Gloucestershire Beekeepers Association

Spring Lecture Day, Honey Show and AGM

Saturday 17th February 2024

hosted by **Newent Branch** to be held at:

Maisemore Village Hall, Church Rd, Maisemore, Gloucester GL2 8JE

Parking: Free parking is available on site

PROGRAMME

10.00 – 10.50	Arrival, Honey Show registrations and refreshments
10.50 – 11.00	Welcome by Newent branch and introduction to speaker:
11:00 – 12:00	**Honey Bee Communication – Lynfa Davies, NDB**
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch break – lunch will be provided
13:00 – 13:30	GBKA Annual General Meeting and Honey Show awards
13:30 – 14:30	**Tropilaelaps mites - Maggie Gill**
14:30 – 15:00	Tea and coffee
15:00 – 16:00	**The secret world of wasps - Prof Seirian Sumner**
16:00	Event close

Lecture days speaker's details

Lynfa Davies, Master Beekeeper, NDB - Honey Bee Communication

Lynfa lives near Aberystwyth in mid Wales and has kept bees for nearly 20 years. She is a Master Beekeeper and a holder of the National Diploma in Beekeeping. Lynfa has 30 colonies which she manages for honey production and for the joy of looking after bees! She raises her own queens and uses these to produce nucleus colonies and to replace her own stock. In Spring 2022, Lynfa's first book, The Miller method of queen rearing, was published by Northern Bee Books.

Outside of beekeeping, Lynfa works for Menter a Busnes providing support and advice for farmers in Wales. She brings her expertise on insects to this work promoting the value of biodiverse ecosystems in a farmed landscape. In addition, Lynfa has written an online training resource called the Healthy Bees Academy which is funded by the Animal and Plant Health Agency.

Talk details: Honey bees operate as a colony, not as individuals, and in order to do this effectively they need to know what each other is doing. Honey bees have developed methods to share detailed information that enable them to perform their tasks with effortless efficiency. This talk will look at some of the mechanisms that bees use to communicate and share information with each other. This will include their dance language and how they convey complex directions through simple dance moves as well as delving into the chemical world of pheromones.

Maggie Gill, Regional Bee Inspector for Wales – Tropilaelaps mites

Maggie Gill is a senior scientist at Defra and has worked at the National Bee Unit for 10 years as a Seasonal Bee Inspector and as the Regional Bee Inspector for Wales. Maggie is currently working on research into *Tropilaelaps* survival and transmission, the efficacy of miticides for *Tropilaelaps* detection and the monitoring of volatile organic compounds in honey bee colonies to detect sub-clinical disease, pest incursions and environmental contamination.

She has kept bees for almost 20 years and is also a small-scale queen and nucleus producer.

Talk details: *Tropilaelaps* mites are native brood parasites of Asian honey bees that have subsequently spread to *Apis mellifera*. Ever increasing global trade provides new transmission routes, making these mites an important emerging global threat to *A. mellifera*. The National Bee Unit (NBU) is responsible for the surveillance and diagnosis of *Tropilaelaps* in honey bee colonies and have recently carried out research to test the sensitivity and practicability of existing and new methods for the detection of *Tropilaelaps* mites. The results have led to changes in the implementation of *Tropilaelaps* surveillance policy in England and Wales, providing more robust methods of detection for these damaging invasive mites.

Seirian Sumner, Professor of Behavioural Ecology, UCL – The secret world of wasps

Seirian is a Professor at the Centre for Biodiversity and Environmental Research, Dept of Genetics, Evolution and Environment, University College London.

She studies social insects to understand their behaviour, ecology, evolution and role in ecosystems. She is especially fond of wasps and is working hard to give them a PR makeover. As part of these efforts, she co-founded the Big Wasp Survey in 2017 – a citizen science project to engage the public with social wasps in their back yard. In May 2022 her book 'Endless Forms: Why you Should Love Wasps' was published, giving everyone a reason to better appreciate wasps.

Talk details: There's a lot more to wasps than your stripy picnic friend: wasps matter to you and the world. There are five times more species of wasps than bees; there are wasps that have sex inside plants; there are wasps that turn cockroaches into zombies. Wasps taught us how to make paper; wasps are architects, guardians of microorganisms, invaders, pollinators, seed dispersers and predators. They are nature's pest-controllers; their endless forms are windows into evolution's most remarkable inventions; they are pharmacists; they might even hold a cure for cancer. I guarantee that a journey into the secret world of wasps will blow your mind.