



Bridgend and District Beekeepers Association

Volume 16, Issue 9.

September 2009

Are You Doing This?

- Check Varroa levels.
- Use effective Varroa treatments
- Book the Association extraction equipment
- Clean your wax

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Beginners Timetable

All classes will be held at

7pm

Glamorgan Wildlife Trust

Park Slip

Tondu

Bridgend



OCTOBER 20th
OCTOBER 27th
November 3rd
November 17th
November 24th
December 1st

*Tea, Coffee, Herbal and Biscuits
are provided*

Next Meeting

October 13

7pm

**Park Slip
Nature Centre
TONDU**

**HONEY
SHOW**

Sections

**Jar of Honey
Honey Cake
Beeswax Block
Beeswax Candle
Mead
Honey for Sale**

Association News

I'm feeling a little nervous about the honey show this year. There seems to have been so many problems with honey supplies, I wonder if there will be any honey to show. Try your best, bring along a cake if you haven't got any honey. Details of how to enter and the all important recipe for honey cake are on page 3.

Many thanks to Craig for helping John out in the apiary, Beginners classes start in October and I would like to remind members of the mentorship scheme. We allocate a beekeeper with more than two years experience to pal up with a new beekeeper to offer advice and support. The student would be invited into your apiary to see

how you go through your bees (and helping you with your beekeeping). If you are interested in being a mentor contact Sue.

Apologies to members who sent me articles and Photographs, I haven't forgotten about you.

Sue

Wax Extraction and Cleaning

As part of the normal beekeeping year, beekeepers accumulate wax from replacing old brood frames and from cappings at extraction time.

Brood Frames

Each year it is recommended that a beekeeper replaces a third of the frames in the brood box. It is important that the frames are replaced for several reasons.

Old frames may harbour disease in the form of spores and fungi

Cells in old frames become smaller in size resulting in stunted bees.

Old frames are said to encourage swarming.

Brood frames will be darker in colour and contain debris from brood rearing. The resulting wax is usually mixed with capping to make new foundation; either making it yourself on a small scale or in part exchange for commercial packs of foundation.

Cappings

These are produced as a by product of the extraction process. They are usually light in colour, have little debris imbedded and of fine quality. When rendered they are used for cosmetics, fine candles and moulded blocks for fishermen and stichers.

Common Methods of Extraction

Wax is a very valuable commodity. It is important that your rendering process doesn't waste wax or damage the quality. Whatever method of extracting you decide on, always wash the wax in cold water to get rid of as much honey as possible before you start extracting.

1. Hot Water Extraction

This is the most common method used by beekeeper worldwide. It is cheap, easy to monitor and requires no specialist equipment. Use Stainless Steel, Aluminium or Copper equipment only. **Do not use** Zinc, Pewter, Tinplate or Galvanized Iron as these metals will darken the wax.

Use rainwater **NOT tap water**, as tap water can make your wax 'spongy'.

Put your wax into an old pair of tights, weight the tights and submerge in a large pan of clean water or an old clothes boiler. Bring to the boil. The wax will filter through the tights and float to the surface leaving most of the debris behind. Once all the wax has melted turn off the heat. As the water and wax cools, the wax will solidify into a block on top of the water.

2. Steam Wax Extractor

Here a basket is placed into the main part of the tank and filled with wax. There is a communicating outer tank filled with water. The water is heated to produce the steam. The steam melts the wax. The wax flows out of a nozzle into a collecting bowl. The debris is collected in the basket.

Can be difficult to clean, and is expensive to buy. Members are able to borrow a steam extractor from the Association.

3. Solar Wax Extractor

Eco friendly as it uses the sun's heat to melt the wax. Expensive to buy but relatively easy to make from scrap wood and double glazed glass. In Wales will only be suitable for the summer months!

Wax is placed in a double glazed and insulated box. The box is propped on an angle and pointed into the sun. The wax melts and runs down the metal strip through a metal filter into a collecting vessel. If the sun is not out, it doesn't work.

The only method that can sterilize frames. Solar Wax Extractors produce the cleanest wax so reduces overall cleaning time.



Further Rendering and Purifying.

Whatever method you use to extract your wax except solar, you now need to further render the wax to remove any residual debris, just repeat the process until you achieve the desired quality. You can reduce the debris trapped in the wax by cooling the wax SLOWLY.

Wax is highly flammable, EXTREME care with naked lights.

Honey Show October 13th 2009

SECTION 1 Honey Bottled Ready For Sale

Points are added for 1 Appearance 2. Taste

Points will be deducted for 1. Bits floating or suspended in the jar 2. Under or overfilled jars

Label the jar as if for sale, please comply with trading standards requirements

SECTION 2 MEAD

Points are added for 1 Appearance 2. Taste

Points will be deducted for 1. Bits floating or suspended in the mead.

PLEASE NOTE NO LABELS OR IDENTIFYING MARKS ON THE BOTTLE

SECTION 3 HONEY CAKE

Ingredients:

3 oz Butter

3 oz sugar

2 Eggs, beaten

4 oz clear honey

8 oz self raising flour

1 level teaspoon baking powder

Method:

Set oven to 350F or at gas mark 4. Grease and line a **seven inch round cake tin.**

Cream together the butter and sugar in a bowl. Adding the eggs gradually, beat in the honey.

Sift together the flour and baking powder and stir into the honey mixture.

Transfer the mixture to the tin and bake for about 35 to 40 minutes or until a skewer inserted, comes out clear.

Leave in the tin for about 10 minutes to cool then turn out onto the wire rack.

Recipe to be followed with no deviation, disqualified unless in a seven inch round cake tin.

SECTION 4 FREE FOOD SECTION- any recipe using Honey.

Please supply the recipe and cooking instructions

SECTION 5 CANDLES

Any candle made from Beeswax NO DYES

SECTION 6 BEST HONEY IN SHOW

Extracted honey in a jar, no identifying marks or labels.



BRIGDEND AND
DISTRICT
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION

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BeeBrain

E	I	F
V	E	T
F	C	E

- How many words can you make out of the 9 letters above?
- Each word must contain the centre letter (yellow)
- Put all nine letters together to form one nine letter word associated with Beekeeping.

Holiday Lodge For Sale—sleeps 6

In a beautiful country location at Llandegla, Near Amroth, Pembrokeshire. 1 mile from the beach and the start of the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path.

This is a very safe area for children to play and explore. Small select development of 24 similar properties and the lodge has been recently upgraded with a new kitchen and bathroom.

Washroom facilities and a small country pub serving meals on site. Easy access to the beaches at Saundersfoot and Tenby,

Good rental potential.

For further details contact

Betty on 01656 658963 or 07974748210.