



# Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers

August 2008

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

## From generation to generation

**Though it was billed as a master class in honey extraction and preparation, our July meeting grew into something much, much more.**

I'm sure we all walked away from Ted Gradosielski's apiary with a few tips on how to give him a serious challenge at this year's honey show (entry forms enclosed). However, I'm equally sure that we were all heartened by the inquiring minds and enthusiasm of our two youngest future beekeepers who were guests at the meeting.

Thankfully, Ted's bees had calmed down from their bad tempters of earlier this year when they were busy bringing in the local oilseed rape nectar. This definite change of mood in the bees when the rape is out has also been experienced by many division members. As I said, thankfully they were extremely well behaved for our visit despite our interruptions.

Ted started by explaining what was in each of his hives and nucleus boxes. Apart from the boys, there were other newcomers to beekeeping who were keen to get "up close and personal" with the bees. So before we moved on to honey extraction some of the hives were opened and given a general inspection. This included marking and clipping queens – so something that many of us benefiting from seeing.

Having just recently introduced new queens, we were just as eager as Ted to see if they had taken – which they had. Even though this event was about honey extraction, we all enjoy sharing ideas and seeing how others manipulate and manage their hives.



Having placed a clearer board under one of the hive's top supers the previous evening, Ted then proceeded to show how he effortlessly moves supers from hive to trolley having recently constructed taller hive stands. It was then a simple case of wheeling his trolley the short distance to his impressive bee shed.

After a quick explanation of the technology and resources Ted has at his disposal, we then went about uncapping some of the frames that had been removed earlier. All newcomers were encouraged to have a go with the uncapping fork before we moved on to spinning frames and filtering the honey.



Before we retired for refreshments, Ted finished off by explaining his approach to jarring and packaging the honey.

Had we just witnessed the honey show-winning jar being prepared for September? Or will some other division member steal the honey crown this year? I guess we'll just have to wait until 13<sup>th</sup> September to see. The EFBK honey show will be held alongside the Buckhurst Hill Horticultural Society at St. Johns' Church Hall, Buckhurst Hill. Don't miss it.

A big thanks to Ted for a really enjoyable afternoon. And not forgetting, a really BIG thanks to Jackie for the splendid spread of savouries, cakes and refreshments. ♂

## What's on this month...

As the saying goes, you can never get too much of a good thing! Though we normally break from monthly meetings in August, due to popular demand we are going to fit in another Apiary meeting to take advantage of the summer weather (fingers crossed!).

On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August we will once again be visiting Ted Gradosielski's apiary in Nazeing (Chapel Barn, Waltham Road, Nazeing, Essex EN9 2EB) for a demonstration on closing down the hives for winter.

As August draws to an end and the final honey flow has finished, now is the time to prepare your bees for the oncoming winter. Whilst Ted will be leading this session using his own bees for the demonstration, it will also give other division members the opportunity to share their techniques on this most important part of bee management.

This session will cover the making up and feeding of syrup, applying varroa treatment (and discussing alternative methods) as well as general tips and advice on helping to ensure your bees make it through to spring in a healthy condition.

Members should arrive at 2.30pm for a 3pm start to the formalities. Please bring your feeders so we can compare the different sorts available. ♂

## Welcome

A warm welcome goes out to new member Michael Martin, and also to Jennifer Barling who has upgraded from Associate to full member having just started up beekeeping again.

We also send our congratulations to division member Peter Resteghini and family on the birth of their baby boy. Let's hope that's yet another beekeeper in the making! ♂

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