

The Valley Beekeeper

Volume 19 / Issue 1 / February 2014 A quinary report from the Cowichan Beekeepers Club, Box 274, Cobble Hill, V0R 1L0

Visit our Club's website, www.cowichanbeekeepers.ca

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Executive or majority of the Club members

Meeting monthly, 3rd Thursday, 7:30 pm Feb.-Nov., Cowichan Agricultural Hall, small building end of Clem-

Apiculture Factsheet #002

Ministry of Agriculture

Importing Queens and Packaged Bees

Canadian beekeepers can import queens and packaged bees from several approved sources. All bee imports into Canada require a Federal Import Permit. Please be aware that the status of honey bee sources can change as diseases may be introduced.

Approved sources include:

Queens - New Zealand, Australia, Chile, California and Hawaii

Packages - New Zealand, Australia, and Chile.

FIRST CLUB MEETING OF 2014

Come out and enjoy. Meet and greet—catch-up on all the goings-on over the winter. Coffee and cookies on the ready. Bring a monthly draw prize to help support funding for Club events.

* VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WANTED FOR NUMEROUS EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR;

* IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO A PRESENTATION OR HAVE ANY IDEAS FOR A SPEAKER

CONTACT THE VICE PRESIDENT, Julie Robinson.

Beekeeping in the Warm Land

Explore the life of honeybees, including brood nest activities, nectar and pollen collection, swarming and honey extraction. Learn basic colony management for pollination and honey production, and participate in a hands-on session at a local apiary.

This is a popular course, so register early.

Course ID: HGBK 001

Section: S14D01 [Cowichan]

Fee: \$119 + \$5.95 GST

Instructor: [Mr. Steve Mitchell](#)

Schedule:

March 17 to April 07, 2014 & Wednesday

7:00 pm - 9:00 - 7 sessions.

Saturday field trip to be arranged.

Register for this Section

Cowichan Beekeepers Executive / Term 2012-2014

President: Paul Peterson, email: paupet1@yahoo.ca / telephone 743-6924

Vice-President: Julie Robinson, julierobinson2@gmail.com / 250-597-4414

Treasurer: Darla Nixon, email: darlalou@shaw.ca / telephone: 743-9084

Secretary: Ted Leischner, email: tgleisch@shaw.ca / 250-510-4490

Past President: Mike Pauls, email: micpau@telus.net / 746-4238

Directors:

Jacques Marc, topmarc@shaw.ca / 746-4520

Richard Collard, showgun@shaw.ca / 743-3052

Members-at-Large.

Bee yard: Paul Petersen, email: paupet1@yahoo.ca / telephone: 250-732-0197

Librarian: Sally Leigh-Spencer, email: sallyls@shaw.ca

Medication: Blame Hardie, email: bjhardie@shaw.ca / telephone: 746-4389

Newsletter: Delphine Castles, geo.clifford@yahoo.ca / telephone: 743-9569

Refreshments: Leila Long, 250-246-9185

Website: Richard Collard, email: showgun@shaw.ca / telephone: 743-3052

Bee Inspector: Brenda Jager, 778-875-4164 (Gabriola Island) or brenda.jager@gov.bc.ca

VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY - COURSES OF INTEREST TO BEEKEEPING

Growing And Pruning Fruit Trees

Course ID: HGGP 001

Improve the production and health of your plants by winter pruning. The theory and practice of pruning fruit trees, kiwis, grapes, blueberries and other fruit-bearing plants will be discussed and demonstrated in the classroom. The propagation of these plants will also be covered briefly. There will be an afternoon field trip for a pruning demonstration.

Section: S14D01 [Cowichan] Fee: \$70 + \$3.50 GST

Instructor: [Mr. Bernie Dinter](#)

Schedule: February 22 ; Saturday 09:00 - 15:00 (1 session)



Garden and Landscape Design: From Concept to Reality

Course ID: HGPL 010

Useful for years to come! This is a hands on intensive introduction to planning and drawing your yard and garden landscape design. You will measure out your garden space; plot hardscaping choices; place trees, shrubs and perennials appropriate to your shade/sun, wet/dry, and flat/sloped conditions. Apply what you learn to your target landscape, and bring questions to the next class. Inspire your imagination, and turn your yard and garden dreams into reality! Supply list available.

Section: S14D01 [Cowichan] Fee: \$165 + \$8.25 GST

Instructor: [Mrs Barbara Kohlman](#)

Schedule: March 03 to April 14 ; Monday 18:30 - 21:00 (7 sessions)

University of Guelph, Ontario. Apiculture Research Department 2014

Once the snow melts, Canada's bee population will be back in business, pollinating, making honey and keeping busy doing bee things. For at least two urban bee species, that means making nests out of plastic waste.

A new study by a Univ. of Guelph graduate and scientist reveals that some bees use bits of plastic bags and plastic building materials to construct their nests. The research was published recently in the journal *Ecosphere*.

It's an important discovery because it shows bees' resourcefulness and flexibility in adapting to a human-dominated world, says lead author Scott MacIvor, a doctoral student at York Univ. and a 2008 U of G graduate. "Plastic waste pervades the global landscape," said MacIvor. Although researchers have shown adverse impacts of the material on species and the ecosystem, few scientists have observed insects adapting to a plastic-rich environment, he said.

"We found two solitary bee species using plastic in place of natural nest building materials, which suggests innovative use of common urban materials. Figuring out that the bees were using plastics in place of natural materials took some detective work by U of G's Andrew Moore, supervisor of analytical microscopy at Laboratory Services. Moore analyzed a grey "goo" that MacIvor discovered in the nests of one kind of bee, *Megachile campanulae*, which uses plant resins to build its nests. "Scott thought it might be chewing gum originally," Moore said. His team uses a scanning electron microscope to take highly detailed pictures of items, x-ray microanalysis to determine the elements in the sample and infrared microscopy to identify polymers. They can distinguish the finest detail on the surface of an animal hair. Turns out that *M. campanulae* was occasionally replacing plant resins with polyurethane-based exterior building sealant, such as caulking, in its brood cells—created in a nest to rear larva.

The researchers also discovered another kind of bee, *Megachile rotundata*, an alfalfa leafcutter, was using pieces of polyethylene-based plastic bags to construct its brood cells. The glossy plastic replaced almost one-quarter of the cut leaves normally used to build each cell. Markings showed that the bees chewed the plastic differently than they did leaves, suggesting that the insects had not incidentally collected plastic. Nor were leaves hard to find for the bees in the study. "The plastic materials had been gathered by the bees, and then worked—chewed up and spit out like gum—to form something new that they could use," Moore said.

In both cases, larvae successfully developed from the plastic-lined nests. In fact, the bees emerged parasite-free, suggesting plastic nests may physically impede parasites, the study said. The nests containing plastic were among more than 200 artificial nest boxes monitored by MacIvor as part of a large-scale investigation of the ecology of urban bees and wasps, a project involving numerous citizen scientists. The nest boxes are located in Toronto and the surrounding region in backyards, community gardens and parks and on green roofs. They are used by a variety of bee species. "The novel use of plastics in the nests of bees could reflect the ecologically adaptive traits necessary for survival in an increasingly human-dominated environment," MacIvor said.

BCHPA (BC Honey Producers Association) has been receiving a lot of calls from members who want to move hives to locations where the property owner is requesting evidence of insurance. I contacted our insurance broker and this is the reply:

“Liability insurance is not restricted to your home or mailing address and hives can be moved anywhere at any time and liability will extend

Locations do not have to be specified. The only time we hear of a specific location is when a producer has his hives on private property and the owner of that property wants to be added as an additional insured which we then endorse to the certificate – no charge.”

If you have paid for your 2014 insurance please contact the insurer directly to obtain an endorsement to the certificate for a new location. If you have not yet purchased your insurance please send your application to BCHPA and request the certificate with the details. Coverage runs January 1st to December 31st. Effective date of coverage is based on date application and payment are received at the BCHPA office. Insurer will issue certificates in due course.

BCHPA membership fees are based on the number of colonies kept. Please select the range which represents the number of hives you have.

- 0 - 25 hives (\$40)
- 26 - 50 hives (\$50)
- 51 - 150 hives (\$60)
- 151 - 300 hives (\$70)
- 301 - 500 hives (\$120)
- No insurance (\$0)
- \$5,000,000 BCHPA Group Liability Insurance (\$55.00)
- \$5,000,000 BCHPA Group Liability Insurance PLUS \$1,000,000 Forest Fire Fighting Expense Endorsement (\$155.00)

COWICHAN BEEKEEPERS CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM 2014

NEW **RENEWAL** **SINGLE \$15.00** **Family \$20.00**

- Club newsletter five times a year. RECEIVE VIA MEMBER'S WEBSITE COPY IN MAIL

**Please bring this form to the Club's monthly meeting, 3rd Thursday of the month, Agricultural Hall
Clements Street, Duncan or mail to Cowichan Beekeepers, Box 274, Cobble Hill, V0R 1L0.**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ **TELEPHONE:** _____

BENEFITS FOR MEMBERSHIP ONLY

At every monthly meeting there is something special: a guest speaker, slide show, or discussions on topics of interest. And always coffee, goodies and socializing. If you have any beekeeping questions there is a wealth of information to be gleaned from our experienced Club beekeepers.

Beekeeping Equipment

- uncapping knives. \$1.50 a day
- electric two-frame extractor for \$5.00 a day
- honey grader.

Medications and Advice

- Available at the Thursday meetings. Apistan, \$2.50 a strip. Fumidil, \$1.50 teaspoon. Terramycin, 10 free teaspoons.

Bee Yard

- Use of a secure bee yard in the mountains.
- Duncan Forest Discovery Museum. Fenced bee yard for all Club beekeepers.

Special Events

- Field days, demonstrations and hands-on experiences. Beekeepers Mentoring Program.
- Annual picnic, all food and drinks supplied with fun and games.
- Christmas Potluck.
- The Club has a booth in the Cowichan Valley Exhibition, and there are ribbons and money for entries in the many bee related categories.

Library • bee related books and periodicals . Free on loan to members only after two months of attendance.

FARMERS ALMANAC

FEBRUARY 2014: Temperature -1°C (1°C below avg.); precipitation 105mm (40mm below avg. northwest, 30mm above southeast);

Feb 1-5: Occasional rain coast; snow, then rain showers inland; turning mild; Feb 6-10: Sprinkles and flurries, cool;

Feb 11-16: Sunny, cool;

Feb 17-25: Showers, mild coast; flurries, cold inland;

Feb 26-28: Rain coast, snow inland.

MARCH 2014: temperature 5°C (1°C above avg.); precipitation 90mm (10mm below avg.);

Mar 1-7: Sunny, cool;

Mar 8-12: Rainy periods coast, rain and snow showers inland; cool;

Mar 13-15: Sunny, turning mild;

Mar 16-23: Showers, then sunny, nice; Mar 24-31: Rainy periods, turning cool coast; showers, mild inland.

Annual Weather Summary: November 2013 to October 2014

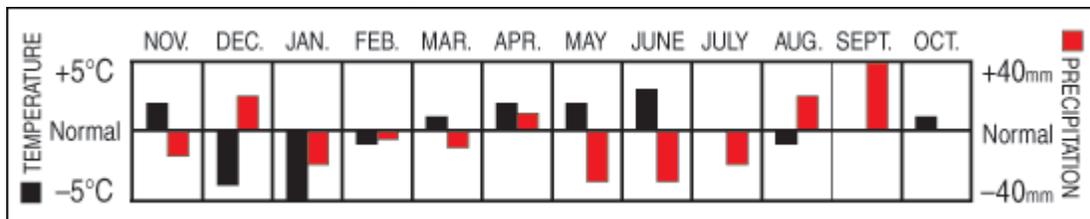
Winter temperatures will be below normal, with the coldest periods in mid- to late December and mid- to late January. Precipitation and snowfall will be below normal in the north and above normal in the south. The heaviest snowfalls will occur in mid-December, around Christmas, and in early and mid-January.

April and May will be warmer and drier than normal.

Summer will be slightly warmer than normal, with below-normal rainfall. The hottest periods will occur in early to mid-June and mid-July.

September and October will be slightly warmer than normal, with above-normal precipitation.

Temperature and Precipitation November 2013 to October 2014



BC Beekeeping Production Statistics 2013

	Colonies /Honey Weight Average Number of Yards			Wholesale Weight and Prices				Retail Weight and Prices			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Cols	Honey Wt	Av. Yd	Whisle	Whisle Wt	Whisle \$	Whisle T\$	Retail	Retail Wt	Retail \$	Retail T\$
Vancouver Island	4,949	311,951	63	30%	95,071	\$ 4.77	\$453,584	66%	205,476	\$ 5.51	\$1,131,612
Fraser Valley	25,406	931,519	37	15%	137,735	\$ 2.75	\$378,124	82%	767,134	\$ 7.01	\$5,380,483
Thompson-Okanagan	7,492	475,289	63	31%	145,943	\$ 2.38	\$346,724	64%	302,503	\$ 4.26	\$1,287,354
Kootenays	2,279	135,102	59	8%	11,033	\$ 2.38	\$26,203	88%	119,030	\$ 5.71	\$679,355
Cariboo	1,121	117,595	105	0%	-	\$ -	\$0	92%	108,656	\$ 4.28	\$464,812
Bulkley-Nechako	570	40,919	72	0%	-	\$ -	\$0	55%	37,441	\$ 6.76	\$253,117
Peace	727	56,572	78	49%	27,492	\$ 2.67	\$73,311	51%	28,865	\$ 3.63	\$104,923
Province	42,544	2,068,948	49	20%	417,273	\$ 3.06	\$1,277,947	76%	1,569,105	\$ 5.93	\$9,301,655