



www.volusiabeekeepers.org

Founded February 9, 2010

# Beekeepers of Volusia County Florida

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Newsletter, October 2015

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## Hive Treatments October—December

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, Apilife VAR, Mite Away II
2. Can treat colonies for Nosema disease using Fumigillin. Colonies may need as much as 4 gallons of medicated syrup to control *Nosema ceranae*
3. Monitor for and control small hive beetles (options include Checkmite+, GuardStar, Hood traps and West Beetle traps)
4. Feed colonies if light (colonies can starve!)
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.

## Need Help? Call a Mentor!

**Marlin Athearn** 386.428.0838  
mjathear@volusia.k12.fl.us  
New Smyrna Beach

**Don Kent** 386.672.0995  
doggonekent@gmail.com  
Ormond Beach

**Mike Hays** 386.957.4795  
haysmj2527@gmail.com

## Events of Interest to Beekeepers

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

Florida State Beekeepers 95th Annual Meeting  
November 20th, 12:00pm —22nd, 5:00pm, 2015  
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

Volusia County Beekeepers Meeting  
November 25, 2015, Fourth Wednesday  
6:30 pm to 8:00 pm  
Volusia County Fairgrounds

## Club Officers

**Mike Hays**, President  
386.957.4795  
haysmj2527@gmail.com

**Marlin Athearn**, Vice President  
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**Ron Kull**, Treasurer  
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**Donna Balo**, Secretary  
386.738.1954  
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# Beekeepers of Volusia County, Florida

## Meeting Agenda October 21, 2015

Call to order and welcome  
Mike Hays

Welcome new members

Approve September 23, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Treasurer's Report—Ron Kull

Presidents Discussion

Old Business:

New Business:

Refreshments & Social Interaction

Open Forum/Beekeeping Questions

Adjourn

# **Beekeepers of Volusia County Club Meeting**

## **Minutes of 9/23/2015**

Not Available

## Did You Know?

### Anatomy and Morphology of the Honey Bee

A honey bee has three body parts and three pair of legs, typical for an insect. However, the honey bee body is modified both internally and externally, reflecting its special relationship to flowers and the fact that bees live exclusively on pollen, honey and water.

The bodies of all bees, not just the honey bees but the solitary and subsocial bees as well, are covered plumose (branched) hairs in which pollen is easily trapped and thus carried from one plant to another. The crop (honey stomach) of the worker honey bee is modified for carrying nectar or water and the legs are made to carry pollen or propolis. The glandular systems of workers, and to a lesser extent those of queens, are geared to the special needs of the colony. The reproductive systems of drones, queens and workers are very different from each other. Also, drones have far more elaborate and well-developed eyes and antennae than the two female castes. The workers have rudimentary ovaries and ovarioles and are not large enough to mate; however, they can lay eggs under special circumstances. The queen may properly be called an egg-laying machine and her abdomen is crammed with the associated organs that enable her to lay her own weight in eggs in a day.

On the head of the honey bee are the proboscis, with the other mouth parts, the antennae and the eyes. Within the head are special glands that produce food for the larvae and the queen, produce the secretions needed to make honey from nectar, and secrete pheromones used in communications. As in most insects the thorax is filled with muscles that drive the legs and the wings. Externally, the wax glands are found on the underside of the abdomen and the sting and its associated glands are contained within the tip of the abdomen in the females.

In thinking about honey bee anatomy and morphology it is well to remember how insects are different from mammals and other animals with which we are more familiar. Insects do not have an internal skeleton as we do but rather an exoskeleton. The muscles in an insect's body attach to the inside of the exoskeleton rather than to bones as in our own body. The oxygen delivery system is very different. Bees have no lungs and oxygen is not carried to the cells in the blood. Rather the oxygen is delivered by tubes, called tracheae, which open to the outside of the body and that branch throughout the body and thus carry oxygen to every cell. It is not a very efficient system; it is not a system that would lend itself to use by a larger animal.

Source: ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture, forty first edition, page 12  
Published by The A.I. Root Company