



Forest Beekeeper

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

Willow Cottage Meeting

Our July meeting took place in the beautiful garden at Willow Cottage on a very sunny day. More than 55 Division members and their guests enjoyed the gardens before settling down to a very interesting talk by Rob Pickford on queen introduction, something all beekeepers need to know how to do. Rob covered the use of

queen cages as well as other ways of introducing queens. There were also plants for sale and many of those attending went home with some new additions for their gardens. This was followed by tea and a selection of cakes provided by members. We would like to thank Christine Williams and her family for once again allowing us to hold the meeting there. We organise many events throughout the year but for Epping Forest members this meeting is always a highlight of the summer programme. ☘



Honey harvesting

So far it looks a good year for honey production. If you are lucky enough to harvest some, why not prepare a few jars for the Honey Show on 23rd August? There are classes for beginners so you don't have to have lots of experience. You could also enter beeswax and wax products, photographs or a cake – the schedule of classes and all the details are on the EFBKA website together with an entry form. If you have any questions or want some advice on preparing for the show, speak to Show Secretary Eric Beaumont. Don't undersell your honey, it's always nice to be able to give your friends and family a jar or two but if you're selling to the public you should charge an appropriate price. A lot of work goes into producing, harvesting and bottling honey and you can remind buyers that what you are producing is not blended, heat-treated or otherwise altered – it's straight from the bees!

If you want to book one of the Division's two stainless steel extractors then please contact Salma Attan on 07814 700 974. Don't forget that any equipment used for extracting or bottling honey should be washed in COLD water, not hot – it may seem counter-intuitive but hot water will melt any wax residues and make the clean-up job much more difficult. ☘



Essex Conference

This year Southend Division will host the Essex Conference on Sat 11th October in Benfleet. For more details please visit www.ebka.org - tickets will be on sale from 7th July. ☘

Summer BBQ

Our summer social meeting is on 19th July at Wanstead Apiary – all members and their guests are welcome, but please let Robin Harman know how many will be attending. A modest charge of £5 each for adults will cover our costs and also help the Division to provide funds for future development. Soft drinks will be available and you are welcome to bring your own alcoholic drinks if you wish. The price includes a raffle ticket (any donations for prizes would be welcome) and there is no charge for children. There will be a talk about disease identification and prevention before the barbecue. Do come along and enjoy the chance to meet other Division members, get your questions answered and find out how other beekeepers are finding this season. ☘



Chair's Corner

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the barbecue on 19th July for the chance to chat as well as get an update on disease issues. Good apiary hygiene is essential to reduce the risk of transferring any infection so disinfect tools regularly and wash bee suits. If you are worried about something, Ken or I will be happy to talk to you and advise in the first instance – but don't worry, because despite recent outbreaks, both AFB and EFB are rare and in most cases it turns out to be something much less serious. ☘

Ted Gradosielski

Monthly Meeting – Saturday 19th July Summer BBQ

Don't miss the summer social at Wanstead Apiary, there will be a meeting at 2.30 with a talk about disease control followed by a barbecue. Cost: £5 for adults, free for children – please see details below. There may be a chance to open some hives, so if you'd like to take part please bring a clean bee suit. ☘

Basic Beekeeping Assessment

If you've been keeping bees for 12 months (minimum) you could apply to take this entry-level qualification. There's no written exam, just a short practical assessment and some questions about beekeeping. You can download the form from the BBKA website, but you'll need to get it endorsed by Ted Grad or Ken Barker before submitting (with your cheque) to the Essex examinations secretary Jane Ridler. We'd like as many members as possible to obtain this qualification, and help is available including a 'mock' test before the real thing. ☘

Disease warning

At this time of year the risk of foul brood is high. AFB has recently been found near Harlow and EFB in the neighbouring division so please check colonies weekly for signs of disease. If you find anything suspicious contact Ted Grad or Ken Barker in the first instance. All beekeepers should also register on Beebase for up-to-date information about disease outbreaks. ☘

BIBBA Conference

This year's Bee Improvers and Bee Breeders Association Conference will be held at Llangollen in North Wales from 26-28 September. For more information visit their website at www.bibba.com ☘

Tips from the Bee Man

Swarms are still being reported, so keep checking your hives. There have also been reports of deformed wing virus, usually a sign of heavy varroa infestation. If you have honey in supers then use MAQS as there's no withdrawal period, but for swarms or nucs which are not producing honey stores other treatments can be used. ☘

Contacts

Chairman – Ted Gradosielski
Tel: 01992 890 986
chairman@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk
Secretary – Robin Harman
secretary@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk
Treasurer – Mark Chambers
treasurer@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk
Newsletter – Olivia Burren
editor@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk
Tel: 020 8504 0664
Website – Kevin Cook
Tel: 0208 532 1584
webmaster@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk