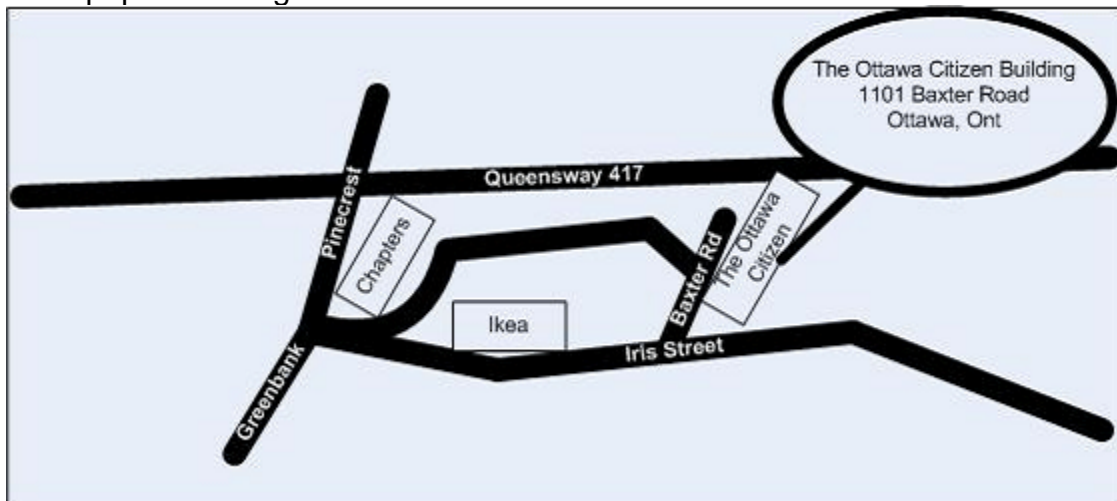


EASTERN ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

MAY 2011 - NEWSLETTER

SPRING MEETING

The Spring Meeting will be held on May 19, 2011 starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Ottawa Citizen Newspaper Building.



AGENDA

Craig McCaffery will Chair this meeting

7:00-7:20 p.m. A special welcome to the United County Beekeepers Association

Welcome and introduction of new members

Welcome Greg Hawkins, representative from CentaurVA Animal Health Inc.

Review of bee yard developments by beekeepers.

Winter/Spring losses or successes.

7:20-8:20 p.m. Paul Kozak, Provincial Apiarist 2011 Treatment Recommendations

8:20-8:35 p.m Coffee Break

8:35-8:55 p.m. Pierre Houle - How to make screened bottom boards

8:55-9:30 p.m. Greg Hawkins from CentaurVA Animal Health Inc. to talk about their products

At this meeting, there will be a draw for prizes and tickets will be on sale for under a dollar. The proceeds from the draw will go to the Tech Transfer Team.

The 2011 Summer Field Day and Picnic will take place at Richard Arcard's Apiary in Russell on July 17, 2011. Further information will be distributed soon.

Members of the Program Committee: David Gray, Martin Damus, Craig McCaffery, Juliet Bancroft, Patricia Barcellos, Joyce Lax, Pegi Holtz and Pierre Houle

Coffee Fund B Please contribute one dollar to the coffee fund for our meetings. The contribution box will be located by the coffee pot.

Membership - Fees for 2011 may be paid by cheque or cash at the meeting or mailed to:
Mr. David Gray, Secretary Treasurer, Box 375, Manotick, Ontario K4M 1A4.

Trading Post B For those of you with items either *Awanted@* or *Afor sale@*, please bring a notice to the meeting.
At the meeting, place the information on our Trading Post Board.

Note - If you received this Newsletter via Canada Post and own an e-mail account, please inform
Juliet Bancroft 613-488-2852 of your e-mail address.

2011 Workshop Update: - will be sent in a separate e-mail
Hello Everyone,

Please find attached, the updated information for OBA TTP workshops for 2011. Please post or pass this on to anyone who might be interested. Thank you. **Janet Tam Ontario Beekeepers' Association Tech-Transfer Program (519) 836-3609 shrewless@yahoo.com**

Mentoring

The Bee Keepers Association of Eastern Ontario encourages mentoring. If you are a new beekeeper and would like to learn more about beekeeping, a member of this Program Committee will assist you in finding a mentor in your area.

If you are an experienced beekeeper and would like to provide mentoring to new/prospective beekeepers, please submit your name to a member of this Program Committee.

BEE GONE - *From the Ottawa Sun on March 30, 2011.*

In a recent report, the UN's environmental agency warned that the world's bee population is likely to keep declining unless we change the way we manage our planet.

Out of 100 crop species, which provide 90% of food worldwide, 71 are pollinated by honey bees. (A drop in bees = a drop in crops).

Well-pollinated crops have a production yield that is 2 to 8 times greater.

What are we doing to kill bees.

- habitat deterioration
- invasive species
- pollination and other threats
- chemical drift from spraying
- systemic insecticides.

Which crops rely most on bee pollination?

Essential	Great	Modest	Little	None
cantaloupe	apple	eggplant	lemon	
chickpeas				
cocoa	buckwheat	coffee	papaya	grapes
pumpkin	cucumber	soybean	peanut	lentils
macadamia	mango	coconut	safflower	olives
watermelon	raspberry	strawberry	string beans	
peppers				
kiwi	blueberry	cotton	beet	
	canola			

About 7,000 beekeepers in Canada operate a total of 600,000 colonies of honeybees.

475,000 colonies are located in the prairies

30% of bee colonies in Canada re used for pollinating canola oil seeds.

35,000 colonies are dedicated to the pollination of blueberries.

This table shows the number (in thousands) of colonies wintered, and the percent loss in 2009-2010.

Province	BC	AL	SK	MN	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI
Wintered	41.1	250.8	90.0	78.0	81.2	39.2	8.8	19.0	3.9

Loss 24% 17.5% 20.5% 25.6% 21.6% 21.3% 20.4% 41.9% 16.7%
In 2000, the value of crops pollinated by bees was estimated at \$14.6 billion in the U.S. alone.

U.S. honey producing colonies have been on the decline for a number of years.

Honeybees 'entomb' hives to protect against pesticides, say scientists

By sealing up cells full of contaminated pollen, bees appear to be attempting to protect the rest of the hive

Fiona Harvey , environment correspondent (guardian.co.uk, Monday 4 April 2011 17.21 BST)

Honeybees are taking emergency measures to protect their hives from pesticides, in an extraordinary example of the natural world adapting swiftly to our depredations, according to a prominent bee expert.

Scientists have found numerous examples of a new phenomenon – bees "entombing" or sealing up hive cells full of pollen to put them out of use, and protect the rest of the hive from their contents. The pollen stored in the sealed-up cells has been found to contain dramatically higher levels of pesticides and other potentially harmful chemicals than the pollen stored in neighbouring cells, which is used to feed growing young bees.

"This is a novel finding, and very striking. The implication is that the bees are sensing [pesticides] and actually sealing it off. They are recognising that something is wrong with the pollen and encapsulating it," said Jeff Pettis, an entomologist with the US Department of Agriculture. "Bees would not normally seal off pollen."

But the bees' last-ditch efforts to save themselves appear to be unsuccessful – the entombing behaviour is found in many hives that subsequently die off, according to Pettis. "The presence of entombing is the biggest single predictor of colony loss. It's a defence mechanism that has failed." These colonies were likely to already be in trouble, and their death could be attributed to a mix of factors in addition to pesticides, he added.

Bees are also sealing off pollen that contains substances used by beekeepers to control pests such as the varroa mite, another factor in the widespread decline of bee populations. These substances may also be harmful to bees, Pettis said. "Beekeepers - and I am one – need to look at ourselves in the mirror and ask what we are doing," he said. "Certainly [the products] have effects on bees. It's a balancing act – if you do not control the parasite, bees die. If you control the parasite, bees will live but there are side-effects. This has to be managed."

The decline of bee populations has become an increasing concern in recent years. "Colony collapse disorder", the name given to the unexplained death of bee colonies, is affecting hives around the world. Scientists say there are likely to be numerous reasons for the die-off, ranging from agricultural pesticides to bee pests and diseases, pollution, and intensive farming, which reduces bee habitat and replaces multiple food sources with single, less nutritious, sources. Globalisation may also be a factor, as it spreads bee diseases around the world, and some measures taken to halt the deaths – such as massing bees in huge super-hives – can actually contribute to the problem, according to a recent study by the United Nations.

The loss of pollinators could have severe effects on agriculture, scientists have warned.

Pesticides were not likely to be the biggest single cause of bee deaths, Pettis said: "Pesticide is an issue but it is not the driving issue." Some pesticides could be improving life for bees, he noted: for many years, bees were not to be found near cotton plantations because of the many chemicals used, but in the past five years bees have begun to return because the multiple pesticides of old have been replaced with newer so-called systemic pesticides.

Studies he conducted found that bees in areas of intensive agriculture were suffering from poor nutrition compared with bees with a diverse diet, and this then compounded other problems, such as infection with the gut parasite nosema. "It is about the interaction of different factors, and we need to study these interactions more closely," he said.

The entombing phenomenon was first noted in an obscure scientific paper from 2009, but since then scientists have been finding the behaviour more frequently, with the same results.

Bees naturally collect from plants a substance known as propolis, a sort of sticky resin with natural anti-bacterial and anti-fungal qualities. It is used by bees to line the walls of their hives, and to seal off unwanted or dangerous substances – for instance, mice that find their way into hives and die are often found covered in propolis. This is the substance bees are using to entomb the cells.

The bees that entomb cells of pollen are the hives' housekeepers, different from the bees that go out to collect pollen from plants. Pettis said that it seemed pollen-collecting bees could not detect high levels of pesticides, but that the pollen underwent subtle changes when stored. These changes – a lack of microbial activity compared with pollen that has fewer pesticide residues – seemed to be involved in triggering the entombing effect, he explained.

Pettis was speaking in London, where he was visiting British MPs to talk about the decline of bee populations, and meeting European bee scientists.

(story from: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/apr/04/honeybees-entomb-hives>)

The Fall Meeting of The Eastern Ontario Beekeepers Association is scheduled to take place on October 26, 2010

Juliet Bancroft