



Ontario Beekeepers' Association Thunder Bay Workshop

Saturday, September 15th, 2012

9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Topics

- Value of OBA membership and recent OBA activities
- Northeast Superior Forest Community— An overview of the Blueberry farms being developed and the need pollination services
- Northern Development -- Highlights for a number of incentive programs available in Northern Ontario to grow your business
- Pollination Services—What you need to know
- Ontario Update from the Provincial Apiarist
- Nutrition and Transportation of Bees
- How to prepare your bees to provide pollination services and how to care for them after
- Honey House – design and maintenance
 - Various options for design and maintenance of your honey house
- Promotion/Media Update
 - The initiatives and tools available to assist in promoting your business

WORKSHOP FEE \$55.00

(Includes one lunch and morning- afternoon refreshments)

- **EARLY BIRD SPECIAL** – Register by Sept 10th

1ST Registration \$55.00 and bring a guest for 50% off registration (2 for \$87.50)

To register for One or both days

Please contact

Diana Bockus, Membership Coordinator

807-475-8761

Or

dlbockus@tbaytel.net

Tech Transfer Program
Beekeeping & Integrated Pest Management Workshop

Sunday September 16, 2012

8:30 - 4:00

Topics

- Disease & Pest Identification
- Monitoring and Record Keeping
- IPM Components and Value
- Break & Displays – Get bee gear ready
- Field Work
 - Sampling Methods – Varroa, Nosema, Tracheal Mite, Small Hive Beetle Cultural Management Techniques
- Treatments
- Microscope work – Nosema, Tracheal Mite, varroa, SHB/Wax moth
- Bee Yard Session - Treatment Application (25 minutes per station)
 - Station 1 - oxalic acid, Thymovar
 - Station 2 - formic acid, MAQS™
 - Station 3- oxytetracycline, Fumagilin-B
 - Station 4 - Apistan®, CheckMite+™, Apivar®, Treatment Abuse, Resistance Management
- Final Remarks and Questions

WORKSHOP FEE \$55.00

(Includes one lunch and morning- afternoon refreshments)

NOTE: THIS WORKSHOP IS LIMITED TO 25 PEOPLE

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT
WILL BE REQUIRED BY PARTICIPANTS**

Need more information?
Please contact Barry Tabor
(807)983-2341 or
masya@tbaytel.net

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Wildlife Damage Compensation

Since April 1, Premises ID will be handled by a private company. Call 1-877-424-1300 for information.

Bee Chat

Betty Paradis has been honoured as a long



standing member of the TBBA and for her many years of successful bee keeping. I met with Betty and her husband Arnie to ask just how many years and she stated since 1970. She said she initially got the idea from a magazine that had articles of doing things the old way and her interest peaked at bee keeping. She started reading books on the subject, every one she could get her hands on. Betty's profession was an RN and one of her friends brought it to her attention that a lady whose husband had passed away, was selling his equipment (about 4 hives) and that she should make a bid on them. She had someone advise her as to what would be a fair amount to bid and it was accepted right off. A catalogue was given to her, she ordered her bees from Winnipeg and she was in business. Her bees gradually increased and with her husband's help over the years they increased at one time to 70 hives. She mentioned her neighbour and friend Jeannette Momot as someone to discuss bee situations with but she

generally didn't have many problems over her 42 years of bee keeping.

Betty is also a founding member of the Country Market and it has also proved to be a successful venture in Thunder Bay. Betty still has 12 hives and sells all her honey every Saturday at the market. Reading all those books really paid off. Congratulations Betty and Arnie.

Book Reviews by Darlene

Title: From A to Bee: My first year as a beginner beekeeper

By: James Dearsley, The Surrey Beekeeper

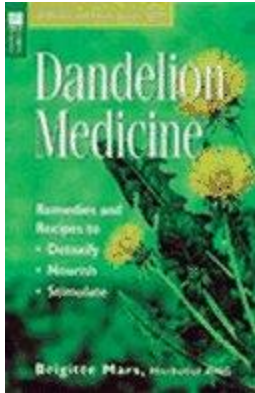
When I read this book, I couldn't help but laugh at the many experiences that James Dearsley had during his first year of beekeeping. I'm sure we can all relate, from being a new beekeeper to being an experienced one.

It is written in a journal format, including jokes about his family's reaction. This book is a great one to pick up if you want to learn some new things about beekeeping, laugh at the familiar mishaps, cry at the sad moments, and nod your head when you see yourself in this book. It is easy to read, great fun, and a learning experience all in one. A nice, relaxing break from all the "how to do" beekeeping books I have been reading. I hope you enjoy it.

Title: Dandelion Medicine, by Brigitte Mars

I know dandelion season is over for this year but you may want to pick this book up during the winter. The bees love dandelions and they are also very good for us too. Dandelions are one of the most nutrient-packed foods on earth, and one of the widely used herbs in medicines. The following is a recipe from this book.

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Warming Winter Spice Tea

Slowly heat 4 cups of spring water in a pot. Put the following ingredients into a mortar and with a pestle crush the herbs slightly. Or put them into a blender and turn it on briefly, just enough to release some of

the aromas.

- 2 parts roasted dandelion root
- 1/2 part cinnamon bark
- 1/2 part dried gingerroot
- 1/2 part decorticated (hulled) cardamom seeds
- 1/2 part star anise
- Honey to taste.

Let steep for five minutes and enjoy on a cold winter's day.

So, as soon as your bees start enjoying the dandelions next Spring don't forget about yourself and have some dandelions for your good health. Enjoy. The bees will always lead us to the best food.

Update: Dominion & Grimm Bulk Order

Many thanks to the participants in our first bulk order for containers from Dominion & Grimm, a Canadian company specializing in jars made from Canadian glass!

Next TBBA meeting: November 13th at the Kakabeka Legion

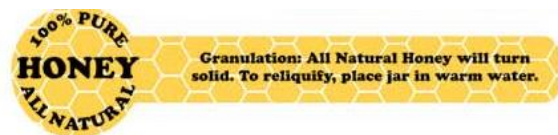
President Nominations: thinking of running or know of someone who would ... please contact Shane MacLeod, Nominating Committee.

Together we ordered over \$1,000 in total and everyone seems quite happy with their supplies.

Being our first effort we had a slight "learning curve". Some of us found it difficult to ascertain costs using the information from D&G and Beth & Barry did frequent emailing with our representative for clarification. Perhaps next year we might have an early date where we identify what pricing we need to get before the order deadline. Or perhaps we'll have a pricing blitz in our 6-6:30 time slot at a meeting where we can phone the D&G representative and ask our questions all at once!

We also learned that we need to order earlier.

Beth (clayacres@tbaytel.net) has a supply of the tamper evident stickers shown below, that she is willing to share. Cost is 5 cents each



Swarm Stories

From Simon Hoad -- I do not have a lot of experience with catching swarms. Our apiary is a rural 35 km ride away from our town residence. So almost all swarming happens while no one is around. My first and only swarm capture was text-book simple. It was participating in the swarm emergence that gave me a peak bee-experience.

Drove up to our cabin on a warm, mid-summer day and was struck by the sheer beauty of the fields of wild flowers. Bird song trilled and a loud hum of the bees greeted me. "Wait a second – hum of the bees? That's not right." The little, fenced bee yard is ~ 100 feet away from the cabin. Usually I can't hear the bees. Quickly walk the path to see a giant, swirling

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bee-cloud approx. twenty feet across and eight feet high. It was the next stage in the swarm process, just after the field bees have been successful in energizing a critical mass of the hive's workforce inside the hive to emerge by buzz-running over their sisters. Now the whirling dervish cloud was flying in a large circle around the queen as the swarm slowly drifted away from the bee yard to its first temporary landing site.



I walked cautiously closer to the buzzing circle of bees. The bees orientation to each other while flying at maximum speed was very precise – inside the circle was more bees than I had ever seen actively flying (*). Just a foot or so from the swarm there were no bees in the air. It was as if the bees were using a mental plumb-bob to lineup or all were following their own swarm traffic code leaving a straight-sided wall. I up stepped closer, now one foot away from the swarm cloud. No bee came over to investigate. Interesting I said –“What if I step inside the swirling cluster?” I took a step forward and the wall parted for me. Then the wall closed behind me. Amazing. Virtually all the bees were flying in the same counter-clockwise direction. Now and then a stray would fly past my field of vision going in the opposite direction. No bee bumped into me, none showed any aggressive behaviour.(*). The sensation was a bit like being inside a National Geographic film of a caribou stampede, only on a different scale. In the midst of the swarm frenzy I was ignored. I felt such identification

with bee's cycle of life and how fortunate I was to be able to share a fraction of this magical moment.

Then a small voice echoed in my ear. *“Simon – What are you doing? While no bee has stung you – yet, one could run-into you and in bee's reflex reaction you would be both stung and marked with alarm pheromone. Then things could get serious very quickly.”* I stepped

backwards one step. The wall parted and then closed in front of me.

I hurried to the cabin to prepare a brood box. Five minutes later back to the bee yard. Nothing. Quiet hive and no swarm to be seen. It was as if the whole experience hadn't happened. Finally I spotted two or three bees in the air, circling a small spruce. Sure enough the cluster had landed mid-way up a chest-high spruce, barely fifteen feet away from the fence. This temporary landing site serves while the scout bees canvass the area for suitable new nesting sites. I quickly trimmed the spruce to get to the branch used by the swarm. As I placed the cut branch on the top bars, immediately the swarm broke cluster and gently flowed down between the frames. Less than ten minutes later all were housed and the super carried into to the bee yard.

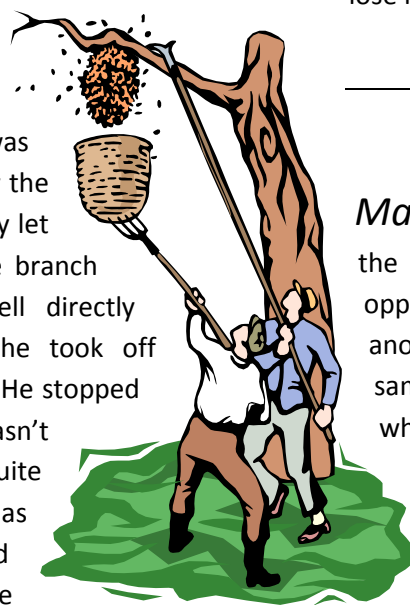
That said, I would urge caution by anyone in a similar situation. I proceeded slowly step-by-step as I approached the swarm. This worked for me – no guarantee for anyone else.

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(*) - The first - primary swarm will recruit between 1/3 and 1/2 of the mother colony bees. Easily 15,000 to 20,000 might fly out of a strong hive. After swarms have much less numbers and can quickly deplete the original hive's strength.

(*) - Two factors contribute to the lack of aggression within swarms. First the bees don't have a fixed home so the entrance defense behaviour by self-identified guard bees just doesn't happen. Second - The bees prepare for swarming by gorging on stored honey. This gives energy for the journey and the start of new comb production. Similar to hive bees filling up after the first smoke clouds from working the bee yard a worker bee with a full honey stomach is less able and less inclined to sting.

From Evelyn Harris -- This is my swarm story. I had a swarm settle in an apple tree very close to our hives and was able to retrieve them with a large pail. I clipped off the branch and shook them on a white sheet leading to the hive that was on the lawn. At first the bees started walking in but then changed their mind and returned to the tree. My husband came to help and had an idea to use the long handled pruner to clip the branch and I was supposed to climb the ladder with the pail to catch them. Just as I was about to put the pail under the bees my husband accidentally let the pruner fall against the branch and the whole swarm fell directly down on his head and he took off running toward the house. He stopped when he realized he wasn't getting stung and was quite amazed by the experience as the bees left and returned to the tree. The third time



we were successful thankfully.

Beekeeping in the North of Scotland

By Arkle Fraser, Dornock, Sutherland, Scotland

A hive consists of floor board, brood chamber, super and small compartment just below the roof. We always kept a permanent super on hives in the north which the bees tend to fill with honey before putting any honey in the supers for our own use. This, along with the brood chamber leaves about 40lb (18kg) for winter feed.

Here all honey is taken off unless in the brood chamber and once this is done in September sugar syrup is fed continuously until the bees stop taking it down into the brood chamber. For 3 hives in winter of 2011/12, I fed about 85lb of sugar. Here they have a view that sugar is 30p per lb and honey £4.50 to £5.50 per lb hence the reason for removing as much honey as possible.

No need to protect the hives as much as you have to. However, in Dec 2010 and Jan 2011 the frost was so severe here that some people did lose hives.

Many thanks to the volunteers at the TBBA display at Hymers Fair. Here is an opportunity for us to make partnership with another agricultural organization, and at the same time, send a message to 8,000 people who attend the Fair over the 2 days.

Activities like these can't happen without volunteers.