

# *SUDBURY & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION*



## *BEEKEEPERS HELPING BEEKEEPERS*

*SINCE 1977*

***BUZZWORD*** – APRIL 19, 2023

### **MEETING**

**Started shortly after 7.**

Richard Conrad, our president, welcomed all the beekeepers, non-beekeepers and want-to-be beekeepers and our special guest Graeme Foers, to April 19<sup>th</sup> SDBA meeting and presented our guest speaker, Graeme Foers.



### **PRESENTER: Graeme Foers**

Graeme Foers is the current president and the Chair of the Ontario Resistant Honey Bee Selection Program (ORHBS). He runs 180 hives under the Lost Meadows Apiaries banner (anything honey, hygienic queens and nucs). Graeme, with his sister Ayla, also opened a Meadery under the name Lost Meadows Meadery. (He might just be our November guest where he will educate us about making mead (honey wine) and maybe bring a few bottles for us to taste.)

It is very hard to paraphrase Graeme's Power Point presentation. He kept us glued to our chairs for 1.5 hours. Many said it was the best meeting we have ever had.

The presentation started with Background information on ORHBS (Ontario Resistant Honey Bee Selection Program) & TTP (Tech. Transfer Program) that started in 1992 (see OBA website for Technology Transfer Program).

## PRESENTATION

### INSTALLING A NUC

Nucs with imported queens are usually ready in May

Nucs with Ontario grown queens are ready in June.

It takes 24 days for a drone + 14 days to mature its testes.

### THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN BUYING A NUC.

Have your yard ready

Let them calm down a few hours or overnight -

You can have up to 20 nucs in your car as long as they can have fresh air

When inserting them in their new home, place frames the same way as in the nuc box.

Feed your nuc – 1:1 sugar water

1<sup>st</sup> inspection after 1 week to 10 days, - look for eggs, look for queen,

Make sure your brood box is 80 % full before adding a second box

Ideal temperature in the spring is between +12 C to 32 C. If it is too cold the bees will die and / or it will kill the drone's sperm.

Before adding a super, do a mite count and check for spaces

Don't open your hive until it +8C during the day and at least plus 8 at night.

### TREATMENTS

Graeme uses formic acid and oxalic acid but no Oxytet. He puts 2 formic pads in a heavy hive or 1 formic pad on a small hive and never treats when supers are on. His answer to why he treats this way: It is a personal preference and in your yard you can do what you want.

He starts treatment in August (when winter bees start) and does a mite wash before and after treatments. He feeds his own pollen patties (1/2 pollen and 1/2 honey), sugar supplements and fondant.

**NB:** These following charts are copies of Graeme's Power Point Presentation. Remember these are prepared by him for the locations of his apiaries (a bit further south than us).

Some of the time lines are a bit off for our area. Using these charts as a guideline, while working your bees this summer, keep notes to make adjustments for your own copy.

APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<p>Early April.</p> <p>Chemical mite treatments and AFB treatments can begin. Pollen patties, if desired. Keep an eye on food stores.</p> <p>Last of April.</p> <p>Population should be building. 80% of frames covered with bees. Natural pollen should be coming in. AFB treatment done.</p>	<p>Early May</p> <p>Formic Treatment may be able to be done-temperature permitting. Pull chemical strips after 42 day treatment. Bees should be filling up their whole box.</p> <p>***AFB FULL INSPECTION***</p> <p>Mid – late May</p> <p>Dandelions are blooming. Begin swarm prevention management. Begin to plan Splits. Add on boxes if wanting to split or supers if possible for swarm prevention.</p>	<p>June</p> <p>Ontario Queens becoming available for purchase. If needed, super your double if you do not have access to queens yet. Make splits once queens are ready. Add on super to prepare for your July flow.</p> <p>All treatments should be completed at the latest Mid June.</p>
<p>Unwrap your hives when temperature are consistently above freezing at night.</p>		

June	July	August
<p>May- June 1<sup>st</sup> . Make sure all wooden ware is ready and have location prepped.</p> <p>Mid June – Pick up nuc and install it. 1<sup>st</sup> inspection 1 week-10 days later. Pull feeder if empty</p>	<p>July 1<sup>st</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> Second inspection done, bees should be building out foundation, check for disease. Pull off feeder. Option for super.</p> <p>July 16<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> Third inspection. Super if not done.</p>	<p>August 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> – MITE WASH brood inspection- all frames built in brood chambers. Option for second super.</p> <p>August 16<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> Mite WASH do they have enough space ? Mite treatment can begin (organic).</p>
September	October	November
<p>September 1<sup>st</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> Pull off supers. Mite treatment if using chemical strips.</p> <p>September 15<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> Begin feeding to make sure hives are heavy enough.</p>	<p>October 1<sup>st</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> Finish any feeding needed if it was delayed.</p> <p>October 15<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> pull chemical strips if time is up.</p>	<p>Last time to pull chemical strips (42 day treatment).</p> <p>Oxalic acid dribble if desired, wrap hives by mid-November.</p>

## WHERE TO FIND GREAME FOERS

. He was our invited guest at our last SDBA meeting. He started his presentation at 7:15 and it ended at 9:30 or so. Many questions were asked and many were answered.

Graeme Foers can be found

on Google at  
at home at

Lost Meadows Apiaries & Meadery  
6084 10<sup>th</sup> Side Road  
Egbert, ON, L0L 1N0  
Essa Township

For all things mead (honey wine) @lostmeadowsmeadery  
For all orders or requests [www.ayla@lostmeadows.ca](mailto:www.ayla@lostmeadows.ca)  
For all thing bees & honey [www.graemefoers.com](http://www.graemefoers.com)  
@graemefoers  
Store Number (705) 790-3494  
Farm Store Hours: Wednesday-Sunday 10-5

Graeme said that he would have his own queens (approximately 30) and Nucs available the weekend of June 17<sup>th</sup>. Visit his web site at [www.graemefoers.com](http://www.graemefoers.com).

If members of the SDBA wanted to make a group order, he would accommodate us.

**Nucs are \$275 and Queens are \$50.**

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**VOLUNTEERS:** Judy Brunet and Chelsie Hope are going to pick up queens from Graeme Foers on June 17<sup>th</sup>. If you would like, they could pick up your order also.

You can reach Chelsie [chelsiebrunet@gmail.com](mailto:chelsiebrunet@gmail.com)

**HELP VOLUNTEER:** Gisèle Roy wants to learn to be a beekeeper. She made the decision to delay establishing a beeyard this year and wants opportunities to learn. She is willing to travel up to an hour for the privilege of helping and learning from you.

For more information, give Gisèle a call at (705) 652.3462

## ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF BEEKEEPERS HELPING BEEKEEPERS

## **SELL, TRADE or BUY**

If anyone has beekeeping equipment to sell, trade or buy, or give please let me know. I'll send an email with the information.

Remember, anytime you either buy, trade, sell or give used beekeeping equipment (brood chambers and brood boxes) they have to be inspected for AFB (American foulbrood), EFB (European foulbrood) and SHB (small hive beetles) diseases.

**EFB** – you must report to OBA & to your apiary inspector if you think you have EFB. The apiarist will come and examine your hive and you will have to burn any infected wooden ware and bees.

If you suspect **AFB**, please contact the local bee inspectors **immediately**.

Kristina Greer 705-507-3527

Timothy Greer

289-213-0366

## **SELL**

I have 14 brood boxes to sell, some with pulled comb and some brand new frames.

Reason: Downsizing – They have been inspected by Kristina Greer, OMAFRA, Apiarist Inspector.

## **POSTPONEMENT**

According to the Agenda of April 19<sup>th</sup>, Adelle Lamour-DeLong “From Off the Beetrn' Path” was to be our second guest presenter. She agreed to postpone her presentation and will present her findings on “Protectabee” at our next meeting in May.

Thank you Adelle.

### **Next meeting,**

May 17<sup>th</sup> 2023

Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School.

Meet and Greet 6-7

Meeting 7

Agenda to follow

Jo-Anne Beauparlant, SDBA

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