

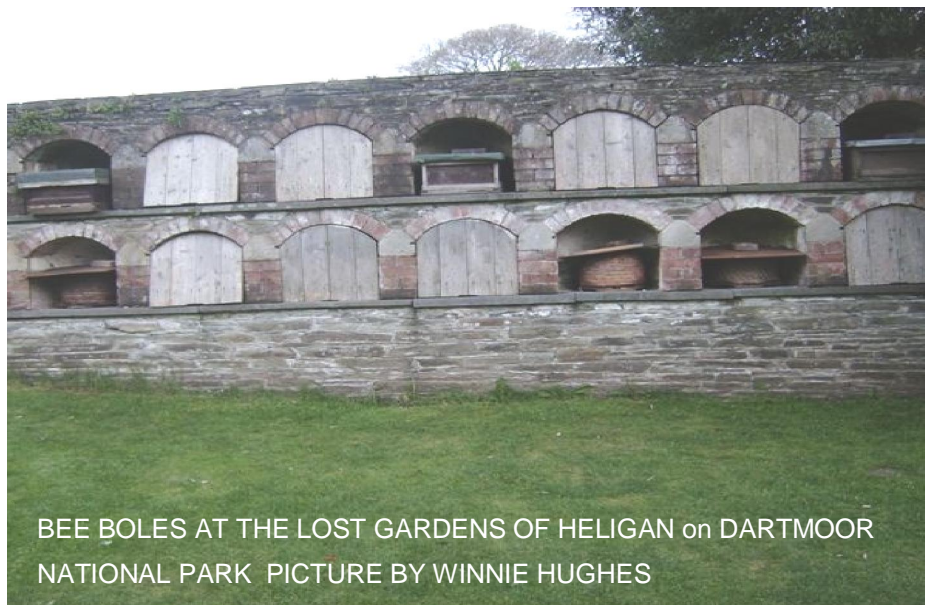
NEWSLETTER 30

AUTUMN 2010

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 2

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BEE BOLES AT THE LOST GARDENS OF HELIGAN on DARTMOOR
NATIONAL PARK PICTURE BY WINNIE HUGHES



An idea from your Secretary, to stop stray sparks escaping from your smoker at the end of the day. Just a wooden tapered plug with a small screw eye attached with a small length of light chain. When not in use it fits in the loop used as a handle for the top of the fire box. So it won't get lost. I also tuck my hive tool in the side of the wire protective cage. But STILL manage to loose it at times, painting it bright yellow helps to find it in long grass.

NEXT MEETINGS

Monday 4th OCTOBER New Stags Head, Carmarthen 7.30pm Beginners and Association meeting. Beginners Session 2 "A Brief History of Beekeeping" and "Beekeepers Glossary "A"

Sunday 24th OCTOBER Final Apiary practical for the year Club Apiary 2.00 p.m.

Sunday 7th NOVEMBER Bring and Buy Sale at the Club Apiary 2.00 p.m.

Monday 9th NOVEMBER Annual Quiz between CBKA and East CBKA Venue still to be Decided 7.30 p.m.

Monday 29th NOVEMBER CBKA Honey Show. See the schedule inside this issue. New Stags Head, Carmarthen 7.30pm

MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL BEE INSPECTOR

Hi All, The Seasonal Bee Inspectors and myself will be involved with microscopy workshops for Nosema diagnosis in the coming weeks, so I am taking this opportunity to email out a sampling procedure fact sheet put together by John Beavan (SBI NE Wales). For the most accurate diagnosis it is important to sample foraging (older) bees in the middle part of the day. I hope you find it helpful.

With the current downturn in the weather, we have come across some instances of starvation where nucs have failed to build up enough stores, or honey has been taken off and insufficient left behind. This situation can arise with the the unwary so it's worth checking, especially if the bees do not have access to Himalayan Balsam or Heather.

As the honey has been coming off, in good time for Apiguard varroa control, while the weather is hopefully still warm, it's a good opportunity to check for remaining stores and queen right colonies. A quick feed may be necessary in some areas prior to treatment, with the main autumn feed next month, after treatment. Also, it's a good time to assess colonies and unite those not strong enough to go into winter. I'm pleased to say many beekeepers have this well under way, and with reduced entrances minimising the opportunity for wasps to gain access.

Hoping for a good autumn like last year, Frank Gellatly

HOW TO COLLECT A SAMPLE FOR NOSEMA TESTING – THIS IS NOT EASY!



The ideal bees to collect are older flying bees, this is because they are the ones most likely to be infected and collecting them around the middle of the day is the time that infected bees are most likely to be flying.

Block off the entrance with something and wait a few minutes for the returning bees to start gathering. In the one I used here as an example the hive was quite weak so there weren't many bees to collect.

Scoop about 30 bees into a suitable container (matchbox, honey jar anything that won't squash the bees) This is the difficult bit but just get as many as you can into the container.



Label the container so that you will know which hive it came from and then freeze it to kill the bees. If you are collecting the sample more than a day before it will be tested then leave it frozen until the testing day.

If you struggle to collect bees in this way then try holding a honey jar over the entrance gap and tapping the side of the hive.



This will collect bees but they will be less likely to allow detection of a light infection. As you can see below, I ended up with a variable number of bees in each box but they were all flying bees and there is more than 20 in each so that should be okay and was the best I could manage with the weak hives. Strong colonies are easier to do.

This article was written by John Beavan Seasonal Bee Inspector for North East Wales July 2010

ACARINE IS IT BECOMING A PROBLEM ?

WHAT IS ACARINE From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

Acarapis woodi is a small parasitic mite that infests the airways of the honey bee. The first known infestation of the mites occurred in the British Isles in the early 20th century. First observed on the Isle of Wight in 1904, the mystery illness known as *Isle of Wight Disease* was not identified as being caused by a parasite until 1921. It quickly spread to the rest of Great Britain. It was regarded as having wiped out the entire bee population of the British Isles (although later genetic studies have found remnants that did survive) and it dealt a devastating blow to British beekeeping. Brother Adam at the Buckfast Abbey developed a resistant hybrid bee known as the Buckfast bee, which is now available worldwide to combat acarine disease.



Picture from <http://www.agric.wa.gov.au>
Mite highly magnified



Diagnosis for tracheal mites generally involves the dissection and microscopic examination of a sample of bees from the hive.

Picture from website <http://www.cthreepo.com> Showing damaged tracheal tube on the right hand side.

Mature female acarine mites leave the bee's airway and climb out on a hair of the bee, where they wait until they can transfer to a young bee. Once on the new bee, they will move into the airways and begin laying eggs.

HOW TO TEST Adult bees are decapitated and the prothoracic collar removed with a scalpel. The thoracic tracheae can then be inspected. Infested honeybee tracheae when stained show brown or black scabs or may be entirely black depending on the infestation level. In comparison, non-infested healthy tracheae appear transparent and clear-amber (Delfinado-Baker 1984).

HOW TO TREAT Copied from <http://www.vita-europe.com>

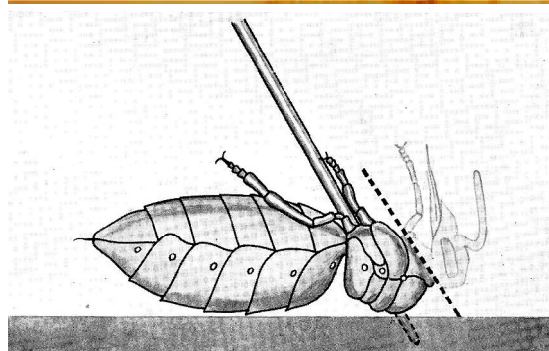
Races of bee more resistant to tracheal mite should be used where possible. Buckfast bees are known to be highly resistant to this mite while New Zealand strains are very susceptible to attack.

Selective bee breeding then is the first measure that beekeepers should employ to counteract this pest. Menthol crystals have been used with considerable success in North America although relatively high environmental temperatures are required to sublime the crystals and the effects are variable.

The Vita product **APIGUARD®** is especially formulated for control of varroa and tracheal mites. Good control levels of tracheal mite have been observed with use of Apiguard in several countries.



INFECTED TRACHEA



EXAMINATION OF BEES FOR ACARINE DISEASE
Removal of head and first pair of legs

REMOVAL OF HEAD AND FIRST PAIR OF LEGS

SCOTTISH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION TECHNICAL DATA SHEET NUMBER 14 - THE IVAN BREYDIN DIY BOTTLE FEEDER

IT'S SIMPLE & CHEAP IT'S EASY TO MAKE, MAKE IT IN MINUTES IT WON'T LEAK; STANDING UP OR LYING DOWN



Feeding bees either during a period of dearth or to augment winter stores can be quite a time consuming task and there are numerous methods currently available to the beekeeper. The beekeeper with a couple of colonies can get the job done using multiples of inverted honey jars with small holes punched in the jar lid. The next level up might be the 2½ litre pickle pail with the lid holed similar to the honey jar method. The beekeeper running more than 20 colonies if feeding syrup will probably favour the 2 gal on bucket or the more modern 5 litre version, which provides a feeding regime of moderate efficiency. The Miller feeder is the ultimate quantity syrup

feeder, with a capacity of around 2 gallons. The weakness of the Miller Feeder is that it is not suitable for syrup feeding in the early spring because the bees are reluctant to break the cluster at this time of year when temperatures are low. The other syrup feeding methods mentioned are defined as contact feeders because the clustering bees are in contact with the syrup, especially when these feeders are placed directly on the brood frames' top bars, right in the way of the cluster and are thus ideal all season feeders. Unfortunately all of these contact feeders mentioned have one major weakness - if not placed correctly on the hive they will leak, sometimes with disastrous consequences. I started experimenting with what has turned out to be an extremely cost effective, simple and virtually leak proof feeder. The design centres on the classic 2, 3, and 5 litre plastic bottle or bucket with a lid.

BRING AND BUY SALE ON SUNDAY 7TH NOVEMBER AT THE CLUB APIARY



Maureen is having a clear out and down-size and suggested we have a bring and buy sale.

She has everything from lambs and chickens to coffee tables and saddles.

So why not have a clear out yourself and bring along your bits and bobs.

Acceptable items Garden plants, household goods, Beekeeping bits, books.

Any electrical items must be safe and working.

Chris will be there with his new beekeeping equipment, so treat yourself to a Christmas present.

SUGAR FROM BOOKERS CARMARTHEN

I have given Bookers a list of our paid up members. Sugar is available from them for bee feeding. 25 kilo bags are £13.99 That's 45.5p per lb. or 56p per kilo.

If we get a warm October it will still be suitable to feed the bees. A guide is 30lbs. of stores per colony. Autumn syrup mix 2lbs sugar with 1 pint of water will give a 61.5% sugar concentration. **WARNING ! BROOD CHAMBERS ARE VERY SHORT OF STORED NECTAR THIS YEAR.**

CHRISTOPHER WREN NOT ONLY DESIGNED BUILDINGS

By Gene Kritsky

Christopher Wren (1632-1723), the architect who designed St. Paul's Cathedral in London, is also known for designing one of the first wooden box bee hives. Unlike the typical box hive we use today, Wren's hive was octagonal.

In Wren's day, beekeepers preferred to use the skep hive, an inverted basket that was fashioned out of straw and wicker. These skeps were sturdy and inexpensive to make, and when covered with a layer of mud or protected from the elements with a hackle made of thatching straw, they could be used for many years.

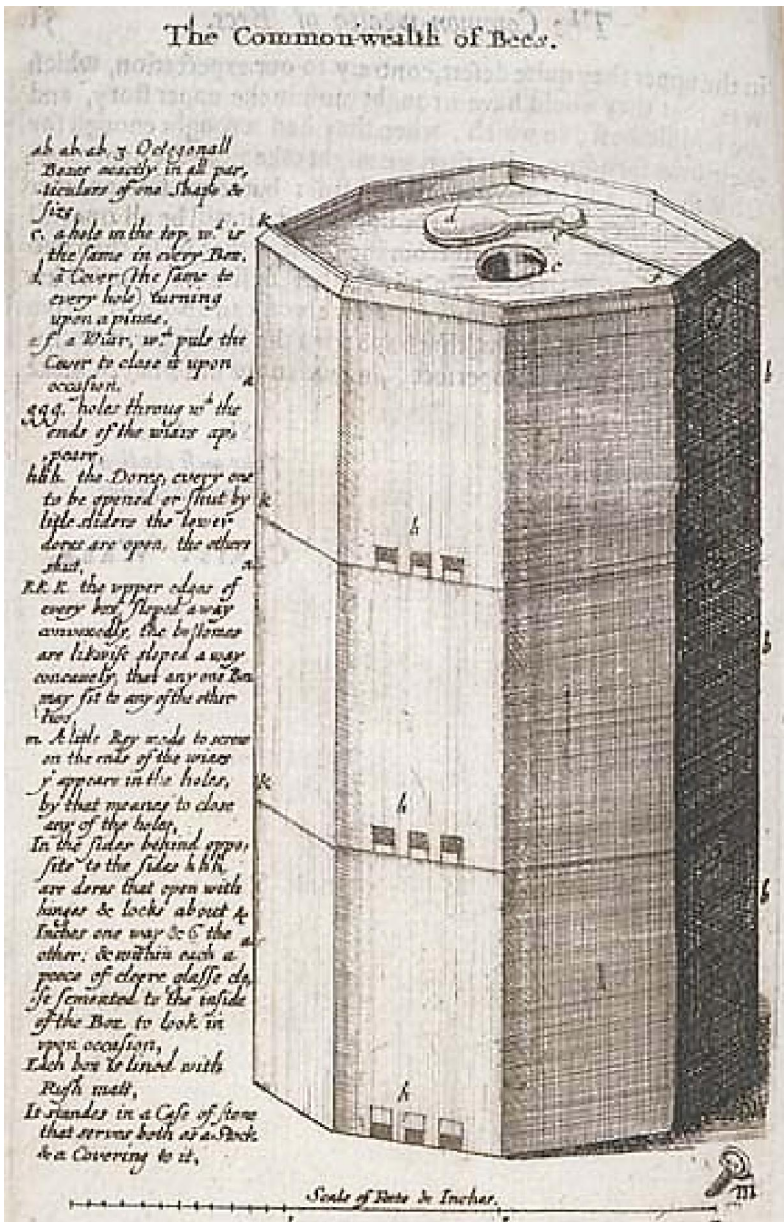
Wren's choice of an octagonal shape for his wooden hive was intended to create an environment similar to what the bees naturally preferred. Wild bees tended to inhabit hollow trees, and the octagonal hive was thought to be the closest approximation to a hollow tree trunk that could be made from boards. Moreover, bees cluster in a ball around the queen bee during the winter to keep her warm, and the shape of an octagonal hive was believed a better fit for the cluster.

Octagonal hives continued to evolve during the next 300 years, and they were used well into the twentieth century.

The Stewarton hive, developed in Scotland, was equipped with wooden bars across the top of each section to give the bees some guidance in the placement of their comb. Although these hives encouraged the bees to produce lots of honey, they were eventually replaced by the modern box hive invented by Lorenzo Langstroth in 1851, which featured easily removed frames that permitted better bee management and easy harvest of the honey.

Gene Kritsky is Professor of Biology at the College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati, and Adjunct Curator of Entomology at the Cincinnati Museum Center. He is Editor-in-Chief of *American Entomologist*, the magazine of the Entomological Society of America.

His book, THE QUEST FOR THE PERFECT HIVE, Has recently been published



SCHEDULE FOR THE HONEY SHOW 29th November 2010 7.30 pm New Stags Head

Class11 LB JAR OF LIQUID HONEY DARK MED OR LIGHT

Class2.....1 LB JAR OF GRANULATED HONEY

Class3.....BEGINNERS HONEY CLASS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT ENTERED A HONEY SHOW BEFORE

Class4.....HONEY CAKE AS RECIPE

Class5.....ANY ITEM FROM BEESWAX (CRAFT ITEM SUCH AS CANDLE ETC OR JUST A BLOCK OF WAX.)

Class6.....BOTTLE WINE RED, WHITE OR BOTTLE OF MEAD (CLEAR BOTTLE LABELLED)

Class7.....PHOTOGRAPH Beekeeping Theme

Class8.....CRAFT ITEM Beekeeping Theme (ARTWORK, MODEL, TOY ETC.)

Class9.....FRAME SUITABLE FOR EXTRACTION

A honey show just for fun. Everyone will be a judge. Give each entry a mark out of TEN Then work out who came first, second or third in each class.

Judge the honey on presentation, clarity taste etc. Any container will be allowed. Honey can be Dark, Medium or Light. There is a separate class for Granulated Honey. Wines can be Red or White sweet or dry Mead can also be sweet or dry.

Any item from beeswax such as blocks, candles models etc. Any photograph so long as it is connected with beekeeping. Craft item anything as long as it has a connection with beekeeping.

Please hand in your judging sheet as soon as possible for the adjudicators to add up the marks.

There will also be a collection of foreign honey. For tasting. If you have any left over from holidays or find something unusual in the supermarket bring it along.

RECIPE FOR THE HONEY CAKE

6 Ounces Self Raising Flour	6 ounces Butter or Margarine	6 Ounces Sultanas
6 Ounces Liquid Honey	3 Eggs	Small pinch of Salt

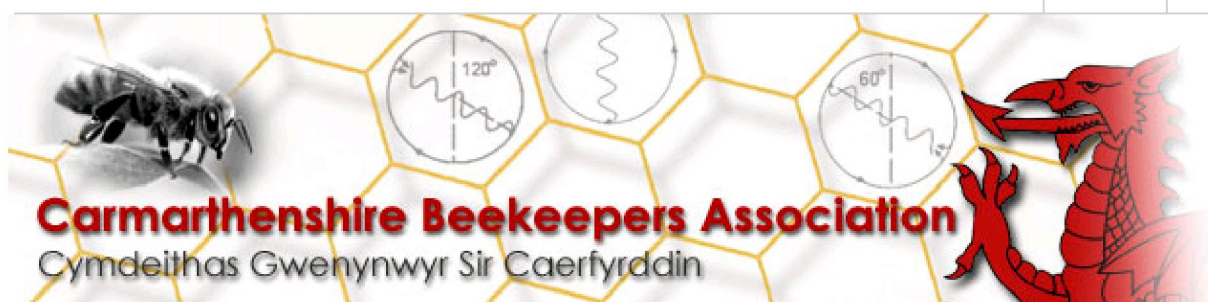
METHOD

Cream the butter and honey well. Beat the eggs well and add them alternatively with sifted flour and salt.

(Save a little flour to add with the sultanas) Beat well and lightly. A little milk can be added if necessary.

Turn in the sultanas and stir well. Bake in a grease lined tin 6 1/2 ins—7 1/2 ins diameter for one and a half hours at 350 degrees Fahrenheit or 180 degrees Centigrade. Allow to cool before removing from the tin.

GOOD LUCK.



CARMARTHENSHIRE BEEKEEPERS WEBSITE www.carmarthenshirebeekeepers.org.uk

Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Carmarthenshire Beekeepers Association's committee. Whilst every effort is taken in compiling the contents to ensure they are correct and accurate the club assumes no responsibility for any effect from errors or omissions. Editor / Hon. Sec. Carmarthenshire Beekeepers Association BRIAN JONES. CWMBURRY HONEY FARM, FERRYSIDE, CARMARTHENSHIRE TEL: 01267 267318 Email: beegeejay2003@yahoo.co.uk