

Report on the Summer Field Day and Potluck, July 17, 2011

By Peter Prodger

A large gathering of local beekeepers, new and old, gathered at the home of Lynne and Richard Arcand of Russell Ontario for the annual field day and potluck. As in past years everyone was welcome and invitations were extended to beekeepers through the Lanark County Association, the Eastern Ontario Association and the United Counties Association.



Crowd gathering.

About 50 people attended. There were presentations on comb honey, pollen traps, and propolis.



The display of solar wax melters was a big hit. The day was very hot and sunny. One melter converted two bags of wax cappings into a bar of wax in about 3 hours.



Different types of pollen traps were described. The trap pictured below was liked because of its simplicity. It had a double screen to efficiently gather the pollen. It did not have a large airy pollen tray so it was necessary to collect the pollen daily to avoid pollen getting moldy. It attached to the front of a hive by means of extension cleats. Once the extensions were installed on a bottom board it was very simple to move the trap from hive to hive so as not to take too much from any one hive.



Another pollen trap design and propolis mats

A simple honey dryer was set up. It is a simple contraption of 2X8's or 10's on edge with an industrial fan pushing air between the boards and up into stacks of honey supers. It can reduce moisture content by 1-2 % over night if temperature and relative humidity are good.



A display of honey containers was provided by Dominion and Grimm. They had a rep present to answer any questions.



The Arcand's have a very organized bee yard. The bees were not very friendly on this extremely hot day so people decided to let them be.



The Potluck was very well supplied. It was an enjoyable day shared by people with a keen interest in all things bee's.

The final activity of the day was the traditional draw of donated items. This year ***Jurg Zurcher of Zurcher Honey*** provided a multitude of items big and small. Jurg has started a bee supply business and has acquired a large inventory of bee supplies. If you need any bee keeping supplies please consider support Jurg in his new business.