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Beekeepers of Volusia County Florida

Newsletter, November 2015

A Day in the Bee Yard

A Day in the Bee Yard will be held December 5, 2015 beginning at 10:00 am. until ...

The event will be held at Marlin Ahearn's property
684 Corbin Park Rd.,
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168
(386) 690-0599 mobile
(386) 428-0838 home

A discussion of all things beekeeping as well as demonstrations of hives including a top bar hive.

PLEASE NOTE:

Lunch will be available for purchase \$5.00
Menu is chicken salad on a crescent roll and
mac & cheese. Bring your own drinks.

Editor's note: I can personally attest to the quality of last year's lunch and would recommend it again this year

PLEASE RSVP IF YOU ARE GOING TO PURCHASE LUNCH, PHONE # ABOVE

PLEASE BRING YOUR CHAIR.

Events of Interest to Beekeepers

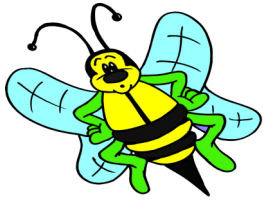
A Day in the Bee Yard
December 5, 2015, 10:00 am until
Marlin Ahearn's (see article)

Volusia County Beekeepers Meeting
December 2015, Fourth Wednesday
Being replaced by 'A Day in the Bee Yard'

Volusia County Beekeepers Meeting
January 27, 2016, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
Fourth Wednesday of the month
Volusia County Fairgrounds

A Call for Volunteers

The end of the year is quickly approaching and the club is in need of volunteers for officers. If you are interested in getting more involved in your club, please see one of the officers.



Did You Know?

Annual Cycle of Honey Bee Colonies

Honey bees originated in the tropics, but *Apis mellifera* now inhabits a wide range of environments up to 60 degrees north latitude. One of the most striking adaptations to survival in colder climates is the intensive thermoregulation of whole colonies. Honey bees alone among temperate-climate insects confront the cold by producing heat to maintain warmth throughout the winter, rather than hibernating in a dormant state, like the vast majority of insects, or migrating to warmer regions as few insects do. This winter thermoregulation, in turn, is supported by the timing of events throughout the bee's entire annual cycle, since winter survival depends heavily on the honey stores and bee populations established during the preceding warm season.

A honey bee colony is founded as a swarm in the springtime, gathers a large mass of food in the relatively short summer, consumes this food steadily throughout the cold season, finally reproducing itself early in the foraging season. Bees accomplish winter heat production by consuming honey and vibrating their wing muscles (much like our shivering). This consumes a large quantity of honey, about 50 pounds (23kg) each winter for a small natural colony. Large colonies kept by beekeepers use more than this, about 60 to 70 pounds (27 to 32 kg).

The collection of nectar is extremely variable. In a study in Connecticut, in only 16 weeks of the year did a colony show a net increase in honey stores, and 50 percent of the total honey collected was harvested in just the three best weeks of the year. Because of this pattern it is essential; both to the survival of bees living on their own, and to the honey production of a beekeeper's colonies, that colonies achieve a high population by the time honey stores can be gathered. For a newly-established swarm of bees, the earlier the swarm leaves the nest, the more time it will have to build up its population and gather nectar, and the more opportunity it will have to gather the food from the few rich honey flows in its environment.

The annual cycle of brood rearing reflects the value of early swarming. Brood rearing begins in mid-winter (end of December to January in temperate climates), accelerates in late winter and early spring, reaches a peak soon after the first forage becomes available, reduces later in the summer, and ceases entirely in autumn. The striking thing about this pattern is that it is so different from the pattern of when forage is available. Winter brood rearing requires a colony to maintain a warmer cluster, and thus to use more honey than it would with no brood rearing. The importance of winter brood rearing is that it allows the colony to reach a population large enough to cast a swarm early in the season, increasing the chance of the survival of the swarms produced.

Source: ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture, forty first edition, page 42-43
Published by The A.I. Root Company

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 Fu-migillin. 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!

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