



*SUDBURY & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION*

***BEEKEEPERS HELPING BEEKEEPERS***



***SINCE 1977***

***B U Z Z W O R D***

Changes to the May 15 Agenda: Eric Peggie can not attend the meeting due to a prior commitment. Alasdair MacCloud will have a presentation.

REMINDER that there is a meeting tonight,  
Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.  
6:30 meet and greet  
Lo-Ellen's Library

I think this is the first time, in all the years, that I have been doing this to be so late in sending out a Buzzword. I could use the excuses: the bees, the baby plants, doctors appointments, printer broke, renovations... but I think it is just procrastination,

There will be a few more emails before I pass the baton in June and I will try to send these Buzzwords sooner. One way to see and hear first hand the information from our presenters, is to attend the SDBA meeting at Lo-Ellen Parks Secondary School, in the library. For those who have not been there for a while, there are no more stairs, the meetings are held just beside the front door, in the library, with comfortable seats and free coffee and cookies.

Many beekeepers, wannabee beekeepers, have quit beekeeping and have not renewed their membership. We are sometimes talking years. It has made me very happy to send you the emails over the years but it would make the association much more viable, if they would become a full-fledged member. For those who say they want to stay under the radar, don't worry, SDBA doesn't send information to the government, to OMAFRA, to OBA or to the bee inspectors.

The SDBA year runs from September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>. Annual memberships were once due in September but now with a computerized listing and a great treasurer (Rose Aniol) membership renewals can be purchased, any time, in person or on line.

MEMBERSHIP FEES			
Seniors	\$15	Students	\$15
Individuals	\$20	Family	\$25

Memberships can be paid by e transfer or in person at a SDBA meeting to Rose Aniol, treasurer.  
[mishkarose.65@gmail.com](mailto:mishkarose.65@gmail.com)

We had two guest presenters at the April 17 meeting. Phil Beauchamp and Lionel Junkin.

The following is a summary of Phil Beauchamp of Beautiful Field Farm and Fruit Trees, previously known as "Hardy Fruit Trees", 2500 Regional Road (Old Hwy 17 W) (Naughton) Sudbury.

Phil bought out Mr. Lewis who was his long time friend, neighbour and mentor. Mr. Lewis still works with him. He has planted many apple and fruit trees which he hopes will eventually become a U-Pick business. He also continues grafting and we will have to invite him back to walk us through how to do it.

He explained that we are in zone 2-3-4 depending where you live in the Sudbury and District. The zone refers to the hardiness or how cold it can be before perennial plants and tree roots freeze and die. This is why we look at zone when buying plants at local box stores.

When transplanting, dig a hole the depth of your plant's container and 3x its size. First remove the layer of grass, this you will put at the bottom of the hole, grass down, as compost, then add a little clay and fill the hole with good soil. The walls of the hole should be broken up and the roots of your plant untangled (break the root-ball), in order to facilitate root growth. Sprinkle a little bit of bone meal and use the same earth to cover. A mound should appear above the earth, when finished. The hole should be dug the day before, filled with water, so that you can see how fast the water drains. 10 minutes.. too fast; 30 minutes ... right on.... 3-4 hours... too slow. If there is still water after a couple of hours find another location. Water will kill your plant.

Other things to take into consideration when planting, fertility and soil texture, moisture and water table, sunlight hours, competition (grasses and other trees and buildings), physical space (eventual size, and suckers), and aesthetics (leaves, fruit, seeds, smells, neighbours).

He left us with tidbits of information:

- 1- move trees when they are dormant and soil becomes malleable
- 2- haskap have shallow roots, spread easily and need to be trimmed
- 3- blueberries yield 40% more and are rounder when pollinated by honey bees
- 4- some trees are self pollinators, some like apples and pears need two to pollinate (you might get away with just one if a neighbour has a different kind of tree)
- 5- other pollinators are native bees, wasps, honey bees, birds, moths, butterflies, bats, the wind, people or animals walking by, etc
- 5- mulch is often much better than fertilizer
- 6- keep the grass away from the trees

Beautiful Field Farm and Fruit Trees is having a sale right now: grapes, blueberries, raspberries, haskaps, many small flowering bushes and fruit trees. All are zoned for our area and many were grafted or from cuttings.

This is a local business that we should appreciate. Thank you Phil.

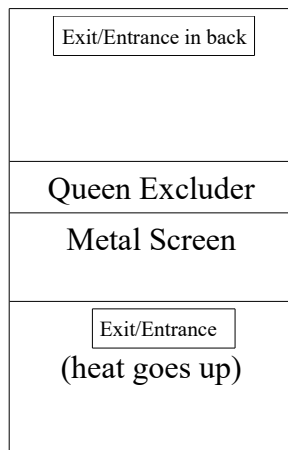
After coffee break, Lionel Junkin, a successful beekeeper, explained how he has been doing splits for the last 20 years. Lionel has been part of the SDBA for many years. Lionel runs his hives with double brood boxes and nine frames (the 10<sup>th</sup> is a frame feeder) Benefits of feeding sugar water: allows the cluster to build faster and sustains a colony that is low in food during a dearth. Benefits of colony split: avoids swarming by reducing the size of the cluster

#### HOW HE SPLITS:

He starts when his double brood boxes are full of bees. Making sure, the queen is in the bottom one he separates them. In between the bottom box and the top box, he adds a queen excluder, and a metal screen board. . If it's only plastic screen, the workers can make a hole and the queen might travel up. The extra space doesn't do any harm and the heat from the full bottom brood box warms the top box.

Included in the top box is 1 frame of honey, 1 frame of pollen, 1 frame of capped cells and 1 fresh frame of bees, a few drawn combs or empty frame and the frame feeder. The foragers will return to the box with the queen. It is very important when making a split to feed. He puts a 1/2 bag of fondant, 1/2 pollen patty and sugar water in the top box.

He then waits for 12 days to see if there is any queen cells. It takes 3 days to start a queen cell. Then he waits a month to see if there is any eggs. This is when he knows he has a queen or not. He checks for laying workers (all drone cells). If no queen, he returns the 4 frames to the bottom box.



The upper exit faces the back.. A small entrance deters robber bees and allows foragers to return to their hives. His description on how he does his splits was very informative and many questions were asked. Like always 20 beekeepers 20 different ways of making a split. Lionel has been doing it this way for the last 20 years very successfully. Thank you Lionel.

I tried very hard to explain how Lionel does his splits. It was much easier listening and seeing how it is done than writing.

Another evening of

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