

North Okanagan Beekeepers Meeting July 19th. 2021

Agenda 6:30 p.m. Spiers Road Apiary, 23 members attending

1. With the increased health risk concerns, the regular Okanagan College venue is not available at this time. We will be meeting at the Spiers Road Apiary until further notice

- a. Welcome –Member list
- b. Welcome visitors –passed around clipboard for new people to sign up for email list
- c. 50/50 tickets – on hold for now

2. Business:

- a. Adopt Minutes – June 14th meeting notes were not posted yet, so therefore June 14th Minutes were not adopted.
- b. Treasury report – nothing to report yet
- c. Membership Fees –starting at \$40 BCHPA or \$20 to Club
- d. BCHPA AGM 101st will be held on line using ZOOM with speaker presentations.
- e. BCHPA Rebate for renewal Jan 31st but we still get rebate for new members

-when registering, be sure to click on North Okanagan Beekeepers Club

- f. Register online at www.bcbeekeepers.com
- g. Bee Disease book for sale \$15.00
- h. Club Email List notices are sent out to over 425 addresses. If you want to be added to this list then contact send a message to James from our web page to be added to the Email List
- i. Facebook page is being well used and has over 660 members signed up. Beekeepers are asking questions. If you have Items for sale. Equipment, Nucs, Hives, need help. Willing to mentor or could use an extra hand.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/532888917134061/?source=unknown>
- j. Update equipment, bees, swarms, pollination, lists on the web site. Send a request to James or myself even from the contact dialogue tab on the web site. Also, you can post items and events to the Facebook Group page.
- k. IAF BeeBC grants

We applied for and received a \$5000.00 grant to plant for the bees. Submission deadline was the 10th of February with the announcement on whether our project was accepted by the end of February. The program runs from March 1st, 2021 to Feb 28th, 2022 so need to have all the seeds sown by then. We did not receive the payment until April 14th and by then, we had very little moisture. In addition, the ground was extremely dry. Therefore, we delayed tilling and will let the clover, alfalfa, and Canadian thistle bloom. Then we will till the ground and winter seed. This should provide the moisture needed to get the seeds germinated and the plants started. Planting of trees shrubs berry plants will happen throughout the year. We will accept any donated plants or transplants; all donations will be accepted.

We will plant a clover alfalfa mix in the higher moisture area, borage and phacelia

l. Regional Report – Rick Plantinga

m. IAF funded super irradiation at Synergy

- a big thank you to **Rick Plantinga** and **Brad Ingram** for organizing and driving the hive boxes to the coast and back

- there are a number of irradiated honey supers and medium supers available to purchase with drawn frames – contact Rick Plantinga for more info

- may do another shipment in Fall 2021 or next Spring 2022

n. Smiley Nelson scholarship any thing to report from Lorain

- Rick is also looking into it. Have \$5,000 collected so far from the sale of Smiley's equipment.

3. Correspondence

a. BeeBC Kerry Clark Regional hive monitoring system.

- Scale, Hive temp & Humidity. The Units have been set up and data is collected and visible to participating beekeepers but there are issues with data being viewable at beecounted.org

b. Pollen monitoring project – collecting and sampling pollen from pollen traps for research

c. Summer BeesCene editions has come out.

4. Bee Courses for beginners

a. Paul van Westendorp Introduction to beekeeping Free online webinar. Will be held again early 2022- be sure to check out Provincial website for more information

b. Posted an older beginning beekeeping series to the face book group from Georgia State – see website for info

c. Stephanie Taylor has been presenting workshops on beekeeping at Arlo's Honey in Vernon and also Okanagan beekeeping Supplies in West Kelowna

5. Announcements.

a. Stephanie Taylor has one hive left for sale.

b. Bee operations for sale, Brainy Bee Bob and Kay in Glenmore

6. College Hive & Club Bee yard project report

a. We are here! Out in the bee yard again. We got a container that is fitted with solar power thanks to the Bee BC grant thru the AIF (*Agricultural Investment Fund*) Like a lot of you we suffered high losses and hade hives that survived but had lost their queen. The hives looked good the first week of Sept. with mite treatments applied mid August. We did loose one to robbing when the top bar not sitting down in the super kept a space between 2 supers, and also lost one queen during the treatments. When I went in the first week of Oct. to give the bees there last shot of syrup, I knew the hives where in trouble. I wrapped them 365 degrees around, but even that would not save them. I had 3 hives survive the winter with bees, but 2 of them ended up queenless. Therefore, they were combined into 1 colony. We did some swarm control and pulled brood from Sue's 4 hives to make 4 nucs. I split the surviving hive into 2 nucs and caught a bunch of swarms. Now we have a dozen queen laying.

b. Brought water to the container. Cost about \$300.00

-having a few issues with massive water pressure, had to fix valves and fittings

- Keith traded some honey for a sink- well done, Keith!

-Keith also traded some honey for some shade canopies to give comfort when working at bee yard

-a big thank you to **Keith Rae** for giving of his time, energy, and ingenuity at the Spiers Road Apiary! Keith is the major force behind this whole project! Keith has spent hundreds of hours building and designing the Seacan!

-a big thank you to **Debbie** for allowing the Club to use her land on Spiers Road. What a perfect location for this fantastic club Apiary!

c. Working on a solar thermal collector panel and a heat storage barrel. This will give us hot water and also will provide heat for a honey super warming cabinet.

d. Honey super warming cabinet hot water heat with 12 volt fans to move the air.

e. Wish list: deck across the front and down the side. Sink and water filter for sink water.

f. Extractor rental, 4 frame reversible hand crank

-Need a container Key Keeper to look after lending it out. I propose a \$10 rental charge to go to the Key Keeper, with a \$20 dollar deposit to ensure it comes back clean. Looking for any one interested in taking this on. Arrangements to pick it up will be when it is convenient for the Key Keeper.

G. Smiley's old extractor

-Dadant 6/12, 6 deep or 12 shallow although if you put in the 6 deep frames in first. then you can put the 6 medium frames. We traded the one that the club owned for the one of Smileys it was a newer production with a variable speed rather than the friction drive. And also, for sentimental reasons.

H. Rental of the extraction at the Spiers Road Apiary?

-Possibility of renting the Club's Seacan unit for your extraction needs, especially useful for smaller sized beekeepers

-still formulating rules and conditions such as:

-What to charge? Cleaning deposit. Extraction house rules. Robbing. Sign a contract use at your own risk. Swift movement in and out to reduce robbing, Supers covered to reduce robbing No brood in the supers we do not want it emerging in the container. Pick up key so you can drop off supers the night before and pick them up after dark. Extract and strain into large pails do your filling of jars, packaging, and selling from your home (*not the club Apiary*)

-Desk, small filing cabinet, and extractor innards going cheap.

7. Speaker: Keith Rae- honey extraction

a. Keith discussed and demonstrated the various steps in successful honey extraction. With his many years as a beekeeper as well as his many years as an official BCHA Honey Judge, has been judging honey at the IPE since 1999. Keith shared some informative information on honey extraction.

b. Keith discussed topics that included:

- removing honey from hive, safe bee removal techniques, uncapping techniques,
- extraction process, tips, straining/filtering options, equipment needed,
- quality of honey, moisture content (*17.8% is optimal*), using a refractor to test quality, colour of Okanagan honey,
- packaging and labels, tips, selling your honey, farm vs commercial label requirements, price advice,

c. Thank you Keith for sharing your expertise and wealth of experience with us

8. Next Meeting – August 12th, Thursday, time: 6:30 p.m. at the Spiers Road Bee yard, weather permitting

-Brenna Hooper, our new North Okanagan Bee Inspector will be there discussing preparing the bees for winter

-bring chair, water, umbrella (*for sun or rain!*)

9. See you at the next meeting or bee yard hive inspection. Adjourned 8:30pm

Websites of note:

Local club: <http://northokanaganbeekeepers.ca>

BCHPA: <https://bchoneyproducers.ca>

BC Ministry of Agriculture: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/animals-and-crops/animal-production/bees>

Facebook: search **North Okanagan Bee Keepers**