

Buzzword May 2026 Issue

Beekeepers helping Beekeepers!

Sudbury and District Beekeepers' Association - 50 years!

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May 20 was [World Bee Day](#)! Established by the United Nations in 2017, the date honours the birthday of **Anton Janša** (born 1734), who was a pioneer of modern beekeeping from Slovenia.

Summary of May 20, 2026 meeting

7:00 pm Welcome: Meghan and Justin

Approval of:

April 2026 minutes: moved/2nded by Otto/Justin

Agenda: moved/2nded by Jamie/Otto

June meeting – pizza night! (funded by the association). As stated in the last Buzzword, in order to add a bit of pizzazz to our June meeting, we will combine it with a pizza night! We will also host a trivia contest and other fun events. June is when we **re-elect our executive**. Consider putting your name forward as all executive and director positions are open for nominations. We meet once a month via Zoom, outside of our regular public meeting.

Hardy Fruit Trees – Ron Lewis

Ron founded Lewis's Hardy Fruit Trees in Naughton in 1982. Phil Beauchamp, who was a neighbour of Lewis's, took over the operation in 2019 and has subsequently renamed it Beautiful Field Farm and Fruit Trees. Many will remember we hosted Phil Beauchamp at our April 2024 meeting.

Ron spoke to us about the challenging climate we have in our region. Many can attest to the experience that most fruit trees sold in the area are

not hardy and do not survive long term. Although agricultural maps show Sudbury lying between zones 3b and 4a, Ron suggests searching for **zone 2 or 3 trees**. Most of these originate from Western Canada and not southern Ontario. Beautiful Field Farm and Fruit Trees in Naughton is one such place to source these locally.



Ron showing a typical Apple blossom – thank you Ron!

There were some questions about transplanting. Smaller trees have a better chance of survival as there is less transplant shock. Apple trees prefer sheltered areas with good drainage.

Ron also spoke of Haskap (the other blueberry) which has flower buds hardy to -8C!

Thank you Ron!

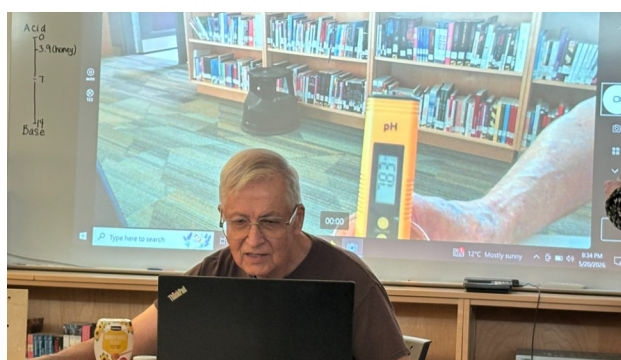
Bee Inspection Checklist

There was good feedback on our customizable bee inspection checklist. Refer to the invite for the May 20th meeting to download the checklist. Thank you Meghan for putting it together.

pH honey testing and discussion - Otto

Following up on last month's meeting several members brought in samples for **total dissolved solids (TDS) and pH measurement**. Otto expertly measured samples of distilled, de-ionized and tap water to get a good baseline. The following were results from samples measured!

Sample	TDS (ppm)	pH
Tap water	48	7.4
Distilled water	0	7.2
De-ionized water	4	6.95
Otto's honey	293	3.84
Denise's honey	234	3.66
Pierre's honey	138	3.39
Terry's honey	219	3.61
Commercial Store honey	74	3.58
Water with 1 tsp vinegar /L	0	3.3
20% sugar water with vinegar	9	5



Otto portable lab – Thank you Otto!

Member's honey was remarkably close in pH. A lower pH in honey is one mechanism that helps protect hives from microbial infection (along with low moisture content). It follows that when preparing sugar syrup for feeding, it's beneficial to add white vinegar (about 1 tsp per litre) to bring the pH down closer to that of honey. Some discussion was had surrounding foulbrood. Although the EFB bacterium *M. plutonis* prefers a more neutral pH, it does have mechanisms to survive lower pH. The situation in a hive is complex.

Total dissolved solids (TDS) is influenced by what the bees are foraging. High-quality natural honey generally has higher TDS. The commercial honey stood out in contrast. Was the commercial honey 'cut' with something else? Was the moisture content high or was the lower TDS due to a more stringent filtering processes? Things to consider!

New beekeeper segment – transporting and setting up your nuc

Here are few tips for transporting nucs

- cover with net or tape entrances with mesh (#8 mesh aka hardware cloth works)
- secure nuc with seat belts or ratchet straps
- keep car cool
- sugar/water spritz can calm bees
- At arrival, place hive at new location (ontop or right next to their new hive home works)
- If over 24 hours, let them fly and feed them sugar syrup (can add a pollen patty)
- Place frames in same order into hive as they were in the nuc

Swag draw!

This meeting's winner was a new member Laurel.

Upcoming Meeting

Our next public meeting is scheduled for June

Memberships

Thanks to those who renewed their memberships!

12-month Memberships can be paid in person at the meeting or by e-transfer to

beesforfun64@gmail.com

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

- Seniors or students \$15
- Individuals \$20
- Family \$25
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Keep in touch with us!

On Facebook

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On the Web

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You can also email us at

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