

Newsletter
July 2015



Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association (SCIO)

- promoting the study and development of apiculture, and advancing the heritage, culture and science of beekeeping amongst its membership and throughout the wider community

Established 1910

Scottish Charity Number SC031754

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ROLLING in CLOVER

The White Clover (*Trifolium repens* - the 'creeping plant with three-lobed leaves') has arrived, and our bees will be making the most of it. It belongs to the same family of plants as peas and beans (Fabaceae - 'faba' is Latin for bean) and is one of the most important sources of nectar for honeybees at this time of year. Given access to an abundant supply of clover, a strong colony will be busy making you a delicately flavoured honey with a fine texture. According to William Kirk and Norman Howes in their book *Plants for Bees*, the temperature range across which clover will secrete nectar probably extends lower than that required for bees to fly. In other words, if the bees can venture out to get to the clover, there will be nectar available.

The flowering head of the plant comprises 50 or more individual structures called florets, each one providing a separate source of nectar. You can see on the first of these three pictures that the florets mature in sequence, with the lower, outer ones opening first.

The second picture shows the head almost in full flower, but bear in mind that the lower florets will have been visited by bees and other pollinators first. As a result, the pollination of the flower head is from the bottom up.

You can see the results of this in the bottom picture. Once each floret is pollinated it ceases secreting nectar and drops down, eventually withering and turning brown. If you watch one of your bees working a clover plant at this stage, you'll see that it ignores the florets that have dropped, concentrating instead on those that remain upright and which will still hold some nectar. Do you think they do this as a result of instinct, or might it be something they have to learn through experience of working clover?



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The Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association

HONEY SHOW

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER 2015

Watch out for more information in next month's newsletter!



Start planning
your entries
now!

Don't forget that there are sure to be local shows in your area that will have classes open to honey and other products of the hive. Why not support your local show by taking part?

Members' Events

**APIARY DEMONSTRATION
with Les Webster**

Sunday 19 July at 2pm
Kinnoir, adjacent to Croft of Bridges, AB54 7YR
(Coming from Huntly on the A97, turn left at signpost indicating Kinnoir 1½ miles.
Look out for sign indicating apiary demonstration.
Park in the field)

TURRIFF SHOW

Sunday 2 and Monday 3 August
Competition for honey, wax, etc. Also candle rolling, observation hive and honey for sale.
For more information contact Rosie Crighton - see front page for contact details

**HEATHER SITE VISIT
with MURRAY MCGREGOR**

Saturday 15 August at 1pm
- venue to be announced

**APIARY DEMONSTRATION
Varroa treatment, feeding and preparing for winter**

Sunday 30 August at 2pm
Association apiary, Crathes Castle, Banchory, AB31 5QJ

“YOUR HONEY OR YOUR LIFE!”



ADBKA's very own Ned Kelly takes honey extraction to the extreme.

Are you good at hard sums? Louise, who has been looking after our books for more than three years, needs to recharge the batteries in her calculator. This means that ADBKA is looking for a member with book-keeping or accountancy experience to take on the role of Honorary Treasurer.

Our association can only function through the goodwill and hard work of those members who give up their time to help keep the show on the road.

If you can lend a hand by helping to keep our financial matters in order, please contact Graham Torrie on 013398 82038.

To make a prairie it takes a clover and one bee,—
One clover, and a bee,
And revery.
The revery alone will do
If bees are few.
Emily Dickinson

Sorry. In last month's newsletter we published contact telephone numbers for the ADBKA committee members, but got Ian Douglas' wrong. Ian is based in Westhill and can be contacted on 01224 741 851.

Visit the ADBKA Honey Jar Store for:

- Ragus Candy
- Apistan (10 strips, sufficient for 5 hives)
- Ambrosia Syrup
- Honey Jars and Lids
- Mesh Floors – National size (wire only)
- Hessian Squares for smoker fuel



- Free loan of:**
- Honey extractors
 - Mini-melters
 - Heather honey press
 - Wax extractor
 - Wax foundation press

Approximately half a mile along Laurel Drive, turn into Laurel Place on your right - it's a semi-circle so take the second entrance into this street. Now turn left into Laurel Avenue. Danestone Market Garden is signposted, on the left, about 100 yards along.

**Danestone
Market
Garden
AB22 8AJ**

You may be asked to show your ADBKA membership card when you visit the store, so remember to take it along

For the loan items, a returnable £10 deposit is required, with the maximum length of loan being two weeks. As other members may be waiting to borrow extractors, etc. these must be returned on time and in a clean condition.

The store is open between 6.30pm and 8pm on Wednesday evenings and at other times by arrangement with Sandy Gordon (Tel: 01224 484540)

This is also the time of year that Red Clover comes into flower. Its Latin name is *Trifolium pratense*, which means 'the three-lobed-leaf plant of the meadow'.

Unlike White Clover, this is not such a significant plant for honeybees, even though it does provide abundant helpings of nectar. However, much to the frustration of the honeybees, their tongues are too short to reach the nectar at the bottom of these longer flower tubes, while long-tongued bees, like the rust-coloured common carder bee, will take their fill.

Bees are sometimes classified as belonging to short- or long-tongued groups or 'guilds'.

In exceptional conditions, the florets of Red Clover will become so full of nectar that even short-tongued bees will be able to reach it. All it takes is for the tip of the tube formed by the bee's mouthparts to dip into the nectar, which then rises through capillary action.



The fourth annual **Vita Photo Competition** is now open for entries to anyone with an interest in beekeeping or honeybees.

Winners' photographs will appear in the 2016 Vita (Europe) Ltd Calendar and they will each receive a copy of the limited edition calendar.

There will also be a cash prize plus beekeeping products for the best as judged by an international panel of beekeeping journalists and suppliers.

The Closing date for the Photo competition is 18 October 2015. For details, see <http://www.vita-europe.com/news/2015-vita-international-honeybee-and-beekeeping-photo-competition/>

Horticulturists at Washington State University are developing a system of mechanical pollination for fruit trees. Cherry Horticulturist, Matthew Whiting, said, "We're doing it for yield security and resilience to colony collapse disorder".

In tests, an electrostatic sprayer was used to make two applications of pollen at three different rates. Trees were netted to keep bees out, and pollen was sprayed when 50 percent and 90 percent of the flowers were open.

Evaluations targeted pollen viability of three sweet cherry pollen genotypes and developed a formulation that would suspend pollen in solution, move through the sprayer without clogging, and maintain pollen viability long enough to stick to the flower stigmas and fertilize the ovules.

According to Matthew Whiting, "We're envisioning a scenario down the road when there will be no need for pollinators and no hiring and production of bees."

Should we cheer or cry?

Read the full story at http://www.bee-culture.com/catch-the-buzz-mechanical-pollination-of-apples-and-cherries-a-game-changing-reality/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=a9056448d3-6448d3-Catch_The_Buzz_4_29_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-a9056448d3-256255705



I am writing to introduce myself to you as **the new NE Area Representative** of the Scottish Beekeepers' Association (SBA).

I have been asked to represent your association (Area Beekeeper Associations: ABAs) and my role is summed up as follows:

- Represent the interests and concerns of the ABAs to the SBA board
- Report to the board and to the membership on ABA activity
- Report to the ABAs on the work and decisions of the board
- Assist in disseminating information from the SBA to the ABAs and encourage ABAs to be involved in information gathering on behalf of the SBA.

Kind Regards

Neil Mathieson
SBA NE Area Representative
11 Fife Street
Banff
Aberdeenshire AB45 1JB
Tel: 07714 208040

BBwear DISCOUNTED CLOTHING OFFER for ADBKA MEMBERS

In order to get the 20% discount, you will need to contact BBwear directly, by email at sales@bbwear.co.uk or by phone on 01872 562731, and place your order. You'll also need to ask the ADBKA Chair or Secretary (see contact details on the front page) to email BBwear to confirm that you are a member of the association. Your order will then be processed.

You can see the range of clothing on offer at <http://www.bbwear.co.uk/> or you can request a catalogue by calling the above number.

Please note that you will not get the discount if you place your order online via BBwear's website, and discounts cannot be refunded after the order has been placed through the website.

(Free gloves are not included with the full suits, however, a 50% discount is offered on washable leather gloves or spats.)



Aberdeen Bee Supplies

Jock McGregor is the local agent for Thorne Beekeeping Equipment. Contact him on 01224 790468 or e-mail: AberdeenBeeSupplies@hotmail.com

9-frame radial extractor (electric) – FOR HIRE
£10 per hire period
Steam wax melter – available ON LOAN £10 deposit

Both items available from: Jock McGregor, 11 Marcus Road, Blackburn. Tel. 01224 790468

I have a stall selling home-made jams and preserves at Banchory and Stonehaven Farmers' Markets. People often approach me asking for **local honey**. Would any ADBKA members wish to sell me honey in bulk in order that I can sell it at my stall?

Contact Shirley Vass on
01330 844766 or
07584245213

email:
shirleymvass@yahoo.co.uk

Bees for Sale

Four colonies, each with 2015 queens and on at least five frames.

Contact Rosie Crighton on
01224 791181

Local, black and hardy **bees for sale** on Smith and/or National frames. Some small colonies, some this year's nucs. £150 to £200 depending on size of colony. Contact Willow on 01975 651 734, email willowlohr@btinternet.com or text only on 078 374 204 94 (mobile signal poor)
Bees are kept near Ballater.

TELLING THE BEES

Interested in bees or folklore?

Join our series of free creative workshops with artists and designers in Perth over the summer 2015 to help us think about new ways of presenting beekeeping knowledge for future generations.

Do I need to be a beekeeper or an artist?

No, we're looking for a wide range of interested folk to take part.



BEELORE - EXPLORING OUR FASCINATION WITH BEES

10am-3pm Tuesday 21st July
Perth Subud Centre
7 Saint Leonard's Bank
Perth, PH2 8EB

This workshop will look at stories of bees and beekeeping and their scientific basis. You'll also get the chance to work with designers and researchers to find creative new ways to think about bees.

FREE to attend (incl. lunch & refreshments) but sign up essential:

<http://beelore.eventbrite.com>

Telling the Bees is a community arts and research project exploring stories around beekeeping, from superstitions and past folklore to anecdotes of today to find out what we learn about bees and beekeeping today.



www.bees.eca.ed.ac.uk

According to.....

.....G.M. Doolittle in his 1910 book, *A Year's Work in an Out-Apiary*: "I feel that I ought not to close this work without saying a few words about the automobile for the apiarist, inasmuch as I have mentioned it several times when telling of my visits to the out-apiary. At times I think the one I have (an eight-horse-power, single-cylinder Pierce Stanhope, and I think it as good as any, or I would not have purchased it), an expensive luxury. At other times I consider it the nicest thing in the world to travel in, both for pleasure and profit; and at other times I consider it almost a necessity for me in my apicultural work.....

"At no time do I appreciate the auto more thoroughly than when I drive it right into the bee-yard for loading and unloading heavy stuff. The auto is low-down so I do not have to lift things so high in loading as with a wagon. Then with the horse I must do a lot of lugging and carrying myself, or else get someone to help me draw the heavily loaded wagon to a safe distance from the bees, and, even at the best, have a constant care not to get the horse stung. Nothing of the kind with the auto, for I have never known a bee stinging it.....

"Then if the washing-machine, grindstone, churn, feed-cutter, emery-wheel, planer, buzz-saw, etc., are to be used, just back the auto up to the proper place, 'jack up' one of the hind or driving wheels, and 'block' the other, so as to make the auto stationary, connecting up by belt the jacked-up wheel and the machine you wish turned, when everything is ready for 'the start'.....Set the spark lever at a 25-mile-an-hour gait and you are at home in the matter."