



Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers
September 2011
www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

August meeting

The last of our apiary meetings for 2011 took place at the Wanstead apiary, where Ted, Helen and Ken showed members how to prepare their hives for winter. This was very well attended, and a good opportunity for new members to learn about feeding and varroa treatment. Thanks to all those members who turned up to help, and to George and Avril Smith for providing refreshments. 🐝



Photos: Hendrik Strauss

Ask not what the Division can do for you ...

As you'll see from 'Chair's Corner' below, we really need someone who regularly attends at winter meetings to help organise refreshments. If you come to these meetings, you'll appreciate being offered a cup of tea or coffee, but it doesn't happen by chance. Someone needs to buy the milk, teabags and so on, and organise the drinks. This is a good way to get to know members of the Division, and you can ask for help with the washing up, you know! Please consider volunteering for this, even if it's just for the 2010/11 season, so that we can go on having hot drinks at the meetings. 🐝

Beginners Course

Have you started keeping bees this year, but haven't had any training? Is there someone in your family who would like to get involved, or do you have a friend or neighbour who has expressed interest in keeping bees? The EFBKA Beekeeping for Beginners Course will take place next year, starting on Thursday 23rd February 2012. Space is limited, so don't delay – contact Membership Secretary Mary West on 01992 579408 to book a place. The course costs £55 and will include Associate Membership of the Division for one year, and a copy of Ted Hooper's "Bees And Honey". 🐝

Taster Day

Do you know anyone who would like to keep bees but isn't sure where to start? Why not suggest that they attend our 'Taster Day' on 24th September. Aspiring beekeepers will get the opportunity to see inside a hive and learn about bees. The cost is £10, but this will be deducted from the course fee for anyone booking on the Beginners Bee Keeping Course which will take place in February next year (see above). 🐝

Chair's Corner

Divisional Extractor

Salma Attan is co-ordinating the borrowing of the Divisional extractor. If you would like to use it please contact Salma on 07814 700 974.

Refreshments

Avril & George kindly helped again with "a drink & a cake" at Wanstead on the 13th, however, they would like a well deserved rest from preparing the refreshments at meetings and I am appealing for volunteers to take over.

Divisional Suits

WANTED! someone who attends our Summer Apiary meetings to look after our precious half suits. Anyone interested please contact me on 0208 523 5770.

There is a lot of truth in the saying many hands make light work, so please help if at all possible

Many Thanks,
Helen Chadwick 🐝



Next meeting – The Divisional Honey Show, Saturday 17th Sept

There is no apiary or indoor meeting in September, instead come to the Chingford Agricultural Hall on Saturday 17th September for the annual Honey Show. Better still, why not enter some of your honey, wax or honey products for one of the classes? Entry forms have been sent to all Division Members. Judging starts at 10.00 am, and even if you are not entering there is a lot to learn from coming to see the exhibits. 🐝

Another exam success:

Congratulations to Jackie Clarke, who has recently passed the Basic Beekeeping Assessment. Congratulations also to Ted Grad, who is now qualified to assess members of other Divisions taking their Basic Assessment 🐝

Disease check

There have been two separate incidents of **European Foul Brood** in the Epping area this year. If your apiary is sited near the place where this occurred then you'll already have been contacted by the Essex Bee Disease Inspector, and thankfully the outbreaks do not seem to have spread. However it's a salutary reminder to us all to be alert to the risk of disease. If you do see anything you're not sure about, then you can ask for the Bee Disease Inspector to come and check your hives. Be very careful if you buy used equipment, and observe good hygiene practice if visiting another apiary site. 🐝

Tips from the Bee Man

September/October is a good time to unite colonies. If you have several stocks of bees, place them in order of preference. There will always be some colonies better than others. Remove the Queen from the poorest hive and unite bees to the hive nearest to it. Do this every year and your bees will be better all round. Points to consider: contented bees or prolific swarmers? Good or bad temper, how much propolis do they use. Do they follow you all the way home and some bees will start work early than others; this is called selective breeding and will benefit bees and beekeepers. 🐝

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