

# Beekeepers of Volusia County Florida

Founded  
February 9, 2010



December 2010

## President's Corner

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Hello Folks;

A special thanks for all of you who volunteered to staff the booth at the fair. I hope you had as much fun as I did sharing our knowledge of beekeeping with all who stopped to see our booth. Our club and beekeeping received a lot of positive exposure, and we added a lot of prospective members to our newsletter distribution.

During December and January you should keep your hive inspections at a minimum, especially during cool temperatures. The ladies are trying to keep their hive at a constant 92 degrees to keep the brood alive. If you have screened bottom boards you may want to consider placing a sheet of plywood or Styrofoam under your screen to help insulate the brood chamber during days when freezing temperature are forecasted. Many hives are lost during the winter due to starvation. Long cold days force the workers to stay at home keeping the temperature at acceptable levels and depleting stored honey. I always leave a medium super of honey on the hives during winter to help insure a good storage of honey. Try lifting your hives to feel the weight, if they feel light, you should consider weekly feeding of 50/50 sugar solution and perhaps a tablespoon of Megabee (pollen substitute, per 5lb bottle).

If you are planning to re-queen or split your hives in the spring to minimize swarming, you may need to purchase additional nucs or additional supers don't forget to place your order early. Also, now is the time to place your order for bees and queens, they are always in short supply.

Don't forget, winter is a great time to clean your unused equipment, paint and clean queen excluders of propolis, during cold temperatures propolis pops right off. When spring arrives, beekeepers need to be ready, the ladies will not wait!

Bee Friendly,

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

## 106 South Front Street Philadelphia, PA.

Does this address mean anything to you? It should. On December 25, 1810, Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth was born at this address. Without L.L. Langstroth you and I might not have become beekeepers. After all L.L. Langstroth is known as the ‘Father of American Beekeeping’ and the ‘Father of Practical Beekeeping.’

Langstroth is responsible for many achievements in beekeeping but the one that changed it all were his observation of what is now known as **bee space**. It was his realization that a space of 1/4 to 3/8 inch gap between the top of a hive cover and the top bars would not be filled by the bees with comb or propolis.

The brilliance was in realizing

that the same spacing around and between combs would have the same result. So now we have practical movable frames.

So what’s the big deal? Well soon to follow, in less than 25 years, were comb foundation, extractors and the smoker. All these developments remain integral to most beekeeping today. Now we are able to inspect our



L.L. Langstroth

girls without damaging the hive. Image commercial beekeeping without a similar development.

In 1852 Langstroth patented his hive design. Due to many patent infringements, however, he never made any money from the patent. Some times life does not seem fair.

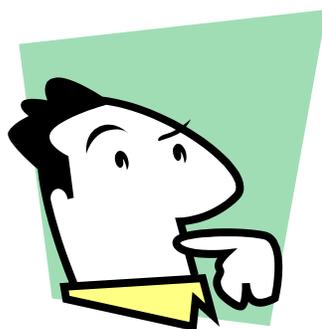
In 1853 he wrote *Langstroth on the Hive and the Honey Bee: A Beekeeper’s Manual*. Many editions of the book were printed over the years.

L.L. Langstroth was a Congregational minister and a tutor at Yale. He married and had three children.

Perhaps his childhood had some indicators of his fame and impact to come. As a child he was in trouble often for wearing out the knees of his pants while kneeling on the ground observing insects.

## Points to Ponder

- Why is the word abbreviation such a long word?
- Is the best way to save face to keep the lower part shut?
- If money doesn’t grow on trees why do banks have branches?
- Does fuzzy logic tickle?
- Why are you in a movie but on TV?
- Why doesn’t Tarzan have a beard?



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## Hive Management Tasks

### October—December

- Varroa peaks in Aug/Sept. Treat if you exceed the economic threshold. The economic threshold is 60+ mites/day on a sticky screen or 17+ mites in an ether roll for a colony of average strength
- If necessary, treat with Fumigillin for Nosema. Colonies may need as much as 4 gallons of medicated syrup to control Nosema cerana.
- Monitor and control small hive beetles
- Feed colonies if light on honey stores or nectar source.
- Treat for tracheal mites if necessary. Treatment option... mix vegetable oil and powdered sugar until doughy (not sticky to touch)... place a pancake sized patty on top bars of brood chamber.

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

# Bees the Only Answer?

Hobbyist beekeepers got started for many reasons. A common thread seems to be 'to help the bees'. Another common thread that comes up in a majority of cases is to increase pollination. Both are fine reasons.

If increasing/improving pollination of your garden and possibly others is a major reason you got into beekeeping here is another way you can help. Garden to support native pollinators. Honey bees are not the only pollinators and do not pollinate all plants and are not the most efficient pollinators out there for all crops. Selecting plants that support many different pollinators and restoring some of their habitat is a great way to expand the service your honey bees are providing.

Bees (there are many native species), butterflies, moths, beetles, hummingbirds... all these critters need a place to live and food. Solitary bees (mason, leafcutter and others) can be built a simple bee box by drilling holes in scraps of lumber or small logs. Beautify your yard and with little effort help native pollinators. To get started check out [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org) and get one of their planting guides for our area.



How about a butterfly garden? Butterflies are nice to have in any garden. Planting butterfly friendly plants beautifies your garden and provides food and habitat for them. Don't forget that the adult butterflies need nectar sources and caterpillars need plants to eat (known as host plants). Yes, to get butterflies it is necessary to tolerate the caterpillars. There is a wealth of information on the internet about butterfly gardens.

We need all the pollinators, not just the bees, to truly improve the state of the environment.

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# Apitherapy

Using bee and hive products for medicinal purposes is known as apitherapy. What products? Bee venom... honey... propolis... wax... pollen... royal jelly. Many people say these products make us healthier.



There is scientific evidence that supports many of the claims. Check it out on the internet and make up your own mind.



## Share Experiences

What's going on in your bee yard? How are the girls doing? Any problems with SHB or Varroa? Working on new equipment like swarm traps?

There must be a ton of activities being done by our members each month. Let's get a column started that shares the information.

Any pictures you would like to share in the newsletter?

Share your experiences. Someone else may be wondering about the topic. New beekeepers will see what types of events and activities occur at different times of the year.

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

Teddy Roosevelt

# Photo Of The Month



**Bee on Bottle Brush  
Photo By Ed Lutman**

## Events of Interest to Beekeepers

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

**January 26, 2011...** Beekeepers of Volusia County meeting

**February 23, 2011...** Beekeepers of Volusia County meeting

### **March 11 & 12, 2011... Bee College**

Make your plans to attend bee college. Don't miss a chance to attend... learning... friendship. There are tracks for beginners. Learn about... diseases, nutrition, grafting, installing packages, what bees are right for you... you name it and there is



## Need Help? Call A Mentor!

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

**Marlin Athern :** 386-428-0838  
mjathear@volusia.k12.fl.us

**If you are an experienced beekeeper please volunteer to help your club mates.**

## Survey Says!!!!

Question One... What beekeeping goodies would you like as a gift?

- Solar wax melter
- Light weight nylon bee jacket
- Top with a hole in it
- Honey

Question Two... What are you or will you be doing soon to get the girls and you as a beekeeper ready for spring?

- Build more hardware
- Protect drawn wax
- Keep an eye on the girls
- Checking, repairing and painting the boxes, hive covers and inner covers.
- Sorting through the drawn frames in storage looking for beat up and old equipment.
- Ordering and assembling replacement hive parts.
- Deciding on if I want to requeen, split hives and set up nucs.
- Plan a general hive management goal for the year including a time line and equipment needs.
- Review the bee diary from the past years.
- Putting together more boxes for splits

Question Three.... If you could be a bee would you rather be a worker, queen or drone?

- All respondents wanted to be a drone.

## Don't Stop Here!

**The technical and instructional information in this newsletter is introductory in nature. To become fully knowledgeable on a subject it is necessary that further study be undertaken. Knowledge is power!**

"Everyone has a photographic memory. Some just don't have film."... Stephen Wright

# Beekeepers of Volusia County, Florida

## Meeting Agenda

December 22, 2010

Call to order and welcome:

Business:

- Membership Drive / Registrations / \$15.00 Annual Fee
- Treasure's Report
- Review and Acceptance of October Minutes

Presentations Discussions:

- Volusia County Fair Follow-up
- Beekeeping during Winter
- Feature Presentation to be selected
  1. Swarm Box Video
  2. Requeening & Colony Division
  3. Africanized Bees PowerPoint
  4. Tracking Wild Bee's

Odds and Ends

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

Adjournment

# Beekeepers Of Volusia County In Pictures



**Next generation learns the craft.**

Photo by Ed Williams



**Where did all these darn bees come from?**

Photo by Rose Williams



**More of those pesky bees. Must be an infestation!**

Photo by Donald Walker

**Why aren't your pictures  
here?**

# Beekeepers of Volusia County

## Next Meeting

**Wednesday  
December 22, 2010  
6:30 PM**

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

**Check Out Our Website**

**[www.beekeepersofvolusiacountyfl.com](http://www.beekeepersofvolusiacountyfl.com)**

## 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

## Local Beekeeping Supplies

1. **Bee Friendly LLC** – Volusia County Brushy Mountain Dealer – Tom Bartlett  
Tom Bartlett – 386-756-2571
2. **Debs Beekeeping Supplies** – Hastings Fl. & Jacksonville Fl.  
1-904-886-9389 & 1-877-703-DEBS
3. **Full Moon Native Nursery** selling beekeeping supplies and bee friendly plants...  
1737 Fern Park Dr. Port Orange, Fl. – 386-212-9923
4. **Winters Nursery** selling beekeeping supplies and bee friendly plants –  
...147 Tomoka Ave. Ormond Beach, Fl. 32174 – 386-235-8730

## Honey Bee Swarm Capture

Bee Friendly LLC – Tom Bartlett – 386-756-2571

S&S Apiaries—Jesse Azam - 386-478-9722

Alysian Apiaries - Scott MacMahon - 407-417-1896



**“All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent.”** Thomas Jefferson

# BEEKEEPERS OF VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Minutes (not yet accepted)

There was no meeting in November.



## Bee-Attitudes Report By Bill Blue



The Bee-Attitudes 4H group of Deland had a very busy and productive November. We attended the Pioneer Village fall festival and did well. Preparing was hectic and fun. Even though it was our second attendance, the need for improving our presentations, displays, and follow up were clear. But beekeepers always warmly received there by staff and attendees. We had competition but at about \$5 to \$6 per pound we sold briskly without undercutting. Plus each honey vendor had its own theme and product lines that were of a boutique nature. For local raw honey we were a deal.

One little learning experience came in naming local varietal honey. For beekeepers, Brazilian Pepper is a good honey flow and welcome. To forestry, parks, and environmentalist workers, not so good. No major problems occurred, but negative comments were made. We began calling the honey fall wildflower honey. In additional research I found that Brazilian Pepper is also called, in folk and regional lexicon, Florida Holly. Who knew.

We also participated in a Whole Foods Symposium at Stetson University. We got a lot of feedback on the Beekeepers of Volusia County's participation in the Volusia County Fair. We sold out the last of our honey early, which by the way was generously fronted to us by Jesse of S&S Apiaries. Several of us stayed and mingled. Thanks to Beekeepers of Volusia County fair organizers and volunteers a great number of people were already 'abuzz' with getting beehives for themselves or just placed on their property. I foresee this club becoming an institution in Volusia County for generations.

The 4H'ers are greatly empowered by their success are looking to expanding their colony count and having several locations of beeyards. Two organic producers want the 4H to help manage hives that they are buying. It just keeps getting better. And the kids love it.

“I think the true gardener is a lover of his flowers, not a critic of them. I think the true gardener is a reverent servant of Nature, not her truculent, wife beating master. I think the true gardener, the older he grows, Should more and more develop a humble, grateful and uncertain spirit.”

Reginald Farrer, *In a Yorkshire Garden*, 1909

# Businesses of Members

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Thur-Fri 10:00-5:00  
Saturday 8:00-4:00

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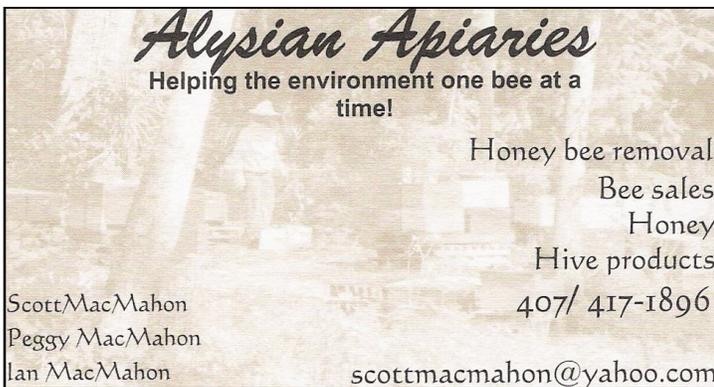
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"The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax." Albert Einstein

# 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**