

## **Program of events and lectures for the Westport Beekeeping Year 2011/2012**

**August 22<sup>nd</sup> :**

*Installation of Hives and Clonroche Stands in Club Apiary.*

**August 25<sup>th</sup> :**

*Installation of the Bees in the Club Apiary.*

**August 27<sup>th</sup> :**

*Installation of the Bees in the Club Apiary.*

**August 29<sup>th</sup> :**

*Demonstration in Apiary: "Feeding".*

---

**September 6<sup>th</sup>**

**6.30pm: "Preview of Club Apiary"** (Meet at Teagasc car park and leaving at 6.30pm sharp.)

**7.30pm: "Club News"**, Back at Teagasc Centre.

If you are interested in joining a study group for the Intermediate Exam, the plans for the official opening of the apiary, catering committee, any other business.

**8.00pm: "The Beekeeping Year " &**

**"Demonstration of Beeswax for Cosmetics and Flowers"**

Presented by: **"Jim Ryan CFL"**, Tipperary.

*(Jim is well known to us and is a beekeeper for many years keeping about 50 hives, a gentle soul with many talents! He has been of wonderful help to us in our association since we started. He is the editor of An Beacaire magazine and the man in charge of all the books in the Associations library.)*

Jim will have 100 jars of honey for sale on the night! *(My Request)*

---

**September 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Demonstrations in the club Apiary:** Manipulation of Hives by W Robertson, Jude Walsh, T Stevens and C Reading.

# **The Official Opening of the Westport Beekeepers Club Apiary**

**On**

**September 17<sup>th</sup>**

**2.30pm**

**By**

**Mr Michael Ring**

Minister for State at the Department of Sport and Tourism

**&**

**Mr Seamus Reddy**

President of Federation of Irish Beekeepers Associations

Also in attendance

Cathaoirleach Seanad Eireann : **Paddy Burke**

Cathaoirleach Mayo Co Council: **Austin F Ó Malley**

Cathaoirleach Castlebar UDC: **Eugene Mc Cormack**

Cathaoirleach Westport UDC: **Christy Hyland**

South West Mayo Leader program members: **Gerry O Neill** (CEO), **Michael Hughes**, Chairman, **Sabina Trench**, co-ordinator and some invited members of the Leader panel.

Teagasc representatives: **Peter Leonard, John Noonan, Marion Deasy**

***We hope every member of our association can come to this historic occasion on this day and be proud of our new facilities.***

---

**September 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Demonstration in the club apiary: Medication and Feeding.**

---

**October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Demonstration in the club apiary: Medication and Feeding.**

---

**October 4<sup>th</sup>**

**7.00pm: "Westport members honey show" (All entries must be on the stand by 7pm.  
Judge: R Williams)**

*(A bit of craic no matter how good or bad the honey is or what sort of a jar it's in!)*

**7.30pm: "Demonstration of frame making" (Henry Horkan, Dermot Ó Flaherty)**

**8.00pm: "Beekeeping for Beginners and Experts"**

**"A Photo Montage"**

**"Question and answer session and debate"**

Presented by: "Redmond Williams" CFL, Tipperary

***(Redmond is one of Ireland's best beekeepers and is known as the Bee Whisperer in Ireland! He is known for talking to his Bees telling them to bring in more honey (Anything from 4 to 8 supers on a hive every year). Yes the Bees listen to him and do his bidding. He is one of the very few beekeepers able to do "I. I. Insemination in Ireland". He keeps over 50 colonies but knows how to make them sing!)***

Redmond will have 100 jars of honey for sale on the night! *(My Request)*

---

**October 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Demonstration in the club apiary: Feeding and preparation for winter**

---

**November 1<sup>st</sup>**

**7.30pm: "How to make a simple Nuc Box" (Gerry O Neill)**

**8.15pm: "Flowers and Plants for Bees" (Padraig Horkan)**

***(Other business: Preparation for AGM, nominations for committee, fee ready, motions for AGM and nominations to be submitted to Secretary Sean Casey by 16<sup>th</sup> November.)***

---

**December 6<sup>th</sup>**

**8.00pm: A.G.M. and election of officers and committee, collection of fees.**

***(Insurance runs out on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December hence all AGM.s must be held before end of December.)***

---

**January 10<sup>th</sup>**

**8.00pm: "Prelude for the Beginners Course" (Henry Horkan)**

***(Film: Part 1 of Mary Ryan in Moycullen, using the Apedia box for beginners,)***

---

**February 5<sup>th</sup>**

Outing to Clare to the 'Banner Association' for

**"Bee Improvement and Queen Rearing" (if anyone is interested)**

---

**February 7<sup>th</sup>**

**8.00pm: "Nuclei for Beginners" (William Robertson)**

***(Film: Part 2 of Mary Ryan in Moycullen, using the Apedia box for beginners,)***

---

**February 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>**

**"Ulster Beekeepers"** at Greenmount.

**" Beekeeping in changing times "** (full details on their website)

---

**March 6<sup>th</sup>**

**7.30pm: "Club News and a List of events ahead"**

**8.00pm: "Making Splits and Increasing Stocks"**

Presented by: **"Tom Prendergast"** Tipperary.

*(Tom is another of Ireland's best beekeepers keeping 100 hives since he was very young in a number of Apiaries throughout Tipperary. He is meticulous in his approach to beekeeping, maintaining all his hives in a healthy manner. He is much sought after to give lectures all over the country, including at Gormanstown. He also runs his associations Apiary. Listen carefully as we are very lucky to have him visit Westport!)*

---

**March 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>**

**"Beginners Course "(Saturday and Sunday)**

**Course Lectures**

<b>Week No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Lecturer</b>
1	24/3	Life History of the Honey Bee	Jim Ryan
2	24/3	Equipment and manipulation of the colony	Gerry Ryan
3	24/3	Siting an apiary/ a year's work with the bees	Mary Ryan
4	25/3	Hygiene and Disease	Mary Ryan
5	25/3	Swarm Control	Jim Ryan
6	25/3	Harvesting the crop	Gerry Ryan
7	25/3	Course Review	All Lecturers

How lucky we are to have our guest lecturers: **Jim, Gerry and Mary** who agreed to come back again this year to prepare the beginners for the Preliminary Exam. It is compulsory for all to complete this course to be at Federation standard and pass the Preliminary Exam.

This year all members will be required to complete the beginner's course and pass the Preliminary Exam. Anyone who does not pass the exam will be notified and can do it again; it is no harm to get the basics right as it makes life easier throughout the year.

The exam will be at the end of May (***date to be announced***). Details of fees for the course and exam will be available at a later stage.

This year we will be in a position to have the practical sessions in our own Club apiary. Also we will be proud to be able to hold the exams in our own Apiary. (***Date's to be announced***).

***'But we hope to get an invite back to Tipperary' to Gerry and Mary's apiary. Remember our last trip; they even arranged the weather as well as putting on such a lovely spread "what a welcome".***

---

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**7.30pm: "Club News & upcoming jobs for doing in the club Apiary".**

**8.00pm: "Swarm Control" (Ger Coyne) Connemara**

**9.15pm: "Selecting Colonies for Breeding" (Davy Geoghegan) Connemara**

***(Back by popular demand on request from our club members, both Ger and Davy agreed to repeat their once off lecture given last year, so have lots of questions prepared! Both are well known to us and have been totally unselfish with their help and knowledge in setting up our association, assisting and helping us out with all of our problems throughout the year.***

***The information from last year's lecture was put into practice by a lot of our members! So, come along to our near neighbours on the night and take in everything they say as the topic "Swarm Control" will be much needed throughout the year ahead, as it was last year.)***

---

**April 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**"Annual Conference in Stoneleigh" England. (Full details on their website bbka)**

---

**April 29<sup>th</sup>**

***At the Hives: "Beginners" (weather permitting)***

---

**May 1<sup>st</sup>**

**7.30pm: "Club News & problem solving"**

**8.00pm: "Making nucs for sale"**

**"Simple Queen Rearing"**

Presented by: **"Gervais Padden "** Ballina.

*(Gervais has a wealth of experience on beekeeping in Ballina. He exhibited with us last year at "Feile na Tuaithe", Museum of Country Life Castlebar. He also had an open day at his apiary in Bunniconlon which was thoroughly enjoyed by all! (Look at our website [wbkc.info](http://wbkc.info) for some pictures of that event.) He keeps about 20 colonies of bees in his very upmarket bee house at his apiary. He is Chairman of the "Mayo Beekeepers Association", you will enjoy him!!)*

---

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**At the Hives: "Beginners" (weather permitting)**

---

**May 10<sup>th</sup>**

**At the Hives: "Beginners" (weather permitting)**

---

**May 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup>**

**"Feile na Tuaithe" Museum of Country Life, Castlebar.**

**"Honey from the Hive to the Table"**

---

**June 5<sup>th</sup>**

**8.00pm: "Problems arising with the club hives?"**

**"Any problems club members are experiencing with their hives?"**

**"Any other business matters arising at this time"**

*(Hopefully by this time we will have plenty of experts and be able to take the summer break.)*

---

In conclusion there are so many people to thank this year, the list is ever growing.

To all the people who came to Westport this year and imparted their knowledge to us especially our mentors; Jim Ryan, Gerry Ryan, Mary Ryan, *will ye ever be finished!* Congrats to Mary (*a future President of our Association*) on attaining her goal of CFL this year (*don't ask her what colour a bees eyes are!*) and hurry up Gerry the pressure is on! Thank you for the wonderful welcome we got in Tipperary, it was second to none and also a big thank you to Redmond for his help.

To our past President Denis Ryan who officially opened our association, a gentleman who puts the Association first over himself and who will always be welcome here.

To everyone who helped out at "**Feile na Tuaithe**", our Federation secretary Michael Gleeson, car loaded to its knees with all the banners etc, Eamon Magee, the Ryan's, once again, both straight from exam centres at different associations, Jane Sellers and Loretta the skep makers, Paul O Sullivan and his red box of tricks, (*came with one tent, went back with two*), to all our members who helped with the setup and helped out over the two days of the event, impressing everyone who came to our demonstration admiring our setup and our **KNOWLEDGE** of bees. A big thank you to our great sales team of girls, *especially Karen giving great value in the honey, one for a fiver or two for a tenner!* Aaron and the tea-man Sean, who kept everyone topped up and Gerry who sprouted all the black hives over the two days.

To the members of our nearest beekeeping associations; Connemara; Ger, Davy, Sean etc, and Ballina; Gervais, Mary etc, who over a number of phone calls came along with us and put on a great show for the public. It's wonderful to hear that our demonstration was brilliant and much appreciated.

We are lucky to have Henry and Willie with their expertise and patience with us beginners! We are proud to have over 100 beginner members eager for knowledge. We are lucky to have an IT man/photographer all in one, Padraic, who also owns the bee-mobile and has for company our honey queen, Shauna.

We are also lucky to have met some fantastic beekeepers all over Ireland on our travels **ESPECIALLY** our suppliers of bees Joe, Ger, Pat, John D, etc, we have enjoyed every minute of our travels so far.

We are also lucky to have met the staff at the Teagasc offices who have backed us from the word go and offered us their fantastic facilities, their workplace, for us. We know how lucky we are to be able to introduce our guests/speakers/friends/fellow beekeepers to such a great facility, totally unrestricted for our meetings and to be able to use the kitchen facilities; this is a blessing beyond belief. Peter and his staff have always taken such an interest in our development and Marion will always help out no matter what we ask. We also thank our sponsors this year, (*they know who they are*) who have sponsored both hives and nucs of bees for the club. It's great to see the club now has its own supplier! "**The Beekeepers Shop**" who went away on holiday and came back as a supplier to the beekeeper. Thank you also to Sabina, Leader co-ordinator, for all the help with our project.



To the "**MASTER**" John Summerville, a Connemara man living in Tullamore, for taking us under his wing and giving our young fledgling association so much help, expertise and friendship.

***We also had a miracle like the loaves and fishes. I gave a man enough timber nuts, bolts and screws for five Clonroach stands and he turned them into eleven with timber to spare!!!! ?***

***The Lord moves in mysterious ways!***

Looking forward to the Year ahead!!!!

***Dermot Ó Flaherty.***