

Cumbria Bee Times

Editor: Val Sullivan, Brackenwray Farm, Kinniside, Cleator, Cumbria, CA23 3AG

Telephone: 01946 862604, e-mail:brackenwray@aol.com

(Views expressed in this newsletter are those of the editor and do not necessarily represent those of the CBKA)

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ADM 2012

The Annual Delegates meeting of the BBKA took place on 14th January and our delegate S. Barnes reports:

The Red and Green "Course in a Case" collections were available and purchased at the very reduced rate of £50, giving Cumbria all four of the teaching aids so far produced. Also promotional packs were ordered; one for each branch. These will contain posters, a leaflet holder and WBC style donation box.

Capitation fee is expected to rise by £1.00 at the next (2013)ADM. Sponsorship from Rowse and Berts Bees is to continue for another 3 years.

18,000 people attended Stoneleigh in 2011 necessitating the move this year to the larger premises at Harper Adams, which is closer for those of us travelling from the North. BBKA has changed Insurance Brokers leading to some changes in cover. The General Secretary has been asked to clarify the situation.

After the minutes of the 2011 ADM were accepted matters arising included feedback on Cumbria's 2011 resolution (on standards of Queens for sale) If the matter is to be pursued Cumbria will need to table another proposition at 2013 ADM. Concerns were raised that the new style BBKA News is turning into a Journal and competing unfairly with other publications such as Beecraft.

It was noted that Cumbria is one of 13 Associations that had no members taking the Basic Exam in 2011.

Cumbria voted against the proposition that the BBKA invites all its members to pay an annual donation of £5.00 for the BBKA Research Fund. However the motion was passed F 36 A26

The Cumbria delegate sought clarification regarding the availability of information on AFB/EFB outbreaks to prevent beekeepers inadvertently moving hives into control zones. For reasons of confidentiality it is only possible to give 10km square OS references. Beekeepers within a 5km radius will be notified promptly on Beebase. (If moving bees in Cumbria check with SBI)

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Food for thought

The next time you find yourself in the honey aisle of your grocery store, debating between a pricy premium, artisanal honey and the store-brand nectar contained in a plastic bear, you might want to think twice before choosing based on price. That's because an investigation in USA found that 76% of all honey bought at grocery stores there were treated with a process called "ultra-filtration," which removes not only impurities like wax, but also all traces of pollen. Of the types of brands at grocery stores, the generic ones were far-and-away the most likely to be ultra-filtered.

There are issues with ultra-filtration in general -- many believe that pollen, and other so-called "impurities," are actually beneficial to human health, and make honey a better choice than rival sweeteners like sugar. And there doesn't seem to be any serious benefit to the process of ultra filtration: it's expensive and doesn't significantly improve shelf-life, even though some manufacturers claim it does. But the biggest reason to avoid ultra-filtered honey is that pollen is the only sure way to trace the source of honey to a geographic location. As a result the ultra-filtered product often masks the shady origins of certain kinds of honey -- especially Chinese honey, which is subject to heavy import tariffs on account of its frequent contamination by heavy metals and illegal antibiotics. Other type of sugary substances such as cane sugar syrup can be added to the "honey" to increase profits. The EU, has changed labelling regulations to require that honey containers list "pollen" as an ingredient despite the objections of some honey producers, who call pollen intrinsic to their produce.

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Fiona Roebuck
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High Hesket
CA4 0JE
07779329255
froebuck@btinternet.com

Cockermouth

Bill Mackereth
6 Whiteside Avenue
Cockermouth
CA13 9AR
01900 825188

Keswick

Sandra Wallace
Spoonery Green
Keswick
CA12 4PJ
017687 72601

Penrith

Joy Rich
Holly House
Newbiggin
Penrith
CA11 0HT
017684 83910

Whitehaven

Val Sullivan
Brackenwray Farm
Kinniside
Cleator
CA23 3AG
01946 862604
brackenwray@aol.com

Other Associations Kendal and South Westmorland

Peter Llewellyn
1 Greenside House,
Hincaster,
Milnthorpe,
LA7 7NA
01539 562369
pdwllewellyn@yahoo.co.uk

Furness

David Walmsley
36 Oxenholme Road
Kendal
djwalmsley@hotmail.co.uk

Events for your Diary

Cumbria Beekeepers AGM: Sat 31st March.
14.00hrs Southey St Methodist Church Keswick.

This year Christine Matthews, the CBKA Treasurer, will be giving a talk on "Pollen for Health"

Please bring along recipe suggestions for the Autumn honey show.

Annual British Beekeepers Convention April 20th, 21st and 22nd at Harper Adams The programme is now available at: www.bbka.org.uk Penrith Branch will be hiring a bus, leaving Penrith at about 6.30 AM on Sat 22nd April and starting the return journey at about 16.30. If you wish to book a seat, or for more information contact the Secretary Joy Rich

Penrith Branch will be running a two day Beginners course in April. Details at :www.penrithbeekeepers.org

Whitehaven Beginners Day on Sat 10th March and

Whitehaven Modern Beekeeping Day for those with bees. Sunday 11th March. Both at the newly refurbished Lamplugh Village Hall. Details at www.whitehavenbeekeepers.co.uk or ring the secretary.

Furness BK Spring Convention Sat Mar 3rd. Contact the secretary for details

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CUMBRIA BKA WAX DAY

After the postponement of the 2010 Wax Day because of severe winter weather the 2011 Day went ahead without any problems. Peter Matthews demonstrated the recovery of wax from the most blackened and unpleasant old comb with the recovery of pure golden wax suitable for foundation making at the very least, but even pure enough for candle and other domestic uses.

Alan Robson gave a fascinating talk and demonstration of Foundation making; he made it look very easy but several of us found out that the process requires care and attention to detail to produce properly moulded sheets. Alan then showed the process he uses for wiring the foundation sheets, again a process which looked easy when done by the expert but the spectators realised when they tried that there is an art to the process. All the equipment Alan uses is tailor made by him in his workshop and he offered advice to those who want to build their own.

After lunch Christine Matthews gave a talk with practical demonstrations on soap making, bath salts and lip balm. There were plenty of ideas for Christmas presents which would not stress the pocket. Christine showed how packaging up the finished articles makes these sort of goods into very attractive and desirable gifts. The day was a great success., but the turn out was poor.

ONE OF THE FOUNDATION REJECTS

