasons. IPM refers to treating a pest from a multi-pronged approach including mechanical or cultural measures, soft chemicals and hard chemicals. If you use a multi-pronged approach, you will be attacking the Varroa from several fronts, rather than just breeding resistant mites to one harsh chemical. It also allows you to learn about other methods of control and see how and whether they work, while there is not yet resistance to the hard chemical.

So, we use screened bottom boards year round. I don't know how much they do for the mites, but we like them for managing moisture in the hives. We block the wind on them for the winter. We try to keep drone cell on the combs to less than 1-2 % in the brood nest so that we don't have Varroa factories. We run singles. They are easier to treat and what you see is what you've got. Usually around the end of June or the beginning of July, we put an empty wooden frame into the middle of our brood box to replace a frame of brood that we are pulling to start a new hive. They will draw that frame to drone cell because they don't have a lot of other drone cell and the queen will lay on it. Then, when it is capped, we pull that frame out and cut the brood out to feed to pigs. Do not forget to pull the frame. Some people use splitting hives as a way to lower Varroa as well.

We drizzle an oxallic acid treatment on our bees usually in mid to late October on the day that we are wrapping the hives for winter. There is no brood in the hives at that time.

We have tried Formic Acid with meat pads (spring) and with MAQs (fall). We have tried Thymovar. We have used Apistan and Apivar. Follow the label exactly both for your safety and the safety of the bees. We do not have resistance in our bees yet.

Do not experiment with Rhubarb leaves, speariment or whatever essential oil someone on the internet is promoting. It is the researchers job to do that and they are testing those products. Do not just let your mite levels grow and say that you are going to breed from the resistant ones. Our experience is that you need at least 100 hives in an isolated area to breed effectively. Letting mite levels grow is just a form of neglect of your bees and spreading Varroa to your neighbours.

William - As soon as its nice enough for the bees to fly and start collecting pollen supplement get your mite treatment into the colony. My rule for opening the hive is "if its too cold to work the bees without a jacket you probably shouldn't be opening them up". The sooner you get the treatment in the fewer mites you have to kill. By treating as early as you can you catch the mites when they are at their weakest.

Annamaria - Test for mites before you treat and then test again after you treat to confirm the treatment was effective. Often when treating in the spring its too cold to remove a frame in order to get a sample of bees, so mite testing in the spring is Usually only post treatment. The post treatment test is essential in order to confirm that the mite treatment has lowered your mite levels to an acceptable level. In the fall I usually do a mite test as soon as the honey supers come off, if the mite levels are at an acceptable level (0%) I don't bother with a fall treatment.

Rosalie - During the season while you are working your colony(s) keep an eye on any open or damaged drone brood. the red mites show up on the white larva and pupae really well. I am constantly checking the dead drone brood in order to get an idea as to if there may be a mite problem in the colony.

Aksel - Apivar is my preferred mite treatment. Its efficacy is one of the highest, it requires only protective gloves for safety, and its relatively easy to apply. The biggest risk to using Apivar in my mind is killing the queen when you insert the strips in between the frames. Thus far I have not had a big problem with queen loss and am always careful not to push the strips in between frames but rather let them drop down between the frames as the bees move out of the strips path. Some resistance to Apivar in Saskatchewan was discovered in 2017 which means it may be lost as an effective mite treatment in the near future. At that time I will need to decide on a new preferred mite treatment.

When using any hive treatment, always meticulously follow label instructions for dosages



and application and withdrawal periods. Treatments are most effective that way, and it's illegal to do otherwise.

Free Beginner e-Books

Univariable Analysis*: Significant Risk Factors

Risk Factors: beekeeper experience	Category	One or more colonies lost (% beekeepers)	In-season colony loss (% colonies)	OR	95% CI	P-value
Yards managed	≥ 2 yards	30/63 (48%)	14%		Referent	
	1 yard	76/151 (50%)	22%	2.72	1.25 - 5.92	0.012
Beekeeper type	Commercial	7/14 (50%)	13%		Referent	
	Small-scale	100/201 (50%)	19%	5.93	1.68 - 20.92	0.006
Years of experience	≤ 1 year	24/36 (72%)	60%		Referent	
	2 year	14/36 (39%)	25%	0.17	0.04 - 0.64	0.009
	3-5 years	21/45 (60%)	12%	0.20	0.06 - 0.70	0.012
	6-10 years	25/51 (49%)	14%	0.18	0.05 - 0.60	0.005
	≥ 11 years	23/47 (49%)	10%	0.13	0.04 - 0.44	0.001

OR = Odds Ratio CI = Confidence Interval

*Univariable analysis of in-season colony loss accounting for clustering by beekeeper (i.e. includes beekeeper as random intercept in mixed logistic model)

Alessia Guthrie's research about colony loss risk factors.

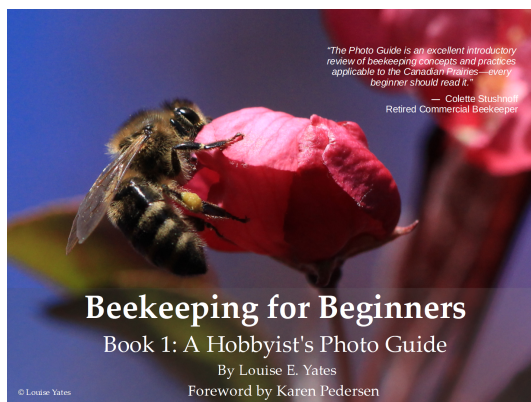
By Louise Yates

In November, I was pleased to represent our Club at the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission convention in Saskatoon. It was all good, but one presentation in particular struck me. Alessia Guthrie from the University of Guelph studied colony losses in Ontario. **In her research, she found that a large percentage of first year beekeepers lose one or more hives during their first season.** That fact made my heart sink. No one gets bees to kill them. As a new beekeeper, I was and am still on a steep learning curve. I wondered what our club could do to improve those odds. So I began writing a quick-start guide for our Club – the guide I wished I had during my first summer – something that would give everyone access to prairie-specific information regardless if they have the time or money to take a class. I wanted it to provide all of the little details so newbies could hit the ground running and so they wouldn't have to waste their mentor's time asking trivial questions.

But I'm not a beekeeping expert, so I consulted with several veteran and newbie beekeepers. I wanted the guide to be accurate, yet answer newbie questions and be readable. I got carried away and wrote two comprehensive books.

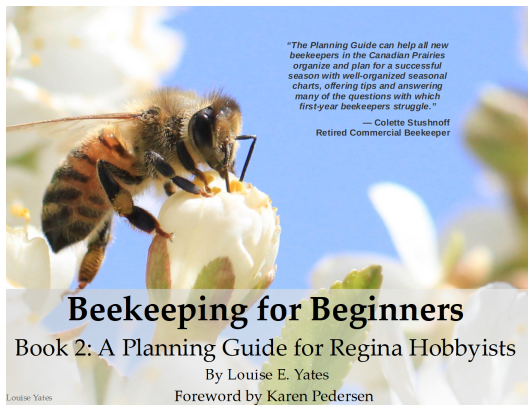
Many thanks to Karen Pedersen, Andrew Hamilton, Colette Stushnoff, Graham Parsons, Doreen Bradshaw, Yens Pedersen, Lawrence Laxdal, Randi Miller, Sharon Gerein, Ray Morgan, Carrie Sutherland and my hubby Dan for their editorial input, and much gratitude goes to several others who originally helped me learn about beekeeping and who shared their amazing photos that I am now sharing with you.

These books are available as free e-books for your downloading pleasure.



Book 1: A Hobbyist's Photo Guide provides photos about important aspects of honey bee beekeeping. Use it as a glossary to learn basic beekeeping terminology and as a reference when doing hive inspections.

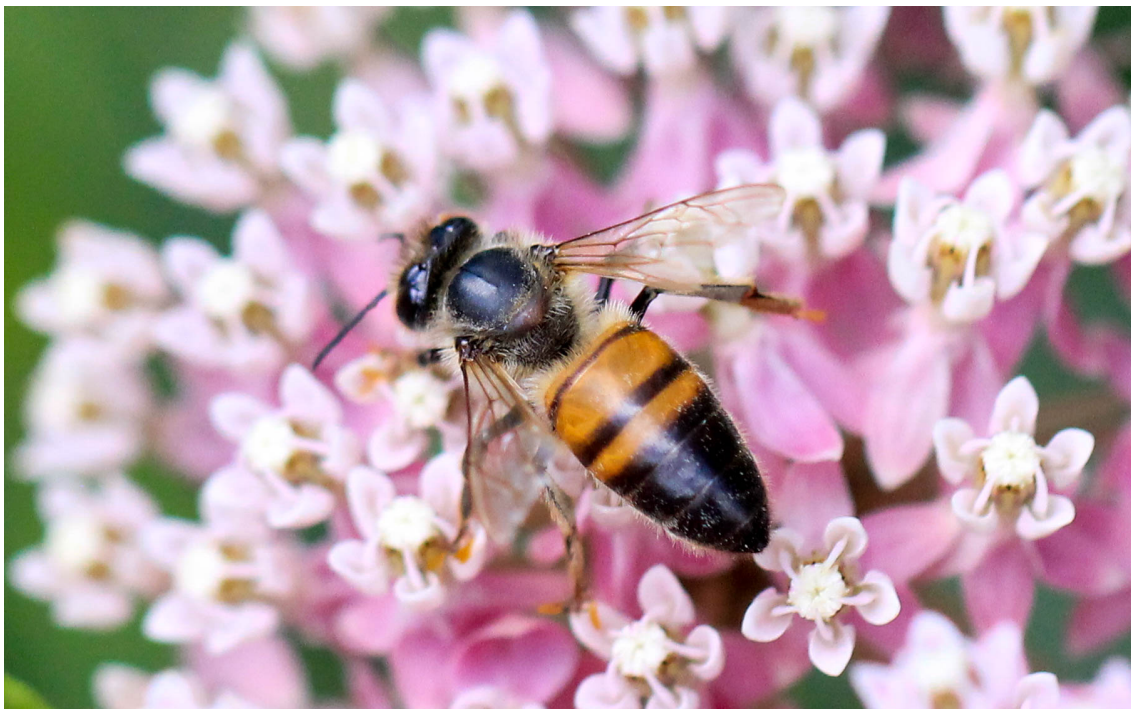
[DOWNLOAD BOOK 1](#)



Book 2: A Planning Guide for Regina Hobbyists coaches individuals to make informed decisions to set up and move through their first year. Use it to purchase materials for and establish a new hive.

[DOWNLOAD BOOK 2](#)

Bees like these: prairie climate-hardy plants



Floral diversity is key. Bees need food sources from the first frost-free days of spring to first frosts of fall. Summer is generally covered in flowers by gardens and farmer crops, but beekeepers can do much more to help honey and native bees especially during spring and fall.

The problem with most plant lists is that they're not written for zone 2 ... that's us; cold Canada. Ray Morgan, Horticulturalist and Hobbyist Apiculturist, created this list of prairie pollinating plants especially for us:

Spring –April-June

- Trees- Willow, Elm, Maple, Apple
- Shrubs - Cherry, Saskatoon, Hawthorn, Dogwood, Caragana, Viburnum (cranberry)
- Plants/Perennials - Dandelion, Clover, Raspberry, Anemone

Summer – June – mid August

- Trees - Linden, Basswood
- Shrubs – Rose, Sumac, Spiraea (white)
- Plants/Perennials - Canola, Clover, Buckwheat, Phlox, Blanketflower, Bergamot, Swamp Milkweed, Sunflower, Chives, Catmint

Fall Plants

- Asters, Goldenrod, Liatrus, Sedum, Echinacea, Dandelion

If you're interested in this topic, the [Calgary Bee Club has a great resource on their web site:](#) and the [Canadian Wildlife Federation](#) native plant list.

What Happened

Our Club's New Web Site is now Live

[Check it out!](#)



HOME BEEKEEPERS EDUCATION CONTACT Q



REPORT A SWARM

The bee club will safely remove honeybee swarms free of charge.



BEEKEEPING - GETTING STARTED

Looking to get into beekeeping? Here's what you need to know.



EVENTS

Information on exciting upcoming club events.



CLUB PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Learn about the many programs and services we offer to our members.

Latest News



Candle Making Seminar - February 4

Candles at the Queen City: Candle Making Seminar When: Sunday, February 4 from 10 AM to 4 PM Where: Iron Worker Hall, 1138 Oxenbridge Avenue, Regina
Presenter: Dr. F. Barry Brown, Owner/Operator BarzBee Honey Ranch LTD, Roberta Wells, BarzBee, will assist in demonstration and troubleshooting....

14 January, 2018 - No comment



ReginaBeeTV - Wrapping Bees for Winter

Learn how to properly wrap your hives for winter in this ReginaBeeTV video from Louise Yates!...

14 January, 2018 - No comment

Candle Making Class Was a Hit



Dr. F. Barry Brown, Owner/Operator Bar2Bee Honey Ranch Ltd. and Roberta Wells, Bar2Bee, presented wax processing and candle, mead, body creme and food-wrap making techniques and tips to a sold out audience.

Antibiotics and American Foulbrood



Photo provided courtesy of Saskatchewan Agriculture

On February 10th, Club representatives Andrew Hamilton and Louise Yates attended the veterinary education session about apiculture. Internationally, antibiotic regulations are changing to curb antibiotic resistance. Effective December 2018, all antibiotics will need to be sourced through veterinarians. This change impacts beekeepers' immediate access to oxytetracycline and tylosin, which are used to prevent the spread of American Foulbrood Disease (AFB). Veterinarians who are experts in disease prevention and management came together to learn more about AFB and bees.

AFB is highly communicable and devastating. Anything that makes it more difficult or more expensive to access antibiotics has the potential to make fewer, especially newer and smaller beekeepers not control AFB, which could be devastating for commercial beekeepers. The agriculture Ministry and provincial veterinarians are sorting through the logistics of the new regulatory framework. The Club will communicate the roll-out once details are finalized.

What's your comprehensive American Foulbrood biosecurity plan? If you don't have one, [here's a great sample.](#)



Recognizing American Foulbrood and other honey bee diseases.

Annual General Meeting





By Louise Yates

98 members and their guests attended the Club's Annual General Meeting on Saturday, March 10th at the Regina Travelodge.

The highlight of the day was a presentation about stinging insects and allergies provided by Dr. Andrea Fong, Allergy Specialist and Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Saskatchewan. Geoff Wilson, Provincial Apiculturist informed members about changing antibiotic rules to control American Foulbrood disease. Club president and lawyer, Yens Pedersen explained the legal requirements for honey producers. Copies of their presentations are available on the Club [web site](#).

Lawrence Laxdal explained changes to the Club's web site and upcoming launch. And, Louise Yates facilitated an expert panel including Andrew Hamilton, Gil Pedersen, Karen Pedersen, Yens Pedersen, Colette Stushnoff and Geoff Wilson who answered questions about neonicotinoids, municipal by-laws mite treatments, home food processor provincial laws and deformed wings/wasp attacks and honey bees working with native and mason bees for orchard pollination.

Julie-Anne Howe and Celine Holoway were nominated then appointed to the board by acclamation for the two two-year vacant positions. They join Lawrence Laxdal, Yens Pedersen, and Louise Yates who are serving their second year of their two-year terms.

The Club's 2017 annual report was presented and is available online for download.

Resolutions were made to:

- authorize Yens Pedersen to continue his review of the financial records and report to the board his findings by April 30, 2018.
- circulate circulated and approved by electronic correspondence the 2017 financial statements
- reimburse a board member or designate to attend the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission Annual General Meeting
- attend the Agribition Agri-Ed Showcase

- enable the board to determine whether the club should attend the Agribition trade show or not
- update the constitution to reflect legal implications of the word co-operative and a name change to Corporate Registry of Saskatchewan.

Event sponsors included Apihex, BeeMaid, Dadant, Great Western Containers, Hamilton Apiaries, Iron Workers Local Union No. 771. and K-Lane Kennels. Afternoon snacks were provided by Pedersen Law firm and were aptly packaged according to Saskatchewan's Home Food Processor standards.

Gratitude was extended to all of the volunteers, and to the wonderful staff at the Travelodge who made this day possible.

Meet your new board members



Celine Holoway

I am a retired teacher, following 33 1/3 years working in Regina's elementary schools. My husband and son gave me a hive for Christmas as a sentimental gift in remembrance of my brother, Jeff Tholl (Past President of RDBC) after he passed unexpectedly. I was immediately hooked by the little creatures and have since, managed to work up to 18 hives. I am continuing to learn with the encouragement and knowledge shared within our Club. I hope that, in some small way, I am able to help the Club grow and can offer support to others who are as enamoured with honeybees as am I.

Julie-Anne How

Julie-Ann farms with her family south of Moose Jaw running 300 cows and 3,000 acres of grass and cropland. She wintered 16 hives going into 2018 and is in her third season beekeeping at the farm. Julie-Anne



interest in beekeeping stems from working a summer on a farm with Bees in Switzerland having an uncle that kept bees for numerous years. She enjoys sharing her beekeeping experiences with schoolchildren and the public around Moose Jaw, providing beekeeping education at the Saskatchewan Agriculture Moose Jaw Food Farm events and is a regular at the local Moose Jaw Homegrown Farmer's Market.

Yens Pedersen provide some truly tasty honey-based snacks at the AGM, which, by the way, were packaged to meet Saskatchewan's Home Food Processing standards regulations. Here are the recipes so you can make them at home!



Recipe and photo courtesy Yens Pedersen

Greek Honey-Sesame Snaps (Pasteli)

250 g sesame seeds

250 g honey

Spread the sesame seeds in a pan and toast them in the oven at 325°F.

Heat the honey in medium pot on medium heat until it starts to boil.

Add the toasted sesame seeds to the honey, lower the heat and stir. Heat the mixture on medium for about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. The more it cooks the crunchier it will be-but be careful of scorching - if you want them crisp, then the colour will be starting to turn a caramel colour).

Line a pan with parchment paper and pour the sesame mixture, place another sheet of parchment paper on top and spread out the sesame-honey mix with a rolling pin to 1/8" to 1/4" thick.

Remove the top sheet carefully and let it cool for about 15 minutes. Cut in small bars.

Let them cool completely. Remove and store with parchment paper between them in air tight container.

Tip: If you're measuring by volume instead of weight, use a ration of 3:1 sesame seeds to honey.



Recipe and photo courtesy Yens Pedersen

Honey Oatmeal Cookies

1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened

1/4 cup sugar

1/2 cup liquid honey

1 egg

1 tsp. vanilla extract

1 cups rolled oats

1 cup whole wheat flour

1 cup corn flakes or rice cereal

1/2 cup coconut

1/4 tsp. salt

2 tsp. cinnamon

1/2 tsp. baking soda

1 cup raisins or chocolate chips

Cream butter with sugar until thoroughly blended. Add egg and vanilla, beat until smooth. Blend in honey.

Mix oats, flour, coconut, cereal, salt, cinnamon and baking soda in separate bowl; blend into batter. Blend in raisins or chips.

Drop dough by rounded spoonfuls onto greased baking sheet or parchment.

Bake at 350°F for 10 to 12 minutes until cookies are golden brown. Remove from oven and allow cookies to cool 2 to 3 minutes before removing from baking sheet.

Regina and District Bee Club

As a collective for beekeepers, the Regina and District Bee Club enables members to buy high-quality locally reared bees and queens. The Club educates members and the public about beekeeping, promotes products of the hive, and promotes the beekeeping industry.

Through the Club, members learn how to manage their bees responsibly so they are healthy, to co-exist with neighbours respectfully and peacefully, and produce safe, high-quality honey. Club members are a community resource to:

- educate children about bees and other pollinating insects,
- attend public community events such as Regina Symphony Orchestra's Symphony under the Sky and Canadian Western Agribition,
- promote and sell honey, wax and other products from the hive, and
- develop relationships with other Saskatchewan agricultural producers.

The Club shares best practice knowledge through events, the web site, and Facebook page. New beekeepers are able to connect, network and learn from experienced local beekeepers, provincial regulators and the Newbee/Mentor Program. Member services include the Bee Nuc Order Program, Bulk Club Shipping Program (from Beemaid in Tisdale), the Honey Extractor Rental Program, the Drawn Comb Program and Apivar Strip Sales Program. Details about all programs and services are available on the Club [web site](#).

Club Newsletter Back Issues



Official Newsletter of the Regina & District Bee Club, 2017 Autumn



That's a wrap for this season!

Your Bee Club is excited to bring you our autumn newsletter.

A special end-of-season thanks goes to Doreen Bradshaw who managed the club Extractor Rental Program, and Mimi Mouthaan for managing the Bulk Shipping Program. These two silently went about the summer as busy as the rest of us, yet still had time to do a lot of extra work.

In This Issue

Upcoming Events - Agritourism and Annual Beekeepers Convention

Nuggets for Newbees

A Consumer's Guide to Buying Local Honey

Lessons from the Farmers Market

The Colours of Honey

Club Activities - U of R Intermediate Class, Field Day at Grandpa's Garden, Symphony Under the Sky, In-Community Presentations



Official Newsletter of the Regina & District Bee Club, 2018 Winter



Only Two More Months Until Bee Season Begins

Your Bee Club is excited to bring you our winter wax newsletter.

In This Issue

Upcoming Events

What do do with Wax

Characteristics of Success

Be Part of Our Healthy Hive

Your Thoughts!

A New Club Web Site

Past Event Reports

2017 Saskatchewan Beekeepers'

Convention Report



Renew Your Bee Club Membership Now



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