



www.volusiabeekeepers.org

Founded February 9, 2010

Beekeepers of Volusia County Florida

Newsletter, September 2015

Club Notes

The Volusia County Fair & Youth Show is quickly approaching, please consider volunteering to help man the Club booth.

Also you may be interested in submitting honey or other products for judging

Events of Interest to Beekeepers

Volusia County Beekeepers Meeting
September 23, 2015, Fourth Wednesday
6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
Volusia County Fairgrounds

Volusia County Beekeepers Meeting
October 21, 2015, Fourth Wednesday
6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
Volusia County Fairgrounds

Volusia County Fair & Youth Show
November 5 - 15, 2015
Club has booth maned by member volunteers

Need Help? Call a Mentor!

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Beekeepers of Volusia County, Florida

Meeting Agenda September 23, 2015

Call to order and welcome
Mike Hays

Welcome new members

Approve August 26, 2015 Meeting Minutes
no minutes available

Treasurer's Report—Ron Kull

Discussion **It's All About Honey**

Old Business:

1. Bee club inventory
2. Foot locker storage
3. Ag Center Club Hives

New Business:

Refreshments & Social Interaction

Open Forum/Beekeeping Questions

Adjourn

Did You Know?

Drumming

If one beats rhythmically on the side of a honey bee hive, gum, box hive, or natural nest, the bees will respond by moving upward. The queen and the drones will follow the workers. If a covered, empty super or hive body is placed above an opened hive, the bees will march into it in an orderly fashion in a matter of several minutes. This process, called **drumming**, is one method commonly used to force bees out of a fixed comb hive. It is important to smoke the bees moderately before starting the beating process, but once the bees start to move further smoking is not necessary. An uncoordinated beating will arouse the guard bees and cause them to attack but a rhythmic one does not. One may drum with bare hands, a stick, or other instrument; a rubber mallet works well.

The origin of drumming is unknown, but the method was widely used in Europe to drive bees out of straw skeps and other contrivances used as hives several hundred years ago. It is curious that bees will abandon brood when drummed, something they are not prove to do under ordinary circumstances.

Some producers of package bees place a queen excluder over a colony and drum the bees up into an empty super. The bees are shaken from the super into a package. The excluder prevents the queen and drones from moving upward and into the empty box. If the drumming is done in the middle of the day, the older bees are out foraging and the package is made up of young bees.

It is not known why bees respond as they do to drumming. Honey bees can detect substrate-borne vibrations, and certain frequencies will cause them to freeze or stand motionless on a comb. The sensory organs involved are apparently located on the feet. How far bees will move when drummed has never been tested.

Source: ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture, forty first edition, page 219
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