

1906

Centenary Year

2006



SBKA Exmoor Division

May/June 2011 edition

Dates for your diary

Friday May 6th— EBKA committee meeting—Rest and be Thankful, Wheddon Cross 7pm

Friday May 13th – Forage – nectar flow and the seasons -Eleanor and Rosemary Burgess at 7pm WSCC Sixth form block

***Saturday May 14th – September 24th rent-a-hive scheme. Details to be e-mailed direct to participants.**

Saturday May 14th –extracting oil seed rape honey

May 21st- 2pm Going through the hive and disease check – Simon Jones, Seasonal Bee Inspector at Rodhuish apiary

Friday June 10th Preparing products of the hive for showing – Tony Richards at 7pm WSCC 6th form block or as directed



Divisional out-
apiary at
Rodhuish

A special thank you

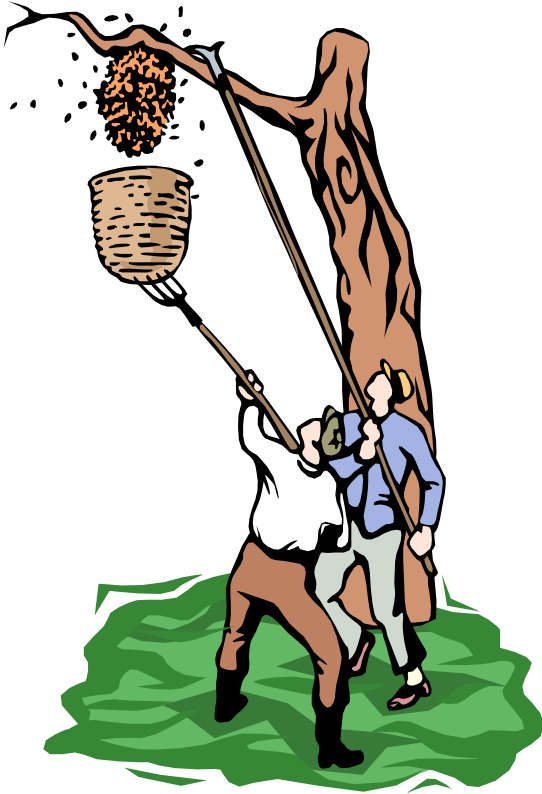
to Paul and Charlotte for providing us with an excellent facility for teaching bee-keeping

Photo taken by Andrew Moloney of the beginner's first visit to the out apiary.

Swarm control or how to avoid losing your bees.

The swarming season has already started.

There is an excellent diagram describing the best way of avoiding losing your bees attached to an article entitled “Do your bees need a clipped year?” by Glyn Davies. www.devonbeekeepers.org.uk/downloads/swarm_control_plan. Well worth reading.



The article is not advocating clipping but, if you are checking your colonies every week, he suggests removing your queen with some brood and food to a nuc box when you see an open queen larva. This leaves the flying bees with the queen cell as it develops, the colony, being queenless will not swarm, but will continue to fill the supers. (You must ensure that no more than two sealed queen cells are left in the hive, which means checking the hive again the following week.) The queen with only the young bees and brood and no queen cells, will not swarm

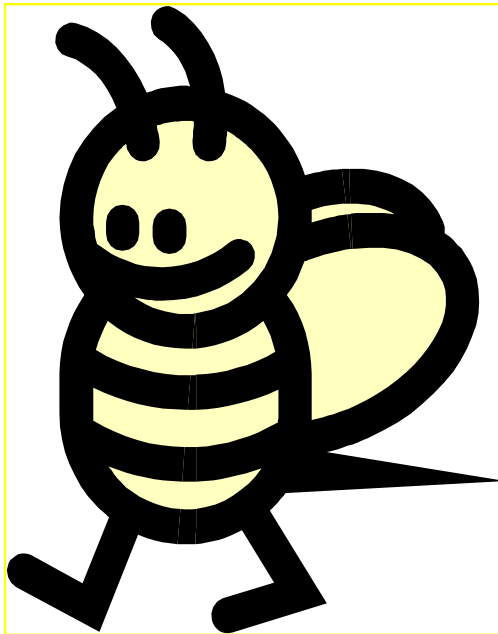
either. Three weeks later your virgin queen should have started laying and you will be able to determine if she is a good queen or not. In the event that she is not, you still have your old queen who can be reunited with the colony— sound insurance.



LIBRARY

The division has a comprehensive library for use by members. For a complete list of books and further details please contact Gail Johnson gail.johnson@virgin.net

Photo by Andrew Moloney



Vacancies for Queen bees. Ideal candidates will have the following characteristics:

- Good natured offspring
- Healthy
- Prolific layer
- Hygienic

Queen rearing

Do you have a healthy, good natured colony which brings in lots of honey?

You need to be rearing her offspring! If you've never done it before, then give it a go! Please contact the secretary Tricia Nelson if you would like to do so.

There is a tremendous drive nationally for associations and divisions to develop queen rearing programmes locally with a view to improving local stock..

Queen rearing can be as simple as putting a frame of brood with a queen cell on it in a nuc box with some food and waiting to see what happens. It can also entail grafting and even artificial insemination

Next year we will arrange a series of teaching sessions around more advanced queen rearing techniques, focusing on which queen to breed from and alternative ways to do this.

AGONY AUNT

for beginners

Please contact her by e-mail

lorainestevens@btinternet.com

Telephone 01398 351344

From an Egg to an Elephant

This section is free to all members to advertise anything (at the discretion of the editor) for sale or for exchange. Beekeeping items will be given priority and other items added if there is room.

Veil repairs –ring Jenny on 07788407497 or
01823 270465

Adventures in Beekeeping – Artisan Southwest

In January 2011, Andrew Moloney and his wife and son finally fulfilled a long held plan and upped sticks from St Albans in Hertfordshire to start a new, more balanced and sustainable way of life here in Somerset. His original strategy of commuting back to his job in Berkshire, running Marketing for a large American software firm, quickly needed re-adjusting when he discovered that his role was to be made redundant on his first day back in the office after the move!

Deciding that this was a life opportunity not to be missed, he is now researching the possibility of building a new career for himself based around combining his marketing skills, with local tourism and the many small Artisan food and drink producers that this area is so abundantly blessed with.

Always a keen “foodie” and lover of all Artisan food crafts he jumped at the chance to learn beekeeping with Exmoor division when he saw it advertised via the Transition Town initiative (www.transitionnetwork.org). He decided to diarise his “Adventures in Beekeeping” online as part of the Food Producer “blog” that he launched in March. He hopes that by recording and sharing his own personal experience as a first timer others thinking about beekeeping might get a better sense of what is involved, and what it feels like standing in a field full of thousands of bees for the first time!

You can read his story and add comments of your own, should you wish to, by visiting www.artisansouthwest.co.uk

The blog itself is far too long to put in the newsletter but a great read! Thank you Andrew.

And finally.....

If you enjoy the newsletter and think you can help in anyway, be it writing an article, Computer wizardryPhotography actually editing the newletter Or simply putting things in envelopes

please contact Tricia Nelson email: meadowstreamhouse@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01984 641388