

November 2008
Vol 21 # 4



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Canadian Honey Council



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CHC Forging a New Direction

CHC is the national organization of the Canadian beekeeping industry and Hivelights is the industry's magazine.

Over the past two years CHC has been in the process of restructuring to better serve the industry. The new structure means that we are an "organization of organizations". We no longer have individual membership. One of the benefits of the new arrangement is that Hivelights will be sent to members of our member organizations. In order to continue receiving Hivelights you must be a member of your provincial association.

In future, associate members and sponsors will also receive Hivelights and other benefits, in return for their financial support. If you want to become an associate member or sponsor, please contact the CHC office at 403-398-2914.

If you are a school, library, non beekeeper, university or government personnel it is possible to receive Hivelights magazine as a "Friend of Canadian Apiculture". Please contact the CHC office.

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HiveLights

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Honey tins from across the prairies are featured at the beekeeping exhibit at the Mennonite Heritage Village museum in Steinbach, Saskatchewan (pg 14).



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Canadian Honey Council

Heather Clay, Chief Executive Officer, CHC

Honey bee losses

The CHC has continued to keep pressure on the government to recognize the serious situation regarding honey bee losses. A letter to the CHC from the Minister of Agriculture Agri-Food indicates that the federal government is willing to work with each of the provinces to roll out some disaster relief through the Agri-Recovery program. The terms are to be negotiated after a gap analysis has been conducted and discussions held with the provinces. Any compensation would take into account payments under Agri-Stability and other such programs and the cost sharing would be on a 60-40 basis with the provinces. Negotiations have been held up by the election. The CHC executive meeting with Minister Ritz was cancelled but plans in place are to return to Ottawa as soon as possible after the new minister is named.

Research Funding

The Canadian Bee Research Fund offers grants to researchers on an annual basis. This year there are five projects underway on a variety of topics. One of the requirements of funding is that the researcher must present a report to beekeepers at the research symposium held during the annual honey bee industry convention. This year the convention is in Niagara Falls and speakers Steve Pernal, Rob Currie, Leonard Foster, Karen Burger McLellan and Albert Robertson will present the results of their research. For more information, visit our website www.honeycouncil.ca

Emergency Registration Amitraz

The CHC requested the Minister of Agriculture Agri-Food and the Minister of Health to support our application for emergency use



registration of amitraz to treat varroa mites. We followed up with a letter campaign to show that we have national support from all provincial beekeeper associations and our allied industries. The strong pressure from all groups helped move our application

forward. Staff at the Pest Management Regulatory Agency worked quickly to review the data package and determine whether the product meets Canadian criteria. After several weeks of intense negotiations with the two chemical companies involved, provincial apiarists and PMRA, a plan was worked out for stewardship of the product. The PMRA has approved Amitraz for emergency use in all provinces, except the two provinces that did not have an emergency, Quebec and Newfoundland. Distribution of the product has been made possible through a co-operative effort with BeeMaid. Thanks to their network, arrangements have been made for all beekeepers to receive product in time for fall treatment. Registration expires in April 2009 after which the product cannot be used. However this brief window gives producers an opportunity to use an alternative product in situations where other mite treatments were not effective.

Oxalic acid Registration

The benefit of using oxalic acid for treatment of varroa mites in honey bee colonies has been well documented. It has high efficacy if used once in the fall season after brood rearing has ceased. The product is widely available over the counter, has low risk when used as a trickle treatment in syrup and leaves no residue in honey. As well, it is environmentally friendly because it breaks down into carbon dioxide and water.

The Canadian Honey Council took the lead in registering oxalic acid with the Pest Management Regulator Agency (PMRA). We began the process in January 2005. The PMRA reviewed our application and gave ministerial permission for use, in October 2005 but this was not the same as official registration. For international trade it is important to have all chemicals used in the hive registered with the PMRA. Normally the company that manufactures a chemical is the registrant and the fee for registration is typically in the vicinity of two hundred thousand dollars. The CHC is a not for profit organization and we are not selling oxalic acid. This made the process more difficult as we do not fit the usual criteria for a registrant. It has taken three years to negotiate a working arrangement whereby the CHC can be the registrant for a reduced fee. We are pleased to announce that the documentation has been resubmitted to PMRA and we look forward to receiving full registration of oxalic acid in 2009.

C-BISQT

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has conducted a pre-screening of the Good Production Practices manual that the CHC has produced for the Canadian Bee Industry Safety Quality Traceability (C-BISQT) program. They have approved it for further review. The documents will now circulate to all the provincial food safety groups over the next few weeks. A face to face meeting with all the experts will be held January 12-16, 2009. It is a lengthy process but when it is completed we will have recognition of the technical merit of the program and this in turns gains international recognition.

Drum Standards

The CHC formed a drum standards committee that has produced a set of guidelines for the CFIA to implement. A phase in period is in place this year but the standards will be mandatory in 2009. For more information on the standards visit the CHC website at www.honeycouncil.ca.

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Forging a New Direction

The first Board of Directors meeting using the newly approved CHC bylaws was held in Banff in October. A great deal of work has been completed through the year on developing the policy and protocols for the future organization. Although this year has been a transition for setting up the new guidelines and voting structure, our member associations have enthusiastically embraced the concept of CHC being an organization of organizations. One significant change is that the AGM will be for the directors only and will not be a public meeting. Any resolutions will be brought by the directors to the Board meeting for discussion and voting. The first AGM of the new CHC will be held in Niagara Falls December 8th. Following the AGM will be a three day Honey Bee Industry Convention. All are welcome to participate in the convention.

Canadian Honey Bee Industry Convention

Make plans to visit Niagara Falls and participate in the Annual Canadian Honey Bee Industry Convention. CHC is teaming with Ontario Beekeepers Association and Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists to bring you a 3 day symposium with research presentations, workshops trade show and field trip, 10-13 December at Niagara Falls View Hilton Hotel. A registration form and more details can be found on www.ontariobee.com or www.honeycouncil.ca.

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Regional Reports

Maritimes

Weather has to be the story of the summer of 2008 in the Maritimes. Changeable weather is a fact of life in most parts of Atlantic Canada but this summer has put even the most tolerant of us to the test. June and July held promise of an exceptional summer, warm sunny days with showers coming along just when needed. But it was just too good to be true, from mid July onwards even a cloudless sky by some meteorological fluke would yield rain with unfailing regularity. Even now we are bracing for our second tropical storm in as many weeks. In one span of 10 days we recorded over 10 inches of rain.



Tom Trueman

on winter survival. Poor weather during mid summer has also affected the quality of queens that tried to mate during this period and may result in their premature failure next season. All in all this has been another challenging season for beekeepers in Atlantic Canada.

Let's hope for a better fall to follow.

Ontario



Dan Walker

It has been a very wet summer in Ontario, and we are expecting a crop average of about 75 pounds per hive.

It is being strongly recommended to forget the fall honey flow from asters and golden rod in order to get an earlier treatment on, to knock down the mites. Studies

in Ontario show getting an earlier treatment on in September will help get the bees through the winter. We are also looking at a better way to feed fumagilan-B, to ensure better coverage in all hives.

Thanks to the Ontario government we were given \$600 000.00 last year, which went into research of winter losses and other projects along with promoting 100% Ontario honey. Our research projects are coming

This has caused significant distress to the whole agricultural industry with crop losses reported from all sectors. Beekeepers have not been immune, many are reporting colonies lost to starvation because of poor weather. Most are reporting less than expected honey crops. It remains to be seen but poor summer and fall weather will likely have an adverse effect

to a close and we are hoping for some directions from their findings. In July we had our official launch of our new website and our promotion of 100% Ontario honey. This was held on top of the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto. The hotel has 3 bee hives and a roof top garden, this produce and honey are featured in their restaurant. This was a media event, that was well attended by a variety of media. It gave us an opportunity to promote the many flavours of Ontario honey with a honey tasting, followed by a toast with a new honey drink. The media had an opportunity to share high tea with us and discuss issues facing bee keeping. Our new website was up and running and they were able to view it. It turned out to be a very successful event followed by a lot of media coverage.

We are having a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture, Leona Dombrowsky on September 23rd to discuss issues that affect the beekeepers in Ontario. We are asking the Ontario government if they will take the lead in approaching the Federal government, to support the cost sharing initiative that has been proposed by CHC.

We would like to give credit to the Ontario government for starting this initiative last year by supporting us with \$3 000 000.00.

Manitoba

Another honey season has come and gone with all the planning, hard work, and expectations.

Many producers had high hive losses this spring forcing them to decide between producing a big crop or making up their losses. Replacement colonies were being sold for top

dollars. I know of at least one producer who decided to forgo his entire crop and continue to make splits during the entire honey season. It's a tough decision to give up a crop, generate zero dollars and only have expenses just to stay in business. If the border was opened to packages he could have made a nice profit this season with the price per pound almost double from a year ago.

Manitoba has had a very interesting honey crop this season. Honey production reports to date indicate an overall below provincial average of 175 lb ranging from 0 lb per hive to 265 and everything in between. The North Interlake region had a poor crop mainly



Bruce Podolsky

BeeMaid



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due to extreme moisture and poor weather. All agriculture in this region is suffering. You can look at any area in the province and find one producer had 200 lb plus average and his neighbor 20 km up the road produced 100 lb less.

In late July while the fields were in full bloom it rained every other day, delaying the start of harvest. The first round of pulling was very good indicating a large crop. As it turned out the first was the only heavy one after that the honey just seemed to slowly trickle in. The continued rain prevented most cattle producers from cutting their alfalfa a second time. This was a big help to many producers. With feeding and mite treatments underway I find I'm already planning for the next year's crop.

Saskatchewan

During this past summer many parts of Saskatchewan was uncharacteristically cool and wet. Some areas saw thunderstorms several times per week accompanied by hail. That being said, the cooler temperatures allowed for a prolonged canola bloom across regions of the province, which is always a positive. While spring came two weeks later than normal (and the bees with them) heading into late May, June afforded Saskatchewan beekeepers with fairly good weather. This allowed the beekeepers a good

opportunity to re-establish winter losses, expand and make replacement nucs for next season. Some nuc and queen producers indicated it was one of the best seasons in recent memory for queen mating success.

As for honey production in the province, it is all over the map – from reports of “best crop ever” to “2/3 average crop at best”. Many of the early reports of a less than ideal crop came out of the northeast beekeeping region where a significant proportion of Saskatchewan's colonies are located. This has the potential to see Saskatchewan's crop come in below the long-term average. Prices for bulk honey offered to beekeepers within the province have remained firm since late spring. Prices that have been offered to beekeepers through summer were in the range of \$1.35 per pound to \$1.50 per pound. Expectations from beekeepers and some brokers is that we will see a slightly further firming of prices and perhaps better, especially if early indications of a short crop across the Canadian prairies are accurate.



Corey Bacon

The Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association and Saskatchewan

Beekeepers Development Commission will hold their Annual General Meetings, trade show, banquet and convention in Saskatoon at the Sheraton Cavalier from December 2nd to 5th, 2008.

British Columbia

Spring in British Columbia was a long time in coming this year and followed winter mortality rates that averaged 38% across the province. Many of the losses managed to be made up from splits and imported livestock despite the very sporadic spring weather, very minimal nectar flows until the blackberries came out in the Fraser Valley and salvaged a near average honey crop.

Other areas of the province including Vancouver Island struggled with limited livestock availability and resources from which to bring back their numbers. Survey results are not yet available to summarize the season overall.

Wholesale honey prices are reportedly increasing with some upward movement on the retail store shelf. Specialty honey is reported at \$12.49 per 1kg, in the Fraser valley of BC while in the interior are about \$9.95 - \$10.95 and rising. Non-floral specific honey tends to run about \$1.00 per kg. less. Vancouver Island generally has higher prices along with higher per capita consumption, a tribute to high profile marketing at Farmer's markets, country fairs, distribution channels and through local farm gate sales.

The Powell River bee district, the last beekeeping

area in BC that was free of the dreaded Varroa Mite has now joined the rest of in the continual battles with these dreaded pests. B.C. is expected to have Amitraz available for Varroa treatments within 2 weeks of this writing and still in time for fall and early spring application. Formic acid has been used by many of the beekeepers I talk to and seems quite successful in most areas where weather conditions permit.

Above normal temperature during formic treatments this early September seems to have stopped egg laying in my hives but hopefully queens have not been harmed.



Ed Nowek

BeeMaid

On Friday, September 12, 2008, Bee Maid Honey and the Manitoba Cooperative Honey Producers Ltd. (MCHPL) had an open house at the Bee Maid plant in Winnipeg to celebrate the \$500,000 up grades to its packing lines. Bee Maid Honey Limited is North America's largest single source honey marketer. The new equipment will assist in achieving its

target of increasing sales of packed honey by one million pounds per year. Production efficiency has already improved by 20% since the new liquid honey filler, bottle orientator and labeler have been in



Lorne Peters

operation. Bee Maid's investment will support the continued growth of Manitoba's \$20 million dollar beekeeping industry, while also providing more opportunities to increase the economic return to beekeeper members across western Canada. Bee Maid sells honey across the world to countries including China, Germany, Japan, Saudi Arabia and the United States.

It was a wonderful day to officially showcase our new line; to members, government officials, and industry representatives. Guest Speakers were Honourable Andrew Swan, Manitoba Minister of Trade; Guy Chartier, CEO of Bee Maid Honey; Bill Bygarski, Chairman of Bee Maid; Phil Veldhuis, Chairman of MCHPL; and Roman Pankiw, former Director and Chairman of MCHPL.

The 100+ people in attendance had a "Special Toast" to the new packing line by "downing" a teaspoon full of 100% Pure Canadian Bee Maid creamed Honey, a Manitoba "Tradition" started earlier this year. A luncheon followed.

2008 is a special year for the Manitoba Cooperative Honey Producers Ltd., since it began in 1938, MCHPL is celebrating its 70th year!

Bees at the Parliament Building

Heather Clay, CEO, Canadian Honey Council, Calgary, AB

Take it to the politicians. What better way to gain attention for honey bees than to hold a bee beard demonstration on the front lawn of the Parliament Building. That's exactly what John Gibeau and his Bee team did at the Western Apiculture Society (WAS) meeting in Victoria, British Columbia. The event attracted the interest of television crew, reporters and numerous passersby. It was a great opportunity to gain the public's attention and talk about the plight of honey bees.

Vancouver Island has regulations that prevent bees being transported from the mainland. Although John operates the Honey Bee Centre in Surrey and wrangles bees professionally on the mainland, he had to find local bees for the event. Mark Pitcher and his staff at Babe's Honey, near Victoria, provided the bees and queens for the demonstration.

Each queen cage was attached to a necklace and suspended on a pole while well fed bees clustered around her. Despite the overcast conditions the bees were calm and co-operative. Several members of the WAS volunteered for a bee beard. With John's calm coaching and

good preparation of the bees, there were no stinging incidents. One lady who worked as an usher in the Parliament building watched in fascination and asked if she could do it too. John agreed and after duct

taping the opening of her sleeveless dress she stood on the lawn in high heels with an amazing smile as bees climbed on her shoulders and neck. She was thrilled.

John wears a T-shirt that reads "John the Beekeeper, if you see me running.... you should too". No-one was running and it was a great day for showing off the bees and getting some publicity.

For more information about the Western Apicultural Society contact Eric Mussen, ecmussen@ucdavis.edu or visit <http://groups.ucanr.org/WAS/>

Caption Beekeeper John Gibeau (yellow Tshirt) organized a series of bee beards on the front lawn of parliament house as TV reporters captured the event for the evening news .



John Gibeau (yellow Tshirt) places a bee beard on Cheryl Reist on the lawns of the parliament building.

A Modern Take On An Ancient Drink

Alley Kat is the longest running Micro Brewery in Edmonton Alberta. It recently introduced mead to its successful line of brew products. Mead, made from fermented honey is one of mankind's oldest known alcoholic beverages. Commercially produced meads have been fairly rare. The first mead produced by Alley Kat was so well received that it sold out in less than a week.

Neil Herbst and his wife Lavonne are co-owners of Alley Kat Brewery. Neil began the company in 1994 and began with a popular series of "more than just home brew" beers. Since then the brewery has been awarded many international and national awards for its beers. He first became interested in producing mead after attending a seminar held by Alberta Agriculture in the Spring of 2006. After this meeting several test batches were produced culminating in a limited production run of a spiced mead for Christmas 2006. Demand exceeded all expectations and happy customers bought the entire batch within days of release. In response to this popular demand, Alley Kat has brewed an Apple Cinnamon Spiced Mead ready for Christmas 2008. Neil says it is made with a "king's ransom worth of honey, a healthy dose of spices, and a touch of apple and cinnamon".

Following the success of the spiced mead, work was started on a fruit mead for initial release in the Spring of 2007. The result was Alley Kat Raspberry Mead, a fruit mead flavoured with fresh raspberries. Raspberry Mead, being Alberta's first production mead, is a fruit flavoured "Braggot" style mead made with a blend of raspberries, honey, malts and a touch of

Geoff Todd,
Canadian Honey Council, Calgary, AB

hops. It is "medium dry" and pours a slight pink with Champagne-like carbonation. This delicate balance between its natural sweetness and fruity flavours makes it everyone's favourite. Alley Kat Brewery is working with a fruit producer in the Okanagan to explore the use of other fruits, including cherries and plums. Other fruit meads will be added to the portfolio over the course of the next year.

Neil comments, "Consumer interest in our Mead has been strong and, most importantly, people like it. It is an emerging market, and we are certain that sales are only going to get better over time. Having said that, we do not have immediate plans for new flavours of the Mead because we want to see how the market reacts to the Raspberry first."

All of the honey used in production is purchased from Bee Maid Honey. Alley Kat's distribution of Mead (and beer) is Alberta wide and in Alberta only. It is worth explaining that Alberta's extra-provincial liquor import laws differ from almost every other province; whereas, Alberta is completely privatized and wide open territory for the movement of liquor from pretty much anywhere. Most other provinces have prohibitive regulations (and associated costs) for products coming from out-of-province.

Alley Kat beers and mead are available throughout Alberta and in Seoul, South Korea.



Raspberry Mead Geek Facts

Original Gravity: 15.3°
Alcohol by Volume: 6.7%
Honey: BeeMaid Pure
Honey 100% Canadian

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REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Fees: Early bird Registration October 31st. 2008

Registration Forms post-dated later than October 31st will be charged the Full Registration rate.

Send registration form and payment to:

**Ontario Beekeepers', Ag Business Centre, Mitton House, University of Guelph. Ridgetown Campus,
Ridgetown, Ontario N0P 2C0, 519-674-1592 (phone), 519-674-1512 (fax)**

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Advance Registration (October 31, 2008) \$265

(includes 3 lunches)

Full registration (after October 31, 2008) \$320

(includes 3 lunches)

Single Day Registration \$90

(with lunch)

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Board of Directors Meeting

Ontario Beekeepers Association
Board of Directors Meeting

Canadian Association of
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Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday Dec. 10th.

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Annual General Meeting

**Wednesday Evening
MEET & GREET**

Thursday Dec. 11th.

SYMPOSIUM

**Thursday Evening
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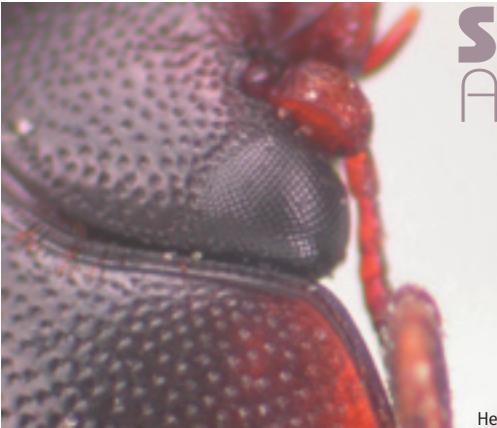
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Small Hive Beetle in Canada: A New Find in Quebec

Heather Clay CEO Canadian Honey Council, Calgary AB

SMALL HIVE BEETLE (*Aethina tumida*) (SHB) is an exotic pest native to South Africa. Over the past ten years it has extended its range to include hives of honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) in USA and Australia. Canada is not immune to the potential for SHB as we share an extensive border with the USA and we import honey bees from Australia. Strict protocols are in place for importation of honey bees from USA and Australia. Despite the controls, there have been sightings of SHB in Canada, with the most recent report from Quebec.

In 2002, adult beetles were found in a shipment of wax that arrived in Manitoba from the southern USA. After careful inspection, decontamination of the site and destruction of hives in a nearby apiary, there have been no further signs of SHB in that area. The wax rendering facility has implemented strict protocols for importation of wax and there is no concern that SHB could enter through that route. In 2006, Alberta reported an occurrence of SHB at the Beaverlodge Research Station. The beetles were determined to have originated in imported packages from Australia. Further targeted inspections of imported bees in Alberta and Manitoba showed there were more beetles imported but the number was low (less than 8) and they did not reproduce. There have been no further reports of SHB in Alberta or Manitoba. In September 2008 SHB

was found in two hives along the border of the USA and Quebec. This area is close to known SHB areas in the USA and the most likely source. The two colonies were eradicated voluntarily. Quebec inspectors have checked a 20 km radius and found more beetles in hives near the first find. It is too late in the year to conduct more inspections or treat the colonies. Plans are in place for a more extensive spring inspection.

The recommended treatment for a SHB infestation is Coumaphos, (CheckMite+™). The method of treatment is to place a sheet of corrugated cardboard with a strip of Coumaphos stapled across the bumps and lay it corrugation side down on the bottom board of the hive. Beetles seek dark places and many of them, along with some larvae, will hide in the ripples of the cardboard where they contact the pesticide strip. Many beetles and most of the larvae do not find the "hotel Coumaphos" and survive the treatment. A pyrethroid product currently registered for use on fireants in the USA gives good control of larvae in the soil. Researchers in USA and Australia are working on various attractants to lure the beetle into a box where it can be killed with a pesticide. Beetle zappers are showing promise but there is no silver bullet for those opposed to pesticides.

Many thousands of honey bee colonies travel through southern Quebec for blueberry pollination in New Brunswick. There has been no decision as to what regulations may be

in place for movement of honey bees through Quebec in 2009. It is advised that beekeepers moving colonies for pollination cover the load securely, move at night and if possible do not stop in areas that may have SHB.

SHB is known to overwinter in the cluster of honey bees. Whether or not it reproduces in our northern climate is unclear but there is concern that SHB may live long enough to become a problem in the honey house. Good management practices including a clean apiary site and honey house are the biggest deterrents to SHB. To lower the risk of SHB damage

- Use strong colonies of honeybees with queens selected for hygienic behaviour
- Maintain clean apiary site
- Store honey below room temperature
- Freeze equipment to kill all stages of SHB.
- Maintain a clean honey house
- Extract honey as soon as possible after it comes in from the apiary.
- Wash honey drums to reduce the attraction to SHB

It is clear that Canadian beekeepers must be vigilant in monitoring colonies. If you find SHB it must be immediately reported to the provincial apiculturist.

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Stained glass welcome sign at the entrance to the exhibit.

whether beekeeping had ever been a part of the museum program.

The exhibit, set up in the Temporary Exhibit Gallery of MHV, covers the entire 1400 square feet of display space. Exhibit material includes historical artifacts, display cases, interpretive panels, modern beekeeping equipment, plus a school program (i.e. hands on) component. The exhibit addresses seven theme areas, including The Human History of Bees, History of Beekeeping in Western Canada,

PROMOTION WITH A DIFFERENCE

Jim Campbell, Manitoba honey producer, Stonewall, MB

With the ongoing media articles about Honey Bees, the public's interest has been piqued as they seek factual information on the causes

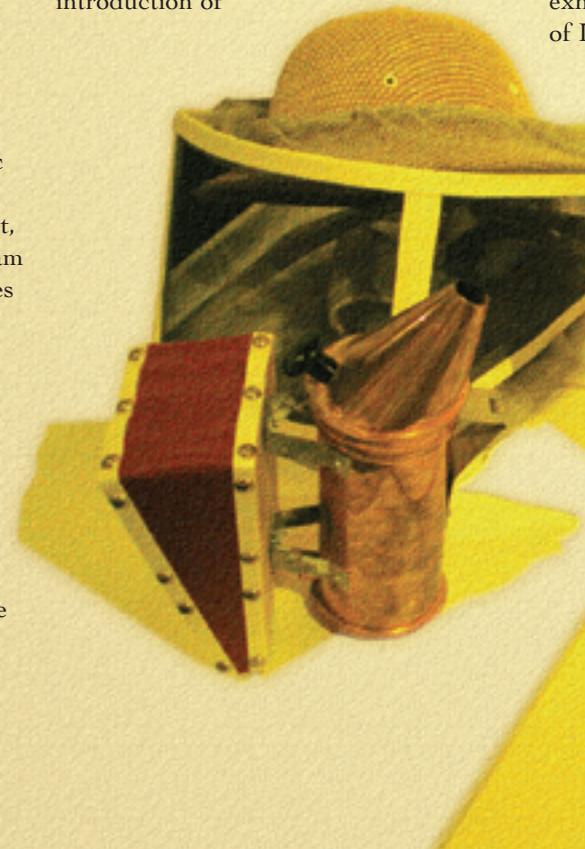
of honey bee losses, and express concerns for availability of pollinators. It is therefore timely to take advantage of any opportunity for promoting our industry. Manitoba Beekeepers have capitalized on the public's quest for facts by promoting the beekeeping and honey producing industry by linking up with a well known museum as a venue. The different and rather unique promotion runs from June 26 until November 31, 2008.

The Mennonite Heritage Village museum in the city of Steinbach, Manitoba, is the site of "Honey-The Story of Beekeeping on the Canadian Prairies", a collaborative project undertaken by a number of groups in Manitoba. The purpose of the exhibit is to explore the history and importance of beekeeping in Western Canada,

with emphasis on the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. The themes being displayed include the environmental and agricultural role of honeybees, bee and colony health, and the role of beekeeping in the economy of the Canadian Prairies. In addition, there is an emphasis on public education through the use of historical artifacts, modern beekeeping equipment, interpretive panels, and a school program element. The intended audience includes general visitors to the museum, as well as students on school tours during the months of September to November. Quite a comprehensive project!

The exhibit was created as a joint project between the Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) and a committee of honey producers, beekeepers, and apiary experts. Strange as it seems, the catalyst for the project came from a casual question from a beekeeper visiting the museum, asking

Biology and Behaviour, How Honey is Made, Healthy Bees, Mennonites and Beekeeping, and Trials and Successes. Throughout these themes, three important elements were emphasized. In addition, emphasis is on three key elements such as, that Honey Bees are not native to North America, that beekeeping methods changed with the introduction of



movable frames, and that Honey Bees are important for Pollination of a large portion of our food.

Funding of the exhibit came from several sources. To cover costs for new materials, funds were garnered from the provincial beekeeping organization (Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA)), a local hobby group (Red River Apiarists' Association (RRAA)), a packing plant (Bee Maid Honey), and the Provincial Government (Culture and Heritage). In addition, several individuals and organizations contributed information, historical artifacts, memorabilia, equipment, and set up assistance.

Organization for the overall project came from the Exhibit Committee consisting of Dr. Roland Sawatzky, senior curator MHV, and a range of people associated with the industry. Expertise and experience were provided by people including Lorne Peters (CHC Board, Bee Maid Dir., MBA Dir.), Earl Dueck (MBA Dir.), Ron Rudiak (MBA Dir., RRAA Exec.), Rhéal Lafrenière (Prov. Apiarist, CAPA Sec.), Jim Campbell (RRAA Exec., MBA Sec.), Don Dixon (former Prov. Apiarist), Dr. Cameron Jay (Prof. Emeritus U of M). Meanwhile major items for the exhibit came from the private collection of Lorne Peters, with a late 1800's

wooden extractor from Earl Dueck, and other items from Ron Rudiak and Jim Campbell. Welcoming visitors to the exhibit is a large stained glass bee wall hanging, donated to MHV by Neil Vanderput, a former MBA and CHC Director.

As visitors meander through the exhibit, they discover a range of interesting items including glass honey bottles from late 1800's, honey tins from Alberta/Saskatchewan/Manitoba, bees wax from comb to candle, beekeeping clothes and tools, a modern extracting line, a variety of antique extractors and tools, plus an overwintering hive. In addition, for the school program, a hands on area provides students with an up close look into a hive, time to squeeze the smoker bellows, lift out a frame, try on a screened hat, or slip on a pair of gloves.

To introduce and open the Exhibit, the MBA held a unique celebration for the Grand Opening Ceremony. While most would expect a traditional ribbon cutting to take place, the organizing committee felt a creative approach was needed. After speeches from Provincial,

Municipal, City and organization dignitaries, Lorne Peters invited over 75 guests to raise Honey loaded spoons, in a symbolic toast, to the opening of the exhibit. The toast was special, as the granulated honey on the spoons came from jars labelled with a design created especially for the exhibit

Wooden and metal extractor artifact station.



and MHV. The new design, from Bee Maid, incorporated the traditional Windmill logo of MHV, plus integrated "blue" colouring, as this is a meaningful tradition within the Mennonite community. (Editors' note: see jar in Bee Maid report in last issue of HiveLights).

Manitoba hosts a yearly Honey Show and Competition, typically in a major Winnipeg Shopping mall, and thus the move to a museum exhibit is quite different. This unique approach broadens the exposure of the general public to the importance, and historical value of Honey Bees, and could be worthwhile for others to consider.

Part of early glass honey container display.





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Canadian Bee Research Fund Call for Proposals

Rob Currie, Chair Canadian Bee Research Fund

The directors of the Canadian Bee Research Fund (CBRF) invite the submission of proposals for the 2009 competition. Grants will be considered in any area of apiculture or pollination research, but preference will be given for subjects identified by the Canadian beekeeping industry as high priority.

The CBRF was established to counteract the problems caused by severe reductions in federal and provincial funding for honeybee research. It is now in its ninth year of operation. Grants have been awarded annually for research considered important for the survival and prosperity of the Canadian beekeeping industry. Donations received for the fund are invested in a long-term endowment account and the interest generated is used to support bee research through the awarding of annual grants.

Projects awarded for the current year are

“Cultural and chemical treatments to synergize honey bee resistance mechanisms against the parasitic mite, *Varroa destructor*, and the diseases it vectors.” Dr. Rob Currie, University of Manitoba, \$3,000.

“Integrated Management of Nosema & Detection of Antibiotic Residues.” Dr. Steve Pernal, Agriculture Agri-Food Canada, \$8,000

“Mite Tolerance in Selected Honeybee Lines and Attempted Correlation of Tolerance or Sensitivity with DNA and Viral Markers associated with CCD.” Albert J Robertson, Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association, \$3,000.

“*Apis mellifera* Proteomics of Innate Resistance (APIS)”. Leonard Foster, University British Columbia, \$3,000.

“The use of real time PCR to identify the microsporidian *Nosema spp.* and other pathogens in honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) colonies in Nova Scotia.” Karen Burgher-MacLellan, Agriculture Agri-Food Canada, \$3,000.

Reports of these current projects will be given at the annual CHC/CAPA research symposium in Niagara Falls Ontario 10-13 December 2008.

Applications for this round of grants should be sent electronically to Dr Rob Currie, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg MB R3T 2N2. The deadline for submission of proposals is 30 November 2008. Application details can be found on the CHC Website www.honeycouncil.ca

2008 Student Award Winner

Eastern Apicultural Society

Geoff Williams of Acadia University has been awarded the 2008 Eastern Apicultural Society Student Award. Geoff graduated from University of Alberta in 2005 with a B.Sc. in Animal Biology. A recipient of a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Industrial Postgraduate Scholarship, Williams is currently a M.Sc. candidate at Acadia University in Nova Scotia under the supervision of Dr. Dave Shutler (Acadia University) and Richard Rogers (Wildwood Labs Inc.).

His thesis investigates the microsporidians *Nosema apis* and *N. ceranae* in western honey bees. Biology and management of *N. apis*, the historical parasite of western honey bees, is well-described, however, *N. ceranae*, historically of Asian honey bees and first described from western honey bees in 2006, is less understood. Geoff was first to identify *N. apis*, against *N. ceranae*. In addition, he is investigating colony-level pathology associated with *N. ceranae* infection and ecological interactions between these two *Nosema* species.

In 2007, Geoff was awarded one of six global scholarships from the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees (American Beekeeping Federation) and more recently he received the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists' Student Merit Award for 2008 at the AGM in Calgary.



Geoff receives his CAPA student merit award from Steve Pernal

Plants for Bees: Maple

Douglas Clay, Research Scientist, Calgary, AB

Common Name Maple including the sugar maple, black maple, red maple, Manitoba maple, silver maple.

Scientific Name *Acer* Spp. including *A. saccharum* Marsh, *A. rubrum* L, *A. nigrum* Michx, *A. negundo* L, *A. saccharinum* Marsh.

Distribution:

The sugar maple, the quintessential 'Canadian' tree, is found in Zone 4 from the Ontario/Manitoba border to the Maritimes. The Manitoba maple is more robust and can be found throughout the Prairies as well as most of southern Canada.

The taxonomy of the *Acer* genus has not been widely accepted and as a result there are differing points of view on the number of species, sub-species and varieties in existence. There between 110 and 125 species of maple trees, 10 to 13 of which are native to North America. The genus *Acer* originated in China and spread throughout the northern hemisphere.

The sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) is closely related to the black maple (*Acer nigrum*). The western American bigtooth maple (*Acer grandidentatum*) is also treated as a variety or subspecies of sugar maple by some botanists. Boxelder or Manitoba maple (*Acer negundo*) is the most widely distributed of all North American maples – its native range extends from the east to the west coast and

from Alberta to southern Mexico and Guatemala. It has become naturalized in areas far outside of its native range, including Europe. It is not known from northern Canada.

Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), an introduced European species, is often planted and looks similar to sugar maple, but Norway maple has broader leaves with drooping lobes, and sap from a broken petiole is milky not clear. The sycamore maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), another European import, is only suitable for the southern most regions in Canada, although with climate change this range may increase. It is considered a valuable early season nectar source.



Flowers of red maple

Description:

Maples (family *Aceraceae*) are medium to small deciduous trees with watery sap which is sometimes sugary. They have a dense, spreading crown, 25 to 40 m in height; light gray to gray-brown bark, that is rough, deeply furrowed and darkens with age. The leaves are opposite, have long petioles,

from 5 to 11 cm long and about as wide. In North America, the only maple that does not have a palmate leaf with distinct lobes is *A. negundo* which is sometimes called "Ash-leaf maple" because it has a compound leaf like members of the ash family. Generally maples have 5 short-pointed lobes, edges coarsely toothed, dark green above, whitish and more or less hairy below, turning intensely red, orange, or yellow in fall.

The flowers of most maples are small, greenish-yellow without petals, often in long-stalked, drooping clusters or racemes, each cluster with 8 to 14 flowers. Flowering occurs in early spring (March-May, with or just before the leaves) after 30 to 55 growing degree days. Most trees are either male or female, sometimes the sexes are segregated on different branches. The fruits are winged nutlets (samaras) in a pair, 2 to 2.5 cm long, clustered on long stalks, yellowish-grey to red-brown. The seeds fall from the tree in autumn and or through winter.

The fall color is often spectacular, ranging from bright yellow through orange to fluorescent red-orange. Sugar maples have a tendency to color unevenly in fall. In some trees, all colors above can be seen at the same time. Sometimes (especially with *A. rubrum*) a certain part of a mature tree can change color weeks ahead of the rest of the tree. The colours tend to be brighter and more varied in the east with more limited yellows in the west.

Ecology

Manitoba maple is one of the fastest growing trees in many western regions. Blossoms appear before the leaves unfold in April and May. The trees are useful for quick growth in riparian plantings, but they tend to be short-lived and subject to disease. Its tolerance to urban conditions, compacted soils, drought and cold

makes it useful for reclamation of disturbed sites. Boxelder is a tree of river bottoms and disturbed sites on heavy, wet soils, often seasonally flooded (up to 30 days). Populations in native habitats have decreased because of clearing of bottomland forest for agriculture, but they have greatly increased in urban areas. Success of the species on disturbed urban sites owes to its prolific seed production and wide dispersal, ease of germination, tolerance of low oxygen conditions, and fast growth on clay or heavy fill.

Sugar maple is widely planted as an ornamental or shade tree. The species is best suited to larger sites where soil compaction is not a concern, thus it is generally unsuitable for urban areas. The sugar maple can grow in any type of soil, except sand, most commonly occurring in rich, mesic (moist) woods but also

in drier upland forests. *A. saccharum* is among the most shade tolerant of large deciduous trees. Among North American maples its shade tolerance is exceeded only by the striped maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*), a smaller tree. Increases in sugar maple during the past 50 years in central and Great Lakes hardwood forests have been attributed to fire suppression.



Sugar maple flowers

Methods of Reproduction and Spread:

Minimum seed-bearing age for sugar maple is 30 to 40 years; maximum seed production is reached after about 60 years of age (seed quantity is of course related to pollen and nectar production). Seeds of all the maples are dispersed in fall and germinate in spring. Germination occurs on moist mineral soil or in the litter layer, at an optimal temperature of about 1°C. Seeds can remain viable for up to 5 years and require moist stratification at temperatures slightly above freezing for 35 to 90 days. In the northern part of its range, stump sprouting and root sprouting are moderately common means of vegetative reproduction.

Flowering in boxelder is in early spring and large quantities of seed are produced each year,

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beginning on trees 8 to 11 years old. The flowers are wind pollinated but also visited by bees. The seeds ripen in autumn, fall continuously from autumn until spring, and are light, large-winged, and widely wind-dispersed. They over-winter and germinate the following spring. Best germination follows stratification for 60 to 90 days at 1°C. Boxelder seeds germinate in shade or full sun, successful seedbeds vary greatly. Trees can produce up to 2.5 cm diameter annual growth for the first 15 to 20 years. Early growth is best in full sun but tolerant of partial shade. Young trees commonly produce stump and root sprouts. Average longevity is about 60 years; maximum longevity is rarely more than 100.

Honey/Pollen Potential:

Honey bees begin to gather nectar/pollen just as soon as spring temperatures are about 12 to 15°C. Only a few early blooming plants/trees are available to fill this need. Much of this early flow comes from trees such as maple, willow, etc. Because red maple flowers come out very early in the spring, they are important first source of nectar for honeybees. No estimates of honey production are available as the nectar is consumed immediately by the bees and brood. Although the flowers appear to be wind-pollinated, the early-produced pollen may be important to the biology of bees and other pollen-dependent insects because many insects, especially bees, visit the flowers. The Manitoba maple produces mostly pollen although honey dew is also believed to be a honey source from this species. As a family maples are estimated to produce 100-500 kg/ha honey annually. The honey is light amber and produces a fine creamed honey.

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Maples and syrup

- The Sugar Maple is one of the most important Canadian trees, forming the major source of sap for maple syrup production.
- Many maples can be used as a sap source for maple syrup but sugar maples are the only tree used for commercial syrup production.
- Black maple is second best variety but it only has half the sugar content of sugar maple.
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- Sugar maple was the premier source of sweetener, along with honey, to Native Americans and early European settlers. Native Americans also used sugar maple sap for sugar and candies, as a beverage, fresh or fermented into beer, and soured into vinegar and used to cook meat.

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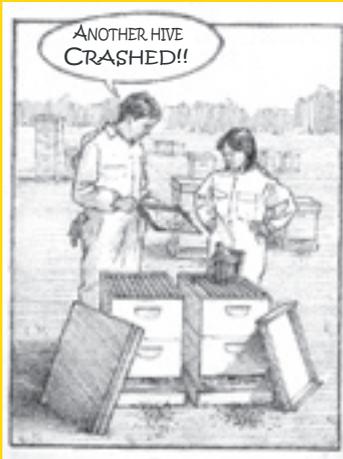
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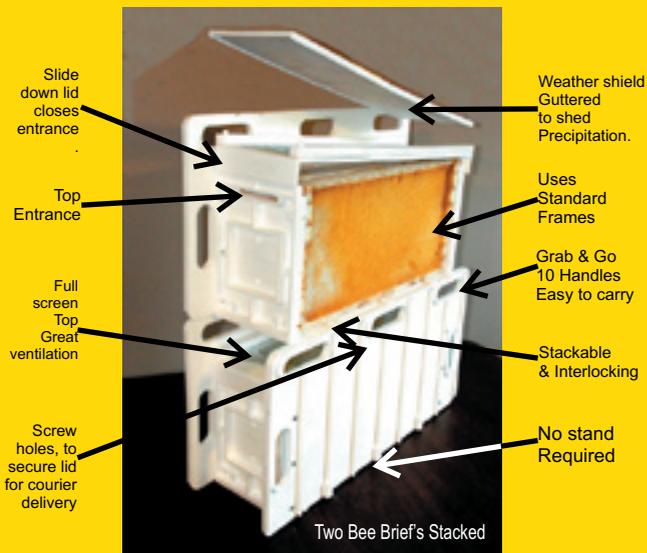
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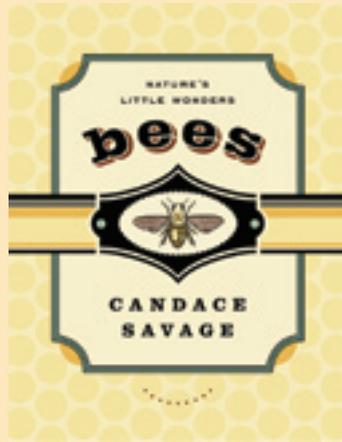
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Bees, Wunderkinds of the Insect Kingdom, are Celebrated in a Delightful New Book

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Bees considers the diversity and biology of bees, including their peculiar sociosexual arrangements, their quirky relationships with flowers, and their startling mental abilities: what are we to make of insects that communicate through symbolic dances? The book also addresses the mysterious syndrome known as colony collapse disorder and identifies opportunities for the conservation of pollinators. Some of the most audacious and ingenious scientists who ever lived serve as guides to the hive, from the bees own Nobel Laureate, Karl von Frisch in the 1900s, to the Honeybee



Genome Sequencing Consortium of the present.

Enriched with cultural sidebars and complemented by a stunning collection of images, *Bees* is a must-read for conservationists, gardeners, and everyone else who cares about the world around them.

Bee Miscellany

- The oldest known fossilized bee dates from the Cretaceous period
- Bees, in contrast to wasps, are herbivores and only sting for defense
- Commercial Honeybees are the primary pollinators for over 90 crops
- Over 30% of the managed American Bee population mysteriously vanished in 2007

Candace Savage is the author of internationally acclaimed books on subjects ranging from natural history and science

to popular culture. She is the author of the best-selling title *Prairie: A Natural History*, for which she won two Saskatchewan Book Awards. She lives in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

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Varroa/Tracheal Mite IPM Program for Canada Using the Alternative Management Options Available in Canada as of 2005

David VanderDussen, NOD Apiary Products, Frankford, ON

Integrated pest management (IPM) for honeybees consists of meeting the health of the honeybee colony at all levels. The beekeeping management priorities are¹:

1. young queens of good stock; annual replacement is best,
2. good food reserves; honey and pollen or substitute feeds,
3. disease control, including parasitic mite control and
4. if going into winter; adequate protection.

For parasitic mite control the registered, proven to work, available alternative "reduced risk" products are Mite-AwayII™(MAII)² and Oxalic

Acid (OA)³. Drone Brood Removal (DBR)^{4,5} is a proven effective cultural (biotechnical) varroa control.

There are several IPM programs for varroa and tracheal mite control that have been developed using the alternative products and cultural management practice of DBR.

These programs are available from the Canadian Honey Council⁶ and researchers work based in Southern Ontario⁷ and the North Eastern U.S.⁸. Treatment thresholds for the Prairies can be found at the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists web site⁹. These programs cover off all the geographical areas where bees are kept in Canada.

Mite-AwayII™ is the cornerstone product as it treats both varroa and tracheal mites while brood is present. When used spring and fall it is unlikely that use of the backup product OA and the cultural management DBR process will be required¹⁰.

There are only 6 to 9 weeks of the year when the alternative varroa treatment methods cannot be executed with an expectation of success. This occurs mid-fall as fall brood rearing is underway, post the late summer/early fall MAII treatment and prior to the late fall through until early spring OA treatment window. Varroa population growth through the winter is static to minimal. The 6 to 9 weeks vary on the calendar by a couple of weeks, depending on the geographical area. Use historical temperature data to determine local calendar time frames, based on the constraints set out on the alternative products labels.

Overview of IPM Activities by the Calendar

April: April is an assessment month. In the warmer “microclimate” parts of Canada, such as the Niagara fruit belt¹¹, the activities set out for this month may occur earlier than April. Management activities for mite control:

- Good food reserves need to be in place for the colonies to build for May beekeeping activities. Feeding and pollen substitute may be required.
- In colder climates the bees can be removed from winter storage or the unwrapping process can begin.
- Brood can be shifted from strong to weaker colonies if necessary, generally towards the end of the month, to ensure adequate colony strength for mite treatments.
- Mite levels can be monitored to determine spring treatment needs.
- if using DBR the process may be initiated.

May and June: In this time frame colony reproduction to replace winter loss, queen rearing and or/ installation, and mite control takes place. Beekeepers may be involved in pollination services¹². Ensure adequate food reserves, feeding if necessary.

Management activities for mite control:

- apply MAII as dictated by the area climate maps, following

the daytime high temperature constraints set out on the label. It is a three-week treatment in a much longer treatment window. A properly structured IPM program will integrate colony reproduction/ requeening with the MAII treatment period¹⁵.

- alternative control method: initiate drone brood removal¹⁴. If this method is used at least three cycles of the drone frames will be required. Two cycles of DBR may take place in this time frame. Not required if MAII is used except as a possible back-up treatment, to be implemented early summer if varroa levels require it.
- Neither MAII or DBR treatments have a detrimental effect on honey production¹⁵, despite the brood loss that may occur due to MAII use and the comb replacement effort required by the bees in DBR. Formic acid use has been shown to enhance honey production¹⁶.

End of June: Monitor varroa levels. Super well for the honey flow.

July and August: Main honey flows occur. Any chemical use for mite control not allowed.

- if required or if on the Drone Brood Removal program, execute DBR, timed with the cycles of pulling the crop.

Late August into September: This is the critical treatment time for protecting the winter bees.

- apply MAII as dictated by

area climate maps, following the daytime high temperature constraints set out on the label.

- Feeding of the colonies can take place at the same time as the MAII pad is on the colonies as long as the feeding method does not interfere with the MAII pad/rim fumigation chamber construct¹⁷.

Late November through March:

- Monitor varroa levels at the start of the period¹⁸.
- Execute backup OA application if required. If wintering indoors apply OA before moving the hives into the over-wintering facilities.

Note: Varroa can be treated by MAII at this time if the colony is in a single brood chamber hive. However, with the registration of OA initiated and being approved after the registration for MAII was submitted, NOD Apiary Products, maker of MAII, recommends the use of OA in this time frame for economic reasons.

Summary:

Parasitic mite control can be achieved throughout Canada without the risks of lost honey production, to queen fecundity¹⁹, to varroa resistance, to residues in the honey and/or the wax associated with conventional chemicals by implementing the above strategy into standard seasonal management practices. Historical weather data is necessary to determine the treatment windows for individual areas. Follow product labels.

¹ *The Hive and the Honey Bee*, page 830, ©2007 Dadant & Sons Inc., Hamilton, Illinois, USA.

² http://pr-rp.pmra-arla.gc.ca/PR_SOL/pr_web.ve1?p_ukid=10582

³ <http://www.honeycouncil.ca/users/LabelOxalicE.pdf>

⁴ *Revised Recommendations for Management of Honey Bee Diseases and Parasites in 2007-2*, Dr. Medhat Nasr. Alberta Agriculture and Food.

⁵ http://www.scientificbeekeeping.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=31&Itemid=406 <http://www.honeycouncil.ca/users/IPM-Poster.pdf>

⁷ Organic Beekeeping Practices, pamphlet, Ontario Beekeeper's Association Technology

Transfer Program.

⁸ <http://www.sare.org/publications/factsheet/0205.htm>

⁹ <http://www.capabees.com/main/files/pdf/varroathreshold.pdf>

¹⁰ River Valley Apiaries experience with drone brood removal and availability of Oxalic Acid treatment. (attached)

¹¹ Beekeepers involved in pollination in southern microclimates may have colonies being set out in orchards. MAII can be used during pollination sets. MAII can be in place during the colony move if at least one week has passed since application (NOD recommendation). The bees love to cluster in the rim space around the MAII. Another

control option is to execute an additional cycle of drone brood removal.

¹² MAII can be used during pollination sets. MAII can be in place during the colony move if at least one week has passed since application (NOD recommendation). The bees love to cluster in the rim space around the MAII.

¹³ See the Bee Brief™ program for a sample livestock reproduction program. NOD Apiary Products (2007)

¹⁴ *Revised Recommendations for Management of Honey Bee Diseases and Parasites in 2007-2*, Dr. Medhat Nasr. Alberta Agriculture and Food.

¹⁵ Ontario Beekeepers Association Tech Transfer Study (2006), as well see previously

referenced DBR removal study (Calderone 2005).

¹⁶ Currie, R.W., and P. Gatién. 2006. Timing acaricide treatments to prevent *Varroa destructor* (Acari: Varroidae) from causing economic damage to honey bee colonies.

Canadian Entomologist 138:258-252.

¹⁷ e.g.: Barrel feeding, Millar feeders, frame feeders, through the cover feeding pails.

¹⁸ Author's note: If using more than one brood chamber a "super cracker" is recommended to split the brood chambers quickly and

easily.

¹⁹ Burley, L.M., (2007), *The Effects of Miticides on the Reproductive Physiology of the Honey Bee (Apis Mellifera L.) Queens and Drones*. Virginia Polytechnique Institute and State University.

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Mite-AwayII™ Backup Strategies: Drone Brood Removal and/or Oxalic Acid The River Valley Apiaries Experience

David VanderDussen, NOD Apiary Products, Frankford, ON

River Valley Apiaries (RVA), a commercial beekeeping operation in Stirling, ON, set up 400 colonies for drone brood removal (DBR) as a varroa control strategy in the mid 1990's. The frame that was used for DBR was a full depth standard Langstroth frame with a centre bar support halfway up the frame, no foundation.

The bees were expected to draw drone comb in the open space. Two frames were set into the brood chamber, one at each of the #3 spots from each side of the hive wall.

Spring DBR

Each comb installation, removal and replacement cycle was 4 weeks long. 90- 95% varroa control efficacy

could be achieved by completing three cycles of drone comb removal. In May, June and July the bees would draw comb for drones and raise a cycle of brood. The frames would be removed at the end of the four weeks, the comb would be cut out into large tubs, and the frames replaced in the hive. The tubs would be emptied into a large solar wax-melter build for this purpose. The beeswax was a harvestable crop, made economically feasible by using solar power.

In August the bees would draw the comb into worker brood. Colonies naturally reduce drone production during this period. This pattern was repeated year after year, rendering DBR in August ineffective as a varroa control method. Using drone brood

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foundation may prevent this from happening but it was not tested.

With the development of Mite-Away IITM (MAII) DBR to be initiated in June was seen as the back-up strategy in case poor control results occurred in the spring. In the six years since MAII has been available just using MAII has proven to be a reliable stand-alone control so DBR was not required or executed. RVA reduced the number of DBR frames in the colonies from two to one in the fourth year. RVA is now in the process of cycling out the remaining DBR frames (2007-2009).

Commercially Viable DBR

One of the perceived drawbacks of DBR is the labour required. RVA had figured out how to turn the process into a source of income by recovering the wax, timing access to the frames with supering the colonies and in the cycle of harvesting the crop. Other outfits that use DBR as a major part of their varroa control strategy may cull the comb without attempting

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350 colony beekeeping operation with house and extracting facilities in Eastern Ontario. The business has focused on queen rearing, bee sales and honey production. This operation is on a well used tourist route and has strong honey house sales with expansion potential. Reason for selling is that I have just accepted the position as Saskatchewan's Apiary Specialist.

Please contact Geoff Wilson, at 116 Hwy 15 Seeleys Bay ON beekeeper@honeypro.ca

Help Wanted

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Help Wanted

Langenburg SK- 7 beekeeper positions for 6 month term, April 15 to Oct 31. Wages \$12.75 per hour. For more information contact

Dennis, phone 306-743-5469 or email dennisglennie@sasktel.net.

Help wanted

Surrey BC-Two experienced beekeepers for 8 months from February 15 to October 15, 2009. Paying \$12 per hour and providing room and laundry facilities. Qualified applicants should have basic knowledge of honeybee colony management with experience in field work and honey extraction. Drivers licence is an asset. Ability to communicate in English is essential. Respond by email to John Gibeau, gibeau@honeybeecentre.com. For more information about our company visit www.honeybeecentre.com.

Help Wanted

Carman MB-Two beekeepers assistants needed for 2009 season (April to November) in southern Manitoba. Wages based on experience. Training is provided. Please email resume to Jeff Warburton warbees@live.ca.

Help Wanted

Porcupine Plain SK-Experienced Beekeeper Wanted for the 2009 season April to October \$12-\$15/hr Depending on Experience. Contact Brad Lechler 306-278-2198 Porcupine Plain, SK

Help Wanted

Nipawin SK- 15 Beekeepers for full time beekeeping help, April to October. Beekeeping experience would be preferred. Wages start at \$12.00 per hour. Contact Mark Knox , 306-862-5657, Box 179 Nipawin,Sask. S0E 1E0.

Help Wanted

TISDALE SK- Beekeepers needed for 2009 season, April to mid October. Basic beekeeping knowledge an asset, wages negotiable with experience; willing to train on the job. Accommodations available. For further information contact Dennis Keays at 306-873-4273, or email at keays01@sasktel.net <mailto:keays01@sasktel.net>.

to harvest the wax. Randy Oliver of California has documented his methods in his published articles²⁰.

A way to minimize the labour inputs is to adopt a hive structure that can allow access to the DBR frames without removal of the honey supers. One example is the "tower" method. Two side-by-side colonies are slid together and a queen excluder is placed on top in the centre. A photo of such a structure can be seen on page 855 of the October 2008 edition of the American Bee Journal, used as a two-queen system. Dennis Van Engelsdorp, the Acting State Apiarist of Pennsylvania, has tested this method with good success.

Oxalic Acid Late Fall Treatment

It is good to know that there is a late fall backup treatment to MAII, should the need arise. In the six years

since MAII has been available MAII, applied in September, has proven to be the only mite treatment necessary to bring colonies through until the

spring MAII treatment window. Varroa counts using alcohol wash have consistently come up in the 0- 7% range post treatment. The bees winter very well and surplus bees with brood have been harvested and sold each spring as nucleus colonies.

Breeding Programs

Some stocks have been developed that show promise as a way to reduce the need for mite control products.

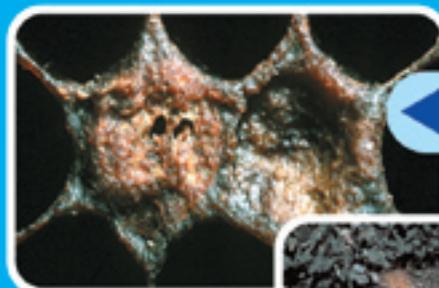
There is the Russian stock (Francois Petit), the Buckfast stock (Paul Montoux), the Hygienic Stock-Ontario program (Kelly Rogers), and the Saskatraz stock. The first identifiable segment of the Ontario beekeeping industry that made the switch to the MAII program was the advanced queen breeding industry. Beekeepers can work with these stocks in an IPM program, however River Valley Apiaries has not done so.

²⁰ http://www.scientificbeekeeping.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=31&Itemid=40

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European Foulbrood (EFB) is a bacterial brood disease caused by several agents the main being the bacterium *Melissococcus pluton*. It occurs most

frequently in the spring or early summer during brood rearing and is thought to be caused by stress in the colony and lack of pollen. Symptoms can be variable which makes EFB difficult to identify with certainty; frequently disappearing once there is a nectar flow. But EFB can seriously affect brood development and needs to be identified in a colony as soon as possible.

American Foulbrood (AFB) is an infectious brood disease caused by the spore-forming bacterium *Paenibacillus larvae var larvae*. It is the most destructive and widespread of the honeybee brood diseases.

AFB disseminates rapidly through the colony and, if left unchecked, spreads quickly to other healthy colonies both in the same apiary and those nearby.



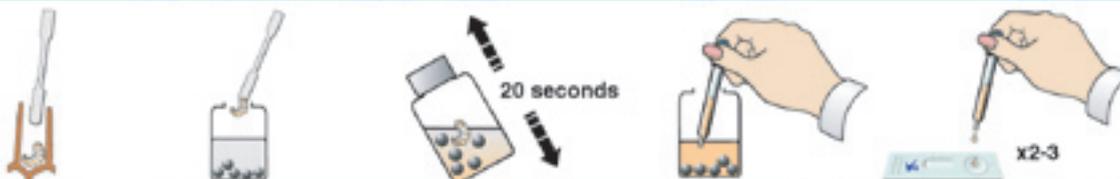
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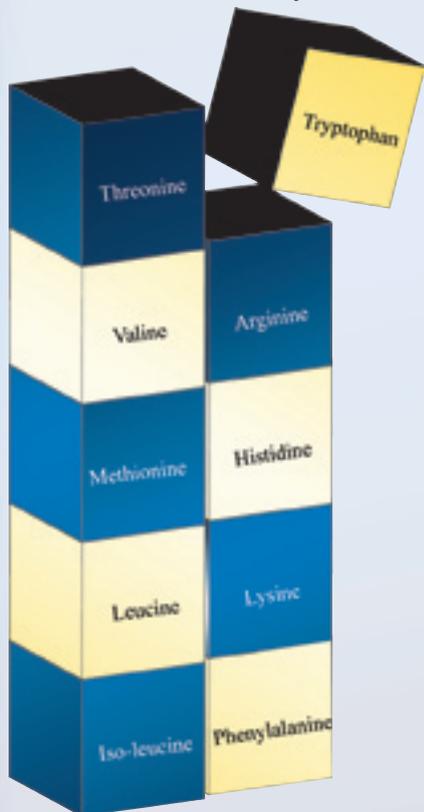
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