



Southampton & District Beekeepers Association

www.southamptonbeekeepers.co.uk

Things to do and see

Author Andy Willis - March 2008

Light hives should be fed syrup.

Small colonies can be stimulated to grow by feeding.

Do spring inspections in mild weather when the bees are flying well.

Check for brood - all colonies should have brood now.

Unite queen less colonies with queen right colonies.

Cull drone laying queens and unite with queen right colonies.

Small colonies can be united together to make fewer but stronger stock for a spring flow.

Ensure disease is not present before uniting.

Clean / change floors if using solid floors.

Blowtorch the removed floor after remaining debris.

Do shook swarms for varroa control of strong colonies only, mid month onwards, during a forecast good spell of weather.

If poor weather delay shook swarming till April.

Feed syrup after shook swarming.

If the weather is dry, ensure a supply of water is near to apiaries remembering that bees use water to dilute stores before use.

Ensure all equipment is scorched / cleaned in readiness for use.

Fit foundation into frames in readiness for use.

Prepare for early swarms, end of month, this year looks as if it will be earlier than last year.

Finish rendering down / purifying wax for exchange for foundation or have a go at making your own using the association wax press.

Check stored drawn comb and render down any moldy frames or where mice have gained access during storage.

Book your tickets for Stoneleigh Spring Convention.

Put Mason bee boxes out in position before end of month.

Important pollen to look for this month.....

Willow - bees coming home completely covered in yellow pollen with full baskets also.

Dandelion - orange pollen loads.

Early fruit pollen - plum, cherry, pear, almond, peach, apricot, gooseberry, redcurrants, sloe and blackcurrant.

Oil seed rape may start to flower at end of March if the weather continues to be mild, have supers ready in time.

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