

Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers

June 2014

www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

May Apiary Meeting

In May the first outdoor meeting of the year was held at the Wanstead Apiary. All the hives were inspected and advice was given on hygiene, swarm control and disease detection and prevention. The weather was not favourable, and the last hive inspection had to be undertaken inside the shed!

Two queens were found, clipped and marked and all colonies were declared healthy. As ever, thanks to all those who attended to help with the inspection and who provided refreshments. If you have bees at the Wanstead Apiary please continue to inspect them regularly as it is important that swarming does not disturb the neighbours. ✂



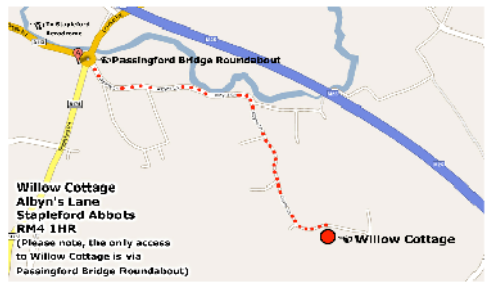
Don't Panic, Don't Panic!

You have probably seen some recent news items about a swarm of bees which settled on a shop front in central London. Seeking wisdom, BBC Radio 4's PM programme came to the Wanstead Apiary and journalist Paddy O'Connell conducted an interview with our Chair Ted Grad. Ted was able to explain to Paddy why a swarm of bees is not a danger to the public, and the sound of some of the Langley Drive bees going about their business was featured on the recording. Ted's advice to anyone discovering a swarm was 'call the local beekeeper'. ✂



Extractors

Got some honey ready to harvest? Don't forget that the Division has two brand new stainless steel extractors available to members on loan. To book one of these please contact Salma Attan on 07814 700 974 – it's best to book ahead to ensure they will be available when you want to extract your honey. ✂



Willow Cottage

Please note that you can only get to Willow Cottage via the Passingford Bridge roundabout, whatever sat-nav may tell you! Allow yourself plenty of time to wander round the lovely gardens before and after the talk on 21 June. We need to know how many will be there, so please contact secretary@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk if you are planning to attend. ✂

Monthly Meeting – Saturday 21st June at Willow Cottage

This month's meeting is in the beautiful grounds of Willow Cottage and the speaker will be Robert Pickford on queen introduction. Please arrive by 2.00 pm for a 2.30 start. **Please contact Robin Harman if you are going**, as we need to know numbers! Any volunteers to make cakes would be much appreciated. ✂

Hive Stand Workshop

This workshop has been very successful in the past and another one will be held on Saturday 7 June. Bookings have closed now but if you're interested in this then contact Robin Harman to put your name down for any future workshops. ✂

Bee Health Day

Essex Beekeepers are running a Bee Health day on 25th June in Witham. This is free to EBKA members but pre-booking is essential. Regional Bee Inspector Keith Morgan will be present and the day will include a practical apiary session – bring a clean beesuit and a packed lunch! This is described as a 'relaxed and friendly day'.

To book, contact Jim McNeill on 01708 765 898 or email him on jimandliz44@aol.co.uk ✂

BeeCraft Hangouts

Some of you will receive BeeCraft Magazine but did you know that they also have a website at www.bee-craft.com? Recently they have been running monthly webinars called 'Hangouts' – questions can be submitted in advance or you can just listen in to the Q and A session. Previous sessions can also be replayed via the website – just go to the address above and search for 'hangout'. ✂

Tips from the Bee Man

With changeable weather, swarms are still a risk so keep up regular inspections and be prepared to act. If you have hived a swarm or created a nuc, check to see if they need feeding. They can starve even at this time of year if they have insufficient flying bees to feed the colony and may need some help to get established. ✂



Chair's Corner

It was a great opportunity to be interviewed for Radio 4 and to explain exactly why a swarm of bees is not aggressive and not a danger to the public! Swarm season continues and if you are asked to deal with one, please take the chance to explain something about bees and what you are doing so that anyone watching goes away with a little more information – it might avoid a future problem. I hope to see lots of you at Willow Cottage, this is a meeting not to be missed and we're grateful to the Williams family for allowing us to use the garden again this year. ✂

Ted Gradosielski

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