



**Beekeepers
of
Volusia County
Florida**

**Founded
February 9, 2010**



April 2010

**President's
Corner**

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Hello Folks;

The days are warming up and you can feel that summer is on its way. The bees are now working from sun up to sun down, they are building new comb and bringing in nectar and pollen to store honey.

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 may reflect a tendency to swarm. Many beekeepers prepare splits or requeen with certified queens in early spring to keep their hives from swarming. I noticed a lot of beekeepers reporting an active swarm season early in April.

I had to requeen all six of my hives, in March my hives were doing fantastic, the second week in April my inspection revealed that all my queens were dead or missing. I have had a lot of yard spraying going on in my neighborhood by yard companies. Weed and insect spraying can be deadly to your hives so inspect on a regular basis.

April and May will produce a strong nectar flow. Citrus, Gallberry and Palmetto are major nectar plants which start blooming in April and May 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.

Bee Friendly,

Tom Bartlett

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

Blooming Idiot?

No, but here is what is, or will be, blooming soon.

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

May

Gopher Apple
Sand Hill Prairie
Clover
Southern Fleabane
Cabbage Palm
Black Gum
Fetterbush
Saw Palmetto
Mustard Greens
Yellow Squash
Sweet Bay Magnolia
Southern Magnolia
Spiderwort
Blue Eye Grass
Beauty Berry
All of the Hollies
St. John's Wort
Oak Leaf Hydrangea
Wild Coffee
Blueberries
Orange, Lemon, Lime
Spanish Needles
Gallberry
Dog Hobble
Joint Weed
Numerous native wildflowers



Thanks go to **Kevin Bagwell** of **Full Moon Natives** for providing this information.

Uncle Ed's Points to Ponder!

- Why does sour cream have an expiration date? It's already sour!
- Why can't women put on mascara with their mouth closed?
- Why is abbreviated such a long word?
- Can you cry under water?



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Read Of The Month

First Lessons In Beekeeping

Keith S. Delaplane

Keith S. Delaplane has been working with bees since he was 13 and is now Professor of Entomology and head of the honey bee research and extension laboratory at the University of Georgia.

In 1917 Charles Dadant wrote the original edition of this book. In 2007 Dadant's relatives asked Delaplane to rewrite the book in the tradition of the original author.

I suspect First Lessons in Beekeeping has been a primer for many new beekeepers for over a century. If this is so, it is for good reason... this is a very good book... a pleasure to read. Delaplane's writing style make this an easy read while being very informative yet not pedantic.

First Lessons in Beekeeping covers all the topics novice beekeeper needs to know in sufficient depth to answer most questions beginners have. If you want to increase your bee and beekeeping knowledge give this book a try. BTW, this book is on the recommended reading list of the Master Beekeeping Program.

Hive Management Tasks

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

May

- Continue to inspect for colony maladies, but don't treat for diseases while producing honey
- Continue swarm control
- 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.

Knowledge is power.

Sir Francis Bacon—1597

Varroa Mites

The number one killer of bees globally. That is the varroa mite. These pests were first seen in the U.S. in 1987 and originate from Asia. The varroa mite is a natural pest of *Apis cerana*, the Asian honey bee. For the Asian bee the mite is a minor problem which attacks only drone brood. To Western honey bees, however, varroa is a plague of biblical proportions.

The varroa mite sucks the blood (hemolymph) of the bees. Varroa eggs are laid in the brood cells and develop using the larvae and pupae as food. If the pupa survives the female varroa offspring leaves the nest with the adult bee (the male varroa never leaves the cell) and continues its life laying eggs in brood cells. To make the situation even worse the varroa mites vector (carry and transmit) viruses such as deformed wing virus.

IPM control of varroa mites begins with non-chemical controls using drone brood trapping, hygienic queens and screened bottom boards. Soft chemical control may include Apilife VAR, Apiguard and Mite-AwayII. Hard chemical control needed to save hives past the economic threshold include Apistan and Check-Mite +.

This article is only an introduction. For more detail check out Jamie Ellis' video on the HBREL website... <http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/honeybee/extension/varroa.shtml>.

Scientific name? Varroa destructor! How is that for appropriate?

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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.

Since no one is sharing recipes you are stuck with the only recipe I know for honey.

- One or two slices of your favorite bread
- Butter or margarine to taste
- Honey to taste
- One toaster

Toast the bread... spread on the butter... drizzle on honey. Eat and enjoy.

Next Meeting

Wednesday
April 28th
6:30 PM

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



Mentor Volunteers

Need some help? You can call on these folks.

Tom Bartlett: bartteb@aol.com—
386-756-2571

If you wish to be a mentor send Ed an email at astrocy-cler@att.net

What is not good for the swarm is not good for the bee.

Marcus Aurelius



Bee of the Month

Taxonomy

Taxonomy is the method scientists use to classify living things. There is debate among scientists about the way things should be classified but we will take a look at the basics. Classification is done as follows. This example uses humans and bees to illustrate the idea.

	<u>Humans</u>	<u>Bees</u>
Kingdom	Animal	Animal
Phylum	Chordata	Arthropoda
Class	Mammalia	Insecta
Order	Primates	Hymenoptera
Family	Hominidae	Apidae
Genus	Homo	Apis
Species	Sapiens	Mellifera
Sub-species	Sapien	Ligustica

A good write up about taxonomy can be found in Dewey M. Caron's book Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping.

Apis Mellifera

Usually beekeepers think in terms of sub-species of bees. For example, *Apis mellifera ligustica* is the Italian honey bee and *Apis mellifera scutellata* is the infamous African bee. But, just going to the species level is a good place to start for the first Bee of the Month Column. The genus *Apis* includes species such as *Apis mellifera* the western honey bee, *Apis cerana* the Asian honey bee, *Apis dorsata* the giant honey bee and *Apis florea* the dwarf honey bee.

Note that the genus name is capitalized and the species and sub-species names are not.

Apis mellifera are true insects, That is, they have three body segments, three pairs of legs, two sets of wings (yes they have two sets of wings) and one pair of antennae.

Fossils of *Apis* have been found in amber dating back 40,000,000 years. Quite a track record.

Apis mellifera means honey-bearing bee. This is from the Greek... *Apis* meaning bee... *melli* meaning honey... *ferre* meaning to bear.

By the way, honey bee is properly spelled as two words.

Next month... *Apis mellifera ligustica*

Bee! I'm Expecting You

Bee! I'm expecting you!
Was saying yesterday
To someone you know
That you were due.

The frogs got home last week,
Are settled, and at work;
Birds, mostly back,
The clover warm and thick.

You'll get my letter by
The seventeenth; reply
Or better, be with me,
Yours, Fly.

Emily Dickinson

B E E P O E T R Y

Combinations

A flea flew by a bee. The bee
To flee the flea flew by a fly.
The fly flew high to flee the bee
Who flew to flee the flea who
flew
To flee the fly who now flew by.

The bee flew by the fly. The fly
To flee the bee flew by the flea.
The flea flew high to flee the fly
Who flew to flee the bee who
flew
To flee the flea who now flew
by.

The fly flew by the flea. The flea
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Lucy W. Clausen



Bee knowledgeable



Periodicals

American Bee Journal and Bee Culture are probably the two best known beekeeping magazines. Both contain articles regarding diseases, beekeeping history, honey prices, IPM practices... everything of importance to beekeepers. Some of the best information, especially for new beekeepers are the advertisements. You name it and someone is selling it in these two magazines.

More Internet Stuff

How about taking a test? This site has a 50 question test to help you evaluate your beekeeping knowledge. The questions vary each time the test is taken. The test is reviewed automatically so this is a good learning process. Don't worry... you do not have to stay after school due to a bad grade. Check this out at... <http://www.gobeekeeping.com/>.

Want to know what goes on in a beekeeper's life? Check out this site <http://wallacefamilyapiary.wordpress.com/>. Santiago Wallace, one of our club's members, shares his experiences with the world. Some really nice photos. This site may help you get started in beekeeping.

Florida Beekeeping Club Websites

There are great sites out there with lots of great information. The Beekeepers of Putnam County have a terrific site. Surf to this location and enjoy...

<http://www.beekeepersofputnamcounty.org/>. By the way three officers of this club are also members of our club.

The Beekeepers Association Of Southwest Florida have a cool site. Check it out and watch the video on the life cycle of the bee (starting with the egg) and that of Varroa mite. Just go to <http://swfbees.com/>.

Check out the Coastal Beekeepers site at <http://coastalbeekeepers.com/index.html>. Officers of the Coastal Beekeepers are also officers of the Beekeepers of Putnam Count... who are also members of our club. Confused? Don't be because bee-

keepers are one big family.

Beekeepers of Volusia County would be well served to have a web site. Are there any webmasters out there to volunteer their services? Any one have contacts who would be willing to host our site for a good price? Free would be nice!

Investigate... Explore... Learn



"Hope is the only bee that makes honey without flowers."

Robert Green Ingersol

Beekeepers of Volusia County, Florida

Meeting Agenda

April 28, 2010

Call to order and welcome:

Business:

- Membership Drive / Registrations / \$15.00 Annual Fee

Presentations Discussions:

- Hive Beetle Control
- Swarm Control
- Requeening
- Raffle
 - Medium Queen Castle
 - Requeening Frame

Odds and Ends

1. Beekeeping Supplies coming to Full Moon Native Nursery
2. What's blooming?
3. What's happening in your bee yard?
4. Beekeeping Questions

Adjournment



BEEKEEPERS OF VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Minutes (not yet accepted)

March 24, 2010

6:30 p.m.

President Tom Bartlett called the meeting to order. After welcoming newcomers and visitors, a short sharing period was held from those members who attended Bee College.

Jerry Cruz, Volusia County Apiary Inspector, was the guest speaker. He spoke shortly on what his duties are and shared information about beekeeping as a business. He answered questions from members after his talk. One of the things he stated was that if we know we have a hive with American Foul Brood, then it would be in our best interest to destroy the hive ourselves. He stated that if the inspector does it, that it will go in our records with the State that we had AFB; if we get rid of the problem ourselves, no record would be entered with the State. He also stressed the importance of re-queening on a regular basis and getting our queens from reputable breeders.

Mickie Stewart, President of Putnam County Beekeepers and Ruben Josey, President of Coastal Beekeepers were in attendance and extended a warm welcome for our members to join them on April 18th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a Picnic at the Florida Agricultural Museum.

A short break was taken and members were invited to take part in our first raffle. A brood box was donated by Scott McMahan, a frame jig was donated by Tom Bartlett and a Nuc box was donated by Deb's Bees. All the items were raffled off and there were some happy winners.

Closing discussion was on what is happening in the bee yard. We were advised to look for swarming cells and remove them, or split the hive, or re-queen in order to prevent swarming. Checkerboarding was also discussed as a way to control swarming.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next meeting is April 28, 2010.

Club Officers

President—Tom Bartlett—bartteb@aol.com—386-756-2571

Vice President—Bill Blue—billblue0072003@yahoo.com—386-490-5966

Treasurer—Ron Kull—kullrp@yahoo.com—386-451-2978

Secretary—Rose Williams - rmbwill@hotmail.com - 407-323-3056

April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Master Gardener plant Sale
18 Coastal Beekeepers Picnic	19	20	21 Newsletter to be Published	22	23	24 Pioneer Village Jamboree
25 Pioneer Village Jamboree	26	27	28 Club Meeting	29	30	

May 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Newsletter to be Published	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Club Meeting	27	28	29
30	31					

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

**"... they're funny things, accidents. You never have them 'til
you're having them." ... Eeyore**

For Sale—Wanted

**Members want to buy or sell something?
Email Ed Williams your ad at
astrocycler@att.net.**

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

Meeting Information... 4th Wednesday of each month... 6:30 PM...
Volusia County Agricultural Center Auditorium,
3100 E. New York Ave., Deland