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# **NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:**

I hope this newsletter is of interest to you. We have articles from some very experienced beekeepers all with hands on experience with regard to their topic. I am delighted that our FIBKA president took the time out from his busy schedule to give us an insight into his role. Spring time is an exciting time for beekeepers. Hopefully this excitement will not be subdued due to

heavy winter losses. The winter just gone was certainly the coldest experienced since the 1980s and now we are into the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in March with exceptional cold nights. I would like to thank all those who contributed to this newsletter not only those with articles but there are many more that gave freely of their time. Hopefully we will also have this newsletter on our web

site. Check it out at www.southtippbees.com If you have any comments negative or positive feel free to forward to tom@southtippbees.com or better still if you have an article that you would like printed please submit. Wishing ye all many full supers this year.



**Useful hints:** During the active season a good beekeeper will always have spare queen ready to use

# ASSOCIATION NEWS

As usual the activities are many with no time for clustering. We had a very successful AGM and two speakers for that night. Early January we had our annual dinner which was a great night. Members who attended our lectures were treated to very good speakers. The study group is back in full swing. Our beginners' classes have 25 members a fantastic boost to the association. Outdoor demonstrations will start in late April. The web site is proving a major attraction with approximately ninety new visitors a month with several returning. If you are willing to help with any of the activities let us know. We would like to see more members attending lectures. The outdoor demonstrations are a fantastic way of update your knowledge.

# **HELP FOR BEGINNERS** ....

"The Prevention and Control of Swarming" Tom Prendergast Swarming to the beginner can be a major source of frustration and the stumbling block in their quest for a crop of honey. It is not easy to control a large colony that is intent on swarming unless you understand the basics of the

14 and 9 day examination. The best way to understand it is to attend our outdoor demonstrations.

There are no problems if the colony is not preparing to swarm but what does the beginner do if they find queen cells and more often than not the queen is not marked or clipped. Understanding why the bees swarm and how to prevent the initiation of it is extremely important.

Annual population cycle show a very rapid increase in adult bee population from the beginning of April. It is not long providing the weather is fine the Brood box starts to fill up with both brood and bees and if nothing is done there will be insufficient room for the emerging bees. Additional space is provided by adding supers, usually 1 at the time as the colony build up. Therefore supers are for bees and if the colony is using all the incoming nectar nothing will be stored in the super, being used solely as a parking place for bees. If this additional space is not provided over crowding will occur and this congestion in the hive leads to a breakdown in the food sharing and subsequently in the distribution of Queen substance with the result that swarming preparation will start.

Large area of combs is required for the ripening of nectar to honey so that the nectar/honey can be hung up to dry. The change of nectar (30% sugar) to honey (80% sugar) is approx 100:30 this requiring 3.3 times more space for nectar compared to honey ready for sealing. There are two principles involved in supering

1. To provide space for bees

2. To provide space for nectar ripening
Other relevant points Add an extra super when all but the two outside frames are full of bees in the top super or initially in the Brood box
It is better to super early in the spring and be somewhat slower in July when the main honey flow is on. Top super is the most popular, use bottom supering if using foundation. Excluder is a personal option.
<b>The importance of supering as a factor in swarm prevention</b> The most important factor which causes swarming is the lack of an adequate threshold level of queen substance throughout the whole colony which was discovered and proved by a series of experiments by Dr. C. Butler in Rothamsted in the 1950s. However it is known by observation but not proven that other factors play a part in swarming namely:
$\begin{array}{l} \Rightarrow & \text{Season} \\ \Rightarrow & \text{Shade} \\ \Rightarrow & \text{State of flow} \\ \Rightarrow & \text{Strain of bees} \\ \Rightarrow & \text{Manipulation} \end{array}$
$\begin{array}{l} \Rightarrow  \text{Weather} \\ \Rightarrow  \text{District} \end{array}$
$\Rightarrow$ Comb space for nectar honey.
Considering the two principles of supering (room for bees and nectar ripening) it is clear that by providing extra supers not only are the two conditions relieved but ventilation is also improved. Supers provide room for nectar honey storage freeing up the brood chamber for egg laying. The most important factor is the prevention of congestion within the hive and the efficient distribution of queen substance, young queens providing the greater levels. The strain of bees is an important factor, some swarming more than others. Season, shade, weather, flow all seem to play a part in swarming.
To prevent the loss of the bees the beginner can make up an artificial swarm. Basically you are separating the queen and foragers from the brood and nurse bees. Extra equipment is needed and it can be used as a means of expanding the number of colonies you have. There are several variations to this method but only a straight forward version is given here.
Making up an artificial swarm without finding the queen.This can be done if you rely on two facts:1.If you put all the bees into a box the queen must be in it also.2.Young worker bees will always be attracted to brood.
<ul> <li>When Queen cell are found during routine examination action to produce an Artificial. swarm should be taken.</li> <li>Move brood chamber and floor to about 600 mm away from original swarm.</li> <li>Place new brood chamber on old strand with empty frame of comb or foundation.</li> <li>Select 1 open queen cell well nourished and mark frame with drawing pin – brush all bees into new brood chamber. Shake all remaining frame into new brood chamber and destroy q. cell.</li> <li>Brush bees from sides of brood box and floor board into new brood chamber.</li> <li>Put 1 frame of brood into new brood chamber (check for Queen Cells first and remove if any.)</li> <li>Now all bees and Queen should be in new brood chamber.</li> </ul>
Place frame with marked Queen cell into old brood chamber Then re assemble the hive as follows from the top
<ul> <li>Roof on top</li> <li>Brood chamber with old frames and their brood, 1 frame of foundation 1 Q cell, no bees</li> </ul>
<ul><li>Super if present</li><li>Queen excluder</li></ul>
<ul> <li>Brood chamber with 1 frame &amp; Brood and foundation all the bees including Queen</li> <li>Floor board underneath</li> <li>Reassemble on original stand</li> </ul>
Leave the whole lot overnight when the nurse bees will move up to the brood to keep them warm and feed. Next day lift off top brood chamber and leave 600 mm to side of original stand on its own stand with floor board, crown board and roof. Both colonies should be checked 4 days later for Q cells. After that do not disturb until virgin Queen is hatched and mated 2 weeks or more. You now have two colonies, which you can unite but you have to find the old queen first or you can keep both. Another option would be to make up two nucs from the brood and nurse bees giving each a queen cell. All this can be seen in practice at our outdoor demonstrations. Come along and learn or better still share your experiences with other beekeepers. Nobody knows everything. New ideas are always welcome. This method accomplished two essentials of swarm control. 1. Stop bees from swarming out 2. Replace Queen.
Queen marking colours If born in 2009 mark green If born in 2010 mark blue
A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT. Dennis Ryan.
I was born and reared on a farm in County Kilkenny where my father kept a few beehives but they did not inter- est me at the time. I also learned how to play the bagpipes from my father and continued this practice all my life. I now play with Cashel Pipe Band. I did some shooting in my younger days but not so much now as my eyesight is not as good as it used to be and I feel I would be a danger to myself as well as others around me. Since retire- ment from teaching I now have more time for family, bees and beekeepers as well as band and fishing. Having such a fascinating hobby as beekeeping means there is always something to do - more often than not out door work or work in my workshop. My good wife Carmel does not have to put up with me as much, and I think I am less of a nuisance around the house. Even though my role as President can be demanding in terms of time and travel I still manage to renew friendships with my former colleagues and catch salmon and trout in the rivers An- ner and Suir. My two sons Richard and Denis have their own occupations and hopefully beekeeping may interest them in the future. As a Kilkenny man living in Tipperary the banter in conversations inevitably leads to sport – in hurling this could be Tipperary's year at Kilkenny's expense – the rivalry continues.
We are unfortunate to have poor honey seasons in recent years (three in a row) and it is hard to blame the rank and file members of Associations for lack of interest or enthusiasm as a result. Some Associations are doing out- standing work, others not so much. It is the few dedicated members in an Association that make all the differ- ence. They take the initiative to organise the programme for the year and so keep the interest alive even if yields are low. Each member of the working committee is given responsibility for some aspect of Association activity - PRO, Apiary manager, Librarian, Education Convenor, Varroa Officer, Membership recruitment Officer, Begin- ners Course Co-ordinator, Newsletter Editor, Web Site Manager and also as in our Association taking care of the Honey Show, we have a Honey Show Secretary and a Cup Secretary. The rotation of officer ships on a regular

basis is most desirable. Having stepped down as Association Secretary I wish my successor Thomas every success during his term of office. I also congratulate Irene on her election as Honey Show Secretary. She has been a great ambassador for the Federation in her capacity as Honey Queen. Our annual programme of activities continues to keep the members involved in organising and attending committee meetings, lectures and beginners course, study group, out door demonstrations, heritage day, arbour day (nature walk), honey show and Christmas party. This range of involvement has assured the continuous development of our Association over the recent past and it continues to grow into the future as it adopts fresh ideas from new members. The activities within STBA which had the most influence on my own beekeeping over the years were: the Study Group, GBBG and our Annual Honey Show.

The role of education is vital for acquiring the necessary know how to successfully manage our bees. Our Study Group has provided expertise at many levels - Lecturers, Examiners, Honey Judges and Exhibitors. I attended a Cork Study Group session recently who are preparing for their Intermediate (Sc.). I wish all sixteen members every success. Beekeepers need information on up to date developments in the craft in order to contain annual losses. Apart from control of Varroa we have the added complication of poor queen mating due to lack of adequate drones and poor weather conditions.

The large number of new recruits to the craft in many Associations is encouraging. We have twentyfive members attending our beginners' class this year and hopefully the two Association Apiaries will provide them with bees. At national level I wish to thank the membership for electing me as their President. It is a great honour to fill such a prestigious position and a marvellous opportunity to meet fellow beekeepers throughout the country. My role as defined by our Constitution entails 'general supervision over the Federation administration' as well as 'to undertake all measures to promote the welfare of beekeeping and beekeepers in Ireland.' The outstanding work rate and efficiency of all Executive members has made my task a pleasurable one indeed. New members have come on board and some posts became vacant as other members move on and new personnel are asked to take on the tasks - as was the case with the positions of Summer Course Programmer, Convenor and Manager as well as National Honey Show Secretary. Our magazine 'An Beachaire' was upgraded with extra articles from additional contributors.

It was a disappointment when efforts made by the working committee set up to establish 'a home for beekeeping' were in vain due to lack of delegate support at Congress l ast year. The objective remains for some future date. My travels as President have taken me to many Associations throughout the country as well as to Northern Ireland. I gave a presentation at UBKA Conference, BIBBA Conference and at two London Honey Shows. It was a pleasure to have the honour of officially opening the London Honey Show last October. For the past two years I was invited to attend the UBKA Annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service during which I was given the honour of reading one of the lessons. My wife Carmel and myself were guests of Norman and Rosemary Walsh for both weekends. We were treated royally and taken to see all the tourist attractions in counties Down and Antrim as well as a pub crawl of Belfast. Last year the present Mayor of Clonmel Borough Council, Denis Dunne - a fellow Kilkenny man - gave me a Mayoral Reception to mark my term as President. It was an enjoyable night for family and friends and fellow beekeepers.

I have received a great welcome from all Associations visited and it is heartening to see the enthusiasm evident for the craft of beekeeping. A recent visit was to Digges and District BKA - named after the 'Father of Irish Beekeeping', which is one of four new Associations formed this year. While there, I was taken on a visit to a large house and garden, this was the residence of the Rev. J G Digges in Loughrynn, Co. Leitrim. I wish Eamon Tubman and his committee every success with their new association.

I gave a talk to many of the Associations which I visited. Popular topics include: 'Active Season Management', 'Varroa Control', 'The importance of Bees as pollinators' and 'Queen Rearing'. I have presented some work-shops also, especially with GBBG. 'Varroa Control' is the talk most requested as I think beekeepers now realise that mite resistance to Bayvarol is around the corner and so wish to prepare by finding out more about alternative treatments and so avoid heavy losses. At our recent FIBKA deputation meeting with DAFF we again emphasised the need for approval of more varroa treatments, especially Oxalic Acid. More extensive resistance testing to the Bayvarol will take place this year by Dr. Mary Coffey and DAFF as well as a survey on colony losses. In conclusion, I wish to thank all the members of STBA, especially those with whom I have worked on various projects - such as bee breeding, lecture programmes and Honey Shows. I wish you all full supers in August.

# TO BE OR NOT TO BEE

By Marie Devane

We started off by growing our own vegetables and then started thinking, wouldn't it be great to have our own honey, not as easy as sowing seeds though – we would need Bees. Not knowing anything about beekeeping our first port of call was our local beekeepers association. We joined the beginner's bee keeping course, which was made up of both theory and practical classes. How the theory flowed so easily from the tutors and how daunting for us beginners. We knew that the Queen was number one, the saying Queen Bee had to come from somewhere, but learning about the workers and drones and all they go

was for us until we attended the outdoor demonstrations. All safe inside our suits, off we went. Just to witness the bees first hand going about their busy life and determined to carry out their tasks even when we were poking around, swung it for us. I must admit to wondering if it was a good or bad time to start beekeeping when you would hear so much about disease and bee numbers falling so dramatically around the world, not only that, but hearing about the everyday challenges faced by experienced beekeepers – we decided to give it a go.

through for us to have honey on our porridge in the morning was just amazing. We were never too sure that this

We are now the proud keepers of one hive and one nuc. We were very good only opening the hive for inspection every two weeks, the joy of seeing eggs even if the queen was playing hide and seek, at least we knew she was there. I must admit to going down and standing nearby and watching the bees coming like troupers with their sacks full of pollen of all different colours a few times a week. Their perseverance to deliver their load even when they might miss the landing pad and have to try again was inspiring. We jumped the hurdles of feeding and treating for varroa but then came the icy weather and snow. I would go down every so often, to listen very quietly with my ear to the side of the hive, the relief to hear the humming sound and hoping that it was not my imagination. Every day that the temperature outside increased we would say - any sign of the bees - eventually that day did come. The sun was shining and we could see the bees flying in the rays of the sun, another hurdle jumped.

The experienced beekeepers keep talking about the honey crop but for us two beginners our challenge is to keep our bees alive and healthy and I am sure the honey will follow. I can not emphasise enough the importance of being joined a beekeepers association not only for the knowledge gained but even more so, for the support and help that is available to beginners at the end of the telephone line. It may be asking too much to be spared any hiccups and hopefully if they come, they will only be small ones, as we and our little band of bees go fourth on our adventure.

## A LITTLE BIT OF SCIENCEWHAT IS PHOTOSYNTHESIS?

Photosynthesis is the process by which plants, some bacteria, and some protistans use the energy from sunlight to produce sugar, which cellular respiration converts into ATP the "fuel" used by all living things. The conversion of unusable sunlight energy into usable chemical energy, is associated with tactions of the green pigment chlorophyll. Most of the time, the photosynthetic process uses water and releases the oxygen that we absolutely must have to stay alive. Oh yes, we need the food as well!

We can write the overall reaction of this process as:  $6H_2O + 6CO_2 -----> C_6H_{12}O_6 + 6O_2$ 

So the above chemical equation translates as: six molecules of water plus six molecules of carbon dioxide produce one molecule of sugar plus six molecules of oxygen

Hydrolysis of polysaccharides ÇH₂OH CH₂OH ĊH₂OH

ÓН

Sucrose. The glycoside bond is represented by the central oxygen atom which holds the two monosaccharide units together

In polysaccharides, monosaccharide molecules are linked together by a glycsidic bond. This bond can be cleaved by hydrolysis to yield monosaccharides. The best known disaccharide is sucrose (table sugar). Hydrolysis of sucrose yields glucose and fructose. There are many enzymes which speed up the hydrolysis of polysaccharides. Invertase is used industrially to hydrolyze sucrose to so-called invert sugar. Invertase is an example of a glycoside hydrolase (glucosidase).

### SIMPLE INCREASE By Redmond Williams

Now, that we are suffering an increased incidence of winter losses caused by many reasons ranging from poor queen mating due to the unfavorable summers of the past three years, the increased effects of Varroa and the viruses they carry, or poor apiary management by the beekeeper. We all need to produce more nuclei and full colonies to replace losses. The literature provides numerous ways of producing nuclei and full colonies from the artificial swarm to the Vince Cook method of nucleus production. However, both of these require a lot of effort and extra equipment. Thomas asked me to talk about simple increase.

Firstly, when you are doing you regular swarm control inspections during the summer you can make up nuclei by using the following method: 1. All queens must be clipped and marked. This is the basis for good swarm control.

- 2. Having found that your colony has started swarm preparations, i.e. unsealed queen cells. I would break them down for the first time.
- 3. Return after nine days and check again.
- If the colony has raised further cells; find the queen, one of the advantages of clipping and marking, and take her out in a three frame nucleus consisting of one frame of brood, stores and pollen respectively.

This method is time dependant and it is better to perform during June. If it is carried out in May, there is a chance that you will weaken the colony so much that it will not recovery for this years honey flow. So you can take the frames of stores and pollen from two other strong, disease free hives in the apiary; only take the brood and bees from the swarming colony. You must remember that this hive will not have a laying queen for the next three weeks. If this is carried out in May when the new queen is hatched you can give a frame or two of sealed brood from other hives in the apiary. This has a two fold benefit: firstly, it will build up the colony that has no laying queen and secondly it will bring the new queen into lay sooner. It will also weaken the stronger colony delaying problems with swarming. It will give you the opportunity to introduce frames of foundations satisfying the colonies needs to draw wax. If on the other hand the colony starts swarming in mid-June you can take your complete nucleus from the swarming colony. This should curtail their swarming impulse and you can be assured that there will be no decrease in your honey returns, as any egg laid after the 15th June will not gather honey for you this season (Three weeks from egg to hatching and three weeks from hatching to foraging).

Returning to the nucleus, it should be taken three miles from the original apiary and not placed in the vicinity of full colonies as it is susceptible to robbing, due to its weak status. If it requires feeding, it is better to take frames of stores from strong colonies and feed these colonies as they would be in a better position to defend their home. If the queen in this colony is only one year old she will be suitable to head this colony into the winter. If she is more than one year old it would be better to replace her with a new queen, never allow a nucleus to raise its own queen.

Note from the editor: Now you have the theory why not come along to our outdoor demonstrations where Redmond will be demonstrating all of the above and lots more. Check website for details

# MIGHT YOUR MITES BE(E) RESISTANT? By Irene Power

"CHANGE BEFORE YOU HAVE TO", the quote by Jack Welch (Famous American Businessman), is very appropriate to our treatment for Varroa. There are no signs of resistance to Bayvarol developing in Ireland at present. However looking at the development in England that day must be very close now.. To continue beekeeping in the long run a more varied control procedure will be required. There are only two chemical treatments licensed for use in Ireland, Bayvarol & Apiguard. Here I will tell you about my experience of using Apiguard & follow-up treatment of Oxalic Acid (trickle method) as an alternative treatment for Varroa bearing in mind that Oxalic Acid is not yet legalised in Ireland, but it is being tried in some test apiaries.

I find the Apiguard easy to apply, & it is efficient & no risk to the users or the bees. To me it is no more difficult than putting in your Bayvarol strips. The one thing to remember is that to work effectively the ambient temperature needs to be 15°C so early autumn is best and also top insulation will be required. Close off the open mesh floor. Treat after the main crop is removed. Normally we would feed first, a minimum 5 litres of syrup. It is not recommended to apply Apiguard & feed simultaneously, for fear the bees spend all the time taking down the feed & not bothering to clean out the Apiguard. I don't think it is a big risk and I have done it on occasion, although I know some who would not agree. Basically, it comes in a 50g tray, remove the foil cover & place the open tray & piece of foil face upwards on the frames in the brood chamber. Place an eke (with feed hole blocked) over the brood box & close up with the roof. Sometimes we use upturned feeders instead of an eke. After 2 wks, place a second 50g tray on the hive in the same manner. Treatment should continue until the containers are empty usually takes 4 – 6 wks in total. For nukes only use half trays. Average daily mite drop should be checked before & after treatment to find out if the treatment has been effective. Don't forget to update your records & include details about your treatment.

Then as a follow up, to mop up any mighty mites who escaped the Apiguard treatment or any that were bred or got recruited in the meantime we use Oxalic Acid in early January. Treat only when the hive is broodless, on a bright & warmish day. Mind you not too many warm days this January, I have to admit the day I treated mine, there was a dense fog around & it certainly was not too warm but I wanted to get them broodless & I also put on fondant at the same time so I would not be going back to disturb them again. Facts to keep in mind – Oxalic acid is a chemical and at high concentration is dangerous poison, harmful if swallowed, inhaled or absorbed through the skin, in other words be(e) careful. It should only be applied once per year. It does not penetrate wax so it will not kill mites on capped brood. It dissolves in honey so should not be used on stores of honey that may later be extracted. I would recommend buying the pre-prepared mixture; a good friend of mine did the mixing for me as I prefer to be dealing with the diluted product. The mixture is 45g of Oxalic acid to 11tr of 1:1 water/ sugar solution. I usually get everything ready before I start, put on suit/gloves/wellingtons. In order not to chill the bees, I make the liquid lukewarm by standing the container container in a bowl of hot water before use.

The dose is 5ml per occupied seam of bees, so I usually have 4 or 5 syringes with 5ml in each ready before opening the hive. Remove the roof, crown board. Apply 5ml per seam of bees, moving the syringe up & down the seam & then close up. Should take less than 1 minute per hive & I don't think there is any need to worry about exposing the bees to the cold for this short time. It's always great if you have some good company to help. Again monitor the mite drop after treatment. It is good advice to watch out for resistant mites & keep up to date on alternatives & it is in all our interest to determine why colonies die out & record any losses. For reference & further reading see FIBKA Guidelines on Varroa Destructor & Publication "Parasites of the Honeybee" by Dr. Mary Coffey - on FIBKA website: www.irishbeekeeping.ie

Note from the editor: Just like the author I would like to point out that the use of Oxalic acid on your bees is illegal in Ireland. At present it is being used in test apiaries only. However it is important that we understand and are ready with alternatives when resistance is discovered

## PREPARING HONEY FOR SHOW **By** Jim Power

The various ways to present honey for sale and showing are: run honey in various colours, i.e. light, medium and dark, naturally granulated and soft set also heather honey. It is best to have the various grades selected, labelled and stored separately in their own class in food grade containers during extraction, also the other popular ways are comb honey, i.e. a frame fit for extraction, sections cut comb and chunk honey. Select a clean environment preferable a purpose honey house or room, for smaller operations or for private use where it may not justify building a purpose built set up one may use the kitchen but be warned it may cause aggravation with the other half.

The essentials for preparing honey are: a high standard of hygiene and cleanliness, a method of heating honey to 42°C, ideally a thermostatically controlled cabinet or a thermostatically controlled type of burco boiler, a settling tank with a honey valve or a food grade bucket with a honey valve, a nylon organza straining cloth also clean honey jars and lids.

Always use the oldest honeys first. To prepare run honey for showing first place a bucket of honey into the heating cabinet with the thermostat set at 40 °C for a period of 48 hrs., after 48 hours remove air scum and extraneous matter from the surface so as to prevent the strainer from clogging, secure nylon organza straining cloth to settling tank or bucket, and return to heating for a future 24 hours in order to clear, bubbles will rise to the surface and the honey should clear. The object of straining is to remove any solid and foreign objects from the honey of which there are three types, those that sink to the bottom those that float and those that remain suspended.

When bottling honey, first put the settling tank up to eye level whether sitting or standing ,I always sit as this takes the weight off the feet, hold the jar at an angle so that the honey will run down the side of the jar to avoid bubbles forming, never use the first or last few jars bottled for shows, always fill above the required level as this leaves scope for skimming the surface after leaving to settle maybe in the conservatory, on the sill to take advantage of the sun, remember to turn occasionally then skim with the back of a spoon, fit lid immediately. Younger or fresher honeys always give off a better aroma, keep lid closed as this keep in the fresh aroma also honey is hygroscopic meaning that honey will absorb moisture if not kept sealed and raise the moisture content ideally depending the honey, should be kept as close as possible to 17 % moisture content, lighter honeys generally have a higher content i.e. clover honey can be up 23% moisture, any honey should not be above this as this leads to fermentation.

Faults to be avoided when showing honey: partially granulated or insipid honey, fermented honey, ununiformity of jars and lids, dirty or reused jars and lids, discoloured wads, incorrectly labelled entries, particles in honey, air scum on surface of honey, bubbles and being under weight. Everything being passed so far the judges will be looking for clarity and brightness, good viscosity, a nice flavour or fragrance and a nice taste. I suppose a lot of the faults are generated by extracting unripe honey.

Entering for any show one should always read and re-read the schedule first and conform to same, another important check is to make sure that the honey is entered in the right colour class and all the jars are the same colour, if you are not sure ask the show secretary to check with his or her grading glasses, Spring Work

**Enough for now,** this should be enough to get the beginner entering honey to his or her first show, at another time we will progress maybe to comb honey and greater heights Maybe we will have a greater number of entrants at the Clonmel honey show this year. Entering honey competitively is a great way to up the standards. Be seeing you there.

> **THE BEEKEEPER** By Breda Joyce Over the winter months The beekeeper catches up, Searches out each nuc and frame, Repairs and cleans, Stays ahead of the game.

He sniffs the pollen in the air The whiff of nectar already there. The hum, the drone, The prospect of a swarm On a summer's morn.

Armed with the tools of his trade: Smoker, híve tool, bee veíl, gloves; Like an astronaut bound for the apiary, He is doing the one thing he loves.

The hauling of supers is no easy task; A good year will test his back. Brood chamber checked, Mouse guard in place, A smíle spreads across his face.

BUZZ BOARD Honey Show in September 25 and 26th

Out door demos to include Queen rearing Nuc Production Swarm Control Bailey frame change Starting in Cahir 19<sup>th</sup> April Starting in Clonmel 27<sup>th</sup> April

Next addition September 2010

Wanted; Interesting articles for our newsletter