



Warwick and Leamington Branch of Warwickshire Beekeepers

Branch Web Site

Have you visited the Branch Web Site yet ? All the information about the Branch is on it we now have a Members Area to access this the password currently is: mandible.

You will need this for access to all Coop purchases

Nosema Testing Clinic – Saturday 25th April – 10.30 Onwards at BBKA

As part of our general programme to improve the health of our bees, we are providing all members with the opportunity to have their bees tested for Nosema, which is a fungal disease affecting the gut of a bee, interferes with their ability to feed larvae and shortens their lives. In turn this weakens colonies and reduces their ability to build up in the Spring

We invite members to bring samples of 30 adult bees to Stoneleigh between 10.30am and 4pm on Saturday 25 April. The bees can be provided in a small box or a plastic bag, but if the latter, they should be kept frozen until the last minute as they can quickly go mouldy

Samples can be given beforehand to Ulya Lalo at Honiley 01676533521, Stephen Bates at Combrook 01926641866 or Tim Foden at Marton 01926632388 by arrangement.

Adult bees are required ie those old enough to forage, as in these the disease has had time to develop so they will show the more severe symptoms.

We will endeavour to show you your samples under the microscope, but this will depend upon the level of interest we get in this exercise.

Now the vexed question – how do I get my sample of 30 adult bees from each hive?

You may have your own successful method, but the following works for me:

Take a jar (honey, jam, etc), remove and retain the lid and cover the jar with two layers of cling film. Using a pencil or the like, carefully puncture a hole in the centre of the cling film, and by moving the pencil around in the hole, enlarge it slightly without ripping the cling film.

Wear thinnish gloves to make the process easier. While the bees are foraging, block the hive entrance: towelling material works well, as the bees can't move around on it very easily. Ideally using a pair of forceps (tweezers will do) pick up bees one at a time and push them through the hole into the jar. You can pick the bees up by their wings with your fingers and poke them through the cling film, but this doesn't work quite as well as using forceps. Bees without pollen on their legs are a good but not essential choice as an excess of pollen in the microscope sample makes the analysis a bit more difficult. Generally the bees can't escape as they climb up the inside of the jar and cannot get any further. If needed though you can put a finger over the hole or some other object to ensure that no bees escape. When you have your thirty bees in the jar, screw on the lid while leaving the cling film in place. The jar and any other samples you may have can then be put in the freezer for twenty-four hours or so to kill the bees. If you have been issued with polythene self-sealing bags or supply your own, the bees can then be transferred from the jars, labelled and are then ready for your Nosema clinic.

I can supply plastic bags if you require them

The label on your sample must provide your name, hive number and email address.

Any questions: please email me on tim_foden@hotmail.com

Tim Foden

Volunteers required to man the BBKA Swarm Line

The British Beekeepers' Association (BBKA) headquarters is situated at the National Agricultural Centre at Stoneleigh. During the swarming season they receive many telephone enquiries from the general public about bees and wasps. The BBKA administrative staff would welcome assistance from Warwick & Leamington Branch members during weekdays in dealing with these calls. We have some past experience in dealing with these enquiries which has been very interesting and enlightening.

The Branch has agreed to assist by manning a telephone at the Headquarters and dealing with all enquiries relating to swarms ('swarmline'). To do this we require volunteers who would be prepared to spend a half day, morning or afternoon, sitting at BBKA HQ taking telephone calls from the general public and advising accordingly. It is envisaged that we would be required from the beginning of May until mid June, but this will be dependent on the weather.

We already have a dozen volunteers but more are required. Please do volunteer if you feel that you have the time. Please identify a vacant half day slot from the diary accessible via the link on the home page of our website www.warleambees.org.uk and email Peter Stanworth, who will make an entry in the diary – peterstanworth@btinternet.com

The BBKA staff will be very grateful for our assistance, which will go some way in thanking them for the help they give us.

Peter Stanworth

Swarm Prevention and Collection Lecture

Monday 27th April at BBKA 7.30pm

Honey bees are social insects. They are unable to survive unless they live collectively in a colony. In order to maintain the species they have to reproduce by colony division. A large part of a colony will exit the hive together with the queen, set up home elsewhere and form a new colony. This is known as swarming. Although swarming is a necessary part of the life of the honey bee it does mean that if it occurs then the beekeeper can lose a large part of his colony and also a large part of his potential honey crop from the remainder.

Swarming is a very basic instinct in the honey bee and therefore is difficult to control. Even in the best managed colonies, swarming will occur. However with appropriate management, the proportion of hives that swarm will be minimised.

The lecture will discuss the various methods of swarm control, and also the collection of swarms. The branch also has developed an organisation whereby volunteer branch members collect swarms when notified of their presence, often by members of the general public.

The programme for the lecture:

- 7.30pm Swarm prevention and collection – Clive Joyce
- 8.30pm Branch swarm collection organisation – Barney Ward
- 8.45pm Refreshments
- 9.00pm Further thoughts on swarming – Tim Foden

This lecture will include many slides. It has been given over several years and has proved extremely popular. It is aimed at all levels and will be of interest to all beekeepers.

Peter Stanworth

Wanted For Sale

Two Hives with Bees

I have two hives for sale, each hive consists of; mesh floor, brood box, queen excluder, 1 super, crown board, roof. Both hives have strong good natured colonies and are currently housed in a local garden centre in Baginton. Honey yields from the two hives; 55 lb 2013, 90lb 2014.

Price per hive £220, will sell both together for £400.

Please contact - Richard carribine, ticklemonster80@outlook.com 07704 772 616

Thornes' price £266.40 for a single hive.

Colonies of Bees

Emily Kilshaw will have a colony possibly two later this month if you are interested contact Emily at ekilshaw@hotmail.com to make arrangements



Swarm Catcher
Thorne price £60
My price £40



Queen Marker
Thorne price £5.50
My price £3



60 DN1
Thorne £10
My price £5



Jacket & Veil Med
BB Wear £57
My price £40



Spats
BB Wear £7.00
My price £4

Roger 01926 852076 roger.wilkes@kenilworthhoney.co.uk

Hints and Tips

Smoker fuel can be collected when you go out for a walk. There is often dried grass/hay/mowings, rotten wood, fir cones, etc, to be found. If they are a bit damp, then take them home and put them in the greenhouse, conservatory or window sill to dry out.

Really handy Honey Bee Identification Cards are available from www.ibra.org.uk. They consist of a practical set of A6 laminated cards bound by a ring, designed for use in the apiary. One card shows the appearance of healthy brood, the other nine cards depict various pests, diseases and other conditions that may be found by the beekeeper. Each card has a clear photograph of an affected comb, with a close-up view to aid diagnosis. On the reverse is a description, and guide to recommended action and sources of further information and all for £5!

If you are purchasing bees it is worth checking on BeeBase to find out about the prevalence of disease in the area you are buying them from. The disease incidence and report page gives detailed and up to date information. If you are not registered with Beebase then make it your Easter mission.....and only then you can eat chocolate!

If you have any hints or tips that you would like to share, please send them to h.essex@virgin.net...
Thank you Helen Essex

Editor Roger Wilkes, email address is roger.wilkes@kenilworthhoney.co.uk or hard copy can be posted to him at:
12 Mercia Avenue, Kenilworth, CV8 1EU. **Content to him for next month by April 27th, latest!**

Please send in plain text, unformatted, using Microsoft Word or another common program.

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