



# Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers

July 2008

[www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk)

## Conservation Presentation

### Division gets up to speed on the important work of the Essex Wildlife Trust at their June meeting at Willow Cottage.

When you are in the beautiful surroundings of Willow Cottage its hard to believe there is anything wrong in the world – especially in relation to the countryside and its flora and fauna.



However, this month's presentation by Tony Gunton made us appreciate the very special role of the Essex Wildlife Trust in keeping Essex's countryside alive!

#### About the trust

Established in 1959, The Essex Wildlife Trust is the leading conservation organisation of its kind in Essex. It depends on membership subscriptions, donations and legacies to fund the majority of its work. They also receive some sponsorship from business, and grants from organisations such as English Nature, The Countryside Commission and The Heritage Lottery Fund.

With over 32,000 members and 450 corporate supporters, the trust looks after more than 7,250 acres of land on 87 nature reserves and one nature park in the county. They are responsible for spending nearly £1.5m each year on caring for Essex wildlife and encouraging others to do the same. Much of this work is carried out by over 2,000 volunteers who freely give their time and skills to support conservation in Essex. In addition, the trust employs 84 full-time staff.

Last year the trust taught over 38,700 children and adults about wildlife on over 1,100 separate events, activities and teaching days. This included nearly 11,000 pupils and students visiting on 260 school field visits to their sites. Outreach visits to schools reached a further 8,500 pupils. Over 10,000 people joined one of their 990 informal activities such as wildlife discovery days, family events, birthday parties, youth group trips, Green bunch work parties and various toddler groups.



The trust's community programmes reached over 9,000 people on 125 community projects, events and liaisons, with over 4,000 reached at 'Plant Havering' alone!

The detailed survey work they carry out has enabled them to produce Essex Wildlife 2000: a Vision for the 21st Century. This explains how we can all take action for healthy streams and otters, rich woodlands and badgers, diverse farmland and skylarks, and our unique coastline and the wildfowl it supports.

More details on this document, the important work carried out by the trust and details on how you can get involved are available from their website - [www.essexwt.org.uk](http://www.essexwt.org.uk)

#### A gift of thanks

As a small token of our appreciation, Helen Chadwick presented Christine Williams with flowers on behalf of the division for the use and facilities of Willow Cottage. ♀



## What's on this month...

Members are reminded that the date for the July meeting has been changed to 19<sup>th</sup>. This will be a demonstration on honey extraction by Ted Grad at his apiary (Chapel Barn, Waltham Road, Nazeing, Essex EN9 2EB).

Subject to a good honey flow, Ted will start by removing supers from the hive (having previously added clearing boards) and will then demonstrate his system of de-capping. Division members will also be expected to help with these stages so please ensure that you bring your bee suits.

Ted will then demonstrate how he removes the honey from the comb using his 12-frame extractor – plus his filtering process for removing unwanted particles.

Finally, Ted will get everyone involved in the final jarring stage.

Members should remember that Ted often walks away with most of the prizes at the annual honey show each year. There is going to be a good reason for this, and we hope Ted will be sharing some of his 'trade secrets' and give himself a little tougher competition this year.

Members should arrive at 2.30pm for a 3pm start to the formalities. ♀

## Wedding Bells

Division member, Paul Harvey, will be getting married on 5<sup>th</sup> July to fiancée Nid at Willow Cottage.

All division members would like to offer Paul and Nid the very best for their future life together – and hope that they build a healthy colony in the coming years! ♀

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