



Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers
December 2017
www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

Anyone can plant a tree

Russell Miller gave an engaging talk at our November meeting on the single most important element of urban forage: trees. Well-known in north London as a leading member of the Tree Musketeers, a group of volunteers dedicated to the planting, protection, and management of urban trees, Russell gave a brief overview: losses due to new tree diseases, the impact of imports (a frequent topic for beekeepers) and as a result the planting of a wider variety of species by local authorities.

Trees are vertical fields and although lime, sycamore and sweet chestnut are major forage sources for pollinators, they are also giants of the tree world; in contrast Russell's commendable list included mostly small and medium trees, suitable for urban spaces. This theme continued with a thought-provoking Q&A – why do some lime trees poison bees? – and a hint to us all to plant a bare-root tree for pollinators this winter. ☘

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Flowering Season | Size |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------|
| Winter cherry | <i>Prunus subhirtella Autumnalis</i> | December to March | Small |
| Christmas Camelia | <i>Camellia sasanqua Yuletide</i> | December to January | Small |
| Mohonia | <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i> | December to February | Shrub |
| Fragrant honeysuckle | <i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i> | December to January | Shrub |
| Loquat | <i>Eriobotrya japonica</i> | January to February | Medium |
| Mimosa | <i>Acacia dealbata</i> | January to March | Large |
| Okame cherry | <i>Prunus Okame</i> | February to March | Small |
| Almond | <i>Prunus dulcis</i> | February to March | Small |
| Apricot | <i>Prunus armenica</i> | March | Small |
| Alder | <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> | March | Medium |
| Willow | <i>Salix species</i> | February to March | Large |
| Cherry plum | <i>Prunus cerasifera</i> | February to March | Medium |
| Blackthorn | <i>Prunus spinosa</i> | March to April | Shrub |
| Apple | <i>Malus pumila</i> | April to May | Medium |
| Lime | <i>Tilia species</i> | July | Large |
| Korean Bee Tree | <i>Tetradium daniellii</i> | July to September | Medium |
| Tamarix | <i>Tamarix gallica</i> | August to September | Small |
| Crepe Myrtle | <i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> | August to September | Small |
| Ivy | <i>Hedera helix</i> | October to December | Climber |

Top Trees for Bees - Chart courtesy of Russell Miller

All change

After eight years editing the Epping Forest Beekeepers Newsletter, Editor Olivia Burren has decided to stand down at this year's AGM although she will still be keeping bees. The newsletter will be in the capable hands of new editor Josie Howard, who joined the Division last year. Khalil Attan who has done a sterling job as Honey Show Secretary is also standing down this year, and a new post of Education Secretary is open for election. We are very lucky to have such an active Division with so many events for members, but it is only possible because of our superb volunteers. If you can spare some time to help at an event, fill one of the Committee positions or contribute copy for the newsletter, please offer your services – speak to Eric or Robin or any of the Committee. Your Division needs you! ☘



Chair's Corner

Winter brings with it the joy of a rapid AGM and in our case, the greater pleasure to meet and eat and chew over the ups and downs of our beekeeping year. Of course, we'll have the Honey Show cups to present and a raffle (first prize a poly nuc box!) and the counting of the accounts, but Francis O'Brien will bring a fruit cake and someone will bring another and after all is said and done, it will be a warm way to look forward to the stirrings of spring. See you there?

Eric Beaumont ☘

Monthly Meeting – Thursday 14th December – AGM and Social

The last meeting of the year on Thursday 14th December at Chingford Horticultural Hall, Larkshall Road, E4 6PE will combine both the AGM and our Christmas Social. The AGM will begin at 7.30 pm promptly, and will be followed by the prize giving for this year's Honey Show and the Christmas social. **Booking for the Christmas party is essential** – please email Jackie Clarke on peejayclarke@hotmail.co.uk as soon as possible as numbers are limited. Free to members and their partners, £5 for guests. Please bring your own drink, although tea and coffee will be available.

Please note that there will be no monthly meeting in January - our next meeting will be on 15th February 2018. ☘

Dates for your Diary

Next year's **BBKA Spring Convention** will be held at Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire on **13-15th April 2018**. Tickets will be available in January from the BBKA Website. Speakers will be announced in early 2018.

Beetradex will be on **3rd March 2018** at Stoneleigh Park in Warwickshire. Billed as the biggest Beekeeping Show in 2018, tickets can be bought online now at £4 per adult. ☘

Essex Beekeeping Events

Did you know that as a member of the Epping Forest Division of Essex Beekeepers, you could attend events run by other Divisions in Essex? These are usually listed at the front of the Essex Beekeepers' Association Magazine and on their website. If you see an event that interests you, why not go along. ☘

Tips from the Bee Man

If you have done all the right checks in autumn and fed your bees, this is the month to put your feet up! Apart from checking any out-apiaries for woodpecker damage or fallen hives after bad weather, you should not need to visit your bees. It's a good time to browse catalogues for things you might need next year, and if you have made any mead, now is the time to enjoy a glass! ☘

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