



SUDBURY DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION



BEEKEEPERS' HELPING BEEKEEPERS

B U Z Z W O R D
OCTOBER 2023

G R E A T N E W S

FACEBOOK & WEBSITE

We have a new Facebook page:

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

We also have a Web Site:

www.sudburybeekeepers.com

If anyone wants to be an administrator for either the Facebook page or the Web Site, please send a Facebook friend request to Meghan and she will add you on.

NOVEMBER MEETING

The next general meeting of the SDBA will be held on November 15th at Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School, Library.

SDBA at SCIENCE NORTH

The new cabinet has been set up at Science North. Otto and Meghan will have it organized and made small additions to it.

HONEY CONTEST

Meghan has the 125 ml jars. New jars and lids had to be bought. If you do not have a jar, please see Justin or Meghan for one. Sample jars will be picked up at the November meeting. SDBA has an hydrometer if you need one.

CONTEST RULES

What happens when you bring your honey sample(s)? Each sample is marked with a letter and that letter is registered to the sample's owner on a confidential registration sheet. This ensures that the judges do not know whose honey they are judging. The judges have a score sheet on which they enter their evaluations. Contest rules and judges score card attached.

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Sorry beekeepers. Again this year, covid is rampant, in the Sudbury area. SDBA does not want to be a "get together spreader", therefore, NO Christmas Brunch. Have a hot toddy and meet others on the Facebook page.

BEEKEEPING SURVEY

Meghan prepared a short survey to help prepare for the future meetings.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeiHpljilZkNIlc0TH0P7JNj48PgR4kOd9Cu3s4aVTolSZ3uQ/viewform?usp=f_link

No email address will be collected and you do not have to sign your name. This survey is just another tool to help the executive and cabinet to prepare interesting and educative meetings.

FUTURE GUEST PRESENTERS

If you know of someone whose knowledge would benefit our members, please let us know. We are always looking for new ideas.

PRESENTERS:

OTTO ROST:

“SUMMER& WINTER VENTILATION, CONDENSATION AND INSULATION”

Summarized

In the fall, the number of bees in a hive makes a difference. Hives should start the winter weighing at least 100 pounds, have had varroa and mite treatments, closed top entrance, tilted to vent out condensation, an insulated top cover, a screen bottom board and a mouse guard.

The cluster of winter bees will generate energy (25 C to 30C) in one spot, protecting the queen and the brood. The heat generated by the cluster, will cause vapour and when vapour hits the cold, it turns into condensation. The bees do need water and this is their winter source. The need to tilt the hive, in case there is too much condensation, lets the water drip out, not on the bees or cause ice to form on the sides. Closing the top entrance prevents heat from escaping. The temperature inside is a precious commodity in our cold winter. Often when there is a hole, they will try to close it.

A screened bottom board permits fresh air to come in and expel the carbon monoxide. Like humans, carbon monoxide will kill the bees. Snow around the hive acts as insulation. Otto does not feed in the fall but prepares the hive for February / March feeding. In February, he checks the weight of his hive to see if he needs to feed or not.

Many questions were asked about the screen bottom board and the way he prepares his hives for feeding in February/March. More in the next Buzzword.

ALASDAIR MACLEOD: “WINTER BEES AND VARROA”

Winter bees are called “diutinus” bees from the Latin for “long lived”
The queen starts to lay winter bees in mid/late august to the following spring when she then starts laying worker bees.

Summer bees live approximately 42 days and by the end of November, the strong hive you put to bed, is probably all dead. Winter bees never leave the hive. Their job is to regulate the temperature, take care of the winter cluster, protect the queen and rear any bees born.

A study where 100 bees were tagged every 10 days showed that those tagged in August were still alive in March. Survival of the hive is directly related to the Varroa control in preventing the winter bees being exposed to mites and any other viruses.

Otto Rost and Alasdair MacLeod had very informative Power Point Presentations. Thank you!

Q & A

Many questions were asked. Everyone went home with answers, but some with more questions. In the end it was a Beekeepers Helping Beekeepers type of meeting.

QUESTION THAT WAS ASKED:

Were your hives near a soya field this year? Are you having problems extracting your honey?

Two of our beekeepers are having or had problems extracting their honey. They spin and spin and the only thing they see is white crystallized honey in the cells. Their hives were close to soya fields and we are looking for the connection. Does anyone have a theory?

We know that honey from canola crystallizes in the cells very fast. Beekeepers know that as soon as the canola flowers start dying, it's time to extract the honey.

Is it the same problem with soya? Does anyone have an answer or further data to contribute.

SELL, BUY and TRADE

We have for sale

Brood boxes with pulled frames

Brood boxes with new frames

Top covers

See me or call 514.771.2868

GOOD READ

Varroa Mite Treatment

<https://beekeepinginformationn.com/2022/07/28/varroa-mite-treatment>

Click to open

[10 Reasons Beehives Die in the Winter Keeping Backyard Bees](#)

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