

Beekeepers of Volusia County Florida

Founded
February 9, 2010



February 2011

President's Corner

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Hello Folks;

Spring is right around the corner, many plants are beginning to bloom and the ladies are out bringing in pollen. Spring is a good time to place pollen traps on your strong hives to capture a little for yourself and a few friends. Don't forget to alternate days, I usually use two days on and three days off to share the pollen with the bees.

During February and March you should continue to keep your hive inspections at a minimum, especially during cool temperatures. Continue to monitor for fecal staining on the outside of your hive and treat with Fumagilin B if necessary. Also don't forget to continue feeding your weak or light hives to help them get to the spring honey flow.

The warm days ahead will bring an increased chance of swarming as discussed during our last meeting. You should consider having a few swarm traps out to recapture your bees.

Now is a good time to add honey supers to your hives. This will give the bees space to grow, which will help minimize swarming. Also, it's a good idea to have your honey supers on a little early to catch that early nectar flow.

If you are planning to start beekeeping in the spring, requeen or increase the number of hives in your apiary, you should have already placed your order with suppliers. Beekeeping Equipment and Honey Bees will be in short supply. Many suppliers advertise in the Bee Culture and American Bee Journal Magazines. Also we have several local suppliers who attend our monthly meeting and advertise in our newsletter. If you have any questions regarding equipment to order or other suppliers feel free to give me a call or plan to attend our monthly meetings and network with other local beekeepers.

Bee Friendly,

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

The information
that glues us
together

What Happened????

Have I seen this before? What did I do last time this happened? Did this work last year? What was the nectar flow like last year and the year before in April?

The only way to remember all the details of beekeeping year to year, especially with many hives, is to keep good notes. This can be a chore for some and a fun aspect of beekeeping for others. Now there is a tool that can help and even provide more information than written notes.

Hive Tracks, <https://www.hivetracks.com/Default.aspx>, is a **free** tool to help beekeepers track what is going on in hives and bee yards. Go to the site and see if this is something for you. You can also go to the Brushy Mountain website and view a recording of their recent webinar about **Hive Tracks** (<http://www.brushymountainbeefarm.com/Resources/Videos.asp>).

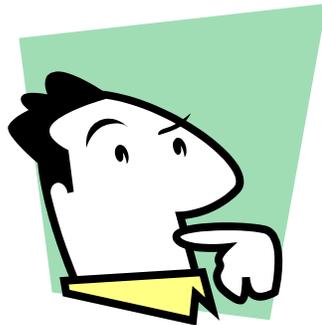
In addition to the expected information such as conditions of the hive, medications applied and honey pulled, the program has many advanced features. Some of them are...

- When logging an inspection, the local weather information from the weather channel is automatically added.
- During set up of a bee yard the latitude and longitude of the zip code are automatically added. Through the use of a link to Google Maps it is possible to set the exact location. All of your bee yards are shown on the map.
- The map locations of your bee yards show concentric rings 1, 2 and 3 miles from the yard so it is possible to see what areas are within normal range of the bees. It is also possible to see if forage areas of your bee yards overlap or if there are good 'open spots' to seek a location for a yard.
- It is also possible, as an option, to make your map locations public to the other **Hive Tracks** members. No personal information is released nor details of your hive notes. This feature allows members to see where other hives are located and look for saturated or open locations.

If you are interested, go the Brushy Mountain site mentioned earlier in this article and listen to what the designers are trying to achieve and what new features are in store for **Hive Tracks**.

Points to Ponder

- In a movie theater, which arm rest is yours?
- How far east can you go before you are heading west?
- If a kid refuses to take nap during rest break, are they guilty of avoiding arrest?
- What should you do if you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?
- Why do **caregiver** and **caretaker** mean the same thing?



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No Honey For Infants!!

Honey should never be fed to infants under one year of age. Honey contains spores of *Clostridium botulinum* which can cause infant botulism. The digestive systems of infants are immature and the spores can germinate which results in toxins being produced. Infant botulism mostly in infants under 6 months of age. So, to be on the safe side the medical recommendation is not to feed honey to infants under one year of age.

The C.b. spores are common in soil, on vegetables and dust. It is not surprising, therefore that the spores are found in honey. It is important to note that honey does not contain botulism toxin just the spores. Honey is good stuff just not for little tykes.

Ed Lutman
Presents

MEAD!

Are you ready?

Ed Lutman will be giving a presentation on the art and science of mead making at the February meeting. Make sure you come prepared... large glass, hangover remedy and designated driver.

What is mead? Mead is honey wine and is generally considered the first alcoholic drink produced by humans. And we think the ancestors were a bunch of boring boobs.

Mead is made in various varieties... dry, sweet or sparkling... flavored with spices or with fruits. Let's leave the rest of the story to Ed...



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Inside or Outside?

Hormones are glandular chemicals secreted inside the body that direct cells to perform specific tasks. Pheromones are glandular chemicals secreted to the **outside** of the body. Pheromones are used by animals to communicate and it was not until the 1950s that this chemical form of communication was recognized by scientists.

Many pheromones are used by our honey bees in ways that are near inconceivable. Alarm pheromones get the girls organized to protect and defend. Queen essence is what keeps the hive from going bonkers due to the lack of queen. Pheromones are what allow the hive to know all and tell all.

Amazing, isn't it?



Bee College
And

Master Beekeeper Program Training & Testing

Master Beekeeper Program training and testing will take place on Thursday March 10, 2011. Bee College will take place March 11—12, 2011. This is definitely a key event of the year. There are classes for all levels of beekeepers. There is one complete track designed for beginners. Check out the information and get registration forms at...

[Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory](#)

"The breeze, the trees, the honey bees -
All volunteers!" ~Juliet Carinreap

Events of Interest to Beekeepers

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

February 26-27, 2011... Southeastern Organic Beekeeping Conference... Palm Beach County...
<http://seobc.beekeeperspbcc.com>

March 10, 2011... Master Beekeeper Program Training and Testing at Marineland

March 11 & 12, 2011... Bee College at Marineland

March 23, 2011... Beekeepers of Volusia County meeting

April 27, 2011... Beekeepers of Volusia County meeting

November 3-13, 2011... Volusia County Fair and Youth Show

For the Florida State Beekeepers Association
Global Calendar surf to
www.floridabeekeepers.org



A Peach Of A Day

A couple of weeks ago our peach trees decided to come out in massive bloom. For some reason the cold does not stop them from blooming in late January to early February. This year the number of blooms was better than ever before.

It seems that my girls find peach blossoms irresistible. Before we knew it the trees were filled with bees from early morning to late afternoon for days. It is great to see bees all over the plants. One of the fantastic benefits of being a beekeeper... having bees in one's yard. Many gardeners are saying they rarely see bees any more. Lucky us!

My peach trees are short and one is next to a split rail fence. The fence makes a great leaning post with a front row seat of the blossoms. Standing there, inches from the blooms, it was possible to view the girls 'up close and personal' as they went about their business. Careful attention leads to seeing a bee extending her proboscis into the heart of the blossom and drawing in nectar. Another bee can be seen loading up her corbicula (pollen basket) with pollen. The intricacies of the process become apparent with but a little patience.

After about an hour of watching the back begins to weaken and it's time to take a break. What a day! Isn't it great to have bees!

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.

"Before beginning a Hunt, it is wise to ask someone what you are looking for before you begin looking for it..." Winnie The Pooh

Florida Management Beekeeper Calendar – Central Florida

Used with permission of University of Florida Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory

Month	Management Calendar	Blooming Plants
January	1- Feed colonies if light (colonies can starve!) 2- Nosema can be a significant colony problem this time of year. You can treat colonies for Nosema disease using Fumigillin. Colonies may need as much as 4 gallons of medicated syrup to control <i>Nosema ceranae</i> . 3- Repair/paint old equipment	Sand Pine ^F , Maple ^F , Willow ^{FM} F ^F continues to bloom in February FM ^{FM} continues to bloom in February and March
February	1- Feed colonies if light (colonies can starve!) 2- Can treat colonies for Nosema disease using Fumigillin. 3- Can treat with Terramycin or Tylan for AFB.	Plum ^M , Cherry ^M , Oak ^M , Walther Viburnum ^M , Sweet Clover ^M , Blueberry ^M , Haw ^M , Fetterbush ^M M ^M continues to bloom in March
March Note: Citrus blooms in March. Make sure your colonies are ready. Talk with your growers about their pesticide habits.	1- Attend UF Bee College in Marineland!!! 2- Colony Populations begin to grow! Add supers and/or control swarming as necessary. 3- Can treat with Terramycin or Tylan <i>dust</i> for AFB/EFB. 4- Make nucs/splits.	Orange, Spanish Needle
April	1- Disease and queen problems should be remedied. 2- Make splits/nucs – new queens available 3- Control swarming 4- Add supers, the nectar flow began in late March	Orange, Sweet clover, Wild Blueberry, Haw, Fetterbush ^M , Spanish Needle ^{MJ} , Galberry ^M , Dog Hobble ^{MJ} , Palmetto ^{MJ} , Mexican Clover ^{MJ} , Butter Mint ^{MJ} M ^M continues to bloom in May J ^J continues to bloom in June MJ ^{MJ} continues to bloom in May and June
May	1- Continue to inspect for colony maladies but don't treat for diseases while producing honey 2- Continue swarm control 3- Super as necessary	Palm ^J , Gopher Apple ^J , Joint Weed ^J , Sandhill Prairie Clover ^J , Spiderwort/Dayflower ^J J ^J continues to bloom in June



Florida Management Beekeeper Calendar – Central Florida

Used with permission of University of Florida Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory

Month	Management Calendar	Blooming Plants
June	<p>1- Super as necessary for late flowers</p> <p>2- Varroa populations begin to grow – monitor colonies closely. The economic threshold is 60+ mites/day on a sticky screen or 17+ mites in an ether roll. Treat if you exceed these numbers.</p>	Mangrove, Red Bay, Cabbage Palm
July	<p>1- Remove and process honey – main flow stops</p> <p>2- Varroa populations begin to grow – monitor colonies closely. The economic threshold is 60+ mite/day on a sticky screen or 17+ mites in an ether roll for a colony of average strength. Treat if you exceed these numbers. Option include: Apigard, ApilifeVAR, Mite Away II.</p>	<p>Spanish Needle^{AS}, Palmetto, Mexican Clover^{AS}, Buttermint, Palm, Gopher Apple, Joint Weed^A, Redbay^{AS}, Sandhill Prairie Clover^A, Partridge Pea^A, Mangrove^A, Primrose Willow^{AS}, Spiderwort/Dayflower^{AS}</p> <p>^Acontinues to bloom in August ^{AS}continues to bloom in September</p>
August	<p>1- Monitor colonies for varroa (see July)!</p> <p>2- Treat with Terramycin <i>dust</i> for AFB/EFB</p> <p>3- Feed colonies if light</p> <p>4-Monitor for and control small hive beetles</p> <p>5- It's hot! Ensure adequate colony ventilation</p>	<p>Spotted Mint^S, Goldenrod^S, Vine Aster^S, Sumac^S</p> <p>^Scontinues to bloom in September</p>
September	<p>1- Monitor colonies for varroa (see July)!</p> <p>2- Super colonies if strong B. Pepper flow</p> <p>3- Consider treating colonies for Nosema disease using Fumidil-B. Colonies may need as much as 4 gallons of medicated syrup to control <i>Nosema cerana</i>.</p> <p>5- If no nectar flow, feed colonies if light</p>	<p>Smart Weed, Brazilian Pepper, Bush Aster</p> <p>Note: Brazilian Pepper blooms from September through October and is a significant fall source of nectar for bees.</p>
October – December	<p>1- Varroa populations peaked in Aug/Sept. The economic threshold is 60+ mites/day on a sticky board or 17+ mites in an ether roll for a colony of average strength. Treat if you exceed these numbers. Options include: Apiguard, ApilifeVAR, Mite Away II</p> <p>2- Can treat colonies for Nosema disease using Fumigillin. Colonies may need as much as 4 gallons of medicated syrup to control <i>Nosema cerana</i>.</p> <p>3-Monitor for and control small hive beetles (options include Checkmite+, GuardStar, Hood traps and West Beetle traps)</p> <p>4- Feed colonies if light (colonies can starve!)</p> <p>5-Can treat for tracheal mites (mix vegetable oil and powdered sugar until doughy (not sticky to touch): place a pancake-sized patty on top bars of brood chamber.</p>	<p>Oct: Spanish Needle, Mexican Clover^N, Primrose Willow^N, Spotted Mint^N, Goldenrod^M, Vine Aster^N, Smart Weed^N, Bush AsterND</p> <p>^Ncontinues to bloom in November</p> <p>^Dcontinues to bloom in December</p> <p>Nov: Nothing new blooms</p> <p>Dec: Nothing new blooms</p>



Beekeepers of Volusia County, Florida

Meeting Agenda

February 23, 2011

Call to order and welcome:

Business:

- Membership Drive / Registrations / \$15.00 Renewals
- Treasurer's Report
- Review and Acceptance of January Minutes

Presentations Discussions:

- Club Officer Elections –
- Making Mead – Ed Lutman
- Pollen Catchers
- Africanized Bees

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

Next Meeting

Wednesday
February 23, 2011
6:30 PM

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

Check Out Our Website

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



“ When someone shares something of value with you and you benefit from it, you have a moral obligation to share it with others.” ... Chinese Proverb

BEEKEEPERS OF VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Minutes (not yet accepted)

6:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order by President, Tom Bartlett. .

Ron Kull gave the Treasurer's report.. Balance of Club account is \$497.05. Motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report.

Bill Blue spoke briefly on the BeeAttitudes, the 4-H Club that he mentors.

Everyone was asked to introduce themselves as there were a number of new members in attendance.

Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes of the December meeting.

Winter beekeeping was first topic of discussion. Tom Bartlett talked about how we should inspect the hives frequently in the summer, but in winter, the hives are best left alone to allow the bees to maintain the temperature of the hive. The President also spoke about this is now the time to treat for varroa mites.

7:20 p.m. A break was taken to allow members to purchase raffle tickets.

7:40 Meeting was reconvened.

Swarm management was the next topic discussed. The suggestions that Tom Bartlett made were to add supers to increase space and split hives. In spite of those measures, it was noted that the bees may still swarm.

8:05 p.m Meeting adjourned.

I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live by the light that I have. I must stand with anybody that stands right, and stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong.

Abraham Lincoln

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Saturday 8:00-4:00

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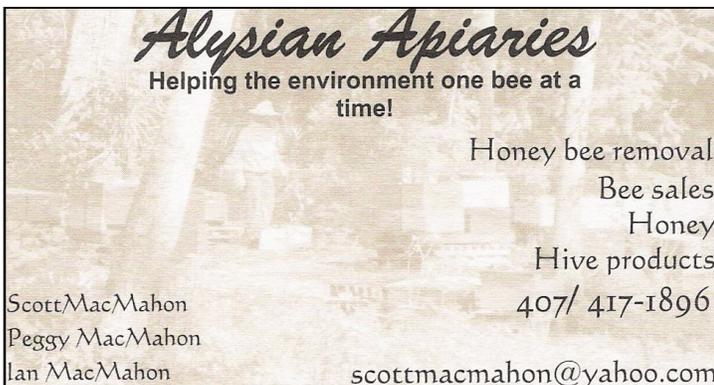
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"Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment."... Buddha

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**