

# Beekeepers of Volusia County Florida

March 2010

**In this issue:** Meeting minutes, next meeting agenda, recipes, IPM, In Bloom, Monthly tasks & more



Founded  
February 9, 2010

## President's Corner

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Hello Folks;

The winter is winding down; all of you beekeepers should be finalizing the assembly and cleanup of beekeeping equipment. The Queen is starting to lay more eggs in preparation for spring. It is important to feed your bees (50 / 50 sugar, water and perhaps add some megabee nutrition) to stimulate egg laying and help keep the bee from starving. I have been hearing about a lot of hives being lost do to starvation.

Also during this time it is a good idea to step up your hive inspections to once every 10 to 14 days, looking for queen cells and brood patterns. Many hives in their second year may show a large buildup of brood and queen cells which reflects a tendency to swarm. Many beekeepers prepare splits or re-queen with certified queens in early spring to keep their hives from swarming.

April is the beginning of the Spring nectar flow. Citrus, Gallberry and Palmetto are major nectar plants which start blooming in April so honey stores will begin to swell. Make sure that your honey supers are built or ready to go. I have seen the bees fill a new medium super with honey in one week during the nectar flow! The general rule is to add a new super once 8 of 10 frames has been filled. It is important to provide lots of space for your bees to grow and store honey.

In Florida, we have an early and long growing season with a large variety of plants blooming, a great place to live for a Honey Bee and a Beekeeper!

Bee Friendly,

Tom Bartlett

President, Beekeepers of Volusia Country, Florida  
University of Florida Master Beekeepers Program  
Certified University of Florida Welsh Honey Judge

## Bloomington, Minn.?

No, but here is what is, or will be, blooming soon. What do you and your neighbors plant as treats for the girls? Let's have no monoculture.

### March

Ligustrum  
Queen Anne Grapefruit  
Spiderwort  
Red Bay  
Strawberry  
Oak  
Boxwood  
Virginia Day  
Flower  
Blackberry  
Huckleberry  
Bok Choy  
Willow  
White Clover  
Barrett Pear  
Dogwood  
Blueberry

### April

Gallberry  
Seagrape  
Red Maple  
Fetterbush  
Orange (citrus)  
Redbud  
Florida Dogwood  
Black Cherry  
Cherry Laurel  
Walters Viburnum  
Azaleas  
Sparkleberry  
Blueberry  
Spanish Needle  
Chickasaw Plum  
Flatwoods Plum  
Haw  
Sweet Clover  
Dog Hobble  
Palmetto

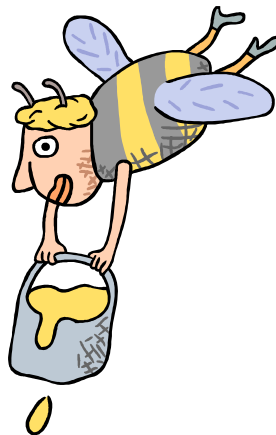
Thanks go to **Kevin Bagwell** of **Full Moon Natives** for providing this information. Kevin and his wife Marvette supply native plants including honey bee and butterfly friendly species.

### Did You Know?

In northern climates where ice fishing is a serious winter activity wax moths are considered one of the best baits. Could this be a money maker for Florida beekeepers?

### Uncle Ed's Points to Ponder!

- Why do we drive on a parkway and park on a driveway?
- Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?
- When you send someone Styrofoam, what do you pack it in?



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## 3rd Annual University of Florida Bee College

### WOW!

Soooo much to absorb... bee diseases and treatments, bee colony as a super-organism, installing packages, clipping and marking queens, picking the right race of bees, queen rearing, grafting, hive/frame assembly, bee nutrition, gardening for bees... and that is just the beginning.

Classes are taught by experienced qualified personnel. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DOACS) and Honey Bee Research & Extension Laboratory (HBREL) personnel and very experienced beekeepers teach the classes. These are people who make their livings with bees.

Students are well pampered. Questions are answered, needs tended to and lots of food.

Start your planning now to attend next year's Bee College. This is not an event to miss... 250 beekeepers this year cannot be wrong. Get more details from attendees at our March meeting.

## Hive Management Tasks

### March

- Colony populations begin to grow. Add supers and/or control swarming as necessary.
- Can treat with Terramycin to Tylan for AFB
- Make nucs/splits

### April

- Disease and queen problems should be remedied
- Make splits/nucs—new queens available
- Control swarming
- Add supers, the primary nectar flow begins this month

Thanks to Dr. Jamie Ellis of the UF Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory for this information.

### What, me worry?

Alfred E. Newman

# IPM

## Keeping Bees Healthy

*Integrated pest management (IPM) is an agricultural pest control strategy that utilizes a variety of complementary strategies including cultural management (growing practices), life cycle analysis, chemical management, among others.*

*These methods are performed in three stages: prevention, observation, and intervention. It is an eco-logical approach with a main goal of significantly reducing or eliminating the use of pesticides while at the same time managing pest populations at an acceptable level... from Bing website.*

IPM means using every tool available to control pests and diseases. What tools? Screened bottom boards, putting hives in full sun, great queens, stress free hives and, as a last resort, chemicals.

Check out the Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory (HBREL) website to get a good understanding of IPM in action. There are videos about IPM control of varroa mites, small hive beetles (SHB), nosema and tracheal mites. Click this link and watch the videos <http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/honeybee/extension/index.shtml>. The videos can be viewed on line or downloaded for future viewing.

## Next Meeting

**Wednesday  
March 24th  
6:30 PM**

Volusia County Agricultural Center Auditorium  
3100 E. New York Ave., DeLand

### Special Guest

**Jerry Crews**  
DOACS District 9 inspector

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## Yummy Tummy Honey

We have, or will have, lots of honey. Now we need some recipes for that honey. Share your best with the club.

### Citrus Salad with Orange-Honey Sauce

Thanks to Tom Schoch for this one..

- In a blender process the juice of 1 orange with 2 Tbsp of honey and 1/4 tsp of vanilla until well mixed. Set sauce aside.
- Cut up 2 oranges and 1 pink grapefruit into bite sized pieces.
- Divide fruit into 2 bowls and top each bowl with a scoop of orange ice cream or sorbet and sauce.
- Enjoy

## Mentor Volunteers

**Mentor...** a wise and trusted counselor or teacher.

Do you have experience as a beekeeper? Why not become a mentor and help out a new-bee. Let the members know at the March meeting. You will feel good about it.

**The price of freedom is eternal vigilance.**

**Thomas Jefferson**



## Club Starts Out On The Right Foot

Only one meeting into the club's official history and we are making great progress.

- Scott MacMahon makes hive boxes (among other items) and has donated one to the club to raffle.
- Santiago Wallace is starting his membership as a life member by donating a hive of bees.
- Jesse Azam will be joining the club as a life member so we now have two hives available. Jesse is a commercial beekeeper and will have nucs and hives for sale.

### An OMEN... Bees Try To Join The Club

Tom Bartlett tells it best with his email...

Hello Folks

I got a call from Linda Evans at the Ag Center today at noon, a swarm of honey bees had landed on the building which we hold our Beekeepers Club Meeting! Linda was holding classes in the building and honey bees were inside. I loaded up my swarm catching box and hurried over to see if I could help. To make a long story short, the swarm had landed on top of the roof, scout bees were looking for a

place to make a hive, they found a small hole on the side of the building to get into the roof. I setup a nuc with a swarm lure, while we were getting ready, the swarm on the top of the roof took flight with the queen and landed on the side of the building and entered the building. I have placed the nuc inside the attic with a flash light to attract the swarm into the box, we will check the box tomorrow morning to see if we are successful. We have digital pictures of the swarm on the side of the building to share with you as soon as I get them from Linda.

Fun Stuff !

Tom Bartlett

Come to the meeting for an update.

### Club Members Earn Honors At Bee College

The club has yet to have its second official meeting and two members are showing there bee stuff.

- Congratulations to Marlin Athearn for earning the Apprentice Beekeeper level of the Master Beekeeper Program.
- Well done to Tom Bartlett for earning his Advanced Beekeeper level of the Master Beekeeper Program
- Tom Bartlett's amber honey won second place in the honey judging contest... Yummmmm.

Home at fall of eve the bees come winging;  
Happy is their flight and happier their singing.  
As the night draws closer and the light grows faint,  
Darker still their air-lines 'cross the skies they paint.  
Peace is all about then; a calm and healing peace  
Fill the heart and fills the mind and brings the soul release.  
Nothing now can trouble, nothing can distress,  
Here, where bees are humming songs of happiness.

Ω

Josephine Morse

# Bee knowledgeable



One of the many great things about beekeeping is the wealth of information, free information, about the topic. The internet, not surprisingly, is the mother load of all free information sources. The following are some I have come across which have proven to be of great interest and/or educational.

The Honey Bee Research Extension Laboratory (HBREL) of the University of Florida has a great site. These are the folks who not only do great bee and beekeeping research but also put on Bee College. Catherine Zettel Nalan and Mark Dykes of the HBREL came down from Gainesville and, along with Tom Bartlett, put on the Basic Bee Classes in December and January. Check them out at <http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/honeybee/extension/>. Be sure to view the videos about small hive beetle (SHB), varroa mites, Nosema and tracheal mites.

If videos are your interest, and it does help to see equipment, tools and techniques in action, then your first stop should be [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com). Search for bees or beekeeping and take your pick. Brushy Mountain Bee Farms also has videos and previous webinars for viewing on their web site. Just surf to <http://www.brushymountainbeefarm.com/Resources/Videos.asp>. The webinar Pesticides in Beehives with Maryann Frazier (of MAAREC) is great.

The Mid Atlantic Apiculture Research and Extension Consortium (MAAREC) is a consortium of organizations from New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Vir-

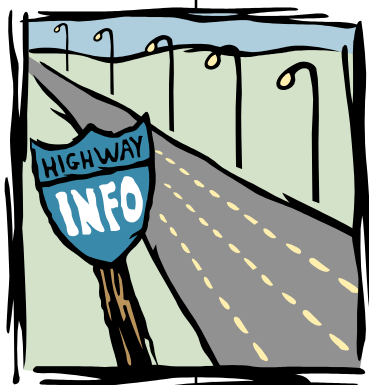
ginia doing in-depth research regarding Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Follow this link for the MAAREC site <http://maarec.cas.psu.edu/>

Like to chat with others then forums may be to your liking. Forums are websites where interested parties post questions or information and others respond. The three I belong to (you do have to register... but it's free) are [Beemaster-Forums.com](http://Beemaster-Forums.com), [Beesource.com](http://Beesource.com) and the [Yahoo group Florida Beekeepers](http://Yahoo group Florida Beekeepers). The forums have threads (topics) on just about every aspect of beekeeping including hobby activities with hive products.

EDIS... Electronic Data Information Source... this is a jewel which many people do not know about. It is the Electronic Data Information Source of UF/IFAS Extension. Do a search about bees or beekeeping on this web page, <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>, and find information treasures.

Just want to randomly wander the Land of Beedom? Use your browser to search bees, honey bees, beekeeping. Or, if you have specific questions, search your areas of specific interest such as top bar hives, varroa mites, honey extraction, Africanized bees, etc.

More tips next month. Share your favorites in the newsletter.



**"The men of experiment are like the ant; they only collect and use. But the bee... gathers its materials from the flowers of the garden and of the field, but transforms and digests it by a power of its own."... Leonardo da Vinci**

# **Beekeepers of Volusia County, Florida**

## **Meeting Agenda**

March 24, 2010

Call to order and welcome:

Business:

- Membership Drive / Registrations / \$15.00 Annual Fee

Presentations Discussions:

- Hive Registrations
- Jerry Crews – Volusia County, Florida Apiary Bee Inspector
- Raffle
  - Nuc
    - Frame Jig
    - Deep... built and donated by member Scott MacMahon

Odds and Ends

1. What's blooming?
2. What's happening in your bee yard?
3. Beekeeping Questions

Adjournment

### **Want To Save Shipping On Equipment Order?**

Deb Bohannon of Deb's Bee Supply in Jacksonville will be attending the March meeting. If you place an order before the meeting Deb will deliver the goodies. You may contact Deb at [deb@deb-bee.com](mailto:deb@deb-bee.com), 904-886-9389 or her website [www.deb-bee.com](http://www.deb-bee.com).

### **Guest From Another Beekeepers Club**

Mickie Stewart, president of the Beekeepers of Putnam County, will be visiting us at the March meeting. Perhaps we can get some good tips about setting up the club.

**BEEKEEPERS OF VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**Minutes (not yet accepted) - First Regular Meeting**  
**February 24, 2010**

6:35 p.m.

President, Tom Bartlett, called meeting to order. The officers of the Club were then introduced to the members and members were then asked to introduce themselves.

Treasurer, Ron Kull, collected dues from the new members.

Minutes from the Organization Meeting were published in the Newsletter and Carmen Clifton made a motion to accept the minutes which was seconded by Deb Ulmer.

President Bartlett then discussed having "Lifetime Memberships" in the Club. Members would pay a one-time fee of \$250.00 or donate a full live hive for the privilege of becoming a Lifetime Member. A motion was made and seconded to accept this into the rules of the Club.

A motion was made and seconded to place two (2) hives at the Ag Center for the purpose of educating the public about beekeeping. The hives would also be used to teach 4-H members about caring for bees. Sharon Gamble said she would mediate with the County about where to place the hives.

The President then brought up several options for fund raising for the Club. 50/50 raffles and raffles for beekeeping supplies were suggested as ways to raise money for the Club for necessities that will be needed for the various work to be done. A motion was made and seconded for the Club to hold raffles at the monthly meetings.

President Bartlett then brought up the mentoring program for discussion. He stated that approximately 95% of the members do not yet have bees. Carmen Clifton suggested that the names, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of the volunteer mentors be published in the Club newsletter. Suggested reading was also discussed and it was suggested that members read "The Backyard Beekeeper" by Kim Flottum as this is a very good book for beginning beekeepers. The President then stated that if the members had not yet ordered their bees, it might be difficult to get them for this season. He did bring up the Jester Bees had stated that they will sell nucs at \$95.00 for members throughout the year. Jester Bees has ads in Bee Culture and American Bee Journal.

Class for the Month – Bee Equipment: President Bartlett brought in hives, nucs and bees for demonstrations. He explained all the parts of the hives and what each section was used for. It was very informative and a great deal of help for all new members. A question was asked about using wood preservatives on the hives and President Bartlett informed us of research that had been done at the University of Florida that showed that using wood preservatives could shorten the bees life by one-half.

Sharon Gamble told the Club members that Doug McGinnis of Tropical Blossom Honey has said that he would be interested in coming to speak to the Club. Tropical Blossom Honey is a commercial producer and distributor of honey. Finally, a drawing was held for a free pass to Bee College next month. All members who had paid their dues were eligible to put their names in for the drawing. Jon Robbins was the winner.

11. Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m. Next meeting will be March 24, 2010.

**What Lights Your Fire?**

What would you like to have for meeting topics? In what type of activities would you like to take part? Are you doing a beekeeping activity and willing to have others take part and learn? Do you have nagging questions the answers to which elude you? Want to see some unfamiliar equipment?

**Bring it up at the meeting. This is your club. Make it work for you.**

# Beekeepers of Volusia County, Florida

## Membership Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

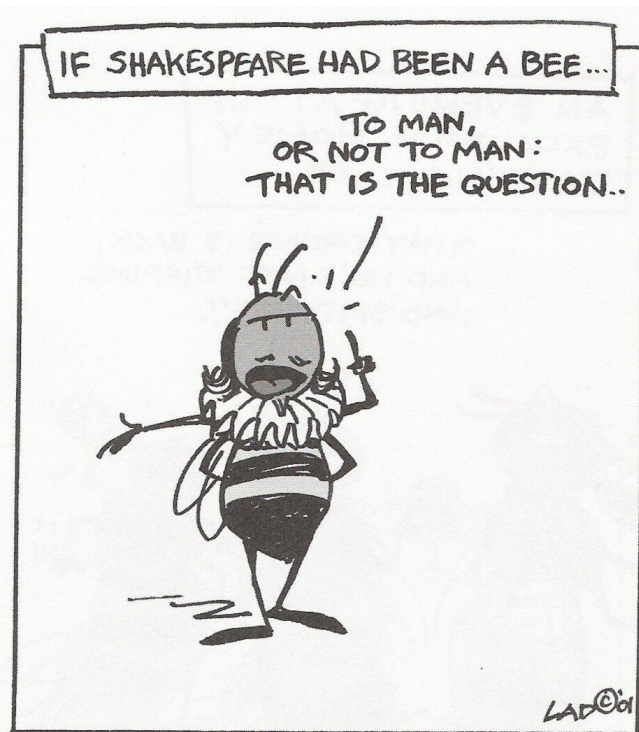
E-mail address: **Important** - Much business is done by electronic mail

1. Regular Membership (includes family members) \$15.00 [ ]
2. Lifetime Membership donation of one hive with 10 frames and bees or \$250 { }

Please make checks payable to Beekeepers of Volusia County, Florida

Bring to meeting or mail to:

Ron Kull, Treasurer, 2525 Palm Dr.  
Port Orange, FL 32128,  
Phone: 1-386-451-2978  
E-mail: Kullrp@yahoo.com





## Businesses of Members and Friends of the Club

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**Members who wish to advertise their business in the club newsletter please provide a business card.**

**It is mandatory to get older. Growing up is optional!**

**For Sale—Wanted**

**Members want to buy or sell something? Email Ed Williams your ad.**