

BUSY AS HER BEEES

“You need years to really learn about beekeeping.”

Cornelia Frank, Productmanager, Kiefel Medical

BEEKEEPING is the art of keeping bees, cultivating new colonies and harvesting honey.

IT HAS ITS ORIGINS in Mesopotamia, where beekeeping originated circa 2400 BC.

A TREAT FOR THE SENSES Honey comes in a variety of exquisite forms – from spring and summer blossom honey to traditional forest honey with or without intrinsic aromas such as lime tree or rapeseed.

CLIMATE CHANGE, EXTENSIVE AGRICULTURE AND ILLNESSES are threatening bee colonies all around the globe, which is why pollination by bees is enormously important.

“I love honey and bees simply fascinate me – and my father is also a beekeeper”, says Cornelia Frank. Small wonder, then, that the likeable Kiefel employee decided to breed bees herself. “I am still something of a novice.” She began her training in 2016, the Year of the Bee: “People say that it takes years to become a proper beekeeper – and they’re right.” As part of her beekeeper training, Cornelia Frank attended more than 15 courses in accordance with the guidelines set out by Bavarian beekeeping association VBB and also hands-on training at special apiaries for learners. “We novices are also assigned a beekeeping mentor to whom we can direct any questions we might have.”

She is visibly proud of her Carniolan honey bees: “They are very gentle, but of course I have a lot of respect for them. The more experience you have, the better you’re able to sense when it is better not to open the hive. Each of the bees has its own task – together, they work as a team. There is always something new to discover.” Working with bees also shapes people in certain ways. “I need to be calm and methodical when attending to my bees. I’m able to relax because every time they make me think about everything they achieve. You might even say that they also teach me the meaning of humility.”

Albert Einstein is quoted as having said: “If the bee disappears from the surface of the Earth, man would have no more than four years left to live.” According to US researchers, bee pollination is in fact responsible for almost a quarter of the world’s fruit harvest and more than a fifth of its grain harvest. By pollinating agricultural and wild plants, the honeybee makes an 80-90 percent contribution towards preserving and further

developing plant life. In Germany, around 100,000 people breed bees. However, only three percent of these can be said to be professional beekeepers. More than three quarters have fewer than 15 hives and keep bees purely out of a love for nature. As does Cornelia Frank: “I am absolutely fascinated by the role of bees in the ecosystem”, says Cornelia Frank.

And how did the first honey taste? “Wonderful! And it tastes even better knowing that it was produced with sustainable beekeeping, which focuses on the welfare of the bees.”



CORNELIA FRANK

Lives in: Vachendorf (Bavaria, Germany)

Joined the Brückner Group: 2016

Loves: Sport, nature and French patisserie

