



# the Beeline!

Friday, September 11, 2015

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## September 2015 Beeline

### Hivellights

From drought to torrential rain and snow, the weather has definitely taken a turn towards fall. Our initial harvest started August 8<sup>th</sup> and it was a promising amount of liquid gold. The early spring had provided a good start, the bees worked hard through July but the extreme heat finally dried up most nectar by early August. Slightly cooler temperatures were a relief by the end of the month. Now the weather has reminded us of why bees make honey until they drop out of the sky. Winter approaches – time to pack the larder (or the honeycomb)!

We will be finishing our harvest this week even though now the bees are finding lots of nectar since the rain has rejuvenated some crops. It would be nice to delay harvesting but we need enough time before wrap-up to properly medicate them. The bees will certainly appreciate this late nectar flow in the depths of winter. The other sign of cold weather being near at hand is the steady parade of drones being ejected from most hives.



"You're at that awkward age where the others have figured out that you're a drone and you don't do anything."

Our store observation hive never did swarm! It is still very crowded, though the queen has slowed down her egg-laying considerably. Now 90% of the honeycomb is being used for honey storage compared to 90% brood as it was in July. They should fare well over the winter so the next likely swarm time will be in late May or June

2016. We'll get the swarm pool revived then.

### Buzz Notes

- New 'User's Guide to Propolis, Royal Jelly, Honey, & Bee Pollen', a great little book on apitherapy products
- 'Back to School' means 'Back to Cold Season' Bolster your immune system with Propolis.
- We've got Honey Stingers! For hiking, biking or as a snack try these organic energy chews loaded with honey and vitamin C
- Just in, beautiful hand crafted wine goblets, mugs and candlesticks from 'Pottery by Heather'



## Upcoming Events

**Saturday September 12th**

[Wine & Cheese Excursion](#)

Thanks to those that were able to visit during Open Farm Days on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The weather was lovely and we were able to offer 'open hive' beekeeping workshops as well as honey extracting demonstrations. In the Meadery, visitors were given 'how-to' instructions on making mead as well as samples of our many varieties. Across the province the day was a great success for people wanting to connect with where their food - and beverages- come from.

This Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup> we are pouring mead at the final [Aspen Crossing Wine & Cheese Excursion](#). Come and enjoy a lovely day on the train and learn about mead, our great prairie heritage and railway travel the way it used to be.

If you are planning to be in the Lethbridge area instead, take in [The Wine & Whiskey Affair](#) Saturday from 4- 10 pm at Lethbridge Exhibition Park. We'll be offering a sneak taste of our winter classic 'Fire 'N Spice'. Now if we could only hijack the Aspen Crossing train to take us to Lethbridge, what a tour that would be!

Thursday September 17<sup>th</sup> we are attending '[A Taste of Autumn](#)', a fundraiser for Friends of Fish Creek Park. It takes place right in the park at Bow Valley Ranch and will feature local restaurants, wineries, breweries and distilleries all supporting this diverse city park. Come join us!

## Product of the Month

### 'Honey Hot Pepper Jelly'

We are lucky to have very industrious worker bees in our commercial kitchen. These worker bees may not appreciate the over-active imagination of our King Bee who comes up with great ideas of how to combine honey with his garden bounty. That is how 'Honey Hot Pepper Jelly' came to be. Art has now discovered that not only do jalapeño peppers grow well in his greenhouse, they grow even faster once you start picking them! He may well have these heat packed jewels growing into December. This bounty is preserved in a



Aspen Crossing,  
Mossleigh, AB

12:00 to 4:00 pm

## Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup>

### The Wine & Whiskey Affair

Lethbridge Exhibition  
Park

4:00 pm to 10:00 pm

## Thursday September 17<sup>th</sup>

### 'A Taste of Autumn'

Meadow Muse Pavilion

Bow Valley Ranche,  
Calgary

7:00 to 9:00 pm

## Friday & Saturday October 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>

### Rocky Mountain Wine Festival

Stampede Park BMO  
Centre, Halls D & E

Calgary

Friday 5 to 10 pm,  
Saturday 12-4pm & 6-  
10pm

## Friday & Saturday November 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>

### Grape Escape Calgary

yummy honey jelly that is, for many, the best way to enjoy jalapeños. There is nothing like sweet heat – for a gourmet appetizer on cream cheese and crackers, a quick glaze for pork or chicken, a dip for veggies or fries or even in a dessert setting. Consider jalapeño glazed grilled pineapple, as a topping for chocolate cheese cake or even on honey ice cream. Yum – the possibilities are endless.

Stampede Park BMO  
Centre, Halls D & E

Calgary

Friday 5 to 9 pm, Saturday  
5 to 9 pm

## Mead Matters

Bodacious Black Currant will soon be back on the shelves! It has had a nice long time to mature in the tanks over the summer and was just bottled yesterday. We're planning to release it on Thanksgiving weekend, October 9<sup>th</sup>.

The stock of Cherry Mi Amor, Buckaroo Buckwheat and Ginger Bochet is running low so if those are your favourites, you'd better pick them up sooner rather than later. Now that the busiest bee work is almost over, Mazer Art will be filling the fermentation tanks and replenishing those meads as well as doing some more experimenting. We've been hearing rumours of a mead with chocolate?????



### Recipe from Our Kitchen

#### Peanut Butter Honey Apple Crisp

Fall is also apple season and what a great way to combine these favourites. This is also a recipe that's easy enough for the kids to help with.

[Click here](#) to view the recipe.

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