

Buzzword

Nov 17, 2024 Issue

Beekeepers helping Beekeepers!

Sudbury and District Beekeepers Association - 50 years!

SudburyBeekeepers@gmail.com

Minutes of Nov 13, 2024 meeting

Welcome: Meghan Mitchell

Approval of October 2024 minutes:

- moved by Jo-Anne B,
- seconded by Paul A – approved

Approval of November Agenda:

- moved Otto R,
- seconded by Dawne L – approved

New business:

Honey contest: Samples were collected for this year's honey contest! The samples will be judged and the winners announced at the Christmas Brunch on Nov 24.

Christmas Brunch:

November 24 Trevi Bar and Grill,
1837 Lasalle Blvd, Sudbury 11am

Tickets - \$25 (age 6-9 \$12.50, under 6 free)

Please **RSVP ASAP** to Denise Zappel SDBA
Treasurer beesforfun64@gmail.com. Tickets can
be purchased by e-transfer
beesforfun64@gmail.com

Presentation: Etienne Tardiff



We were thrilled to have Yukon-based Etienne Tardiff speak to us this evening. Etienne's talk was riveting and fully-attended, filling up the entire evening until we had to call time at 9:35pm.

As the minute taker, I cannot possibly do justice to the level of information provided. Etienne was generous enough to provide pdf's of his talk which are attached with this email.

Here are some points that I picked up:

Etienne, originally from Sudbury, is by trade an engineer and a keen observer and researcher. He supports much of his observations by careful study of data gleaned from sensors (CO₂, temperature, and moisture) as well as microscopy. He began his beekeeping career in the Yukon about 2004 and since then has been challenging some of the paradigms in beekeeping that were formulated by southern beekeepers. Southern ideas do not always work well in the North (including Sudbury!).

Etienne spoke a lot about adapting his methods for the sub-arctic environment. Amazingly the bees could easily survive in the Yukon even in singles! It was clear that the key to winter survival, apart from adequate nutrition and mite control is trying to keep a consistent temperature in the hives so that the bees don't break cluster. This actually suggests that dark insulation might not be the best idea as it promotes temperature changes. Etienne uses polystyrene hives (R7), closed upper entrances and wide open bottoms. He insulates hives on 3 sides. Moisture that condenses tends to run down the outer edges of the hives.

Much data was presented surrounding CO₂ / temperature, air movement and the importance of not breaking cluster. Hives should be minimized in size – empty space hinders survival. In fact, Etienne

showed that even in the Yukon, bees can overwinter in singles.

Some interesting research showed a potential benefit that increased CO₂ could actually inhibit mites while not being detrimental to the bees. This requires additional research and detailed monitoring to find the 'sweet spot'.

Some other take home points that I picked up:

- *"beekeepers brain" leads to misconceptions of what is really going on*
- *debris on screened bottom boards can really be used to visualize what is going on inside the hive, over time.*
- *Microscopic evaluation of the bee gut can be mapped back to which honey they are consuming based on pollen found in the honey at specific times*
- *Honeydew" is a classification of honey that refers to honey produced by honeybees collecting nectar that is exuded from another insect such as an aphid or scale insect. It is not great for the bees energy-wise but awesome for humans*
- *keep an eye on brood diseases and clean/dispose of infected wooden-ware*
- *a microscope is a useful tool to monitor hive health*

Meeting adjourned around 9:35pm

Upcoming Meetings

We hope to see you at the Christmas Brunch on the 24th. Our next public meeting will be in February.

Help to keep us operating!

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

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