

Bee Meeting June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Agenda 6:00 p.m. Spiers Road Apiary, 17 members attending, one guest speaker

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 –
- c. 50/50 tickets – on hold for now

2. Business:

- a. Adopt Minutes
- b. Resignation of our secretary Sonet Force due to moving to Victoria. Election of a secretary for the remainder of the term till our AGM in Jan 2022. Doug Sader has indicated that he will let his name stand. He was appointed secretary.
- b. Treasury report.
- c. Membership Fees –starting at \$40 BCHPA or \$20 to Club
- d. BCHPA AGM in Abbotsford October, 2021, the Langley Bee Club will be hosting the BCHPA 101th Anniversary. Planning on going ahead with it for now.
- e. BCHPA Rebate for renewal Jan 31 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](http://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 or 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 10 of February with the announcement on whether our project was excepted by the end of February the program runs from March 1, 2021 to Feb 28, 2022 so need to have all the seeds sown by then. We did not receive the payment till April 14<sup>th</sup> and by then We had very little moisture and the ground was extremely dry. So we have delayed tilling and will let the clover, alfalfa, and Canadian thistle bloom and then 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 through out the year and we will except any donated plants or transplants, all donations will be excepted.

We will plant a clover alfalfa mix in the higher moisture area, along with borage & phacelia

l. Regional Report – Rick, not in attendance today

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

n. Smiley Nelson scholarship any thing to report from Lorain

-Rick is also looking into it

### 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 is out.

d. Spring edition setting up the club apiary. Summer Ray Lavesque, American Foulbrood an Old Bee Inspector's Perspective

4. Bee Courses for beginners

a. Paul vanWestendorp 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

5. Announcements.

a. Stephanie Taylor has hives and nucs 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 many Okanagan beekeepers, we suffered high losses. However, we had hives that survived, but had lost their queens. 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. In addition, we also lost one queen during the treatments. When I went in the first week of Oct. to giving the bees their last shot of syrup, I knew the hives were in trouble. I wrapped them 365 degrees around, but even that could not save them. I had 3 hives survive the winter with bees, but 2 of them ended up queenless. So, they were combined into 1 colony. We did swarm control and pulled brood from Sues 4 hives, making 4 nucs. I split the surviving hive into 2 nucs and caught a bunch of swarms. Now have a dozen queen layers.

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

-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, with hot water heat and 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 Aprairy*)

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

7. Speaker: Tim Bouwmeester, South Okanagan Bee Inspector

a. Quick over view of mite testing and treatments

-Tim demonstrated various mite testing techniques including alcohol wash, dawn soap liquid, and sugar shake: discussed pros can cons of each, checked for mites from one of our collected swarms at the Aprairy, some are more reliable than others

-Tim discussed several important topics such as nuc purchasing (should be under 1% mite), spring hives should be at <1% mites, while in July, Aug up to 3%

-should be testing once a month for sure, and after each mite treatment, record your test numbers

-soap water mite shake: ½ cups bees (*300 bees*), 1 gallon water, 2 tbsp yellow Dawn soap, you can use it many times over once you strain in back onto your container

-looking for under 1%, threshold is 3%, but anything over this and your fall bees are in trouble! Test and treat!

b. Open discussion of winter hive losses.

c. Beekeeping throughout a drought year

-1<sup>st</sup> goal: make it through winter!

- new hives: feed them!

-feed in August

d. Thank you Tim for coming to Kelowna and sharing your expertise and wealth of experience with our bee club

8. Next Meeting – July 19, time: 6:30 p.m. at the Spiers Road Bee yard Weather permitting

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

9. See you at the next meeting or bee yard hive inspection. Adjourned 7:45pm

Websites of note:

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

Local club Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/532888917134061>

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**