



Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers
August 2012
www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

The Summer BeeBQ

About 50 brave beekeepers turned out in the rain to attend our divisional BBQ at the Wanstead Apiary. Sheltering under gazebos Don McHale and his wife Satomi organised a feast

of various foods which lasted well into the afternoon. Our thanks go to all those helpers who contributed in many ways to make the day a success. Our guest speaker Alan Byham, regional bee inspector, talked about the benefits of beekeepers being registered on BeeBase <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/index.cfm>.

Alan explained that the risk based inspections carried out since the early 1950's has been very successful in reducing the out breaks of EFB & AFB, to such an extent that there were only 70 cases of AFB in the UK last year and that you have to be really unlucky for your bees to be infected. Imported bees, queens and honey were the most likely cause of the AFB outbreaks. EFB was more prevalent but quick action and close monitoring reduces the chances of the disease reappearing. Sacbrood, acarine, small hive beetle and varroa were discussed in some details and a lively question and answer session followed.

As the meeting drew to a close and equipment was put away a very alert beekeeper spotted a swarm on a tree. Christine managed to hive the bees and at the last report both swarm and beekeeper were doing well. ☘



Younger members enjoying the day (yes, they are enjoying themselves, honest!)

Are these three ladies related to each other?

See, the sun did come out eventually!

The Divisional Honey Show

This year's show will be on 1 September at the Chingford Horticultural Hall – so you have just under a month to get your best specimens polished up and ready. Last year several entries were rejected by the judge for simple things like fingerprints on the jar or specks in the honey, it really is all about presentation. There are special classes for beginner or novice beekeepers so even if this is your first ever honey crop you could enter and win a prize. There are also classes for photography, frames of honey, mead and honey cookery so there's something for everyone. Contact Show Secretary Eric Beaumont for more details. ☘

Beebase

Those who came to the last meeting heard Alan Byham talk about Beebase. This website, run by Defra, can give early warning of disease outbreaks in your area and gives advice on bee health. Around 27,000 beekeepers are now registered, with new members joining each year – this is a really important venture for maintaining bee health and controlling disease, and if you haven't already registered then it is worth doing so. There's no charge, and the website is secure so your details are safe. ☘

Next meeting – Saturday 18th

August Our next apiary meeting, the last one this summer, will take place on Saturday 18th at August at 2.30 pm at the Wanstead Apiary. Eric Beaumont will talk about feeding bees. Please arrive in plenty of time for the talk to begin at 2.30, and as usual give consideration to local residents including the tenants of the house, when parking in Langley Drive.

Dates for your diary:

1st September – Divisional Honey Show, Chingford
8-9 September – Essex Honey Show, Barleylands
8 October – London Honey Show
25-27 October – National Honey Show, Weybridge ☘

Exam success

Congratulations to Roy Cropley, who has passed his Bee Husbandry qualification. This means that Roy is now able to examine candidates for the Basic Examination. Well done, Roy. ☘

Bee Blog

Some of you may remember Chi Chan's blog from 2010 about his experiences of beekeeping. Sadly Chi lost his bees last year, but he's now got a nuc installed in his garden and his blog is back online <http://chisbees2012.blogspot.co.uk> if you'd like to see how he is getting on with his new bees. ☘

Tips from the Bee Man

August is the month when most of us will be extracting. Make sure you only extract combs where at least 95% of the cells are sealed. Extracting combs with large numbers of unsealed cells may result in honey fermenting in storage or in the jars, which is unsaleable. It is better to leave unsealed honey on the bees a little longer. If you remove all the honey for extracting make sure you check the brood chamber for stores, and feed if necessary. ☘



Chair's Corner

Congratulations to all those who braved the uncertain weather to come to the summer BeeBQ at the Wanstead Apiary. Many thanks to those who helped to set up and organise this, it was good to have a chance to socialise with other members and the day was very enjoyable. I hope some of you are now able to harvest some honey, and let's hope for a warm August to make up for the poor weather conditions so far.

Ted Gradosielski ☘

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