

Beekeepers helping Beekeepers!

Sudbury and District Beekeepers Association - 50 years!

SudburyBeekeepers@gmail.com



Spring is officially here! ...no really!

Welcome back!

This is a critical time of year for bees as they can exhaust food sources. While you should avoid disturbing the bees and causing them to break cluster (usually when ambient temperature is under 10C), it is essential to check bees have **sufficient resources** to get them through the next few weeks. Cracking the inner cover and adding dry sugar on top of a sheet of newspaper is one option. At time of writing some beekeepers will have started feeding their bees 1:1 sugar syrup. We are still expecting some overnight sub-zero temperatures. Keeping hives wrapped is prudent until the ambient temperature is consistently above 10C.

Bears will be soon emerging so it is time to get electric fences back up. Last season bears were reported in early March in the Sudbury area. If you do hear of bears, please email SudburyBeekeepers@gmail.com and we will let the community know.

Minutes of March 19, 2025 meeting

Welcome: Meghan Mitchell / Justin

Approval of Nov 2024 minutes:

- moved by Otto seconded by Rose, Carried

Approval of March 2025 Agenda:

- moved Judy, seconded by Rose – Carried

New business:

The association recognizes that some of our members are unable to attend meetings in person. Beginning in April we are considering offering **Zoom access** to the meetings for paid members. Watch for the next notice of meeting and keep an eye out for the Zoom link to be sent to members.

Presentation on Overwintering – Otto

Otto shared his thoughts on the health and fate of hives at Science North heading into winter. He lost a couple of hives late in the fall to what could be termed “Colony collapse disorder”. He noted a big drop in worker bee population by September. The hives had plenty of stores and no obvious brood disease. Some back-filling of the brood area was noted. Otto noted that mite counts in the Science North hives were higher than previous seasons yet some hives with the highest mite counts did make it through the winter. Could it be that winter bees did not get produced due to environmental factors? Colony collapse disorder could be due to multiple factors which might include environment, pest or disease load and differences in genetics between hives. Otto stressed the need to keep an eye on mite loads as soon as the warm weather starts.

Some discussion was had about adequate food stores and **winter survival**. “Cold doesn’t kill bees starvation does”. Otto aims for a target weight of 100-100lbs for a double brood hive going into winter.

If you see bees up top in the early spring, the bees are hungry and will need fondant or dry sugar to

get through. Feeding 1:1 sugar is possible but risky if the temperatures are too low. Some beekeepers place 1:1 syrup in jars inside a cutout of foam board insulation and feed this way even during cold weather.

Wayne Leblanc observed that **Saskatraz** and **Carniolin** bees are well-adapted for colder climates.

Coffee break

Basic Beekeeping Presentation Part 1– Meghan and Justin: basic equipment

Meghan and Justin went through a demonstration of all the basics parts of a standard Langstroth beehive as well as basic equipment every beekeeper should have. Some interesting discussion was had surrounding how to light a smoker. A few in the audience mentioned that cutting cardboard and rolling it in vertical strips or tubes makes a really good source of fuel as it acts like a chimney. Thanks for hauling all that equipment in M and J! We look forward to the continuation of this series for *newbees* at our next meeting in April.

Nucs and Queens sourcing discussion

Members have expressed an interest in local nuc and queen producers as well as where to find equipment. As we get more information we will pass it along. The Association doesn't endorse particular businesses but some relevant local businesses to check with are:

for equipment

- Hilly Grove Honey - Manitowaning
- Mikkola Family Farm & Apiary

for Nucs and Queens

- Douglas Apiaries

Meeting adjourned 9:15pm

Did you know ...

In Kenya, Beehive fences are an effective solution to resolve conflicts between humans and crop-raiding elephants in Kenya. They produce win-win scenarios; elephants are protected from aggression from humans as they are deterred from crop raiding, while farmers benefit from crop protection, pollination, and valuable products from maintaining honeybee hives.

Help to keep us operating!

Thanks to so many who renewed their memberships today. Memberships can be paid in person at the meeting to Denise Zappel SDBA Treasurer or by e-transfer to beesforfun64@gmail.com

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

- Seniors \$15
- Students \$15
- Individuals \$20
- Family \$25

Upcoming Meetings

Our next public meeting is **April 16, 2025**

Keep in touch with us!

On Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61551619900921>

Or search Facebook for **Sudbury and District Beekeepers Association**.

On the Web

SudburyBeekeepers.com

You can also email us at

SudburyBeekeepers@gmail.com