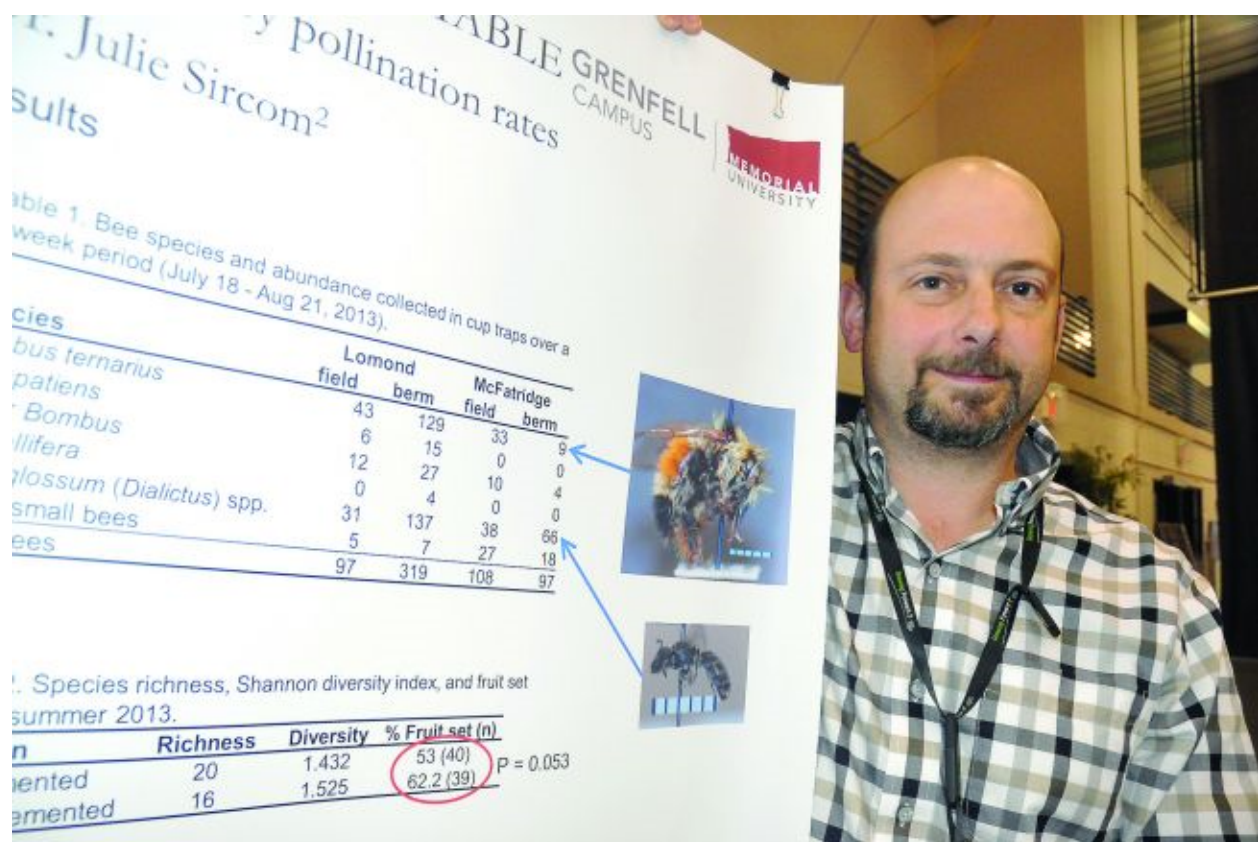




# Association formed to help ensure health of NL's honey bees

Gary Kean

Published on November 14, 2014



© (Photo: © Gary Kean/Western Star)

Entomologist Barry Hicks was one of the steering committee members who helped form the Newfoundland & Labrador Bee-Keepers Association in Corner Brook on Nov. 7.

There are around 50 beekeepers in Newfoundland and Labrador, most of them doing just as a hobby

There's been a lot of buzz about honey bees in the world lately and now Newfoundland and Labrador has its own beekeepers association.

The group held its inaugural meeting in Corner Brook Thursday evening (Nov. 6) and hopes to grow into an advocate for the importance of bees in the environmental big picture.

The global concern about bees is that they are declining and having lowered populations of bees can be a detriment to food production. Honey bees are one of the key players in the pollination of many food crops.

Their decline, including in managed bee colonies, is being attributed to a number of factors, including disease and pesticide use.

Fortunately, the honey bees on the island of Newfoundland are relatively disease-free, especially from the Varroa mite that is decimating populations elsewhere. The new association — made up of commercial and hobbyist beekeepers and academics — hopes to help keep it that way.

Barry Hicks, an entomologist originally from Corner Brook who now teaches biology at College of the North Atlantic's Carbonear campus, was a member of the steering committee that helped launch the association. He said there are around 50 beekeepers in Newfoundland and Labrador, most of them doing just as a hobby.

Whether a hobbyist or a commercial one interested in pollination services and honey production, beekeepers are interested in letting the world know the province is a reliable source of clean queen bees.

"This is a tremendous resource we haven't realized and it's something we're hoping to promote with help from government," said Hicks, adding the exportation of clean bees is a niche market there for the taking.

The province already has importation restrictions on honeybees, he noted, and continued monitoring of the province's honey bee population will be crucial.

The first objectives of the association will be to get incorporated and to start educating beekeepers, the general public and government about effective beekeeping practices to ensure the population's health.

Western Star

<http://www.atlanticfarmfocus.ca/Agriculture/2014-11-14/article-3940316/Association-formed-to-help-ensure-health-of-NLs-honey-bees/1>

## **NORAHG RESPONDS AGAINST NEONICOTINOID INSECTICIDES IN NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR**

Bee Conspiracy Activists PRETEND THERE IS A BEE CRISIS. However, WEATHER IS THE MAJOR FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO WINTER BEE LOSSES, and NOT Neonicotinoid Insecticides. The IMAGINED DANGER against these insecticides has led to CHEMOPHOBIA among Bee Conspiracy Activists, who are expressing MERE UNSCIENTIFIC CONCERNS regarding so-called Bee Colony Collapse Disorder. Consequently, Bee Conspiracy Activists are DEMANDING that governments go to EXTREME LENGTHS to IMPOSE RECKLESS AND ARBITRARY PROHIBITION against Neonicotinoid Insecticides used in the Agriculture Industry. Bee Conspiracy Activists RIDICULOUSLY ASSUME that insecticides are somehow causing bee losses UNLESS IT CAN BE PROVEN THAT THEY DO NOT. Bee Conspiracy Activists PRETEND THERE IS A BEE CRISIS. However, according to the Government of Ontario, THERE IS NO BEE CRISIS. According to Ontario Premier Wynne — « Although large bee die-offs have been observed in Ontario apiaries, they are NOT OCCURRING UNIFORMLY across all operations or areas of the province — many bee-keeping operations HAVE NOT BEEN AFFECTED and have been able to maintain strong and healthy bee colonies as evidenced by hive strength and honey production ». <http://tinyurl.com/ndavhaa> Bee Conspiracy Activists PRETEND THERE IS A BEE CRISIS. However, only A VERY LIMITED NUMBER of Bee-Keepers report losses, LESS THAN 1 PER CENT. Over 99 per cent of all Bee-Keepers are reporting NO LOSSES. Bee Conspiracy Activists are FALSELY BLAMING BEE DEATHS on Neonicotinoid Insecticides. The bee colonies are far from collapsing since the numbers do not lie. Both the total number of honeybee colonies and the total number of Bee-Keepers in Canada has RISEN DRAMATICALLY since 2008. Moreover, according to Agriculture Canada, THE NATION'S HONEY YIELD IS TWICE THE WORLD'S AVERAGE. <http://wp.me/s1jq40-28297> It is INESCAPABLE that the ALLEGATIONS about insecticides are FALSE ! Bee Conspiracy Activists with vested interests in keeping the public afraid are NOT A CREDIBLE SOURCES OF INFORMATION. PROHIBITION WILL NOT SAVE BEES. <http://tinyurl.com/pxqzh6m> NORAHG is the National Organization

Responding Against HUJE that seek to destroy the Green space and other industries. WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G Get the latest details at <http://pesticidetruths.com/> <http://pesticidetruths.com/toc/> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2rr> <https://www.facebook.com/norah.gfon>