



Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers
December 2010
www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

Candle making

At our November meeting a packed house was treated to a hands-on demonstration on how to produce candles by Ken Barker and Peter Clarke.

Ken gave out some tips and tricks of rolling candles using sheet foundation.

Ken pointed out that the wax must be at room temperature before rolling and demonstrated how to do this by careful use of a hairdryer. Heating the wax ensures that the foundation doesn't crack during the rolling process, and enables you to embed the wick into the edge of the sheet to obtain the first roll.



Peter brought along his gas burning stoves and showed how to melt wax for pouring into rubberised moulds. With so many mould patterns available, examples of which were passed around the room, these candles make perfect presents at Christmas. Peter explained how important it was not to get the wax too hot otherwise it will tend to run out of the mould. Everyone then had a chance to roll their own candles as a souvenir of the evening. ✂

Contributed by Kevin Cook, photos by Ted Grad



News roundup

Thornes Beekeeping Supplies

Many of you will know that Thornes, the supplier of beekeeping equipment, have now moved to a new site approximately two miles outside Wragby. The move has taken place over a number of months, but all the machinery has now been installed at the new site and they promise that production will not be affected, and the new site will increase the availability of equipment. ✂

BBKA New General Secretary

The BBKA has recently appointed Jane Mosely as the new General Secretary/Operations Director. She is the Honorary President of Hertfordshire Beekeeping Association, and Secretary of Bishop Stortford's BKA. ✂

IBRA Conference

The International Bee Research Association's annual conference will be held on 29th January 2011, at the University of Worcester. Entitled 'Varroa – still a problem in the 21st Century?' the conference runs from 10.30-4.30, and tickets are £25 to non-members. See www.ibra.org.uk for more information. ✂

BBKA Spring Convention

A date for your diary – next year's Annual Spring Convention will be held on 15-17 April 2011 at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. As well as lectures, courses and workshops this is a good opportunity to see a wide range of equipment and other goods for sale. Tickets go on sale in January. ✂

Chair's Corner

Just to remind people who have hives at the Langley Drive apiary that there are now tenants in the house, so please be considerate when passing through.

Don't forget the Christmas Social on 16th December. To reserve a ticket please contact Paola Munns on km.electricsltd@googlemail.com or phone me on 0208 523 5770 if it's close to the date. A very merry Christmas to you all!

Helen Chadwick ✂



Next meeting

Our next meeting is on Thursday 16th December 2010 at 7.30pm

This is our **Christmas Social** evening when we meet together at the Chingford Horticultural Society Hall, Larkshall Road, Chingford, E4 6PE to celebrate the Christmas season. There will be drinks and light refreshments available. In order to help us to plan the catering it will be necessary to buy a ticket before the event.

The cost of these is £3 each which will cover all expenses. Please contact Helen Chadwick if you are planning to attend but don't yet have a ticket. ✂

Epping Forest Beekeepers Association Annual General Meeting

This is to remind you that the AGM will be held on **Thursday 20th January 2011** starting at **8.00 pm**.

It will be held at the Chingford Horticultural Society Hall, Larkshall Road, Chingford E4 6PE. ✂

The London Bee Summit takes place on Thursday 16th September at the South Bank Centre from 1.45-5.30. For information go to www.capitalbee.org ✂

Topical Tips for December

Stores: Remember to regularly give each hive a little lift (heft the hive) so that you can see if the weight of the hives is going down. If they do seem to be much lighter it would be advisable to give a feed of fondant.

Varroa: After this prolonged cold spell has lifted it would be a good time to treat your hives with oxalic acid if you are planning to do so. In cold temperatures the queen will have stopped laying and, after three weeks, there will no longer be any brood so this is an ideal time to treat, as all the Varroa will be on the bees.

Ken Barker has some oxalic acid and is willing to help anyone who is unsure about doing this, so please contact him if you would like help with this. ✂

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