SBKA EPSOM DIVISION NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2013

Apiary at: Upper Mill, Kingston Road, Ewell, Surrey KT17 2AF
Registered Charity No 1026386

Committee News

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We are starting the weekly Tuesday Club Nights on March 5th and have two very interesting lectures from outside speakers lined up to whet your appetite! On the 12th March we are very lucky to have Gerry Collins MSc NDB, a BBKA Master beekeeper and Senior honey judge who will be giving a talk entitled 'What's Going on In My Hive?' Alan Byham, Regional Bee Inspector will be visiting on the 19th to talk about disease and apiary hygiene and answer your questions and queries and the following Tuesday we will be holding a Disease Clinic.

From April we will be running a new schedule for the weekly Tuesday club nights called **'Beekeeping Techniques for Better Beekeepers'.** (The complete list will be advertised in the March newsletter).

Each week we will be exploring and discussing a seasonal beekeeping topic. These have been planned to be a few weeks ahead of when they actually need doing so you will have the opportunity to put ideas into action. BUT, as we all know, individual beekeepers and bees vary considerably so are they intended to be used as a guide rather than a prescribed set of jobs to be done! (Just remember what last year was like....).

Although the sessions will be led, we are expecting them to be interactive rather than 'taught' to enable shared discussion of experiences and ideas, question, answer and support with the opportunity to explore topics in greater depth. Where appropriate, practical demonstrations will support the topics. These will be weather and time dependant so if the Tuesday evening is not suitable then we will hold practical demonstrations on the Saturday. Again beekeepers will be encouraged to actively participate so always bring a clean bee suit to wear!

The Queen Rearing Project will continue in the same format as last year and beekeepers are invited to attend these sessions with David and Phil where appropriate - so another reason to always come prepared to get involved!

We hope that these weekly topics will appeal to all levels of beekeeper but in particular to those embarking on their 2nd year and upwards. We would value the input of more experienced beekeepers to keep the level of discussion as varied and interesting as possible and to reflect the many different approaches to beekeeping.

The shop will open on Saturday 30th March from 3-5pm for your beekeeping supplies. Steve and Kimberley have very kindly agreed to open the shop to members on a Tuesday - WHEN CONVENIENT TO THEM - it will NOT necessarily open every week if they have other commitments and cannot attend on the Tuesday night.

The website is currently being updated and we hope to start using it, along with email reminders, to inform you of weekly meetings, changes to programme, shop opening etc so do please visit it regularly for updates.

Basic Assessment

The Basic Assessment is a practical/oral 'test' which takes place at the hive. It is designed to show an experienced examiner that you are proficient in basic beekeeping techniques. To qualify to enter you must have managed a colony of bees for at least 12 months. The syllabus and application form is available to download and print from the BBKA website.

In 2012, seven Epsom members took their Basic Assessment and all successfully passed.

A full programme to guide you through the syllabus and provide you with the opportunity for a 'test run' will be held at the apiary on Tuesday evenings leading up to the practical assessment which will take place on a week day in June or July at the apiary - date and time will be arranged once we know numbers participating.

If you are interested in applying to take this yourself this year please email me for further information liz.knee@googlemail.com

Liz Knee

Training Opportunities

BBKA Module 5 Training Evenings- See dates below

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Time	Type	Title	With
Tues 5 Feb	7.30-9pm	BBKA M5	Simple genetics and eusociality please email liz.knee@googlemail.com to confirm attendance	Liz Knee
Sat/Sun 2-3 Mar			Herald of Spring- Magic and Medicines EBKA display Bourne Hall	
Mon 4 Mar	8pm	EBKA	Main Committee Meeting	Liz Knee
Tues 5 Mar	7.30-9pm	BBKA M5	Final teaching session, From egg to adult please email liz.knee@googlemail.com to confirm attendance	Liz Knee
Sat 23 Feb		SBKA	8th Surrey Bee Day - details to follow	
Tues 12 Mar	7.300 9pm	EBKA	'Whats going on in my hive?'	Gerry Collins
Tues 19 Mar	7.30-9pm		Disease, apiary hygiene, question and answer	Alan Byham
Sat 23 Mar	9.39am-5pm	SBKA	Beekeeping Taster Day	
Tues 26 Mar	6pm	EBKA	Disease Clinic - bring a sample of 30 dead flying bees for examination	
Sat/Sun 23-24 Mar			Wisley Gardens- Joint display of beekeeping with Kingston and Guildford BKAs	
Sat 30 Mar	3- 5pm	EBKA	Shop opens for the season	
Sun 19 May		EBKA	Taster Day	
6-8 June			South of England Show	
Sat 13 July		EBKA	Apiary Open Day	

Other Dates

8th Surrey Bee Day – Saturday 23rd February 2013 Bookings are now being taken for the 8th Surrey Bee Day. To reserve your place please contact Sandra Rickwood on 01932 244326 or email her at rickwoodsbka@gmail.com. Tickets are £20 per head, cheques to be made payable to 'SBKA' and sent to Sandra. Online payment may be made to 'Surrey Beekeepers Association', sort code 40 52 40, account number 00009321 using the payee reference of 'SBDay' Speakers will include Mark Brown from Royal Holloway College, Ian and Ruth Homer, Patrick Goldsworthy from the Crop Protection Agency and Terry Clare from BIBBA. The event will be held at Ewell Castle School, Church Street, Ewell, Surrey KT17 2AW.

Beekeeping Taster Day- A one day course will take place on Saturday March 2nd 2013 to provide information for people who think they may like to take up beekeeping. Further information for beekeepers and non-beekeepers can be found on the Wisborough Green Beekeepers Association website www.wgbka.org.uk where you can find further details of the Beginners Day on the Events page.

Bee Diseases- If you are going to miss Alan Byhams talk on 19 March you may want to catch him at Weybridges talk on 5th March at 7.30pm at St Peter's Church Hall, Burwood Road, Hersham KT12 4AA.

6,7 & 8 JUNE South of England show BEES & HONEY

Other Items

Improving Honey Bee Health- 10 January 2013 saw the launch of the public consultation on the 'Proposed changes to managing and controlling pests and diseases', which can be found at the following link:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2013/01/10/bee-health-1301/

Can you please read this important set of documents and then to make a response based on the information contained in the Consultation document. The results from this public consultation will guide the way in which Defra deals with Bee health in future years. The consultation ends on 9th March 2013. Regards Alan Byham

Closing Dates for March Modules and other exams - 2013 Modules 1,2, 3, 6 and 8 will be held on 23 March this year The closing date for applications is 10th February. The fee is £20 per module.

If you are considering taking General Husbandry, Advanced Husbandry or Microscopy, the closing date for applications for these is 28th February. The fee for General Husbandry and Microscopy is £40, the Advanced Husbandry fee is £50. The application form can be found on the BBKA website under the tab 'Learn about bees'. Completed forms and cheques payable to 'BBKA' should be posted to:- Celia Perry, White Gables, 68 Broadhurst Ashtead, Surrey, KT21 1QF

Please don't leave it until the last minute to send your form and cheque as they still have to be sent to Stoneleigh by the deadline. If you have any queries you can contact Celia by phone on 0790 3991120 or by email at beeexams@hotmail.co.uk

Insecticide 'unacceptable' danger to bees, report finds-
Campaigners say the conclusion by the European Food Safety Authority is a 'death knell' for neonicotinoid pesticides
Environmental campaigners say the conclusion, by Europe's leading food safety authority, sounds the "death knell" for the insect nerve agent neonicotinoid.
The world's most widely used insecticide has for the first time been officially labelled an "unacceptable" danger to bees feeding on flowering crops. Environmental campaigners say the conclusion, by Europe's leading food safety authority, sounds the "death knell" for the insect nerve agent.
For full story read…….http://m.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/jan/16/insecticide-unacceptable-danger-bees
Supplied by Helen Worwood

What is meant by 'hive years'?
A newish expression in beekeeping circles is 'hive years'. But what does it mean? It means the number of colonies for which you have been responsible on a yearly basis. Add up the number of colonies for each year you have been keeping bees and you have your personal tally of 'hive years'.
For example, 2 colonies for 3 years = 6 'hive years', or 3 colonies for year 1 + 1 colony for year 2 + 6 colonies for year 3 = 10 'hive years'. It is an indication of your actual beekeeping experience.

Items for Sale/Hire/Wanted

None

…and finally- Create a workplace buzz

Schemes such as beekeeping have proven a big success with employees.
Unconventional engagement strategies that focus on sustainability and philanthropy can be excellent morale-boosters, says Alison Coleman
An engaged workforce is likely to be a more motivated and productive one, which is why employers invest time and money in developing employee engagement strategies that work.
But could cause-related strategies, focused on sustainability and philanthropy, hold the key?
A beekeeping scheme, for example, based in central London has staff at the participating firms literally buzzing.
The project was originally set up in 2010 by inmidtown, the Business Improvement District (BID) of Holborn, Bloomsbury and St Giles, in response to media reports on the decreasing bee population and how city bee-keeping can help the cause.

But as well as helping businesses to promote biodiversity, it has enhanced teamwork and boosted staff morale among the firms taking part.

Inmidtown business manager Mitch Steprans said: "We hadn't anticipated the staff engagement aspect of the project, but it was clear from early meetings with our members' employees that there was real excitement about it, and that this was something really new for them in terms of how they work and interact with their colleagues and workplaces."

There is a core beekeeping team of around 14 people from BID-based firms, but other employees are involved to greater and lesser extents, sharing information and updates, for example on the results of honey tastings, on their intranet and in annual reports and corporate literature.

"Mostly it's informal office chat; people seeing the hives on their roof-tops and asking about them, but there is also friendly competition between firms. For example, two neighbouring law firms with hives regularly review which of them has the most productive bees," says Steprans.

A study into the project's impact on employee engagement by the University of Hertfordshire revealed that the majority of those taking part enjoyed coming to work more, felt that it helped to build better relationships with colleagues, and collectively boosted morale.

http://www.i-l-m.com/edge/Create_a_workplace_buzz.aspx for the full article

Supplied by Helen Worwood

Newsletter Items

If you have any news, items of interest, book or course reviews for the news letter please send them to our **new email address** newsletter@epsombeekeepers.co.uk. If you change your email address please let us know

Please check in from time to time with our new look website, its being updated all the time @ www.epsombeekeepers.co.uk

The Committee- Who's who

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