

Bridgend Beekeepers Association Newsletter



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March 2009



Association Meeting Sunday, March 22 Association Apiary Pencoed

**(Meet in cemetery car park 11am)
Contact Sue if you need a suit.**

Association News

The host county for The Royal Welsh Agricultural show 2009 will be the old Glamorgan counties; this means that Bridgend and District, Cardiff, Swansea and West Glamorgan Beekeepers Association will be hosting an exhibition of beekeeping. We need to 'man' the exhibition for the four days, so we will need volunteers. There will be free entry into the showground in exchange for a half day on the stand. Any volunteers need to contact Sue.

John Verran Regional Bee Inspector has asked me to remind you not to clear up any dead colonies this spring but to contact him. The new season is upon us again and the next meeting will be in the apiary at Pencoed. Please remember that you need full protective clothing and gloves at these meetings.

Again I would like to thank members who contribute to the newsletter, this month many thanks to Anthony Lee, also thanks to John V for the St. David's Day Bee Picture.

Members who have a work e-mail address need to contact me urgently about getting your electronic Newsletter. 50% of members now have their Newsletter by e-mail; this is a fabulous saving for the Association. Happy Beekeeping Sue

Wax Exchange

If you want to add your wax to the Associations to exchange for Foundation at the Spring Convention you need to contact Mike Pett to make arrangements. Details Page 4

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WBKA Spring Convention

WBKA Convention 2009 - 9.00am Saturday 28th March 2009

Tea & coffee available from 8.30am

Hafod Y Hendre Hall, Royal Welsh Agricultural Show Ground, Builth Wells, Powys.

Mynediad/Admission

- Oedolion/Adults (17+) - £7.00 (Advance Payment - £5.00)
- Leneunctyd/Juniors (under 17) - am ddim/Free

Guest Speakers

10.00am Iolo Williams; one of Wales' most renowned nature and wildlife presenters.

- "Tales of a Wild Life Presenter"

11.30am Giles Budge CSL ; Bee diseases expert.

- "Bees and Bugs" *"Is Nosema Ceranae new to Wales?"*

1.15pm Celia Davis NCB; author of two excellent gold medal winning bee Books.

- "Bees, Plants and the Environment" - Interaction between bees and flowering plants, and the importance of this to the environment as a whole.

New for 2009

2.15pm "Beekeepers Question time" A team of three experts welcomes questions from beginners and more experienced beekeepers.

- Your chance to ask that question you have always wanted to ask.

Plus

- John Verran, Regional Bee Inspector, will be on hand to answer your questions
- Wax demonstration with Les and Jill Churnside
- Trade stands and exhibitions
- Bee Craft
- Bees For Development
- Bargain beekeeping supplies
- All day refreshments
- Free parking

Advance booking before 14th March (by SAE & Cheque made payable to WBKA) from Jim Pratt, Black Lion House, Welsh Street, Bishops Castle, SY9 5BS

I have a few tickets if members would like to contact me. Sue

Propolis

The word "propolis" comes from the Greek, meaning "before the city". It is so-called because of bees' habit of placing the substance around the entrance of their hive and at the junction between combs and the surface from which they depend. Bees will also use it to patch up any cracks in their hive, to deter invaders and to seal off drafts. Also, because of the sticky nature of propolis and its positioning at the entrance as a "welcome mat" returning foragers must, in effect, wipe their feet as they enter the hive. In this way dust and debris brought back to the hive that might harbour pathogenic bacteria are left behind rather than spread to the brood combs where micro organisms might infect the larval bees with one of numerous diseases to which developing insects are prone. In addition, the substance may serve to deter raiding by ants because of its stickiness and perhaps because the odour of the propolis masks the attractive odours of the nest.

Propolis is usually a combination of plant waxes and resins collected from buds and tree wounds. Bees have also been known to collect drying paint, caulking and other adhesive materials to incorporate into the sticky mass. They transport the propolis back to the hive in the same way that they do pollen, in pellets carried on the "pollen baskets", or corbiculae, found on their hindmost legs. The propolis is applied where needed by the bees chewing the stuff and manipulating it with their mouth-parts.

The medicinal properties of propolis, of course, depend on the source of resins and waxes that make it up. Some degree of antibiotic properties has been attributed to all propolis thus far studied and some of the chemicals responsible for this action have been isolated. Although there is no ailment for which propolis is specifically recommended many people take encapsulated propolis on a regular basis as a prophylaxis against disease, especially of the intestinal tract. It is advised that a hearty *caveat emptor* be associated with any claims regarding the efficacy of this practice. It probably can't hurt, which nowadays might amount to a substantial endorsement, but it is impossible to make accurate statements regarding the characteristics of propolis without definitive knowledge regarding the plant sources from which it has been derived. With that disclaimer, a recipe for a burn ointment is hereafter reproduced. At least one commercially available product, toothpaste (of several brands), lists propolis as one of its ingredients.

BEESWAX AND PROPOLIS BURN OINTMENT



This ointment for burns was originally intended to be used with propolis and wax from a stingless bee colony (*Melipona* sp) as it is a variant of a formula used by the Mayan Indians. Equally satisfactory results can be obtained using the bee products available more commonly.

- 238 gms beeswax
- 20 gms propolis
- 10 gms pulverized aloe vera
- 30 gms water
- 1 gm borax

Grate and melt together the beeswax and propolis. Remove from heat and add the remaining ingredients.

Store in a jar.

Anthony Lee

Bee Brain

SECRETARY – SUE VERRAN

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*Beginners Classes
Master Classes*

D	S	L
T	E	A
E	E	G

- How many words can you make out of the nine letters above?
- All words must contain the ORANGE letter.
- Put all nine letters together to form one nine letter word associated with beekeeping.

LAST MONTHS NINE LETTER WORD

Proboscis

Wanted to Buy

3 NATIONAL HIVES

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