

THE SUDBURY AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

BUZZWORD

January 2021

The Hum Of The Bees Is The Voice In The Garden.

I've sat at my computer quite a few times over the last few months thinking what to write. I have started many a thing but none that came to fruit So here goes...

Happy New Year to all beekeepers and their families from the SDBA and if I wait a few days I'll be able to add "Happy Valentine".

December and January have brought exceptionally beautiful weather. As I keep saying, "God knows we couldn't go to the warm weather countries, so He is sending us a warmer winter. "

HELP

- 1. As always, anyone wanting to write up a few paragraphs on how things are happening around their beeyard, they are very welcome*
- 2. Ray, from Espanola, is interested in renting or having a hive in his garden for the summer He was a beekeeper, in a previous life, out west. If anyone is interested please call him at 705.869.3669.*
- 3. Greg Dawson would like to buy a few pounds of wax. You can call him at 416.578.8001*
- 4. URGENT: Is there any one WILLING to take over the website. It is not intended to be used for marketing purposes but for shared information: such as Buzzword, meeting dates, speakers, trends, treatments, etc.*

BUY, SELL and/or TRADE

Remember, if you have anything to sell it must first be certified by the Bee Inspectors.

*Isleaway, **Nancy and David Kains** will have a few nucs and queens for sale. You can reach them at isleaway@gmail.com 705.377.6041 Manitoulin*

*Glorybee Apiary, **Marlowe Sharp**, glorybeeapiary@gmail.com, 705.757.4163
Marlowe is sold out of "nucs" already but he will have queens. Marlowe is member of the ORHBS (Ontario Resistant Honey Bee Selection) program.*

Queens:	1 – 9	\$45
	10-19	\$43
	20 +	\$40

*Ferrier's Maplebee Farm, **Scott Ferrier**, ferriersmaplebeefarm@gmail.com, says he is nearly out of nucs. (See website for further information.) He is also part of the ORHBS {breeding queens that exhibit Hygienic Behaviour} program and his queens will be selling for \$45. He will be making a delivery trip to Sudbury in June.*

*Bee-Care full Apiary, **Noël and Nicole Shank**, 705.897.5565. Noël has been a local dealer and even (a long time ago), a bee inspector. Call or email at nshank@personainternet.com*

*Dickey Bee Honey Inc, **Peter and Sandi Dickey**, dickeybeehoney@bell.net, Visit his site for pricing and availability of nucs, queens, hive tools, equipment and honey and health products. Peter and Sandi were guest speakers at our April or May meetings, in the olden days, before Covid-19. Usually Dickey Bee Honey has a spring sale.*

I did not hear from anyone else.

TRADE

Paul and I do not have any beech trees and only one linden tree (from Julian) and we would be willing to trade Chinese Silk Lilac (white, late bloomer) or even asparagus roots (already in containers) for such trees. (I asked Richard and he said it was alright since it was related to bees.)

On this note, Kathie Hogan, (in charge of the Powassan Group of Beekeepers) wants to start a list of flowers and trees that attract the bees. We should be doing the same. Any suggestion would be appreciated.

SUGGESTIONS

TELECONFERENCE

*From Wayne Leblanc: This might be useful for bored beekeepers.
The Northern Association of Community www.naccmanitoba.com are offering free
Conferences/Webinars every Wednesday, at 1 pm, till February 24th.*

A Bee's Diary

Available on CBC Gem

https://cbc.ca/natureofthings/m_features/telling-a-single-bees-story-in-a-creative-new-way (44 m)

A Bee's Diary **tells that story**. Scientists are learning that each bee in a hive is an individual, with its own personality. Some are timid, some are brave. Some like it hot, others don't. Some are smart, and some not so much. Told from the point of view of just two bees – a elderly "winter bee" who nurtures the new

[A Bee's Diary - Love Nature](#)

lovenature.com/shows/a-bees-diary/

INTERESTING READ

The Nosema Problem: Part 7a – The Causes of Dysentery in Honey Bees — Part 1

 scientificbeekeeping.com/the-causes-dysentery-in-honey-bees-part-1/

13 Pages, December 2019

The Nosema Problem: Part 7b – The Causes of Dysentery in Honey Bees: Part 2

 scientificbeekeeping.com/the-causes-of-dysentery-in-honey-bees-part-2/

15 pages, January 2020

SO YOU ARE THINKING OF BECOMING A BEEKEEPER

If you are thinking of becoming a beekeeper, if you like those sweet little bumblebees and you heard that the bees are endangered, if you love honey and you heard that eating the local honey is good for your allergies, if you have a big yard and lots of flowers and you have read for hours and looked at hours of YouTube you may just be at the right place to start. Do not take it lightly. It is a serious commitment and can involve many dollars, time and tears. But beekeepers say the value returned (in many ways) can outweigh the money and the time invested.

Under normal conditions (pre Covid-19) we would say to you: join a beekeeping association, find a mentor, get advice from local beekeepers and be prepared to work. Until we can have regular meetings again, meet for coffee and talk bees, we will try to help the many who inquired about beekeeping. Here is a first step to help you along the way..

*The Honey Company (thehoneycompany.com) has produced the **Top 15 Mistakes New Beekeepers Make**. Click on the link that follows.*

<https://thehoneycompany.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Copy-of-The-1.pdf>

LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION

I would like to Expand on Mistake # 14 from The Honey Company.

-Your hive should be in a mottled shade area with good morning sun.

-In close proximity to water – they need water when it is too hot to regulate the temperature of the hive.

-If there is a swimming pool, not too far away, they will visit it (don't know what they like in the water)

-if a beach is close, they will find the easiest and nicest landing place to drink water (swimmers or not). This is where you should be nice and get along with the neighbours and know if anyone has a “bee allergy”. Invite them to visit your hive and at the end of the season, offer a jar of honey as a peace offering.

-Have easy access to your hive: you need to get into your hive with little trouble, you need to be able stand next to it with little restriction. How far away you have to trek with your equipment or carry your honey supers, makes a difference.

BEE CALENDAR

I have enclosed the "Bee Calendar" for all the new beekeepers but also as a reminder for the older beekeepers. This Calendar has been around for a long time and has been updated once in the last five years. It might need to be tweaked and that is where "you" beekeepers send me your suggestions.

January, February and the beginning of March is usually reserved for reading and upkeep on your beekeeping equipment. This winter has been much milder than others and maybe we will not have as many beehive deaths this winter. But, if your beehive does die, here are some reasons for it.

Successful overwintering should have started last fall, after the honey harvest. Medicating, feeding sugar water 2:1, adding sugar patties/fondant, and/ or pollen patties, taking care of any infestation, and insulating.

Once it gets cold, the bees cluster around the queen and only move to be closer to the food supply. They will only break cluster if it is warm outside and they need to have a cleansing flight or to throw out dead bees.

Starvation:

A method of avoiding this, is making sure your hive is very heavy to lift in the fall. Feed them sugar water at 2:1 until they wont take anymore. Sometimes, the bees don't break cluster to get closer to the food and they starve. Bees with their heads in cells show a sign of starvation.

Excess Moisture:

Bees are little living animals. They breathe fresh oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide, they are warm, there are many of them and this causes moisture.

If the moisture does not have an escape route (a ventilation hole on top front or sides of your hive, this excess humidity turns into dripping cold water. If it falls and wet bees who cannot get dry, they will die...

A hive usually has a bottom entrance and a top ventilation hole. In the winter, even if the bottom entrance is covered by snow: it is ok and there is still lots of oxygen in the snow and it is also an insulating factor. Make sure that the bees have access to the exit at the top of the hive for their cleansing flight.

Your hive should also be slightly elevated, in the back, in order for any excess water to drain.

Weak Hive

A weak spring nuclei, a late swarm with too little bees or weakness for any other reason means your hive will probably not survive the winter. It is suggested that you combine two weak hives or a weak and strong hive together. It is better to join it with another hive than have it die over the winter.

Strong Winds

Know the direction of where the prevailing winds and set up a windbreak: trees, a shed or even an extension to the side of the hive.

Humidity and winds are harder on your hive than cold weather.

Infested Hive

Varroa, small hive beetles, wax moth, chalkbrood, and nosema are major concerns. These should be addressed and resolved in the fall. There are many available treatments. A strong hive might survive with varroa but a weak one probably will not.

Mouse Guards

Mouse guards are exactly what the word is. They are used to prevent a mouse from entering into the hive and wintering. Mouse guards can be bought or you can make your own with hardware cloth.

Food supply

Before spring rolls around and the dandelion and pussy willows bloom, check the weight of your hive to see if there is still enough winter food. When the warm weather arrives, and foraging food is not yet available, it is time to provide sugar water at 1:1 and pollen patties. The pollen patties will start your queen laying earlier.

Breaking the cluster

If the sun is shining, you should walk over to your hive, stand still and listen. You may not hear anything. When this happens, some people knock on the hive and listen. You may hear something or maybe not but what you have done is broken the cluster. It takes them a few days to re-cluster. You can envision your bees like the cluster of penguins, the warm one comes to the edge and the cold one enters the cluster. Bees are doing the same. So, if it freezes that night, a good portion of your bees will freeze and die.

You can buy a cheap stethoscope or a heat monitoring gun (the same as you see on TV checking for fever). Aim the heat gun around the hive to see where they are inside and take a measurement in the top ventilation hole. If it is above zero in the vent hole, they are still alive.

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