



Bees for Development

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PRESS RELEASE

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SUSTAINABLE BEEKEEPING –GIVE BEES A CHANCE

Has 30 million years worth of evolution been undone in a few decades?

1. Honey bee populations are collapsing and we are faced with a dilemma, do we treat the symptoms or tackle the cause?

2. Sustainable beekeepers believe that kinder, more natural methods, can give bees a chance to develop their own defences to pests and diseases. It is time to redress the balance in favour of the bees and away from man's constant desire for increasing profit and production.

3. Sustainable management of honey bee populations must permit and encourage bee populations to become locally adapted. Modern bee keeping has concentrated on maximising production from managed hives at the expense of long term sustainability of honey bee populations that are now in decline.

4. A weekend course at Ragmans Lane Farm brings the internationally recognised expertise of Bees for Development to focus on our predicament here in the UK. It is a new look at the relationship between humans and honey bees. The course will take a "think global, act local" view, and will show participants how easy it is to look after bees in a sustainable way.

"Changing my preconceptions about bees, beekeeping and worldwide bee issues". Previous participant, May 2009

5. No previous knowledge of beekeeping is assumed. The course will include practical and classroom sessions.

6. The course will be held over the weekend of 24th and 25th October 2009. It will be taught by Dr Nicola Bradbear of Bees for Development, an international NGO supporting beekeepers throughout the world, in co-operation with Ragmans Lane Farm, a working and training farm run on permaculture design principles. The cost, inclusive of food and bunkhouse accommodation, is £125.

Notes to editors:

1. Bees are essential for life. Bees *for* Development, based in Monmouth, is an international NGO working in the developing world to support and promote beekeeping as an effective way for poor people to strengthen their livelihoods and to fight poverty. It offers support for all aspects of apicultural development, including training, technical advice, project development and publications.

<http://www.beesfordevelopment.org>

2. Ragmans Lane Farm is a sixty acre farm in the Wye Valley, designed and run on permaculture principles, which aims to educate and employ people to work the land sustainably, giving them opportunity to learn through practice. It produces apple juice, and shiitake and oyster mushroom logs.

<http://www.ragmans.co.uk>

3. Course outline: global overview of bees and beekeeping – the life of a colony – the relationship between bees and people – ensuring bee health by addressing the root causes - sustainable beekeeping in practice – making an appropriate, low cost hive.

4. Booking information: Book online at www.beesfordevelopment.org or Tel: 01600713648 or email info@beesfordevelopment.org

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