



KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

County Newsletter No. 63 September 2012

Beekeepers @ KSRC

A Successful Start

The various training courses that have been staged at KSRC Sittingbourne have achieved some impressive milestones

- 11 events have been run
- 141 different beekeepers have attended
- from every one of the 16 Kent associations
- 272 training places have been provided
-and all of this in just 5 months!

Forthcoming plans

Plans are well advanced for the next series. These will include a course covering the basics of DIY hive and frame assembly with Bill Yeoman on Friday, 7th September, another on skep making with Nick Mengham in November and possibly others on making mead and dealing with wax.

From the outset, the aim of Beekeepers @ KSRC has been to provide cost effective training events for those who are taking their beekeeping seriously and perhaps involved with the BBKA Exams system, taking the series of Modules. Thus, there was a course aimed at Module 2 candidates before the March exam and we are now looking to provide assistance to those contemplating Modules 3 and/or 6 this November.

Kay Wreford will be leading a course on "Pests & Diseases" and we are looking into ways to support those who have Module 6 "Honey bee behaviour" in their sights. This may involve a couple of half-day sessions, 2-3 weeks apart, where those attending can share their expertise and problem areas during the first session, with specific assignments to inform the group during the second. If this would be of interest to you, please get in contact with Bob Smith robert_787@hotmail.com

The DIY course is currently taking bookings while the skep making course is already fully booked; others will be available from the website very soon – keep checking back! www.canterburybeekeepers.org.uk/products-page

Finally, what are the courses YOU would like to see run at KSRC? Beekeeping is an activity which seems to have endless dimensions – from botany and pollination to microscopy and home brewing!

Bob Smith

From Kent Examinations Secretary

1. A reminder that entries for the November modules (mod. 1, 3, 6 and 8) need to be with me by SEPTEMBER 26th 2012; this gives me time to process them and send on to BBKA.
2. May I suggest Branches encourage those who have kept bees for 12 months to enter for the Basic Assessment. Now is the time to start looking at the syllabus in order to use the winter for learning and understanding the theory .

3. May I also encourage anyone considering taking the Basic Assessment to apply early, by end of April preferably. We have a small number of Assessors who are busy people, it is better to be able to fill a day with assessments than to have a succession of one candidate days.
4. Please make sure application forms are the latest from BBKA website and they are filled in correctly also check for any changes to the syllabus.

Contact me if there are any queries

Happy Beekeeping

Angela Merritt admer@btinternet.com

Around the Branches

Ashford

9th September Beginners day plus preparing the hives for winter

Winter meetings (October onwards) are held at St Mary's Hall, Rylands Road, Kennington at 7.30 p.m.

Bromley

Saturday, 15th September Bromley and Orpington Honey Show, Emmanuel Church, The Grove, West Wickham

Branch meetings are on the first Sunday of the month at 11.30 a.m. Kent House Road apiary

Canterbury

Weekend 22nd/23rd September Cider festival – bringing bees and honey to the public at Brogdale Fruit Farm

Weekend 20th/21st October Cider festival (as above)

Meetings at 7.30 p.m. at Whitefriars Conference Room, Canterbury

Dartford

All meetings will commence promptly at 3.00 p.m. in the upper room at Asda's Warehouse on the Crossway Industrial Estate

Gravesend

Sunday 24th September Branch BBQ & Family afternoon at Philip & Charlotte Nirinjan's Apiary

Sunday 14th October Products of the Hive and Health Benefits of Propolis - Sudi Austen 2.30pm

Cobham Hall School

Further details from Lesley Fancote 01474 702666

Mid Kent

Please see website for details

Orpington

Saturday, 15th September Bromley and Orpington Honey Show, Emmanuel Church, The Grove, West Wickham

Branch meetings every Saturday at 2.30 p.m. from April to September at the apiary at BEECHE Centre, High Elms

Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells

Saturday, 29th September Honey Show, Otford Church Hall

Branch winter meetings start at 7.30pm either at St. Edith's Hall, Kemsing, TN15 6NA or St. Lawrence Village Hall, TN15 0LL

Sidcup

Weekly meetings at 2.00 p.m. at Baldwyns Apiary. Please see website for details

Weald

Saturday, 15th September Honey Show at Smarden Charter Hall. For further information contact Trudie Thomas, Show Secretary, accounts@trudietomas.co.uk

Westerham

Autumn meetings start on Wednesday 26th September at 8.00pm in Westerham Hall when Caroline Drew will be talking about products from the hive

Wednesday, 14th November Annual General Meeting 8.00 p.m. Westerham Hall

Yalding and District

Monthly meetings take place at The Chequers Inn, Laddingford, ME18 6BP. Meetings start at 8.00 p.m.

Please also see branch websites for details of branch meetings, lectures and courses.

County and other events 2012

Thursday to Saturday, 25th to 27th October **81st National Honey Show**
St. George's College, Weybridge. The show schedule is now available

Saturday, 12th January 2013 **ADM at Stoneleigh**

Moths associated with Bees in Kent

My main interest is moths and I collate the records for moths in the County of Kent. This is an appeal for records of moths from beekeepers for the few species that are associated with honeybees.

The **Bee Moth**. I have long had a suspicion that this should be called the "Wasp Moth" find these near a wasp nest. They appear more or less confined to this, and the apparent range probably artefacts of low levels of sightings are of the adult moth from the peak occurrences are in June caterpillars live in surprisingly tough bottom of a nest. Books tell me old cells and debris in the nest, comb and the brood itself. There are no records of it appearing in a beehive in Kent unless of course you know differently.



suspicion that this because I usually find these near a wasp nest. The older records are of the adult moth from the peak occurrences are in June and July. The caterpillars live in surprisingly tough bottom of a nest. Books tell me old cells and debris in the nest, comb and the brood itself. There are no records of it appearing in a beehive in Kent unless of course you know differently.



The **Wax Moth**. I have just two records (out of over 450) of this moth from beehives, near Swanley about 1795 and at Bexley in 1954. It is rather less widespread than the Bee Moth .

larger (chunky) cousin, this is more like a moth". This is another species for which I have just two records (out of about 100) of the caterpillars live in surprisingly tough bottom of a nest. Books tell me old cells and debris in the nest, comb and the brood itself. There are no records of it appearing in a beehive in Kent unless of course you know differently.

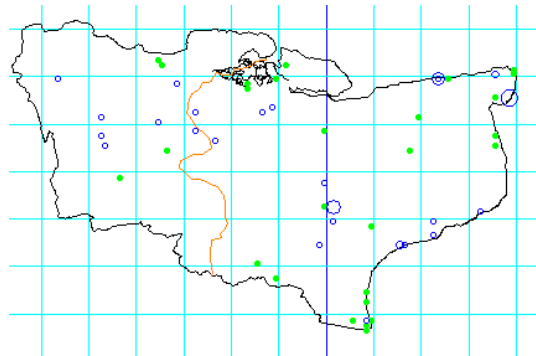


The **Lesser Wax Moth**. Much less well known than its typical "clothes" caterpillars have just two sightings are at night. The

moths fly from April to September with a peak from June to August. Books tell me that the caterpillars feed on wax in hives, preferring old wax, but can sometimes be so abundant as to ruin the hive and cause the bees to desert. Book data also states that the moth "runs actively and rapidly when disturbed inside a beehive, and at dusk flies around the hives, hovering at the entrance like a bee". I have never found this moth but the picture here is a little darker than the illustrations in reference books.

The **Death's Head Hawk-moth.**

famous in the general public's mind as illustrated in the posters for the film "The Lambs". It is a relatively scarce migrant (about 50 records, and certainly not seen means) but said to have a taste for enter hives in this pursuit. Sometimes, attacked and killed by the bees, and then two inches long) remains in the hive for only evidence I have for this is of one been found near Bromley in 1895. This known distribution of this moth in Kent, left and Dungeness bottom right. The blue circles are records before 1980 and green circles after 1980.



Probably most the moth Silence of the to our shores every year by any honey and to apparently, its body (a good some time. The such said to have map shows with London top

I am presently collaborating with others on writing a book on the moths of Kent. It can readily be seen from the above that much of the connection with bees is supported by rather scant, and old, evidence. On this basis, I would be forced to conclude that these moths are much maligned and do little, if any, harm to bees. There may, of course, be room for other views on this subject! I would appreciate any sightings, and anecdotal comments, which supports or refutes this view.

For a record, I like to have the Who, What, Where and When, Number of, details. The identity of which moth was involved is obviously important. A date when seen (exact preferred, but the year only is fine if that is all that is available, or even "every year for last ten years"). The location name and ideally a grid reference if you happen to know it (I will have to input one to map the record – but I can work out something from the location name, and postcode). Finally, the name of the recorder (it could be Anon at a push – but please do not be shy!).

My contact details are as follows: **Ian D Ferguson**, 31 Cathcart Drive, ORPINGTON, Kent BR6 8BU e-mail IanD.Ferguson@Hemscott.net.

I look forward to hearing anything about moths and your bees.

Kent Honey Show 2012 Special Award Winners

The Agricultural Society's Trophy Exhibitor with the highest points in classes 1-13

John Chapman

Reginald Tower Rose Bowl Best exhibit in candles **Paul F Abbott**

Novice Cup Overall winner of classes 14 & 15 **Mark Woollard**

Mead Cup Overall winner of classes 8 & 9 **John Chapman**

Gift Honey Cake Winner of class 18 **Jacqui Watson**