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A revolutionary new product for improving bee health and vigour as well as crop pollination. SuperBoost is a pheromone device that is easily hung between brood frames. One device works for over 30 days.

Tests have shown huge increases in: pollen loads, colony growth rate, young worker bees, egg laying rate, honey production and it inhibits swarming!



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A weak 15% acid solution complete with trigger spray attachment and full instructions for its use as a hive cleanser. As advised by the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. (We recommend you wear protective goggles and gloves when administering lactic acid).

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Made from dried vegetable oils and aromatic herbs, tests have shown that three treatments at one week intervals can drastically reduce the number of nosema spores present in the bee gut and compares favourably with fumagillin. 10 treatments per pack.



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THE ESSEX BEEKEEPER



MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE E.B.K.A

NO:522

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**JUNE
2008**

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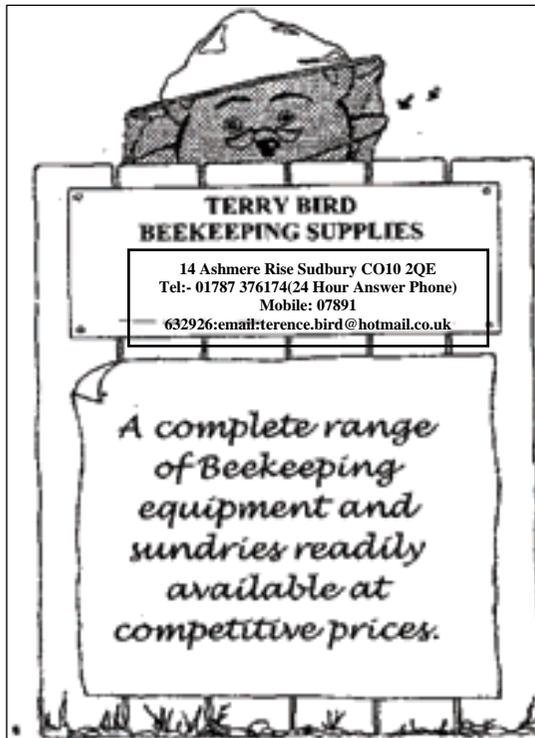


**WANTED!
for
NEW WEBSITE**

==
**We need Volunteers to
upgrade the
EBKA Website.**

**If you have appropriate
skills and a moment to
spare, please let me know.
A Course may be
considered.**

**Richard Ridler
treasurer@ebka.org**



JUNE 2008

- BRAINTREE** . **Sun.29th.3pm. 'Basic Colony Manipulation'**
at Vi Taylor's Apiary Tel: 01376 514366
- CHELMSFORD** **Sat.14th.9.00am.** 'Disease Tour' Visiting various apiary locations around Chelmsford, with a Bee Inspector. This is a great opportunity to see inside a number of hives & learn from a professional about disease and the 'well being' of your bees.
- COLCHESTER** **Visit to Essex Wildlife Trust Fingrinhoe Nature reserve. No further info. at time of print**
- DH & MALDON** **Sat.14th.Bee Disease Road Show**, followed by Tea & Discussion. RSVP: Nan, 01632 773297
Sun.22nd. Blackwater Show (tbc) RSVP to Nan please
- EPPING FOREST** **Sat.7th.at 2.30pm to 3pm. Willow Cottage.**Over view the Wild Life Trust. Talk by Tony Gunton.
- HARLOW** **Thurs.5th.7.45pm.** Kings Church, Red Willows.
- ROMFORD** **Sun.1st.Eastbrookend Country Fair.** Divisional stand.
Fri.6th.7pm. Evening at Eastbrookend Bee Garden.
(tba) Visit to Suffolk 11.30am. The Lincolns
June-July Queen rearing Time: 6.30pm. Approximate dates: 5/6-11/6-13/6-18/6-19/6- (22-23/6 hatch) -25/6-2/7-10/7.- Full Q rearing schedule available on course.
- SAFFRON WALDON** **Sun 8th.1pm-4pm.** Elsenham Village Fete - divisional stand .
23rd-29th. National Insect week Volunteers needed to help at Saffron Walden Museum.
- SOUTHEND** **Wed.25th.7.30pm.** Hawkwell Village Hall, Main Road, Hawkwell..Open Forum for Beginners

{The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Editor or The EBKA}

[Front page : Part of Editor's garden + polystyrene hives. Further colour test.

JULY 2008

BRAINTREE

Sun.27th.3pm. 'What is Normal!' Chris & Jo's apiary
Tel: **01284 789589**

CHELMSFORD

Sat.12th.2.30pm - 5pm.Garden Meeting - Making up a Nuc for Winter. @ Links Drive Chelmsford. Practical demonstration- Refreshments - and a short talk on an innovative queen rearing hive by Richard Alabone.
Tel: 07731 856361, Mrs.Jean Smye, to reserve a place at this popular meeting.

COLCHESTER

Sat.12th. Tending Show. Lawford Hall Park , near Manningtree Divisional Honey Show & Beekeeping Display - Tel: Show secretary, Penny Barker, 01255 830713.

Fri.18th.7pm. Barbeque - £4. per person. Bring your own drink & glass, if you can, please bring a chair. phone Penny Barker: 01255 830713, to book before Wed.16th July. Ask for directions if you do not know the way to Rowan Lodge.

Sat.26th. 3pm.Garden meeting, Gt.Bromley Tel: Martin Frostick : 01206 250263, to book & directions to Grove House

DH & MALDON

Sat.19th.11am.-5.30pm.Southminster Flower Show - Help needed..RSVP. Nan - 01632 773297

Sat.26th.Noon - 5pm.Tillingham Flower Show.
RSVP. Nan - 01632 773297

EPPINGFOREST

Sat.5th. Apiary meeting at Ted's extraction.

HARLOW

Thurs.3rd. at 7.45pm. Kings Church, Red Willow

ROMFORD

Fri.4th.8pm. Chadwick Hall, Main Rd.Gidea Park. .
Practical: HONEY PROCESSING - led by Jim McNeill

SAFFRON WALDON

Sat.5th.Noon. Annual BBQ & Apiary meeting by kind permission of Deryck Johnson, Meadowcroft, Wimbish.
CB10 2BY

SOUTHEND

Wed..23rd.7.30pm. Preparation of Exhibits for Honey Show by Jim McNeill

ALMOND BLOSSOM - AN ASSET OR A LIABILITY?

At a lecture in Somerset last year, Professor Marion Ellis from the department of Entomology of the University of Nebraska, commented on the problem of Colony Collapse Disorder. He suggested that in part it could be due to the demands of the Almond industry in California. Some 560,000 acres of this crop has been planted and it is anticipated that this acreage will rise to 755,000 by 2010. Growers get \$3/lb for the almond with a crop yield of 4000 lbs per acre and the price is expected to rise.

To assist in the pollination 1.2 million bee colonies are moved into California to take advantage of this 3 week "window". Because of CCD growers were concerned that sufficient colonies would be forthcoming and contracts of up to \$200 per hive were being offered earlier in the year. (American Bee Journal March 2007). Income to the beekeeper from this pollination activity, now exceeds honey sales in the USA. Growers insist on hives containing a full 8 frames of bees and will reduce the price if this is not achieved. Accordingly, beekeepers feed their stocks heavily in the early part of the year and Professor Ellis suggested that this coupled with the stress caused by long distance travel could be contributory factors of CCD.

Early feeding also includes artificial pollen supplement based on Soya flour which Prof. Ellis says does weaken the colonies in time. Colonies have to be removed swiftly after the flowering season as there is no other forage in this vast monoculture and insecticide sprays follow on quickly.

There is also a rapid loss of adult bees during this "window". The proximity of a very large number of hives also enable the spread of miticide resistant genes which compounds the problem currently being faced by our friends across the pond.

Roger Lacey...From a report in Devon Beekeepers. Courtesy of BEES.

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HOW TO TAME VICIOUS BEES - Are there any new ideas?

from ***A Handy book of Bees***, by A Pettifer 1875.

' Bees that are born in lonely places and there fly about, will fearlessly attack both men and beasts that go too near their inhabitations. The way to cure vicious bees is to make them acquainted with the sight and form of human beings. A scarecrow or two (what the Scottish folk call "potato bogles") placed in front of their hives, soon make it all right. The scarecrows can be shifted from one position to another a few times.

Some years ago I bought a hive in the country and placed it among some others at home. The bees would not let me go near their hive. A bogle was placed in front of it, and to me it was interesting to watch the attack. One or two of the savage creatures, were seen eying the face of the scarecrow, looking for a tender spot on which to dart. In a few days they became as quiet as the rest.

From Peter Haywood, Seasonal Bee Inspector, North Wales:

"I am always coming across novice beekeepers claiming to have aggressive bees and finding on inspection, they are just very strong. It is almost as if they pick up a beginner's nervousness, - after all, a colony at full strength is a pretty awesome sight.

I often find colonies kept in isolated places such as woodland, away from people and livestock, tend to get much more upset, when disturbed, than bees kept in fields of sheep or in places where people walk frequently.

I have in the past on several occasions, "tamed" aggressive colonies by driving a T-shaped support into the ground in front of the hive(s) and stapling a fertiliser bag to it, to flap in the wind. I know it sounds daft but don't dismiss it, until you have tried it. It's worked well for me in the past. I have found that bees are first or second crosses of imported queens are often very aggressive and best requeened, but if they are otherwise good native stock, I would at least try the above idea.

One other point is that a queen carries sperm from a lot of drones, which doesn't get mixed up in the spermatheca, so sometimes a "nasty" colony can be as good as gold the next time you inspect it

from Harrogate & Ripon Newsletter Courtesy of BEES.

Essex Beekeepers Association

Present a one day seminar for the continuing Professional Development of Beekeepers of all levels & experience at Great Saling Village Hall on Wednesday 23rd July 2008. Picotts Lane, Great Saling Essex CM7 5DW

“Managing Health - Not Coping with Disease”

With Regional Bee Inspector Andy Wattam

This relaxed and friendly day will be a mixture of Presentations, Discussion Workshops

&

a Practical Bee Demonstration to include; Group Discussion & Recognition of Disease and Exotic Threats.

*

Apiary Health Planning - ‘Looking at the Big Picture’

*

Effective Sample Gathering

*

Pesticides & Beekeepers, The Wildlife Investigation Service

*

Assessment & Examination of Actual Diseased Combs.

(Under Safe Conditions - Disposable gloves & aprons provided and removed by National Bee Unit Personnel).

This is a Full Day Seminar from 10am - 4.30pm

Important: You will need to bring a packed lunch and also Clean Beekeeping Protective Clothing.

Tea & Coffee provided. Certificate of Attendance.

Booking Essential Please Contact Eileen Marrable: 01708 229441.

EDITORIAL



Lets hope that wasn't the summer that flashed by.. It was lovely whilst it lasted.

Its nearly two years since we visited Ted Hooper and I am hoping to visit again this Summer. His book "A Guide to Bees & Honey" is like a bible, he covers everything in such detail and it is such a good 'read'. His other book on Plants and Foraging is also in my library but unfortunately, his dictionary is nowhere to be found. I have mentioned his first book on page ten. Who ever would have thought that you shake the frames with different strength according to which of the bees you wish to move. So clever.

A working group has been set up to look into ways of developing the magazine and there will possibly be a questionnaire to all members for their views, too. Some good ideas have been presented so far and will go before the CEC at the end of May for approval to expand them. Hopefully, the magazine is on the Website in colour, for last month and this, as part of this development.

Thank you all for your articles and copy, which you send in to me. Sometimes they are not used immediately but will appear as soon as possible.

Lastly page 13 - Almond Blossom - An asset or a Liability? I found this most disturbing. We live in such a greedy, selfish and short sighted world...Ann Tillbrook.

SORRY!

So sorry Helen not to have used your very useful article but it will be in next month..

Ann. X

The Internet access to the Beekeeping world
www.beedata.com

EBKA Display Boards

Two sets of display boards are available
For Divisions to borrow for Shows, etc.

One set is retained in North Essex,
The other in South Essex.

North: Robert Pickford 01371 870351

MAKING A NUCLEUS HIVE. by Wendy Moore.

A dozen or so members of the Dengie hundred & Maldon division turned up at the Oak room of the Blue Boar Inn, in Maldon, to hear a talk on "Making up Nucs".

It was an historic setting and all the more enjoyable as the Landlord had not charged for the hire of the lovely beamed room - provided that the members bought their liquid refreshment.

Jean was able to illustrate her talk with the aid of a model brood box complete with frames from the virtual hive. We were invited to "spot the queen", so much easier than in real life!

Jean said she makes up nucs from strong colonies in late Spring and so she feeds the bees in February to get them up to strength by the end of April, when queens are available. She herself uses a brood and a half (brood box plus a super) in order to have plenty of capped brood. She has used this method for some years, with success, but other beekeepers will have other methods that are equally successful.

Find the queen and put her and her frame into a separate box to keep her safe.

Then get your empty nuc box.

Next, select a frame of predominately capped brood, shake off the bees and put the frame into the 'Nuc'.

Next, take a frame of pollen (again shake off the bees, leaving only the nurse bees).

Take 2 frames of drawn comb and a frame of comb with stores and perform 3 shakes of bees into the box.

Replace the queen into her original brood box.

Your 'Nuc' should now have 5 frames. Put your new queen in a cage or, (old hair curler) and insert carefully with a holding pin, between the 2 centre frames. Check after 7-10 days. Check through the cage very carefully without using smoke

If possible the 'Nuc' should have been taken to a new location, after making up.

It is advisable to feed all nucs at that time of year.

THE NUCLEUS HIVE. by Ann Tillbrook.

The Nuc or nucleus hive is one of the most useful tools in the apiary. This spring a friend of ours made me four. I have already used three of them, when I collected bees from Terry Thrussell.

They are made from marine ply and I applied 3 coats of Linseed oil to the outside for weatherproofing.

Frank has made some adjustments to the entrance and the Varroa floor.

The floor is on legs, which the nuc sits in and the top of the legs are screwed to the body, holding everything firmly in place and secure for travelling.

Nucs have many uses they can house spare queens (seldom heard of these days), use for raising new queens and strengthening weak colonies. The idea is to get a lot of honey from the hives.

In the months before the main honey flow, 2 frames of brood can be transferred from a nuc to a hive to boost the strength of a normal hive. This increases honey production and delays crowding of the nuc colony. A nucleus hive can be 3-5 frames but 5 are best and needed to survive the winter...

To transfer bees to a nuc at different stages of their life cycle, the shaking method varies. Please read page 127 in Ted Hooper's book - Guide to Bees and Honey.



PREPARING HONEY for a SHOW and for Sale - by Jim McNeill at the AGM

Runny Honey.

Jim described his filter system which was 2 buckets, one fitting inside the other tightly. The outer bucket has a tap in the bottom, the inner bucket has the bottom cut off completely.

Next, cut 4 large squares of net curtain, place over the outside bucket, put the bottomless inside bucket on the nets, and lower inside the outer bucket (are you with me so far) Pour in the honey.

Once filtered, store for 2-3 days at 50 degrees. (4 light bulbs in a cupboard)

Preparation of Jars.

If you wash jars they will have water marks, so always wipe the outside of the jars and polish the inside of the jars with kitchen roll.

Always store the jars upside down.

Next Pour the honey into jars, running it down the side of the jar - fill jar right up to the neck so that no light can be seen at the shoulder - **Show honey is not weighed** Remove bubbles - skim tops - run a small piece of tissue paper round the top of the jar - remove any specks with a knitting needle - put on lids - stand jars of honey in a water bath, up to the neck, leave in bath for one hour, after reaching 62 degrees.

Some very helpful advice.

*Keep everything clean remembering where there is air, there is yeast cells too.

*Never change the lid, even when damaged, the smell will be damaged too and the Judge lifts the lid to appreciate the aroma, which takes time to build up. We could lose 10 points.

*Sticky finger marks on jar will lose points.(5)

*Read the Show Schedule thoroughly.

*If not sure about the rules or classes, enter into both of them.

* 10 points taste -10 points clarity -5 points for colour - 5 for clean jar.

*Don't put labels on the seams. - Jim lines the jars in a row, across a table, seam to seam. Then attaches the labels.

* The best way to learn about this is to attend one of Jim's talks, I cannot do him justice here. See dates, Southend Div. July - Editor.

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Guidelines from Mrs. Betty Stevens (Judge) for Cakes-Cookies-Fudge.

The marks are out of 20: 4-for outside appearance, (look underneath to see if it is overcooked). 4-for inside, eg if fruit evenly distributed, well cooked or overcooked. 12-for flavour, which is very important.

Honey Fruit Cake. The 6" tin could have half inch leeway & we can make one and use the rest of the mix for muffins. The recipe is very clear to follow. (Betty, does not keep bees and uses Asda honey) we can use baker's honey. Stir mix round well for even distribution and get fruit to the surface. Grease and flour the tin.
Cakes made with honey are cooked at a lower temperature, to prevent burning. No paper over the top.
When cooked the surface should be flat not domed. Prior to cooking, scoop out the centre slightly and a little up the sides.
Self-raising flour and Flora were used.
Soften marger first in a warm place - Beat eggs twice and put a little flour into the eggs, before adding the mix.
Use Bakewell paper as liner and remove when cooling.



Raisin & Honey scones. (heat baking sheet first)
Use white flour, mix 4oz. flour and fat to breadcrumbs and double the fat (easier to mix)
Do not use a rolling pin - use hands & gently pat out. Do double mix and pick out the best ones, put on pre-heated baking sheet and straight into the oven.

Cookies.
Use fluted cutter for cookies and all sweet things.



Banana & Honey Muffins

Ingredients:
250g self-raising flour, sifted. | 2 medium eggs, beaten
25g soft dark brown sugar | 2 tablespoons clear honey
50g butter, melted | 5 tablespoons milk
2 small, ripe bananas

Makes 12 muffins.

Heat oven to 200c/400f/gas mark 6.
Put 12 muffin cases into a bun tin. - Mix together, the flour, sugar, butter and bananas, in a bowl.
Whisk together the eggs, honey and milk, and beat into the other ingredients to form a soft mixture.
Divide the mixture among the cases, filling them almost to the top.
Bake for about 10 minutes, until risen and firm, when pressed lightly on the top.....Cool on a wire rack.