New Rooms - More Space - More Trade Stands - More Craic

Ulster Beekeepers’ Association (UBKA)

Greenmount Campus
7th & 8th March 2014

Caring for Our Bees
Integrated Management is the New Buzz

70th Anniversary Conference

Practical Workshops:
Making Hive Equipment, Wax Products and Skeps

Observe the bees closely, understand, and then act accordingly!
Over the past decade, the Annual UBKA Conference has developed a high reputation. We have tried to avoid trotting out the traditional beekeeping folklore that has little supporting evidence and concentrate instead on an evidence-based approach. While we believe that beekeeping in Northern Ireland remains as much a craft as a science, there are underlying scientific principles that influence success or failure in each circumstance, so a sound appreciation of these principles is therefore our starting point.

THERE ARE FOUR GROUPS OF PRESENTATIONS:

1. PRACTICAL BEEKEEPING: We are fortunate to have Mr Dan Basterfield who, in two different presentations, will give practical tips based on his experiences as a Devon Bee Farmer. Mr Jonathan Getty who has built quite a reputation locally for good practical beekeeping will highlight some common myths that he believes are actually misleading some beekeepers.

2. HEALTH ISSUES: Following the heavy losses of winter 2012 – 2013, it is right to review the contribution that health makes to both colony morbidity and mortality. We have Prof Robert Paxton assessing the impact of Nosema and bringing us up to date on the fast developing research into the role of bee viruses. Dr Dave Chandler will explain the recent advances in biologically-based pest control and Integrated Pest Management.

3. BEE BEHAVIOUR: Dr Gavin Ramsey will give a fascinating presentation on communications among honey bees and Dr Lorraine McKendrick will tell us about the role of both honey and other bees in pollination in Co. Armagh.

4. BEE BREEDING AND QUEEN REARING: These are two separate but linked subjects. There is growing acceptance that the long-term solution to many of our bee health problem lies in breeding resistant strains of bee but achieving that is not easy. Dr Gavin Ramsey will talk in one presentation about different bee types and bee genetics while in another he will talk about breeding resistant bees. Ms Aoife Nic Giolla Coda will explain the intended purpose and role of the new all-Ireland Native Irish Honey Bee Society that has expanded so rapidly since its inauguration in November 2011. Mr Willie Blakely will explain some practical lessons that he has learnt from his successful queen rearing programme at Dromore Association apiary.

IN ADDITION TO THE TWO PRESENTATION STREAMS, THERE ARE THREE WORKSHOPS:

1. WAX WORKSHOP: Mr Dennis Ryan will demonstrate his successful techniques to make wax products both for the showbench and for personal use.

2. SKEP WORKSHOP: Mrs Louise McLean will demonstrate how to make traditional straw skeps for practical use and with a twist!

3. HIVE WORKSHOP: Mr Elmer Kennedy will repeat his popular workshop for beginners on making and assembling hives and wooden hive furniture.
Mr Dan Basterfield: Daniel grew up with beekeeping around him, earning pocket money by clipping and marking queens. Having spent 15 years working in large companies, he returned to the family business in Devon six years ago, and has just completed construction of a brand new Honey Farm as part of a programme of expansion. Currently running 120-140 hives on a migratory basis, and running beekeeping courses. He is an active member of the Bee Farmers’ Association, a trustee of IBRA, and holds the National Diploma in Beekeeping.

Mr William Blakely is Apiary Manager for Dromore Beekeepers Association and a steering group member representing Ulster at the Native Irish Honey Bee Society. William has been rearing native queens at the association apiary for a number of years and has established a queen rearing group in an attempt to provide quality, locally bred queens, encouraging and supporting others to do the same. Supporting this work is his background in the pharmaceutical industry with over 25 years experience in research and product development.

Dr Dave Chandler is a researcher at the Warwick Crop Centre, University of Warwick (formerly Horticulture Research International, a government institute). He is an entomologist and insect pathologist. A lot of his work centres on biological control agents of pests of horticultural crops. He has also applied this knowledge to bee health, particularly in relation to varroa and its associated viruses. His research has included development of a microbial control agent of varroa, and investigation of how varroa and its viruses damage bees.

Mr Jonathan Getty is a member of Belfast & District Beekeepers and is at least a fourth generation beekeeper in the Getty family. His main beekeeping interest is queen rearing based on our native bee Apis mellifera mellifera. While running the Minnowburn queen rearing group, it became apparent that many beekeepers have acquired beliefs from various sources that may not have much foundation in science. His talk will look at some common beliefs in beekeeping and examine whether they hold water. Jonathan holds a BSc in Psychology from Queens University and gained a postgraduate teaching qualification at Stranmillis Training College. He is a fluent Spanish speaker and works as coordinator of a local charity.

Ms Aoife Nic Giolla Coda is Public Relations Officer for the Native Irish Honey Bee Society. She has been around bees her entire life and has over 25 years practical beekeeping experience. Currently she is involved in managing approximately 150 A.m. mellifera colonies for honey production as well as breeding and rearing 300 queens per year in Co. Tipperary. She has a keen interest in all aspects of bee husbandry, while also having a great passion for the conservation and development of the native honey bee. In 2013, she undertook her FIBKA Senior Beemaster’s Certificate.
Mr Elmer Kennedy: As an ex teacher of engineering drawing and metalwork, Elmer is well known for his craftsmanship skills. He taught in Cullybackey where he built his first beehouse 45 years ago – the second was at Randalstown BKA where he has been Chairman. After a severe allergic reaction 10 years ago, he gave up bees on Doctor’s orders but only for 1 winter because his beekeeping addiction prompted him to restart the following Spring – his only acknowledgement of the problem being always to carry an “Epipen”.

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Dr Gavin Ramsay is the President of the East of Scotland Beekeepers Association, now 100 years old, and started and manages the apiary for the association. His CV includes guiding the Scottish Beekeepers Association through a major foulbrood problem from 2009 and establishing an online forum for the SBA. His 8 colonies enjoy an ancient meadow and orchard in deepest Perthshire. In his spare time he works as a crop plant geneticist at the James Hutton Institute in Dundee, focusing on potatoes and beans.

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Mrs Louise McLean: Louise McLean is an outstanding crafts person with many awards to her name, having specialised in Traditional Heritage Craft Skills using many media including straw, willow and rushes. She won the N.I. ‘This Morning’ prize for ‘Britain’s Craftiest’ and a University Prize and Life Award following her Level 4 Prof Dip in Creative Arts 3D Design and was the only NI artist to appear on ‘Craftmaster’ on RTE. She is a member of The Heritage Crafts Association, The Basketmakers’ Association (BA) and Irish Basketmakers’ Association, for which she is now the PR officer.
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# 70th Anniversary Conference Programme 2014

## Friday 7th March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>MAIN HALL</th>
<th>WORK SHOPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.00pm</td>
<td>Registration, Meet &amp; Greet, Trade Exhibition Open</td>
<td>Wax-making Demonstration&lt;br&gt;<strong>DENNIS RYAN</strong>&lt;br&gt;Drop-in Workshop from 4.00pm - 5.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.00pm</td>
<td>UBKA Association Displays</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.00pm</td>
<td>Tea &amp; Coffee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.30pm</td>
<td>Official Opening of UBKA 70th Annual Conference</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.00pm</td>
<td><strong>MR JONATHAN GETTY</strong> Common myths misleading beekeepers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6.15pm</td>
<td><strong>DR GAVIN RAMSAY</strong> Communications among bees</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Welcome by Mayor of Antrim</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7.45pm</td>
<td>Conference Dinner to be held in the Manor Restaurant, Boyd Hall. BOOKING ESSENTIAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00pm</td>
<td>Social Evening to be held in The Cyber Cafe, The Resource Centre: organised by Belfast Beekeepers’ Association</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Saturday 8th March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>MAIN HALL</th>
<th>WORK SHOPS</th>
<th>LECTURE THEATRE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.30am</td>
<td>Registration, Tea &amp; Coffee</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Welcome by UBKA President, Mr David Wright</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.45am</td>
<td><strong>PROF ROBERT PAXTON</strong> Nosema: really a killer?</td>
<td><strong>Skep-making Demonstration</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>LOUISE McLEAN</strong> Drop-in Workshop</td>
<td><strong>MR WILLIAM BLAKELY</strong> Practical lessons from Dromore Association apiary experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td><strong>MR DAN BASTERFIELD</strong> Be a better Craftsman - read the bees and act accordingly</td>
<td><strong>Hive-making Demonstration</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>ELMER KENNEDY</strong> Drop-in Workshop</td>
<td><strong>PROF ROBERT PAXTON</strong> The evolving field of viruses in honey bees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00am</td>
<td>Tea &amp; Coffee</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>MR DAN BASTERFIELD</strong> Practical experiences of a bee farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.45am</td>
<td>Break - Lunch served 12.00pm - 1.00pm&lt;br&gt;BOOKING ESSENTIAL</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>DR DAVE CHANDLER</strong> Biologically-based pest control and Integrated Pest Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.15pm</td>
<td><strong>DR DAVE CHANDLER</strong> Biologically-based pest control and Integrated Pest Management</td>
<td><strong>DR GAVIN RAMSAY</strong> Breeding resistant or tolerant bees</td>
<td><strong>MR DAN BASTERFIELD</strong> Practical experiences of a bee farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.00pm</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>DR GAVIN RAMSAY</strong> Bee types &amp; bee genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.30pm</td>
<td><strong>MS AOIFA NIC GIOLLA CODA</strong> The Native Irish Honey Bee Society</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>DR LORRAINE McKENDRICK</strong> Contribution of honeybees and wild bees to local pollination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.15pm</td>
<td>Tea &amp; Coffee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.45pm</td>
<td><strong>DR GAVIN RAMSAY</strong> Breeding resistant or tolerant bees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.45pm</td>
<td><strong>UBKA Chairman, Mr John Witchell, Closing Remarks</strong></td>
<td><strong>PRIZE GIVING</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Announcement of the winner of the Association Display Competition&lt;br&gt;- Announcement of the winners of the Prize Draw</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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The Greenmount Conference has always been an opportunity for beekeepers to learn, network, visit the trade stands and enjoy the craic with like-minded people. This 70th anniversary conference will be bigger and better than ever.
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Bookings to Michael Gleeson 00353 46 95 41433 or 00353 87 6879584
E-mail michael Gleeson: mgglee@eircom.net
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Association Name</th>
<th>Web Address</th>
<th>Chairman</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
<th>Meeting Place</th>
<th>Meeting Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belfast &amp; District Beekeepers' Association</td>
<td><a href="http://www.belfastbees.wordpress.com">www.belfastbees.wordpress.com</a></td>
<td>Esther Ross</td>
<td>Jonathan Getty</td>
<td>Community Hall, Church View, Holywood, Co Down</td>
<td>2nd Monday of the Month, August to May: Mondays &amp; Thursdays at the Minnowburn Apiary during the active season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clogher Valley Beekeepers' Association</td>
<td>not at present</td>
<td>Trevor Watson</td>
<td>Chester Roulston</td>
<td>Fairfield House, Ballygawley, Co Tyrone</td>
<td>Last Monday of every month except December at 8pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derry &amp; District Beekeepers' Association</td>
<td>not at present</td>
<td>Billy Chambers</td>
<td>Jen Simpson</td>
<td>An Culturlann, Great James Street, Derry, Co Londonderry</td>
<td>2nd Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dromore Beekeepers' Association</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dromorebeekppers.org">www.dromorebeekppers.org</a></td>
<td>Jim Fullerton</td>
<td>Patrick Lundy</td>
<td>Dromore High School, 31, Banbridge Road, Dromore, Co Down</td>
<td>3rd Tuesday of each month excluding July &amp; December.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Antrim Beekeeper's Association</td>
<td><a href="http://www.eabka.com">www.eabka.com</a></td>
<td>Des Blair</td>
<td>Rev S Robinson</td>
<td>Ballycarry Community Centre, Main Street, Ballycarry, Co Antrim BT38 9HH</td>
<td>3rd Thursday of month, October – March at 8pm. Summer-time meetings at apiary by arrangement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fermanagh Beekeeper's Association</td>
<td>Not at present</td>
<td>Noel McAllister</td>
<td>Joanne McNulty</td>
<td>The Railway Hotel, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh</td>
<td>Last Thursday of the month during the winter months at 8pm sharp. Summer meetings at the Apiary, at CAFRE Campus Enniskillen, on Saturday mornings at 10am sharp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warrenpoint &amp; Rostrevor Beekeepers' Association</td>
<td>not at present</td>
<td>John Ross McMahon</td>
<td>Darren Nugent</td>
<td>Grant’s Bar, Mayobridge</td>
<td>1st Wednesday in month, February to October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killinchy &amp; District Beekeepers' Association</td>
<td>Not at present</td>
<td>Valentine Hodges</td>
<td>Dawn Stocking</td>
<td>Lisbarnett &amp; Lisbane Community Centre, 16, Lisbarnett Road, Lisbane, Killinchy, Co Down</td>
<td>4th Wednesday of each month, August to April, excluding December at 7.30pm. Saturday mornings at the apiary during the active months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Antrim Beekeepers' Association</td>
<td>not at present</td>
<td>Robin Currie</td>
<td>Angela Morrow</td>
<td>At the apiary, Cullybackey: Contact secretary for directions.</td>
<td>Last Thursday of every month except July &amp; December and July at 7.30pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Ulster Beekeepers' Association</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mubka.com">www.mubka.com</a></td>
<td>John Ross</td>
<td>Ann Milligan</td>
<td>CAFRE, Loughry Campus, 76, Dungannon Road, Cookstown, BT80 9AA</td>
<td>2nd Friday of the month year-round at 8pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randalstown &amp; District Beekeepers' Association</td>
<td><a href="http://www.randbka.co.uk">www.randbka.co.uk</a></td>
<td>Susie Hill</td>
<td>Brian Gillanders</td>
<td>The Apiary at Shane’s Castle, Antrim</td>
<td>At the apiary : March – September, most Sunday afternoons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roe Valley Beekeepers' Association</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rvbka.co.uk">www.rvbka.co.uk</a></td>
<td>Alan McKinney</td>
<td>Sandra Logan</td>
<td>Club Apiary at Seacoast Road, Limavady, Co Londonderry</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday of each month except December.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Association Exhibition - Main Hall**

To celebrate the amazing diversity within UBKA, each association will put on a display which will illustrate the broad range of their activities and will show off the products of their hives. These displays will be arranged around the Main Hall throughout the conference and will be manned by members of the associations who can answer any questions you may have. Don’t miss the chance to catch up with old friends and meet new ones, learn something and have some craic!

An independent panel will choose the best display and the winning association will be awarded the 70th Anniversary Trophy!
Mr Elmer Kennedy: As an ex teacher of engineering drawing and metalwork, Elmer is well known for his craftsmanship skills. He taught in Cullybackey where he built his first beehouse 45 years ago – the second was at Randalstown BKA where he has been Chairman. After a severe allergic reaction 10 years ago, he gave up bees on Doctor's orders but only for 1 winter because his beekeeping addiction prompted him to restart the following Spring – his only acknowledgement of the problem being always to carry an "Epipen".

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Mrs Louise McLean: No pen-picture is available yet. No pen-picture is available yet. No pen-picture is available yet. No pen-picture is available yet. No pen-picture is available yet. No pen-picture is available yet. No pen-picture is available yet. No pen-picture is available yet. No pen-picture is available yet. No pen-picture is available yet. No pen-picture is available yet. No pen-picture is available yet. No pen-picture is available yet. No pen-picture is available yet. No pen-picture is available yet. No pen-picture is available yet.
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