

## Beekeepers helping Beekeepers!

Sudbury and District Beekeepers' Association - 50 years!

[SudburyBeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:SudburyBeekeepers@gmail.com)



*Yes! We will be holding a BBQ on Aug 17!*

### Minutes of May 21, 2025 meeting

**7:05 pm Welcome:** Meghan Mitchell

**Approval of April 2025 minutes:**

moved by Joanne, seconded by Bob -carried

**Approval of Agenda:**

moved by Rose, seconded by Paul – carried

### Save the date! BBQ Aug 17

It's been a long haul since the pandemic disrupted things but we will finally be holding a BBQ on **Aug 17 at Fielding Park**. More details will be forthcoming so stay tuned!

**Approval of amendments to our Constitution:**

moved by Otto, seconded by Rose – carried.

**Main Speaker - Dr Mateus Pepinelli**  
**School of Natural Sciences at**  
**Laurentian University.**

We were privileged to have an excellent talk by Dr. Mateus Pepinelli who walked us through some of his incredibly broad and interesting research involving honey bees. Dr Pepinelli (Mateus), who hails from Brazil originally, started out working with black flies but eventually found his way to honeybees.



Mateus managed a core lab as part of a \$10 million project called **BeeSCI** between 2019-2023 where they examined genomic markers in response to environmental stressors. Sub-projects were described such as 1) manipulating stressors, 2) field exposures/crops 3) Natural stressors in real time. RNA's, which are short-lived 'orders' to produce particular proteins are useful markers which can be analysed almost in real time to see the effects of environmental stimuli. Mateus described analysing RNA's from various parts of the honeybee (head, thorax and gut) to reveal quite distinctive differences in gene expression in response to environmental stimuli. We were impressed with huge numbers – 1000's of pounds of dry ice (to transport the RNA's) as well as over 55,000 honeybee dissections were performed over a 4-year period.

Molecular methods prove to be quite powerful and less expensive than standard lab tests and could be used to ultimately develop quick diagnostic assays for not only what is going on inside the honeybee

but also to identify the source of pollens, nectar and bacteria that have entered the hive.

With regard to stressors, U of Guelph identified more than 200 pesticides impacting honeybees. It was estimated that honeybees deal with an average of 23 stressors simultaneously, with 307 potential interactions between them.

As part of his recent work, Mateus demonstrated a small sampling device would could collect air samples from a hive. The filter captures environmental 'eDNA' over several hours, which can be assayed to reveal things like pollen coming into the hive as well as other resident bacteria.



'eDNA' could potentially be used to track climate-change induced shifts in stressors.

If any members are interested in having their hive **participate in this latest research**, they can email Dr Pepinelli at [mpepinelli@laurentian.ca](mailto:mpepinelli@laurentian.ca).

*Coffee break*

### **Basic Beekeeping Presentation Part 3– Nuc installation – Rose Aniol**

Rose discussed best practices for installing bees into your apiary from a nuc. The following tips were discussed:

*For transport*

- spray bottle with sugar water to calm bees
- make sure the box is taped up!
- box should be secured (seatbelt or other)
- calming music for bees and driver? *\*hehe\**

*At the Apiary*

- set box at new location and leave them alone for a couple of hours until they calm down
- If raining, wait longer but shelter box from rain

*Installing bees*

- put the 4 frames in same order they were in the nuc at centre of new hive box with empty frames on either side
- shake leftover bees into the hive
- close up the entrance for an hour or 2 to let them get used to the hive
- some people put a temporary queen excluder at the top and bottom to prevent the queen from leaving (this is a risk if the queen is not yet mated as she needs to be able to get out and return again)

Members were interested to see the beautifully painted polystyrene beehive that Rose used to demonstrate the installation. Polystyrene has advantages over standard wood boxes in terms of insulating properties both for the winter and summer as well as being a bit lighter to work with. More care needs to be taken when using a hive tool as the boxes are more brittle than wood.

*Meeting adjourned 9:10pm*

### **Other items from the Community:**

***From Bob Dewar:***

**Got a swarm? Have swarm cells?**

*Swarm season is upon us. I will happily come to your location to either help you capture the swarm for you to rehouse, or if you don't want to keep it I will buy it from you.*

*Same goes for any frames of swarm cells you find. I'm hoping to produce locally raised queens to sell (to SDBA members only). Beekeepers helping beekeepers.*

*Call Bob Dewar at 705-682-9449 for details.*

**From Dawn Lalonde:**

Please see attached to this email a PDF from the latest OBA journal which describes protocols to follow if you suspect pesticide death in your apiary.

## Useful video

Youtube is an amazing resource for beekeepers. I found this video by **David Burns** to be very revealing. My goal this season is to pay more attention to exactly what my bees are telling me.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5TgGiEMqT6A>

## Upcoming Meeting

Our next public meeting is **June 18, 2025**. Elections will be held to establish the executive team to take over duties as of September.

## Help to keep us operating!

Thanks to those who renewed their memberships. Memberships pay for our room use at the school, Zoom access, coffee, donuts and occasional honorariums for speakers who have travelled long distances.

12-month Memberships can be paid in person at the meeting or by e-transfer to [beesforfun64@gmail.com](mailto:beesforfun64@gmail.com)

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

- Seniors or students \$15
- Individuals \$20
- Family \$25

## Keep in touch with us!

### On Facebook

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

### On the Web

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