Apimondia News

November 23th 2026

Four Seasons for Beekeeping – When a Beekeeper Films the Honey Bees

Zsolt Poroszka Magyar, a Hungarian beekeeper and filmmaker, has made a special documentary exploring beekeeping throughout the four seasons of the year. And we have interviewed him on his two works.

By Matteo Giusti

There are many documentaries about honeybees, but when the director is also a professional beekeeper, that's something quite different.



Zsolt Poroszka Magyar in the apiary during the shooting

This is the case with Zsolt Poroszka Magyar, a Hungarian beekeeper and filmmaker who has made a special documentary exploring beekeeping throughout the four seasons of the year.

His documentary, “Four Seasons for Beekeeping,” is an interesting piece of work that has already been featured at several international film festivals.

We interviewed Zsolt to learn more about his work, both as a filmmaker and as a beekeeper.

Zsolt, why did you decide to make this film, and who is it intended for?

“The four-part documentary series *Four Seasons for Beekeeping* was made on commission from the National Hungarian Beekeepers' Association (OMME).

The idea behind the series was to present the world of honeybees and beekeeping throughout the year, following the changing seasons. Although many documentaries have been made about honeybees, I felt that there was a need for a comprehensive film series showing the everyday work of beekeepers, the life of bee colonies, and the importance of the different forage areas that sustain them.

The series is intended not only for professional and practising beekeepers, but also for those who are just beginning to learn about beekeeping and would like to gain practical insight beyond what books can offer. At the same time, it is aimed at the general public, including children and anyone interested in nature, honeybees, and the work behind the honey that eventually reaches our tables.

I wanted viewers to understand just how much care, knowledge, effort, and dedication go into producing a jar of honey.”

What do you show in the film, and how do you tell the story?

“The four episodes follow the natural rhythm of the seasons, showing how the lives of honeybees and the work of beekeepers change throughout the year.

Spring brings new hope after the long winter. As the days grow longer and the weather becomes warmer, life gradually returns to the apiary. Both the bees and the beekeepers are ready for the beginning of a new season.



The first frame of the episode "Spring"

Summer is the busiest period for migratory beekeepers. After the acacia trees have finished blooming, they must find suitable forage areas to ensure that their colonies have access to pollen and nectar, and, when conditions allow, to produce surplus honey. This is also when bee colonies reach the peak of their development. After the summer solstice, attention gradually turns towards preparing for the following year. Long days, short nights, intense heat, and drought all make this a demanding time for beekeepers.

Autumn is the time when bee colonies return to their permanent wintering sites. Both bees and beekeepers begin preparing for the colder months ahead. The changing

colours of the landscape, with its red, orange, and yellow foliage, accompany the gradual shortening of the days and the end of the active beekeeping season.



The first frame of the "Summer"

Winter brings a period of rest and quiet. Snow may cover the hives, and the familiar buzzing of the apiary disappears. While the bees remain clustered inside their hives, the beekeeper has time to reflect on the past season, plan for the next one, and carry out various tasks in the workshop.

Throughout the series, I wanted to show not only the bees themselves, but also the landscapes, the changing forage plants, the people who work with the bees, and the different methods and traditions of Hungarian beekeeping."

Where has the series been screened so far?

“The series has been broadcast on Hungarian public television channels under MTVA, on Erdély TV (Transylvanian Television), and on several smaller local television stations in Hungary.



The first frame of “Autumn”

The individual episodes have also been presented at numerous Hungarian and international film festivals, receiving several awards and recognitions.

Spring episode:

- Gödöllő International Nature Film Festival
- Totál Plán Independent Film Festival, Celldömölk
- Food Film Fest, Bergamo, Italy

- AGROFILM International Film Festival, Slovakia
- MEDIAWAVE International Film Festival
- Vas-Film Independent Film Festival
- Cegléd Film Festival

At the XIII Bujtor István Film Festival, the episode received the professional award for Best Visual Presentation in the documentary and educational film category.



The first frame of the "Winter"

Summer episode:

- Göcsej Film Festival 2025
- 21st Vas-Film 2025

Awards and recognitions:

- XII Totál Plán Independent Film Festival, Celldömölk 2025 – Best Educational Film
- IX Cegléd Film Festival 2025 – First Prize in the documentary category
- Frome International Climate Film Festival 2025 – Outstanding Recognition, Professional Category
- 41st AGROFILM International Film Festival, Slovakia 2025 – Rector's Award of the University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice
- Independent Hungarian Film Festival 2026 – The Golden Hourglass Award by In Ferus Film, short documentary category

Autumn episode:

- Food Film Fest, Bergamo 2026 – Finalist
- The Climate Film Festival, England 2026 – Official Selection
- 42nd AGROFILM International Film Festival, Nitra, Slovakia 2026 – Official Selection
- X Cegléd Film Festival 2026 – Official Selection

Awards:

- Totál Plán Independent Film Festival, Celldömölk 2026 – Best Documentary
- 22nd Vas-Film, Vép 2026 – Best Educational Film

Winter episode:

- ATAFF Szolnok Film Festival 2024
- Vas-Film 2024
- Cegléd Film Festival 2024

Awards:

- 40th AGROFILM International Film Festival, Slovakia – Director's Award
- Totál Plán Independent Film Festival, Celldömölk – Special Jury Award

I am very pleased that the films have reached audiences both in Hungary and abroad, and that they have received recognition at festivals."

Is it possible to watch the documentary? If so, where?

"Yes. All four episodes of *Four Seasons for Beekeeping* are available on my YouTube channel, with English subtitles.

You can watch the series here:

YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/@pmzs

Playlist – Four Seasons for Beekeeping:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLn12-T7GN-QtXYJMROSaopOxzI9NO-PCL

My channel also features my other nature and documentary films."

What do you do as a beekeeper, and how does this work influence your activities as a filmmaker?

"Beekeeping has been part of my family for generations. I learned the basics from my paternal grandfather. As a child, I spent a lot of time around the hives, helping with smaller tasks: carrying frames for honey extraction, operating the extractor, and brushing bees off the frames during the harvest. Gradually, I became more involved in the work and eventually started managing my own colonies.



In 2003, when I was sixteen, my grandfather gave me my first eight bee colonies. Over the years, I gradually expanded the apiary, from thirteen to twenty, forty, sixty, and eventually 120 colonies. Today, I keep 101 colonies. I officially established Hunnia Méhészet in 2010.

I graduated as an agricultural engineer, specialising in wildlife, fisheries, and bee biology. Between 2011 and 2014, I also worked at the beekeeping research institute in Gödöllő. Since 2015, I have been working as a full-time beekeeper and agricultural producer.

For me, beekeeping is much more than a profession. It is a vocation and a way of life. I have always believed that the well-being, health, and comfort of the bee colonies must come first. Honey production comes afterwards, almost as a gift for the care and attention we give them.

I feel that this traditional respect and love for bees is particularly important today, when economic pressures often force beekeepers to focus increasingly on yields and profitability.

My experience as a beekeeper has a direct influence on my filmmaking. I am not an outsider observing the world of bees from a distance. I work among them every day, understand their behaviour, and know the practical challenges of beekeeping. This allows me to approach the subject from the inside and present it in an authentic way."

Have you made any other films about bees and beekeeping, or are you planning to work on new projects in this field?

"Yes. I have been making nature films professionally since 2017, when my film *Méhlegelők* (*Bee Pastures*) was released. The project took three years to film.

At the time, I realised that there had been no major Hungarian documentary about beekeeping for almost thirty years. As an agricultural engineer specialising in bee biology, I felt that the beauty and importance of honeybees deserved to be presented to a wider audience.

Since then, I have made several films related to bees, beekeeping, and nature:

- **Pusztafogacs (2010)** –documentary
- **Méhlegelők (2017)** – *Bee Pastures* an educational nature film about the food sources of honeybees and the diversity of their forage areas
- **Méhek nyomában (2018)** – *Finding bees* - a film about the lives of Hungarian honeybees and their ecological importance
- **AZORI – São Miguel, Pico, Faial (2019)** – nature documentary about the Azores
- **Egy év a méhesben (2020)** – *One Year in the Apiary* -produced in cooperation with OMME
- **A méhészet négy évszaka (2021–2024)** – the four-part educational documentary series *Four Seasons for Beekeeping*

- **Az akác és méze, a „legmagyarabb” fa története (2022)** – *The Acacia and Its Honey – The Story of Hungary's "Most Hungarian" Tree*, exploring the history and importance of acacia in Hungary and its honey
- **Zselic aranya (2025)** – *Zselic's Gold*, a film presenting the landscapes, wildlife, and natural values of the Zselic region, particularly its famous linden honey. The film was selected for the scientific educational and portrait film competition of the 45th Hungarian Film Festival.
- **Vándorméhészek (2026)** – *Migratory Beekeepers*, a documentary about the traditions and lifestyle of migratory beekeepers, their techniques, and the transportation of bee colonies and hives.
- **A Francia Guyana Expedíció (2026)** – *The French Guiana Expedition*, a scientific educational documentary about a four-member Hungarian research expedition travelling from the Caribbean to the Amazon rainforest of French Guiana to observe and document its remarkable insect life. The film is scheduled for theatrical release in 2027.

  I would certainly like to continue making films about bees and beekeeping. There are still many aspects of this world worth exploring and sharing with audiences. For me, it is important to preserve the knowledge, traditions, and values of beekeeping, while also showing how closely our lives are connected to the natural world”.