



THE LEEDS BEEKEEPER - JULY 2014 - Newsletter 39



European Foul Brood is on our doorstep! Beware

The Season is in full swing - Wednesday from 6:30pm onwards
at Temple Newsam Apiary

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Ask questions about what to do in July from experienced beekeepers
Talk about Spring colony problems and successes - Discuss potential swarming issues
Equipment Store open - Kettle on / Brown Cow afterwards from 9 pm onwards

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES – JULY 2014

July 2014 and what a lovely summer it's turning out to be.

Lots of nucs were delivered to the apiary, as ordered by new beekeepers, and it all looks to be going well. Some have taken their colonies home already, and others have chosen to keep them a bit longer at Temple Newsam; so it's busy and happy down there on a Wednesday evening now. Come along and have a cuppa and a natter.

We have a few events coming up in the near future.

The last weekend in August will be a 'Beekeepers Open Day' at the Home Farm at Temple Newsam. We will be showing off our beekeeping expertise, and we are in need of volunteers to help out on both days, by manning the displays, and talking to the public. If you can help, please let me know.

The Honey Show will take place as part of the Leeds Horticultural Show at the Grammar School at Alwoodley on the 2nd and 3rd August. Can I urge you to get your entries into some of the many classes, to show off your produce and win some prizes. Also, if you feel like manning the honey selling stands, or the observation hive, please let us know. Full details are shown below in Jane Sargent's article.

You may have heard rumours that we're considering relocating to another site within the Temple Newsam estate. This would be very exciting and a big challenge. At this stage, nothing has been decided, but I promise that we'll let you know as soon as possible. There's a lot of think about for such a move.

EUROPEAN FOUL BROOD OUTBREAK IN SELBY/CAWOOD/SHERBURN AREA

An outbreak of European Foul Brood (EFB) has occurred in the Cawood/Sherburn in Elmet area. Outbreaks of EFB have occurred in the Wistow/Cawood area for the last 5 years plus, which is indicative of feral or kept colonies incubating EFB. The Bee Diseases Inspectors (BDI) are aware of the situation and some colonies have been destroyed.

I would advise that any swarms collected in the above area, East of the A1 and as far North as Leeming Bar and as far South as Adwick le Street are kept in that area and not brought West until they can be properly inspected, i.e. three full cycles of brood by an experienced beekeeper or Bee Diseases Inspector; Leeds Beekeepers Association do have members living and keeping bees in the area and those like myself abutting up to it could get called to swarms there. Specific locations affected i.e. beekeepers apiary cannot be named by the BDI.



Vigilance by all beekeepers is paramount, not only within their own colonies and apiaries but observing whenever possible where feral colonies are located in their area, in and around Cawood. East, South East and North East of Leeds. As they go about their daily business, beekeepers should consider clipping queens, in order to retain swarms in or near their own apiaries, also bait hives (see later article in this newsletter) should be used. If a swarm absconds and is not collected by a bee

keeper or destroyed by pest control and goes feral, it is potentially a source for incubating disease and harbouring parasites.

In the meantime I will try and remain optimistic (as shall we all) and hope beekeepers from associations in the area will get together, raise awareness of the problem, and be pro-active in their observations with a view to containing and/or eliminating EFB.

If you have any concerns about EFB please contact your FERA Seasonal Bee Inspector. In Leeds it is Dhonn Atkinson.

Robin Tomlinson

*“Anyone with information about hives in the area which they think may not be known about by myself or the NBU can check the location on www.streetmap.co.uk and send me the grid reference which starts SE***** via e-mail. Thank you*

*Dhonn Atkinson
Dhonn.Atkinson@fera.gsi.gov.uk”*

FERA European Foul Brood website

<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/public/beekeepingFaq/europeanFoulbroodEfb.cfm>

EFB - European Foul Brood

LEEDS FLOWER, VEGETABLE AND CRAFT SHOW - 150TH ANNIVERSARY

To All Members

You are ALL invited to enter the LBKA Annual Wax, Honey & Mead Show. All members are encouraged to take part in this event to publicise our association and the high quality products we provide. LBKA is an associate member of Leeds Horticultural Society.

Location & Time:

Leeds Flower, Vegetable and Craft Show
The Grammar School at Leeds
Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd August 2014
Sat 12 noon to 4.30 pm
Sun 10.00 am to 4.30pm

Fees & Prizes

Entry Fee £2.00 entry fee is payable covering 1 to 4 entries, additional entries 50p each (max £5). This also gives you **free** admission to one of the days

Prizes. 1st Prize £4 2nd Prize £3 3rd Prize £2.

All winners receive a certificate recording their success and in some classes a cup or trophy is presented to the winner to hold for the year.

Last years Winners

All cups and trophies are to be returned to a member of the committee before the end of July to enable me to get them engraved and ready for the show.(Any problems please give me a call).

Entry Classes

We want to encourage all members to enter at least one class. [This is a very good opportunity for new beekeepers to show off the first of their honey and enter it into the novice class.](#) If you haven't entered before (or you have not won a first place) then enter one jar of any honey in this novice class.

Why not try your hand at **baking the honey cake** or showing your bees **photo's**?

SELL YOUR HONEY & OTHER PRODUCTS AT THE SHOW

Members are also invited to sell their Honey and Wax products at the show. Honey must be of good quality with correct labels and tamper evident seal.

10% of all sales will go to LBKA. In part this pays our membership of LHS (£25.00 p.a.)

Volunteers

I am also looking for people to help with various aspects of hosting this show on the Friday late afternoon, the Saturday and Sunday. Anyone willing to help for any time however short would be most welcome.

I am looking for volunteers for the following:

- Help set up on Friday afternoon (from 3pm) - available for people to bring show entries and products for sale
- Help man the stalls and observation hive over the Saturday & Sunday - please say when you are available
- Assist the Judge (incl scribing) on Saturday morning 9.30am-11.30am
- Prepare and deliver Observation Hive on Saturday morning

Honey, Wax and Mead section schedule, Entry Form and location map can be found at this link: <http://www.leedshs.org.uk/competitive-classes>. The honey related classes begin on page 23 of the schedule.

Entries to be made between 3.00pm and 9.00pm Friday 1st and 7.00am and 9.30am Saturday 2nd August.

(If you are unable to bring your entries between these times then let me know and I will arrange with you individually to get your entries beforehand).

Jane Sargeant

COUNTRYSIDE LIVE NORTH EVENT – LBKA PARTICIPATION

This took place on 21st/22nd May 2014. at the Ledston Estate, near Castleford thanks to support from the Wheler Foundation, (a charity encouraging agriculture, forestry and rural industry for the benefit of the public). LBKA was invited to attend together with Barkston Ash Beekeepers.

The event was organised by Countryside Learning, a national charity that connects children, families and teachers with the countryside. The mission of the organisation is to educate, inform and inspire children, parents and teachers, so that they can enjoy and appreciate the countryside while having a greater understanding of the wide range of issues surrounding it.

Countryside Learning events deliver education outside the classroom giving inner city children the chance, often for the first time, to experience the countryside around them. The knowledge gained and the extra resource facilities available on-line through Countryside Learning can be taken back to the classroom to enhance the school curriculum.

The event at the Ledston Estate included a host of exhibitors including Ferretworld Roadshow, Wakefield Badger Group, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) The Bat Show, West Shetland Ponies, Yorkshire Police – Wildlife Crime, Beagles – Airedale pack, Gundogs, Xtreme Falconry and The Sheep Show, to mention only a few.

Each day 9 groups of 25-30 children attended the Beekeeping marquee for approximately 30 minutes per group. After a short presentation the children visited each of the four stations, the stations being Honey tasting, an Observation Hive, a Cut-away Hive and Dressing up in beekeeping suits. A lively time was had by all, including the volunteers from Barkston Ash Beekeepers and Leeds Beekeepers. The volunteers from LBKA - Katey Slater, Trish Narayan, Janet Hallas, Angela Uttley and Cath Graham, were fully employed throughout the two days at the various stations. At least one teacher commented that our marquee was the best in the show for hands-on experience for the children.

We will no doubt be invited to participate again next year; hopefully there will be some new member volunteers to join us.



Cath Graham

We will be looking for volunteers for NEXT years Country Side Live. If you are interested, speak to Cath Graham. She will make a note of your details.

MY FIRST SWARM - ALONE

Well I did it! I put my name on the swarm list. After managing to successfully nurse my first colony through the Winter, more by luck than good management, as it was a particularly mild one and the queen was probably continually laying all through in any case.

I hadn't taken any honey the previous season to give them the best possible chance of over-wintering and I also fed them going into and coming out of Winter. Overkill, I know but hey, I'm a Yorkshireman and had paid good money for the colony and of course I didn't want to lose them and have to buy more bees. It was the thought of putting my hand in my pocket that prompted me to put my name on the swarm collection list. I did request however that I would like to go with another experienced beekeeper to a couple of collections first, as it's all well and good talking about it and watching it on YouTube, but I imagined that the real thing would be more of a challenge. I was right.

Within 24 hours of signing up I got the call asking if I would accompany another beekeeper to collect a swarm as part of my swarm collecting apprenticeship. I tried to sound really cool and relaxed, but I think I actually gave out a little squeal of excitement on the phone.

I was collected by my 'tutor' and we travelled to the swarm, in a greenhouse. All the way there I was thinking that the swarm would be in the typical formation of a cluster of bees hanging from something nice and accessible. Unfortunately that was not the case. The bees were in many small clusters throughout the whole of the greenhouse and there were many dead bees as they had been in there quite a while and the heat had taken its toll. The only thing for it was to sweep what bees we could into my tutors' skep (actually it was a black plastic builder's bucket. Not at all like YouTube). We left the upturned bucket to let the flying/crawling bees make their own way in, like it says in the books. Obviously these bees hadn't read the books and when we returned they were mostly back out again. Sensing failure the remaining bees were brushed into the bucket again and taken to my tutor's apiary and placed carefully in a nuc with a frame of brood. They successfully recovered.

A couple of days later I got another call with the details of yet another swarm and was I interested in collecting it. I wasn't about to turn down free bees and took the details of where they were. "They're on a fencepost in a residential area. A straightforward job for your first solo collection" I was told. As soon as I put the phone down apprehension, well actually fear, set in and I phoned my 'tutor' who happened to be available to assist me on this occasion.

"This should be easy" I said to my mentor. "It's on a fencepost." Wrong. Unfortunately when we arrived the bees had already been on the post a couple of days in the rain and once again were in clusters everywhere, but in reality it was a caste and not a swarm. Bigger!

Well free bees are free bees, so we proceeded to sweep and scoop up as many bees as we could and place them, this time in my skep, which was much better than my mentors bucket. Well actually it was a cardboard box. Hey necessity is the mother of invention and a box is cheap/free. As I said before. I have got short arms and deep pockets. We didn't do the upturned box thing and watch them walk/fly in because by this time it was raining. Not ideal for swarm collection. In any event the bees that were left on the floor were either dead or close to it. When I arrived home I put the half dead bees in a poly-nuc expecting them all to expire. At this point I was contemplating having my name taken off the collection list. I left them for about a week and then took a look at them expecting to find either no bees or dead bees. To my surprise the bees had drawn some comb and there were already eggs in the cells. There was that squeal again! I'm going to have to stop doing that out loud and try and just think it. These bees are still doing well and at the time of writing are awaiting transfer into a full size brood box.

A few days later I was contacted about another swarm. This time it was quite near and was on a tree stump in a back garden. Unfortunately when I arrived, alone this time, I discovered the swarm was on a thick cut off bough of a tree (I suppose that was what was meant by "tree stump"??) about 25 feet of the ground. Ok, at this point I ought to say that I hadn't taken ladders for two reasons. Firstly, I was told the swarm was on a tree stump so ladders were not on my equipment list. Second and more importantly my wife has banned me from ladders following an incident a few years ago when cleaning out the gutters. I was found by her, lying on the decking and at first she thought I had invented a new hobby which



involved lying on the floor and sunbathing while muttering as many swear words as I could think of, until she spotted my right leg sticking out at a strange angle and the ladder and bucket a little way off.

The swarm was massive but I didn't have any ladders and in any event I was banned from using them. So it was a no-brainer. Five minutes later I was just under the swarm 25 feet off the ground, bee brush and cardboard box in hand on a borrowed ladder. What she doesn't know won't harm her. An hour later

and about 27 times up and down the ladder I had most of the swarm in the box and was having a cup of tea with the property owner who was nursing a very swollen cheek. I did tell him before I started that he should watch from a window, but he wanted to be close to the action. As my old dad used to say, "You pay to learn". This guy paid in pain.

I got the swarm safely hived and although I wanted to share my adventure with my wife, all I could say to her was that it was an easy swarm to collect, as it was on a tree stump. Well it was on a stump. I just forgot to mention exactly where the stump was situated. I would say to any new beekeeper. Have a go at collecting a swarm or two. No two are the same and very few of them are exactly as described in the textbooks but if done successfully the reward is free bees.

Mick Hartshorne

GENERAL HUSBANDRY TRAINING WEEKEND

Leeds Beekeepers Association ran a General Husbandry training session over the weekend of 21st and 22nd June. This training is aimed at people who plan to take the General Husbandry assessment and exam, which is a level above the Basic Assessment, for people who have kept bees for three years or more and who have at least three colonies. The trainer was Gerry Collins, a master beekeeper with a wealth of experience and a great raconteur into the bargain.

The weekend dawned sunny and warm but the first morning was spent in the classroom, with Gerry presenting parts of the syllabus. First we learnt what equipment we would need to demonstrate we own and know how to use for all manner of purposes such as moving colonies, catching swarms, feeding, wax recovery and pest control. We learnt the importance of hive records and how the assessors will use these to select the colonies that we would be expected to manipulate in front of them.



We returned to the clubhouse (watching a swarm leave the TN apiary as we walked down...), had our packed lunches and a welcome cuppa then got suited up to go into the apiary. The class was split into 3 groups of five trainees, with Gerry leading one group, David Haigh the second and Keith Dobson the third. The leaders demonstrated a selection of the tasks we might be asked to perform for the assessors such as examining colonies for diseases, performing an artificial swarm, preparing a colony for moving, and marking and clipping queens: we used drones for this exercise rather than risk killing all the queens in the LBKA colonies with our clumsy fumbling.



clipping queens: we used drones for this exercise rather than risk killing all the queens in the LBKA colonies with our clumsy fumbling.

I for one had never handled a single bee in that way, always previously using a cage of some kind. Gerry was very patient only swearing quietly after the fifth time I failed to transfer the drone from right hand to left correctly...I definitely need to practice this one at home.

We also learnt the correct way to shake bees off a frame – aiming for a single shake with the top of the frame only a couple of inches out of the brood box to minimise how far the bees drop. Most of us turned out to be two-shake merchants, failing to clear the frames with one shake, so again more practice needed there.

On the second day we returned to the classroom for more presentations, which centred on the natural history of the honeybee, races, castes and life cycles as well as foraging. Then we covered the further practical tasks we might be asked to perform such as making a nucleus, uniting colonies (including uniting a nucleus to a full colony), shook swarms and Bailey comb changes. By now we were all reeling with the information overload so we returned to the clubhouse for lunch and got kitted up again for the apiary. The day was hotting up and we sweltered in our suits while Gerry, David and Keith demonstrated the practical tasks.

Everyone agreed the two days had been a fantastic experience, getting intensively into techniques that some of us had not yet attempted. Many thanks to Gerry for being such a great trainer, and thanks also to David and Keith for leading the practical sessions.

On a personal level, I know I am several years away from being able to take this assessment (not least because as of yesterday I am back to only 2 colonies having failed to introduce a queen properly). However, the two days were extremely interesting and informative and have given me a real sense of what I need to do to improve my beekeeping, even if I never actually take this exam. I can thoroughly recommend this training, if you get a chance to do it, but would say I think you need a few years practical experience under your belt before you can really benefit from the level of detail and breadth of coverage.



Juliet Parkinson

UNEXPECTED OUTCOMES!

Going back some 15 years or so, one of our members, Richard, asked me to inspect his proposed site for his soon to be acquired bees. It was in Thorner, behind a disused pigsty, overlooking a smallholding full of fruit trees. A glorious and secluded spot.

After a few years he decided to emigrate to France. He took with him his bees, having first had to arrange a Ministry of Agriculture inspection and import licence from the French. He was so impressed with David Haigh's queens that, a few years later, he bought some more. These were sent in the post to re queen his colonies.

That was it. The last we heard from him. Until this week when I received a call from the farmer on whose land I have an out apiary. His friend had some hives which had been left in his garden allotment in Thorner. They weren't his. They'd been there for years. One had bees in occupation, and these hadn't been touched for years. The second hive was empty. It was the same site that Richard had used. Clearly he'd left behind some unwanted hives which had been occupied with feral swarms over the years.

My farmers friend, the man with the smallholding, had been stung. Above an eyebrow. His pub friends, no doubt delighted at his rapidly swelling face, were full of sage advice. I can't help but think that they were winding him up! He went home post haste to try them out. The first suggestion was to rub a cut onion on the affected spot. Well that didn't work. It just stung even more and made his eyes water. Another was to apply bicarbonate of soda. That too didn't seem to help much. Finally he rubbed on Germoline. Still no help! So he finally went to his GP. He'd had enough of bees and "wanted rid". Would I help?

Expecting derelict and rotten hives, and bees with brace comb everywhere I set off. But what a surprise. The brood boxes, supers and floors were in good condition, as was their stand. The two roofs were sound but needed re-covering. Yes the frames and combs were well past their sell by date, but no brace comb. And the super was stuffed with honey. Clearly these hives have been empty of bees in the past as there was lots of evidence of old wax moth damage. No live wax moths or their larvae seen though.

I've now moved them to my apiary and given them a new floor and new brood box complete with new frames and foundation. The bees are pleasant enough and the queen now clipped and marked. Once she's laying in the new brood box I'll place the old brood box above the queen excluder for the brood (loads of it) to hatch. Then I'll burn the frames. I'll also extract the honey (probably beyond spinning out so will use the Pratley tray) before destroying these combs too.

All in all a good outcome wouldn't you say?

Dave Barrett

FIRST SATURDAY OF JULY 2014

The first Saturday of the month was a very wet morning indeed. It was quiet down at the apiary although the shop was open as usual and did a brisk trade. The shop now accepts debit/credit cards which appears to have helped members considerably. Adrian, David H and Duncan were staff on duty.

Tea/Coffee was on the go all morning with biscuits. Mark Ghent mowed the grass whilst others watched and admired his prowess with a lawn mower.

Several new members with bees popped down and checked out their new bees in their hives in the nuc area. Several fed the bees to give them that extra boost in what is at the moment a little bit of a wet season and also the June gap is upon us.

All in all, a pleasant morning

Chris Barlow

TOPICAL TIPS - JULY 2014

HOLIDAY TIME - July tends to be a nice and easy month for the beekeeper. Most of the troublesome bits – swarming – are over now for the year. You will know which colonies have either swarmed or been artificially swarmed. This means that new queens will now head some of your colonies. If the weather's right those stocks will now be bringing back your main honey crop. Locally the best honey yielding flowers tend to be Rosebay Willow Herb (Fireweed) and Himalayan Water Balsam. While they're hard at work it's "safe" to go on holiday!

QUEEN MATING - It's been widely reported in the bee press that it's becoming increasingly difficult to get mated queens. That's been my experience too. So do check those colonies you left with queen cells to ensure that she has mated and is laying worker eggs. My personal "rule of thumb" is that it takes a month from queen cell to laying queen. I leave them alone for that period – and don't open them up. Usually all's well after a month and there's evidence of new egg laying. If not then I make a point of going back a week later. If there are still no eggs then it's likely that the colony is either hopelessly queenless (the virgin has been lost) or they are queenright but the virgin has failed to successfully mate. Both scenarios have the same results – an inability to produce worker brood. The solution I'm afraid is to merge them to another colony – finding and killing any queen present first or, if there's laying workers then shaking every frame onto the ground and removing their bee hive and stand. The workers will then find their way into other colonies. Best to talk to one of LBKS's experienced beekeepers before you tackle this one? Why are queens failing to mate? Well there's plenty of speculation but most seem to come down to Varroa. Damage

to Drones – weakened flight muscles or damaged reproductive organs? Or damage to Queens? No one knows but the phenomenon of poor matings coincided with the appearance of Varroa so....

SUPERSEDURE - Sometimes at this time of year you'll notice one or two queen cells in the centre of frames. The likelihood is that the bees are not going to swarm but are simply planning to replace an old or failing queen themselves. What to do? Well the answer is simple; close them down and leave them alone for the next month. Allow nature to take its course and hope you'll get a huge new queen.

Finally have you ever considered taking your bees for a well deserved "holiday" to the glorious Yorkshire Moors? While they bask in the autumn sunshine, they can bring you in a crop of delicious Heather honey. The heather used to flower within a day or two of the 12th August. But recent years have seen it flower anytime from late July onwards. If you've never been to the moors why not give it a go? It's hard work but can be good fun – particularly if there are others going with you at the same time. We will be running a Wednesday Night talk "Taking Bees To The Heather". Why not come, pick up some tips, and have a go? There is after all a LBKA Heather site just past Otley.

You'll need to remove the summer honey crop before transporting the colonies. This can be extracted or saved for extracting later. Remember to store them in a bee proof place or other bees will find them and rob them out! Preparing and moving colonies is too lengthy an article for "topical tips". Enough to say that it's a good idea to strap them up the day before moving. Seal them in after they've finished flying and move them early (before it gets hot and the bees distressed) the following morning.

Moving the bees to the heather is to be timed to coincide with the start of its flowering season. As mentioned above flowering can start as early as late July / the first week of August. Rather than miss the start get yourself into the network of those going to the moors. Someone will be keeping their eye on things and will alert you if it's in flower early.

As to Varroa treatments there's no easy answer. The manufacturers say it's OK to use when there's honey coming in / on the hive. Good practice suggests that you don't have these chemicals in the hives with the honey. I use treatments that can go on after the bees have returned from the moors and the heather honey removed. There's then no risk of honey contamination. Take advice from the LBKA shop and stick to the manufacturer's recommendations.

Bees usually come back from the moors with very full brood boxes. Whilst you'd think that there's no point feeding them that's not necessarily true. Give them some extra space – a bottom super or second brood chamber and a gallon of thick syrup. This will encourage the queen to start to lay – and these late laid bees will be a valuable boost to your colonies for the over winter period.

Dave Barrett

BEEKEEPERS QUESTIONS CORNER?

If you have any questions about bee keeping and can't get down to the apiary to get them answered, drop me and an e-mail and I will get an experienced bee keeper to answer. Results published following month.

2014 WEEKEND COURSE – 31ST MAY/1ST JUNE

The 2014 weekend training course went fantastically well this year. The weather was on our side with plenty of sun, lots of warmth and very little wind. We had 22 students this year who came to learn to keep bees with Leeds BKA.

This is a picture by Mick Hartshorne of myself and Clare McGettigen opening the course on Saturday morning. This was the first of many very educational and fun sessions through out the weekend

Can I say thank you to the following people for helping out over the weekend by doing various things and being there. Duncan Brierley, Cath Graham, Clare McGettigen , David Haigh, Dave Barrett, Andy Gowdry, John Duffy, Dhonn Atkinson, Graham and Jean Legg, Mick Hartshorne, John Thompson, me and Keith Dobson .



Some of the comments post course from our online survey included.. “ very interesting, great weekend with great people. And compliments to the Chef.” and “ the enthusiasm and dedication of the LBKA members was infectious” which was great to read.

It was truly a great weekend course for all the attendees and trainers alike.

BEES IN THE NEWS

Honeybees 'read maps' to find home

Honeybees use mental maps to find their way home in a similar way to birds and mammals, researchers say. Bees are known to use the sun in order to navigate, but scientists have debated the other methods they use.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/27637747>

20 Million Bees Swarm Delaware Highway After Tractor-Trailer Crash

Authorities in Delaware spent most of Tuesday night cleaning up the wreckage from a tractor-trailer crash. The cleanup took longer than usual because of the truck's cargo: 20 million bees, most of which escaped and swarmed the truck.

<http://gawker.com/20-million-bees-swarm-delaware-highway-after-tractor-tr-1579475489>

Littleport bees break boiler by building hive inside. The owners of a company whose boiler broke down were "shocked" to discover thousands of bees had built a hive inside it.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-27830560>

Widespread impacts of neonicotinoids 'impossible to deny'

Neonicotinoid pesticides are causing significant damage to a wide range of beneficial species and are a key factor in the decline of bees, say scientists.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-27980344>

US sets up honey bee loss task force

The White House has set up a taskforce to tackle the decline of honey bees. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the agriculture department will lead the effort, which includes \$8m (£4.7m) for new honey bee habitats.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-27951040>

STANDING 'STUFF'

Education for all - YBKA will be holding a one day workshop on the use of the compound microscope.

This will be on Sunday 21st of September at the YBKA pavilion in Harrogate. The cost for the day is £20. If delegates have access to a microscope that would be helpful but not essential. Please contact me to book your place or for further details.

Many thanks and best wishes, Wendy Maslin, YBKA exam sec., beewendi@gmail.com

Wednesday Evening Refreshments

Once again don't be a stranger - there is a group of beekeepers that meet in the Brown Cow and Dragon (Selby Road, Whitkirk, LS15 7AY, close to the turn off for Temple Newsam) every Wednesday evening around 9 o'clock (ish) for a drink or two.

Swarm Collections

This is a reminder that LBKA runs an effective swarm collection service, all coordinated by Duncan Brearley. If you were on the list last year, your name will be automatically carried forward, but if you want to be added to it, contact Duncan on "thebeeman@hotmail.co.uk". Or you can find him around the shop at any apiary meeting.

Going to the heather? Wanna come?

Myself and Dave Barret are planning on going to the Heather this year. We went last year, it was lots of fun. I took a couple of boxes of bees and intend on taking the same this year. I got about 60 lbs of honey. Well worth going. Dave B took a few more boxes and Keith Dobson came along and he brought one box of bees. The heather moor we visited was at Otley, the association has a plot that we use belonging to a pleasant local farmer. The cost to the farmer will be £5 per box of bees. He's happy, we're happy.

Do you fancy joining us? If so, come and speak to Dave Barrett or Chris Barlow and we will take names and numbers and discuss war tactics, so we are all prepped up for beginning of August when we take them and bring them back in early September!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

July 2014

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 2nd July | Wednesday - Apiary Meeting |
| 8th July | Great Yorkshire Show Hive Products Exhibition |
| 9th July | Wednesday - Apiary Meeting |
| 12th July | Saturday Apiary Meeting |
| 16th July | Wednesday - Apiary Meeting |
| 19/20 July | Basic Assessment (contact Chris Barlow fs you want to take the Basic) |
| 23rd July | Wednesday - Apiary Meeting |
| 26th July | FERA will be running a Bee Health Day
There are up to 40 places still available and will be running all day from 10:00 hrs till 16:00 hrs. - email me if you want a place on this free course.
See below |
| 30th July | Wednesday - Apiary Meeting |

August 2014

2nd Aug Saturday - Apiary Meeting
2/3rd Aug Leeds Horticultural Show, The Grammar School, Alwoodley
6th Aug Wednesday - Apiary Meeting
9th Aug Taster Day
13th Aug Wednesday - Apiary Meeting
20th Aug Wednesday - Apiary Meeting
23/24th Aug Bee Weekend at Temple Newsam for the public
27th Aug Wednesday - Apiary Meeting (preparing for Winter by Dave Barrett)
30/31st Aug Beekeeping Open Weekend at Temple Newsam

FERA Bee Health Day 26th July 2014

Topics will include:

Inspecting bees for brood diseases and exotic pests

Varroa monitoring and control

Good apiary hygiene

Comb changing techniques

Making nucs and colony increase

Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. This is free of charge.

Please email the education officer if you wish to book a place.

Email: education@leedsbeekeepers.org.uk

MANY THANKS TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS – KEEP IT COMING!

The following is a desperate plea for entries from the newsletter editor for anything that is remotely related to bee keeping to be put in to next months superior LBKA **August 2014** Newsletter edition

Please send your contributions (articles, anecdotes, Photos, recipes, etc.) For the next newsletter to Katey Slater at editor@leedsbeekeepers.org.uk