



Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers

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www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

Demonstration of the Artificial Swarm

February's meeting saw a large number of members gather to see Ted Gradioselski explain the Artificial Swarm Method. Particularly useful for the new beekeepers in the audience, this is a way of preventing bees from swarming by separating the flying bees from the queen and brood. Using brood boxes, supers and frames (but no bees!) Ted explained how to tell when your bees may be ready to swarm, and then demonstrated the basics of the artificial swarm method and explained the reasons behind it. This practical demonstration was extremely useful, as was the opportunity to ask questions. Ted also explained the possible options once the artificial swarm has been completed, such as uniting colonies using a sheet of newspaper, or allowing a second colony to develop. ☘



Points mean Prizes!

As promised, here are some pictures from January's meeting of the presentation of prizes to winners in last October's Honey Show.



Eric Beaumont, Joe Chadwick and Jenny Johns receiving their awards from Ken Barker. Other prize winners were Tiffany Levi, Peter Clarke and Ted Gradioselski. ☘

A message from the National Honey Show

It's a bit early to be thinking about the National Honey Show isn't it? Well, not really, especially if you are new to beekeeping and joined EFBKA after 1st August 2009. If so, you can get in free! To get your free ticket you need to contact Jenny Johns and ask her to apply on your behalf to the NHS General Secretary. She will need to supply your name, address and your email address if you have one. The cut off date for applications is 31st July.

This year the show will be bigger than ever. The trade stands will all be together in a brighter hall and there will be a proper lecture theatre with tiered seating. A full programme of workshops and lectures with world class speakers will run during the show and there will be a wide selection of equipment and books to buy. Whilst you wait for the active season to start, why not have a look at the NHS website? You will find lots of information about the show and notes on a wide range of beekeeping subjects; all written by experts in their fields. www.honeyshow.co.uk. The National Honey Show takes place at St Georges College, Weybridge, Surrey from 28th to 30th October 2010. ☘



Chair's Corner

I popped in to Kens Beginners course on Thursday 25th February to find everyone busy making frames. Peter Clarke had brought 60 frames to be made up and after a demonstration from Ken everyone got to work with their hammers. Everyone praised the course and all were full of enthusiasm. Well done Ken & Beginners.

Helen Chadwick ☘

Our next meeting is on Thursday 18th February 2010 at 7.30 for 8.00pm start at the Chingford Horticultural Society Hall, Larkshall Road, Chingford, E4 6NH.

This evening, Orlando Clarke is coming to talk to us about Urban Beekeeping. Orlando keeps his bees in London and does not believe in using chemicals to treat the bees for diseases, nor does he feed them sugar syrup. This promises to be an interesting evening as his methods appear to be different from those we practise. You can find out more about him if you look him up on Google. You may have seen him on the television as he appeared in Martha Carney's film "The Vanishing Bees" ☘

Topical Tips

After this prolonged very cold damp weather which, at the time of writing, is still ongoing, the bees could easily be short of stores. Hefting the hive, by slightly lifting the back, will enable us to get some idea of the level of food stored in the hive. If it appears light, a feed of sugar syrup may be a good idea. According to Yates, at this time of the year, this should be made up to 50% sugar solution, (eg 1kg dissolved in 1litre water) so that the bees can use it immediately. A contact feeder will be necessary as the bees will not leave the hive at low temperatures to move up into a Miller feeder. ☘

Woodpecker damage

The picture below shows the damage done by a woodpecker to one of Ted's hives during January. The cluster was not reached by the bird, but unfortunately the colony died of cold as a result. ☘



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