

Boštjan Noč

Bio:

Boštjan Noč

Selo 42, 4274 Žirovnica

5.4. 1974

Member of the Anton Janša Breznica Beekeeping Society

President of the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association since 2007

President of the European Beekeeping Association since 2024

Founder of the Foundation for Charity, Knowledge and Innovation in Beekeeping, the Noč Boštjan Beekeeping Foundation with the slogan Connected for Bees

Boštjan Noč was born in 1974 in Žirovnica, less than a kilometre away from the birthplace of one of the most renowned beekeepers Anton Janša. I practically grew up with bees, as beekeeping has been a tradition in the Noč family for several generations. I have been keeping bees since I was 13 years old, when I started with five bee colonies. At the age of 18, I was already responsible for over 80 colonies. As years passed, their numbers grew steadily, and in 2025, I prepared almost 500 honeybee colonies for winter. In my beekeeping practice, I exclusively use AŽ-beehives and Carniolan honeybees. I produce various types of honey, pollen, propolis and wax, foodstuffs from bee products, sparkling honey wine and cosmetics from bee products. In recent years, I have been placing great emphasis on the production of European-protected Slovenian honey with a protected geographical indication in the top quality scheme and on the gift programme of bee products.

In 2002, I tried myself in a more "official" role for the first time, as I was one of the initiators for the establishment of the Upper Gorenjska Beekeepers' Association, becoming its first-ever president. In 2007, I became the President of the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association. Since the establishment of the European Beekeeping Association in 2024, I have also been its president.

The joint projects of Slovenian beekeepers in the last 20 years are: World Bee Day, inclusion of Slovenian beekeeping on the UNESCO list of intangible cultural heritage, Slovenian Food Day, National and European Honey Breakfast, Slovenian beekeepers' jar, Slovenian bottle for honey drinks, uniform honey labels, promotion of beekeeping and raising honey consumption to more than 2 kg per capita in Slovenia (statistics from the honey breakfast survey, which is twice as much as 20 years ago), raising the price of honey (when entering the EU, the highest price on the market for beekeepers was slightly more than EUR

3.00 (SIT 900 for 900 g – currently around EUR 15.00), the establishment of the Anton Janša Beekeeping School, numerous free training courses for beekeepers, numerous free courses for beginners, education for master beekeepers, introduction of the apitherapist/beekeeper as nationally recognised vocations in Slovenia, beekeeping as an elective subject in primary schools, numerous promotional lectures for the general public and training courses for beekeepers, apitourism (certified beekeeping tourism), Apimedica & Apiquality 2010, ApiSlovenija Celje, organisation of international professional conferences, restoration of old beehives, publication of numerous professional publications and professional films, participation in fairs, such as AGRA, training of disabled people in wheelchairs in an adapted learning apiary and by issuing a beekeeping manual, introduction of beekeeping for people with special needs, evaluation of honey and honey drinks, planting of honey plants – the resounding Let Us Preserve the Bees project - "We reap what we sow" (project of planting buckwheat, sunflowers and pumpkins), planting of linden trees and other honey trees in each municipality at the birth of a child, EU protection for Slovenian honey with a protected geographical indication, promotion of quality schemes, fight against systemically harmful phytopharmaceuticals and joint endeavour with the Slovenian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, when we were the first in the EU to ban neonicotinoids, beekeeping clubs and competitions of young beekeepers at the national and international level, setting up more than 50 learning apiaries next to schools, issuing promotional and educational material, providing co-financing of beekeeping equipment and co-financing of queen breeders, research and development work of the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association, registration of the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association as a research institution, implementation of the concession for the Public Beekeeping Advisory Service, forecasting service for honey production and the breeding program for the Carniolan bee, construction and establishment of a beekeeping library at the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association, establishment of a laboratory at the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association, construction of a beekeeping nature trail close to the Beekeeping Centre of Slovenia, which is also adapted for the blind and visually impaired, issuing a silver coin with 20 bees for World Bee Day, erecting a memorial to the Carniolan honeybee and founding the House of the Carniolan honeybee in Višnja Gora, the restoration of the old plaque and the installation of a new plaque in the Slovenian language intended for Anton Janša in Vienna, bestowing a beehive on the Pope in the Vatican, setting up beehives at the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, at the UN headquarters in New York, in Trieste, in Austrian Carinthia, Hungary and Croatia, setting up 15 learning beehives for the education and training of beekeepers by region, a 3D-model of

a Carniolan honeybee in the size of 1 m, the production of the Honey Story pavilion, applications for VR beekeeping, the organisation of the international IMYB youth beekeeping competition in Ivančna Gorica, issuing a ČZS commemorative banknote, organising the European honey evaluation, the establishment of a register of licensed honey sensory testers, co-financing of beekeeping scales for beekeeping societies, alerting about the problems with invasive non-native hornets and many other projects over almost 20 years. On my initiative and then on the joint initiative of the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association, Slovenia proposed to the European Union an amendment to the directive on the labelling of honey, namely that each jar of honey must have a precise indication of the origin of the honey. This was also adopted by the European Parliament in April 2024.

On my initiative, the European Beekeeping Association was established in 2024, with its headquarters in Lukovica, Slovenia.

I have written two books, the book *Rojen za čebele* (Born for Bees) and the manual *Dobra čebelarska praksa* (Good Beekeeping Practice), and I was one of the three main authors of the book *Brez čebel ne bo življenja* (Without Bees There Will Be No Life).

I am a licensed lecturer at the Anton Janša Beekeeping School, where I lecture on the following:

- Breeding queens for non-commercial use and basic selection in the Boštjan NOČ beehive
- Beekeeping in AŽ-beehives up to the first pasture, forming spare families and adding queens
- Beekeeping throughout the year with an emphasis on interrupting the egg laying phase and facilitating the management of varroa mites
- Slovenian beekeeping
- Good beekeeping practice
- Pollen extraction technology

I have received numerous accolades for my work, such as:

- the Golden Bee 2022 (the Golden Bee is the highest national award of the Republic of Slovenia for outstanding achievements in the field of bee protection and recognition of the role of bees and other pollinators in ensuring food security, sustainable agriculture, nature conservation,

biodiversity and cultural heritage. The recipient is selected through a public call, candidates from all over the world can apply.)

- all highest decorations of the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association – 1st 2nd and 3rd class Anton Janša Award,
- the medal of merit from the President of the Republic of Slovenia Borut Pahor (2018) for contribution to the development of beekeeping and sustainable agriculture and to maintaining balance in nature,
- the protocol flag of the Republic of Slovenia – awarded by the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Borut Pahor (2017),
- the title of honorary citizen of the municipality of Žirovnica (2018),
- the plaque from the municipality of Žirovnica (2012),
- the title of ambassador of the municipality of Ivančna Gorica (2022)
- the Municipality of Lukovica Trust Medal (2025)
- the Apimondia silver medal for co-authorship of the book Without Bees There Will Be No Life (2017)
- the miniature Janša beehive (2005) – the highest award of the Upper Gorenjska Beekeeping Association,
- the Beekeeper of the Year award of the Upper Gorenjska Beekeeping Association (2015),
- the ČD Anton Janša award for invaluable work in the association on the occasion of the centenary of the association (2019)
- the highest award of the Beekeeping Association of Serbia (2011) ,
- the plaque of the National Council of the Republic of Slovenia for Volunteering (2011),
- the Knight of the Bee Queen Award (2011), awarded by the Italian NGO U.C.E.P.E,
- the Golden Glavar award of the Peter Pavel Glavar Regional Association (2021),
- the Crystal Triglav – award of the Slovenian Travel Press association for remarkable achievements in tourism (2018),
- the Dr Filip Terč plaque for help and efforts in legalising apitherapy (2017),
- the Pislak award – Association of Professional Beekeepers of Slovenia (2018),
- the special UPU PGŽ award – for helping those affected by the earthquake in Banovina (2021)

- the title Ambassador of Knowledge (2025)