



Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers

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www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

Night, night – time to put you to bed!

Ted Gradosielski hosts the most important apiary meeting of the year – with a demonstration on closing the bees down for winter.

With muggy temperatures and the bees still keen on gathering nectar, it seems strange to be making the final preparations for closing the bees down for winter. However, inadequate preparation and feeding is the most common cause of bees not surviving through to the spring. This was therefore the most important meeting that we have had this year – and will probably be another one of those apiary meetings that we will hold each year.



Though the meeting was hosted and opened by Ted, the idea was to encourage all members to contribute. As with every aspect of beekeeping, we all have our own techniques, theories and paraphernalia, but everyone agreed that by the end of August your winter preparations should be either completed or at least well under way.

Ted kicked off my explaining what stages his hives were at as far as winter preparations, having already taken off the last of the honey and closed down all but one hive which he has saved for the meeting.

Ted then demonstrated his method of mixing a winter syrup feed, but professed that he did not make exact measurements between water and syrup. Others used the more established 2kilos of sugar to 1litre of water ratio (or 2lbs to 1pint). Ted's method was to add approximately the right amount of water to 2kilos of sugar and then stir – and if there is any sugar still not dissolved after 5-



minutes or so of brisk stirring then he adds a little more water. Simple – but effective!

Prior to the meeting members were asked to bring along their feeders so that we could see the variety available to the beekeeper. Types on display included Rapid, Miller, Ashforth and Contact. Members explained why they had chosen that particular type and whether there were any benefits or drawbacks. As Ted demonstrated, most beekeepers end up using a variety of feeders according to the hive and conditions. In Ted's case aluminium rapid feeders were used on most of the hives, but he also has small contact feeders on a nucleus and the hive on which he did his main demonstration was using a large capacity Ashforth feeder.

Ted reminded us of a beekeeping saying... "The beekeeper who has to feed his bees in spring probably shouldn't be keeping bees at all". The aim is to have between 30lb to 40lb of stores in the hive to see you through to the time when nectar is flowing again and the bees are able to replenish stores. This will depend on the conditions, but your winter stores should be sufficient to last until April the following year.

The other important part of winter preparation is to apply Varroa treatment. Though some members avoid the use of Apistan strips as resistance to it has rapidly spread throughout the UK (preferring to use either Apigaurd or winter application of Oxalic Acid), Ted demonstrated how the strips are inserted between the frames and gave advice on handling and removal. Jenny and Michael Johns also talked about their Varroa treatment, demonstrating with charts how their winter application of Oxalic Acid had virtually wiped out all traces of it.

This was another excellent meeting and our thanks go to Ted for the use of his apiary and to Jackie, Jean and Jenny for yet another superb spread of cakes and refreshments. ♀



What's on this month...

Its that time of the year again when we show off the very best of what the division members have produced this season at the EFBK Honey Show on 13th September.

The show takes place alongside the Buckhurst Hill Horticultural Society Show at St. Johns' Church Hall, Buckhurst Hill. All members are encouraged to enter at least one item in the show – and to come along and lend a hand. Many visitors come expecting to buy honey so we would ask you to bring whatever stock you have in order to put on an impressive display.

The show is not just about honey. There are categories covering candles, cakes, frames of honey, photography and the ever popular mead category. If you have mislaid your entry form a PDF copy is available from the division website under the 'What's On' section.

EFBK Annual Honey Show	
<p>Schedule of Classes</p> <p>1. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>2. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>3. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>4. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>5. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>6. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>7. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>8. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>9. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>10. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>11. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>12. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>13. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>14. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>15. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>16. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>17. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>18. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>19. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>20. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>21. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>22. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>23. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>24. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>25. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>26. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>27. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>28. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>29. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>30. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>31. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>32. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>33. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>34. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>35. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>36. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>37. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>38. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>39. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>40. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>41. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>42. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>43. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>44. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>45. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>46. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>47. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>48. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>49. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>50. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>51. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>52. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>53. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>54. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>55. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>56. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>57. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>58. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>59. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>60. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>61. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>62. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>63. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>64. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>65. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>66. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>67. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>68. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>69. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>70. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>71. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>72. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>73. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>74. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>75. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>76. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>77. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>78. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>79. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>80. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>81. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>82. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>83. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>84. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>85. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>86. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>87. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>88. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>89. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>90. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>91. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>92. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>93. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>94. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>95. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>96. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>97. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>98. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>99. All Classes Open to All Members</p> <p>100. All Classes Open to All Members</p>	

Items must be on display by 10.30 on the morning of the show. Payment of fees should be made to Show Secretaries on or before the morning of the show. All cups are to be returned cleaned - at the latest on the day of the show.

For more information please contact Show Secretaries Peter Clarke (020 8521 1533) or Ron Baldwin (020 8505 1020). ♀

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