

Cumbria Bee Times

New issue 2

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

Editors Notes

Midsummer, and things are looking better for Beekeeping this year compared with 2008. In West Cumbria despite our massive losses last year many beekeepers are managing to restore stocks by division, swarm collection and buying in local nuclei. Some beekeepers have sought bees from further afield and it is important that they seek the expertise of the Seasonal Bee Inspector S.Beattie to ensure that the bought in stocks do not import Foul brood. He is only a phone call away. (On 01229 463127) Also remember that Stewart will come and give help and guidance throughout the summer on general health in your stocks.



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PREVIOUSLY HARMLESS, MUTATED VARROA SPECIES NOW KILLING EUROPEAN HONEY BEES

In Papua New Guinea(PNG) Varroa jacobsoni has undergone a genetic mutation which allows it to infest European honey bees. Bee pathologist Denis Anderson says the mite is one of a strain of varroa mites which has never before been able to breed on the European honey bee. Now the mutant mites are wiping out up to half PNG's honey industry.

The mutation is believed to have originated from a single female mite. Anderson believes that the mites will be also carrying exotic viral diseases which are what actually kills the bees. In November 2008, the Australian government announced an extra A\$300,000 over two years to continue the sentinel hive programme. This is an important surveillance programme for pests and disease in Australia's honey bee and pollination industries.

An Asian honey bee eradication campaign is continuing in Queensland , two years after an incursion was found in Cairns. Thus far 28 colonies have been destroyed.

WHAT IS A COUNTRY WILDLIFE SITE?

Country Wildlife Sites (CWS) are areas of land public and private recognised for containing rare or threatened habitats and species. They are considered to be of County, sometimes national importance An experienced ecologist surveys potential sites , whether they are flower rich grasslands, ancient woodlands, heathlands, bogs or tarns and the results are put before the CWS Selection Panel. Those meeting the required guidelines are selected as CWS. These sites most likely contain UK biodiversity action plan species or habitats ,such as flower rich hay meadows (excellent country for bees).

If you would like free information or specific advice contact the Cumbria Wildlife Trust.

LOU PATCH

One of the longest serving members of Cumbria Beekeepers and a member of the Penrith Branch was presented with a long service certificate by the BBKA at the Annual Delegates meeting in the Spring. As Mr Patch was unable to be present at the Delegates meeting the certificate was presented to him in the Rehabilitation unit of Barrow hospital(where he was recovering from a fall) in March by the Chairman of CBKA and the Seasonal Bee Inspector, accompanied by members of CBKA. A splendid tea was served including a spectacular celebration cake decorated appropriately with bees, for which thanks go to the staff of the Unit.

Branches and Secretaries

The Cumbria Beekeepers Association currently has five Branches, whose contact details are:

Carlisle:

Walter McPhee,
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