

**Beekeepers
of
Volusia County
Florida**

**Founded
February 9, 2010**



May 2010

**President's
Corner**

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Hello Folks;

Summer is here bringing hot days and warm nights. The Bee's are now working from sun up to sun down, they are building new comb and bringing in nectar and pollen and storing honey. During the evening and nights you may observe that many bees are outside the hive (not all inside as during the winter months), this is somewhat normal as they may be just trying to keep cool and not over heat the hive.

Continue your hive inspections once every 10 to 14 days, looking for queen cells, brood patterns, and hive beetle population. Remember to focus on the presence of uncapped larvae which help to confirm a queen right condition even if you did not see the queen.

The months of May and June continue to produce a strong nectar flow. Citrus, Gallberry and Palmetto are major nectar plants that continue blooming May and June so honey stores will continue to swell. Add honey supers as needed. The general rule is to add a new super once 8 of 10 frames has been filled. Do not add too many supers as this will attract hive beetles. It is important to provide lots of space for your bees to grow and store honey but we don't want to encourage the hive beetles.

Planning ahead is always a good idea in beekeeping. Now is the time to gather your honey extracting equipment and bottling supplies. On average a medium super of honey will produce 30 pounds of honey. Many beekeepers will extract honey in late June or early July. You may expect an average of two medium supers per hive or 60 pounds of honey. We will talk more in detail about honey extracting during the meeting.

Bee Friendly,

Tom Bartlett

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

Grandma's Bloomers?

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

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 wild-flowers

June

Mangroves (Red, White and Black)
 Firebush
 Coral Honeysuckle
 Nonnative Honey-suckles
 Gallberry
 Elderberry
 Crepe Myrtles
 Cabbage Palm
 Saw Palmetto
 Gopher Apple
 Southern Fleabane
 Clovers
 Yellow Squash
 Zucchini Squash
 Melons
 Beans
 Tomatoes
 Hollies
 Sweet Bay Magnolia
 Southern Magnolia
 Beauty Berry
 St. John's Wort
 Oak Leaf Hydrangea
 Wild Coffee
 Spanish Needles
 Joint Weed
 Numerous native wild-flowers

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

Uncle Ed's Points to Ponder!

- Why, to stop Microsoft Windows, do you have to click START?
- What disease did cured ham have?
- We all know the speed of light. What is the speed of dark?
- Is it OK to use an AM radio after noon?



Read Of The Month

ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture **Dr. H. Shimanuki, Kim Flottum, Ann Harman**

This 900 plus page book is not one most people sit down and read as a novel. This is a cyclopedia of beekeeping. If you have a question about beekeeping it is probably answered in this book. ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture was first printed in 1877 and is now in its 41st edition.

What do you want to know about? Beekeeping history, hardware, bee biology, key people in beekeeping it is probably in this book. Want to know about beekeeping organizations, bee social behavior, queen rearing, brood rearing, then get this book.

Articles are generally less than a page which makes researching answers relatively simple. Topics requiring longer write ups receive them. There are many pictures in the book which make scientific points as well as those of historical interest.

Do yourself a favor and get hold of a copy of this book and keep it handy.

Hive Management Tasks

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

June

- Remove and process honey... main flow stops
- Varroa populations begin to grow—monitor colonies closely. The economic threshold is 60+ mites/day on sticky screen or 17+ mites in an ether roll for colony of average strength. Treat if you exceed these numbers.

Thanks to Dr. Jamie Ellis of the UF HBREL for this information.

"I cannot live without books."

Thomas Jefferson

Small Hive Beetles

Aethena tumida... the small hive beetle (SHB) is a native of South Africa. Charleston, S.C. is where the pest was originally seen in a collected swarm but was not identified. This was in 1996. In June of 1998 this pest was identified in Florida.

In Africa the SHB is only a minor pest of the African bee *Apis Mellifera scutellata*. As we know, however, to European Honey Bees the SHB is a serious problem. The SHB can also run rampant in honey houses where there are no bees to control them.

Small hive beetles naturally feed on fermenting and souring plant materials. They may use rotting fruit as food sources. However, they, like Winnie the Pooh, love honey. Adult SHBs will feed on pollen, honey and brood.

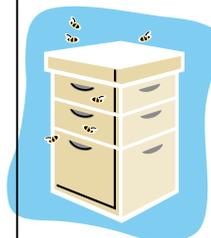
Female small hive beetles lay eggs in cracks and crevices which bees cannot access. They are also reported to slit in cappings and oviposit in the cell. The SHB larvae also eat honey, pollen, wax and brood. The larvae then burrow into the soil to pupate.

How are these pests controlled? There are numerous in-hive traps available that use mineral or vegetable oil to suffocate the beetles. Strong colonies can defend themselves... nothing better than a strong hive to fend off many pests and diseases. Check Mite + (coumaphos) plastic strips can be used in the hive. Gard Star can be used to drench the ground and kill the larvae.

Next Meeting

Wednesday
May 26, 2010
6:30 PM

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



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**Yummy Tummy
Honey**

Come on!

**Share Your
Recipes!**

Please

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

When late morning rolls around and you're feeling a bit out of sorts, don't worry; you're probably just a little eleven o'clockish."... Winnie the Pooh



Bee of the Month

Apis mellifera ligustica

This is one popular bee... the Italian. First imported to the United States during the 1800s it quickly pushed the German (*Apis mellifera mellifera*) aside. What made this possible? A relatively gentle disposition and productive honey production made it an immediate hit. They also winter well and are not insane with propolis.

Italian honey bees are lighter golds and browns and may be the image the general public has of honey bees. As pretty as they are these girls have a general susceptibility to diseases and pests.

Apis mellifera ligustica do have a rapid spring build up and may eat themselves out of house and home in late winter and early spring.

Next month... *Apis mellifera mellifera*

The Ballad of Christopher Stowell

Christopher Stowell is 13 years old and is a beekeeper. He lives in Skiatook, Oklahoma, and is a member of the Northeast Oklahoma Beekeepers Association and the Oklahoma State Beekeepers Association. (are you a member of our state org?)

Christopher wants to earn a beekeepers merit badge from the Boy Scouts. Unfortunately, the Boy Scouts discontinued the merit badge 15 years ago. One of the reasons given by the scouts was there were not counselors/mentors.

Well, Christopher will not take this sitting down. He has started a campaign that is now country wide. Check out the beekeeping forums and you will see threads about helping him. What has this 13 year old done? He is getting letters and petitions signed by as many beekeepers and beekeeping clubs as possible. In July he will present all the documents to the National Boy Scout Council in July.

At the last meeting many members signed form letters and Tom Bartlett has signed one as the club's president. Letters will be available at the May meeting for those who have not yet completed one and wish to do so. Then the package will be mailed to Christopher

By the way... this is not a scout project he is working on. This is a personal campaign and is financed by his family. Way to go Christopher!

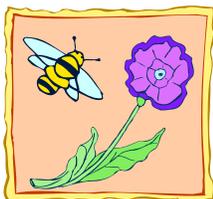
THE HONEY LOVER

I eat my peas with honey,

I've done it all my life,

It makes my peas taste funny,

But it keeps them on my knife.



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THE BEEKEEPER

There was a man who loved the bees,

He always was their friend,

He sat around upon their hives,

But they stung him in the end.



Pioneer Village Spring Frolic a Success for Volusia 4H "Bee-Attitudes"

By Bill Blue, BPOV Vice-President

On short notice, but with plenty of pluck, West Volusia 4H members, had a very successful weekend of April 24/25. Invited to participate in the Pioneer Villages spring event they set up a tent, sold honey, displayed projects that they had developed for the County fair, and rallied support for bees and beekeeping.

Sullivan Hessler and Isaac Denner, of the Bee-Attitudes 4H group, spurred sales and interest by mingling throughout the village selling honey sticks for 25 cents and directing people to our display area. The interest in honey bees and local honey that the crowd displayed frequently overwhelmed us. There was definitely room for greater participation by beekeepers from the area.

Stacey Hessler, who leads the Bee-Attitudes group, was helped also by fellow Beekeepers of Volusia County members Barry Colly and Bill Blue. Doug McGinnis of Tropical Blossom was helpful in both supplying us with goods, but for showing up in support Saturday with even more honey. Good thing too. In all, 250 honey sticks, 2 cases of honey, and 6 novelty bottles of honey were sold to raise funds for the group. It was a great success.

So successful, in fact, that Bee-Attitudes was invited to return for the fall event. The organizers of the Pioneer Village events also indicated an interest in having the Beekeepers of Volusia County participating. The key is to provide interesting and useful information and demonstrations for the people at the event.

A committee to organize this could be formed at our next meeting. That would give us plenty of time to plan for a successful event ourselves.

More about the activities of Bee-Attitudes will be reported to the club in the future.

Editor's note: Honey bees need good press. As a club we can and should promote a bee friendly attitude among the public. Many thanks and a well done go to Stacey, Sullivan, Barry and Bill for supporting the kids.

Events of Interest to Beekeepers

May 26, 2010... Beekeepers of Volusia County meeting

June 23, 2010... Beekeepers of Volusia County meeting

July 28, 2010... Beekeepers of Volusia County meeting

August 25, 2010... Beekeepers of Volusia County meeting

September 22, 2010... Beekeepers of Volusia County meeting

October 27, 2010... Beekeepers of Volusia County meeting

November Club Meeting... TBD

December 22, 2010... Beekeepers of Volusia County meeting

March 11 & 12, 2011... Bee College



**The pedigree of honey
Does not concern the bee
A clover, at anytime, to him
Is aristocracy**

I am not young enough to know everything. ... Oscar Wilde

Bee knowledgeable



Newsletters

Many equipment vendors have free newsletters. Companies like Dadant, Brushy Mountain and Mann Lake provide newsletters. Go to the various provider websites and look for free newsletter sign up. The newsletters are published at various intervals.

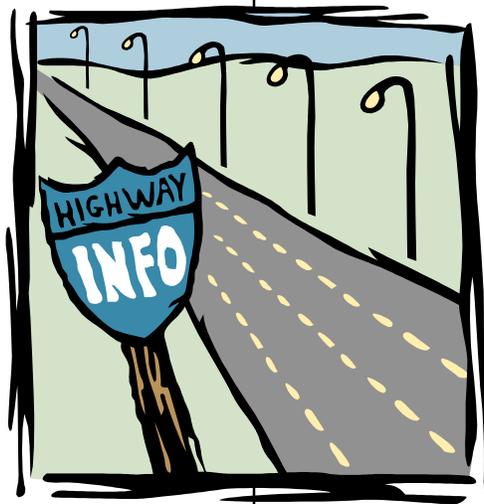
Catalogs

Equipment sellers provide free catalogs which can be requested on the vendors' websites. Especially for new beekeepers a lot can be learned by reviewing catalogs and learning what equipment is used for which purposes.

Florida Beekeeping Club Websites

Check out the web pages of other clubs. They have information, ideas and many have nice beekeeping photos.

Florida State Beekeepers Association is the organization that lobbies for beekeepers and honey processors in Florida. Dues are \$15 per year. The more members they have the more influential they become. Check out their website <http://www.floridabeekeepers.org/>. In addition to the information about the organization they have a calendar page that lists beekeeping events of interest across the United States and around the world.



The North East Florida Honeybee Association has a web page filled with information and links. Their web site can be found at <http://www.neflhba.com/>.

The Jacksonville Beekeeper Association is another club with a great website. The JBA website can be linked to at <http://www.jaxbees.com/>

Periodical Article Authors

Beekeeping periodicals such as *American Bee Journal* and *Bee Culture* usually provide contact information for authors of articles. Experience has shown that most of the writers are very responsive to questions. Emailing the authors questions is a great way to clarify information read.

Club Members

Don't forget that members of Beekeepers of Volusia County have a wealth of knowledge. Raise questions at club meetings and perhaps set up visits with others who have experience. Maybe they will allow you to observe work on hives or equipment building.

Investigate... Explore... Learn

"Seize the time, Meribor. Live now; make now always the most precious time. Now will never come again"-- Capt. Jean Luc Picard

Beekeepers of Volusia County, Florida

Meeting Agenda

_May 26, 2010

Call to order and welcome:

Business:

- Membership Drive / Registrations / \$15.00 Annual Fee
- Beekeeping Seminar at Full Moon Native Nursery, Saturday June 05

Presentations Discussions:

- Varroa Mite Control – Video Jamie Ellis
- Queen Marking – Best Management Practices
- Time to get ready for Honey Extraction
- Raffle
 - 8 Frame Deep Super W/ Screen Bottom and Feeder Top
 - Queen Muff, Tube & Marker
 - Frame Perch

Odds and Ends

1. Full Moon Native Nursery Selling Beekeeping Supplies
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)

May 5, 2010

(Postponed from April 28, 2010)

6:30 p.m.

President Tom Bartlett called the meeting to order. President Bartlett then gave us a Treasurer's Report on behalf of our Treasurer, Ron Kull. The current balance in the checking account for the club is \$685.33. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. A motion was then made and seconded to accept the minutes of the March 24, 2010 meeting.

The President then explained to the membership about our raffles that will be held at each meeting. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each and some of the products being raffled will be purchased by the President and the club will reimburse him for his cost. The club then gets the overage.

Tom Bartlett then announced that he is now a dealer for Brushy Mountain. He will be partnering with Kevin Bagwell at Full Moon Nursery to stock the items needed for beekeeping. Since the nearest dealer before this was in Jacksonville, this is a great need being filled for our local beekeepers.

The topics for this meeting were "Hive Beetle Control," "Swarm Control" and "Re-queening." An educational video of Dr. Jaime Ellis was shown on hive beetle control.

Ed Williams then spoke about getting support for the reinstatement of the Boy Scout Beekeeping merit badge. Ed made letters and petitions available for signing to be sent to a Boy Scout that is trying to get the Boy Scout Council to reinstate the beekeeping merit badge. A motion was then made and seconded for the Club members to be available to mentor Scouts who are interested in beekeeping.

A discussion was then held on where to put hives that are being donated to the Club. The County will not allow us to have them at the Fairgrounds. President Bartlett then told us that Kevin Bagwell of Full Moon Nursery will allow us to place them on his property in Port Orange and that he will volunteer to take care of those hives. Bill Blue then told us of a place off of Mercers Fernery Road that is available for placing hives on the west side of the County and that he would volunteer to take care of those hives. A motion was made and seconded to place the hives in both places.

A break was taken at 7:40 for the members to be able to purchase raffle tickets.

The meeting resumed at 8:00 p.m.

A discussion was held on swarming, swarm cells and supercedure cells, splitting hives and re-queening. The best possible way to know what is going on in your hives is to inspect your hives every 10 days.

The raffle was held.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Next meeting to be held May 26, 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

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Mon-Wed by appointment
Thur-Fri 10:00-5:00
Saturday 8:00-4:00

TERRY L. ELLIS, President

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Website: www.TLEconstruction.com

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

[Ancient Rome declined because it had a Senate; now what's going to happen to us with both a Senate and a House?... Will Rogers](#)

For Sale—Wanted

**Members want to buy or sell something?
Email Ed Williams your ad at
astrocyclor@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