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Newsletter 28

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 4

CARMARTHENSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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DISCLAIMER



A "BEE" FOR CHRISTMAS

THE OFFICIALS AND COMMITTEE OF THE CARMARTHENSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASN. WISH ALL MEMBERS SEASONS GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES



WILLIAM and AMANDA ELPHICK



STEPHEN COX, DAVID ELPHICK, LORNA JONES



HENRY MASTERS, GARETH HUGHES



WINNIE HUGHES, SHIRLEY MASTERS



LORNA JONES, BILL BRADLEY



PATRICIA AND CLIFFORD EVANS

THE NEXT MEETING IS THE **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

to be held At the New Stags Head, Carmarthen.

7.30 p.m. MONDAY 4TH JANUARY 2010

Proposals for Officials to reach the Secretary one week prior to the AGM (see page

BEEKEEPING FROM OUR FAR EASTERN CORRESPONDENT BILL BRADLEY



Whilst travelling in the Mekong Delta Vietnam in 2004 we came across a small island and were invited to land to have a look round. The island was home to a temple. The man in residence had been in the South Vietnamese Army during the war. When the war was over he had been re-educated by the new government. The re-education consisted of living in a forest and working all day clearing trees. At the end of each day they were fed on a meagre diet of rice and educated in the communist ways, this went on for 10 years. When he was released he was not allowed to work and refused any kind of documentation, this was still in force when we saw him in 2004. He had returned to his family and found somewhere to live looking after the temple. He had collected together a number of reptiles and opened a small cafe on the island. He also kept bees and this photo shows that he wore no protection of any kind when working with the bees, it was all done with tranquility, we do not know how much honey

he produced, but on the next island was a small sweet factory and this is where most of his honey went.

EDITORS COMMENTS

This article was written by Bill Bradley and relates to his and Lorna's trip in the Far East. Bill by the way was a scuba diver instructor (Not a lot of people know that) Thanks Bill. Hey you beekeepers out there lets have some more articles like this. Brian

CARMARTHENSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION LIBRARY LIST

Books may be borrowed from the library by full members of the association. The librarian is Stephen Cox.

To borrow books phone Steve on 07906 515996 so that he can bring them along to the next available meeting.

Your co-operation with this procedure would be appreciated. Please sign out any borrowed books and return books at the following meeting, or as soon as practically possible, so that other members of the Association can avail themselves of this service.

There will be a charge for books borrowed for more than two months. Any lost books must be replaced at the borrower's expense.

There are still a number of outstanding loans of library books. Please return them as soon

FIELD DAY AT BILL AND LORNA'S AT BRECHFA JUNE 2009



Bill welcoming guests in the apiary



Bill explaining the apiary layout to CBKA members



Lorna sorting out the raffle prizes.



The back of the cottage overlooking the valley.



Patricia Evans in charge of the barbeque.



Winnie Hughes and Shirley Masters enjoying their tea.

DO WE KEEP OUR BEES TOO WARM ?

THE APIARY in NOVEMBER

During the winter months you should remove any insulation / quilts you had on above the crown board. Open the entrance as much as possible before installing the mouse guard. If you still have varroa floors on, remove the insert sheet (unless the site is very exposed). The idea is to cool the bees down so the nest shrinks, and the bees don't waste energy (honey) keeping the brood at blood temperature when the outside temperature is at or below zero. This will also help with the winter oxalic acid treatment if you are doing it (the brood should be minimal). It always seems counter intuitive to remove all the insulation when it's cold and put it on in the summer when it's hot! You want your bees to cluster and not waste honey. If they are too warm they will be too active and could run out of stores quickly.

FEDERATION OF BERKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATIONS

Web: <http://www.berkshirebeekeepers.btik.com/>

Comments invited on the above article for inclusion in the next newsletter.

SOME IDEAS TO CARRY ON BEEKEEPING WHEN YOU HAVE A BACK PROBLEM

Time will come when age catches up with you or for some reason you get a back problem. Here are a few ideas I have put together to ease the problem.

1. Use a body / back support similar to those used by weight lifters. Even if you don't have a back problem at the time it does remind you take extra care when lifting. Spread those legs, keep the back straight and use those leg muscles, especially when lifting from ground level.
2. Use all shallow boxes for the brood nest and the supers. Considerable weight reduction. Yes I know some people don't like using two boxes for the brood nest, but it saves time when searching for queen cells, as swarm queen cells are invariably present on the base of the frame of the top brood box during the swarming season.
3. Possibly cut down your shallow boxes to hold just eight frames instead of the usual ten or eleven. Similar to the French Warre hive. Again a considerable weight reduction.



Brushy Mountain Cart illustration from Bush Bee Farms web site.

<http://www.bushfarms.com/bees.htm>



Walter Kelly truck illustration from Bush Bee Farms web site.



Mann Lake trolley illustration from Bush Bee Farms web site.

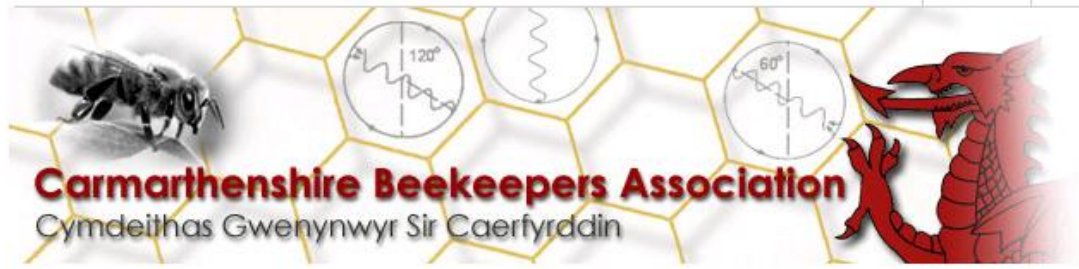
-
4. Use a cart or wheelbarrow

to carry off full supers of honey to the extracting room.

SOME CART DESIGNS

5. Don't lift in cold weather. If you do have to, wear a body warmer.
6. If you pull a muscle. My self treatment is homeopathic ARNICA 30 seems to work, don't ask me how. Use DEEP HEAT CREAM or similar in conjunction with an infra red heat lamp.
(HEALTH & SAFETY WARNING TAKE CARE WHEN USING A HEAT LAMP)

CBKA CALF



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010

TO BE HELD AT THE NEW STAGS HEAD, CARMARTHEN. 7.30 P.M. MONDAY 4TH JANUARY

AGENDA

- 1. VICE CHAIRMANS WELCOME
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Letter from Geoff Bazin. Email David Taylor.
- 3. PRESIDENTS OPENING REMARKS
- 4. MINUTES OF 2009 AGM
- 5. APPROVAL OF 2009 MINUTES Proposed.....Seconded.....
- 6. MATTERS ARISING.....
- 7. REPORTS:
 - VICE CHAIRMAN (Chris Phillips)
 - TREASURER ACOUNTS (Marie Gardiner)
 - APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS Proposed.....Seconded.....
 - SECRETARY (Brian Jones)
- 8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
 - PRESIDENT.....Proposed.....Seconded.....
 - VICE PRESIDENT.....Proposed.....Seconded.....
 - CHAIRMAN.....Proposed.....Seconded.....
 - VICE CHAIRMAN.....Proposed.....Seconded.....
 - TREASURER.....Proposed.....Seconded.....
 - SECRETARY.....Proposed.....Seconded.....
 - LIBRARIAN.....Proposed.....Seconded.....
 - W B K A REPRESENTATIVE.....Proposed.....Seconded.....
 - SWARM CO-ORDINATOR.....Proposed.....Seconded.....
- 9. PROGRAMME FOR 2010 DISCUSSION and SUGGESTIONS.....
- 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO INCLUDE
 - BEE DISEASE INSURANCE.....

SITES AVAILABLE FOR KEEPING BEES

Mr Robert Quick	Ty Llwyn Celyn, Caerbryn	Llandybie, Ammanford	CARMS SA18 3EQ 01269 851276 Detached house 7 acres
Mrs Chrisy Wildwood	Rhydgoch,	Brechfa	CARMS SA32 7QR 01267 202202 3 acres woods and 5 ponds
Dr Kit Evans	Waun bythyn	Rhydargaeau	CARMS 01267 253889 13 acres two marshy fields
Mr Steve Hughes	Bendy fach, Bethania Rd.	Upper Tumble, Llanelli	CARMS SA14 6EB 01269 842702 Mobile 07973452327
Mrs Trisha Thorne	Pen yr Hoel Ddu, Hoel Ddu Nr.	Ammanford	CARMS SA18 2UF 01269 820705
Mrs Joan Allcock	Cae Gwyllt, Meinciau	Kidwelly	CARMS SA17 5LG 01269 862122 Mobile 78161 127065 50 acres



ABOVE THREE PHOTOS OF EAST CARMARTHENSHIRE BKA MEMBERS

BEEKEEPING MYTHS FROM Michael Bush of BUSH BEE FARMS NEBRASKA USA

CLIPPING THE QUEEN WILL PREVENT SWARMING

In my experience they will still swarm. It may buy you some time if you're paying attention (like the hives are in your back yard and you check everyday for swarms). They will attempt to swarm and the clipped queen won't be able to fly. They will go back and then they will leave with the first virgin swarm queen to emerge. Counting on clipping to stop them from swarming will end in failure.

YOU HAVE TO MOVE HIVES TWO FEET OR TWO MILES OR YOU WILL LOSE A LOT OF BEES

I hear this one a lot.. I move bees all the time fifty, a hundred yards or more. The trick is to put a branch in front of the entrance to trigger reorientation. If you do this it works well. If you don't do this most of the field bees will go back to the old location.


ADDING SUPERS WILL PREVENT SWARMING

This is a common myth in beekeeping. It works after the reproductive swarm season is over, but the prime swarm season has little to do with supers. It has everything to do with the bees' plan to reproduce. If you want to head off a swarm the crux of the matter is you have to keep the brood nest open.

Destroying queen cells will prevent swarming.

In my experience this does not work. They will swarm anyway and end up queenless. Michael Bush

These are just a few of many interesting articles on the website of MICHAEL BUSH of Bush Bee Farms Nebraska I hope Michael does not mind me reproducing the above and the photos of the carts in my back problem article. In the hope it will point



CARMARTHENSHIRE BEEKEEPERS WEBSITE ADDRESS IS
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