



Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers
August 2014
www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

Summer Social and July monthly meeting

The summer barbecue was a great success with around 30 people attending for food, drink and some general beekeeping chat with tips from Ted Grad and Eric Beaumont about varroa control. Special thanks to Mark Chambers for running the barbecue, Don McHale for the drinks and Sheila Morrissey for organising the raffle. It was a good opportunity to have some social chat as well as answer questions about beekeeping. We are also grateful as ever to Mark Stephens for continued use of this apiary site. ✂



Bee research

The White House has set up a taskforce to investigate the decline of the bee population in the US where colonies are reported to have fallen by 23% in the last year. Up to \$8m (around £4.7m) will be used to promote the development of new habitats for honey bees. ✂

Disease prevention

Regional Bee Disease Inspector Caroline Washington has looked at the colonies on both the Redbridge Lakes and Wanstead Divisional apiaries, and all have got the all-clear. There's always room for improvement however, and as a Division we are keen to promote the idea that we are **beekeepers**, not bee owners! There's lots of help available either by attending meetings or by asking others in the Division, and if you have kept bees for a couple of years then please consider preparing for the BBKA Basic Assessment which will show that you've got an understanding of colony management and disease prevention amongst other things. ✂

The Honey Show

Saturday 23rd August is the date for this year's Honey Show, which is being held in conjunction with Epping Horticultural Society at St John's Church, Epping.

Please don't think that this show is just for experts or people who have kept bees for years. It's OUR show, for our Division and the more people who take part the better the competition. There are classes especially for beginner/novice beekeepers and although our Chair Ted Gradosielski has his name on many of the Division's shields and awards, he would love to see someone else winning one of them! If you have any questions then Show Secretary Eric Beaumont will be happy to advise you, so please get in touch with him if you would like to have a go but aren't sure of the procedure.

Don't forget that it's not just honey – you can exhibit mead, wax, candles and photographs or bake a cake or scones. Download the Schedule, Rules, Entry Form and recipes from the Division's website at www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk/honey-show

The judge this year is Jean Smye, and exhibits need to be delivered before 9.30 am – doors open to the public at 12.30. As well as the Honey Show of course you'll also be able to see all the fruit, vegetable and flower exhibits from the Horticultural Society's show so this will be a really interesting day. You can find out more about this on www.eppinghorticultural.org.uk. ✂



Chair's Corner

I'm pleased to say that as well as the Divisional apiaries being passed free from disease, my own hives have been inspected and found to be clear. We all need to be vigilant about disease control and apiary hygiene, for the sake of all beekeepers in the area. Please contact me or Ken Barker if you're worried about one of your colonies. On a brighter note, I'd be delighted to see more entries in the Honey Show, the honey harvest has been good this year and if you've got a couple of jars then bring them along and have a go – you will learn a lot just from taking part. I hope to see some of you there and at the 'winter preparation' meeting on 16th August. ✂

Ted Gradosielski

Monthly meeting – Saturday 16th August and Annual Honey Show – 23rd August

This month's meeting will take place on 16th August at the Redbridge Lakes apiary on Salix Lane and will cover winter preparation. There is a lovely café on this site if you'd like lunch before the meeting and it's worth allowing time for a walk around the lake as well. The meeting will start at 2.30. The owner of Redbridge Fishing Lakes has kindly allowed us the use of his marquee for the meeting. Please see the item elsewhere in the newsletter for details of the Honey Show. ✂

Asian Hornet alert

A divisional member reports that his neighbours caught what they believe was an Asian hornet. There's no official record of this yet, although it's widely expected that they will reach the UK mainland this year or next. You're more likely to experience trouble from wasps however, remember to keep an eye out for any nearby nests and set up a wasp trap if necessary to prevent your hives coming under attack. ✂

Essex Conference

This year Southend Division will host the Essex Conference on Sat 11th October in Benfleet. Speakers include Dr Nicola Bradbear from Bees for Development, Heidi Hermann of the Natural Beekeeping Trust and Terry Clare on Queen Rearing. For more details please visit www.ebka.org - tickets are now on sale at £29 and this includes a hot buffet. ✂

Tips from the Bee Man

Although some colonies are still bringing in nectar, keep an eye on local forage – if your bees are on farmland the crop may be harvested and leave them hungry, and rainfall has been very localised meaning that in some areas nectar flow has dried up. If you've removed honey then make sure your bees have an alternative source of food so you have a strong colony going into winter. Also, if the honey is all off then start thinking about varroa control. ✂

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