



www.volusiabeekeepers.org

Founded February 9, 2010

Beekeepers of Volusia County Florida

Newsletter, March 2016

Management Calendar

March 2016

1. Colony population begins to grow! Add supers and/or control swarming as necessary.
2. Can treat with Terramycin or Tylan dust for American foulbrood/European foulbrood prevention
3. Make nucs/splits

Blooming Plants

Plum, Cherry, Oak, Walter Viburnum, Sweet Clover, Blueberry, How, Fetterbush, Orange, Spanish Needle

April 2016

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

Blooming Plants

Orange, Sweet Clover, Wild Blueberry, Haw, Fetterbush, Spanish Needle, Galberry, Dog Hobble, Palmetto, Mexican Clover, Butter Mint

Club Officers

Tim Blodgett, President
407.314.9667
timblodgett@netzero.net

Larry Hirt, Vice President
407.416.2639
LVH1bigman@yahoo.com

Ron Kull, Treasurer
386.451.2978
kullrp@yahoo.com

Donna Balo, Secretary
386.738.1954
balo_d@hotmail.com

Events of Interest to Beekeepers

Volusia County Beekeepers Meeting
March 23, 2016, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
Fourth Wednesday of the month
Volusia County Fairgrounds

Daytona Beach Spring Home Show
April 1—3, 2016
Daytona Beach Ocean Center
101 N. Atlantic Ave
Daytona Beach, FL 32118

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

**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

Master Beekeepers: Tom Bartlett & Marlin Athearn

A Message from the President

From the President:

Hello. If your bee yard is not ready you're late. We have begun 85 degree days which triggers all sub-tropical flora to bloom which means Honey Flow. I've seen massive fields of wild flowers by the highways and infrequently mowed areas. A little more rain would be helpful.

April is the beginning of the Spring nectar flow. Citrus, Galberry and Palmetto are major nectar plants which start blooming in April so honey stores will begin to swell. Make sure that your honey supers are built/cleaned or ready to go. Bees can fill a new medium super with honey in one week during the nectar flow! The general rule is to add a new super once 8 of 10 frames has been filled. It is important to provide lots of space for your bees to grow and store honey.

Efforts you've initiated to control swarming should already be in force including: splits, rotational stacking of brood boxes or clipping queen wings. 2nd year hives are highly susceptible to swarming. It is recommended you check your hives every 10-14 days. If you have Queen cells you have a problem, a swarm is on the way.

Remember brood begin to die below 75 degrees, mornings are still cool so minimize brood exposure to the cold or check the thermometer before you start working the box. As I recall Tom Bartlett suggested working brood boxes between 10am – 4pm, keeps brood warm & foragers are out reducing hive congestion and reduces excitability.

Be aware of bearding, at this time of year it means swarming is near. During the summer it means it's hot in the hive. And sometimes it's just housekeeping like night time.

Safety reminders: bees don't like thunder storms or night time visits from bee keepers.

Finally, it's warming up. More bees means more water need. The rainy season in Florida is from June through December. Avoid neighborhood problems make water available for your hives. And also, providing a water source is required by the State. The dirtier the better, this is how bees pick up trace minerals for health living.

Bee Healthy, Bee Happy,

Timothy R. Blodgett -President, Beekeepers of Volusia County

Beekeepers of Volusia County, Florida

Meeting Agenda March 23, 2016

Old Business:

1. Meeting called o order
2. Approval of the minutes
3. Follow-up Daytona Event Marlin
4. Membership Dues are due now

New Business:

1. Treasurers report
2. Discussion /Evaluation Bee Hive systems & product evaluation, The Flow Hive
3. Food sources in season
4. Break
5. Bee Yard reminders
6. Hive stress factors, predators, parasites, pests, environment, chemicals, environment

Beekeepers of Volusia County Club Meeting
Minutes of 02/24/16

Old business

Inadvertently at the 01/27/16 meeting the slate of officers was read but an election was not held. President Mike Hayes proposed the election of officers & the new officers were elected.

Tim Blodgett, President
Larry Hurt, Vice President
Run Kull, Treasurer
Donna Balo, Secretary

Beekeepers of Volusia County Club Meeting
Minutes of 02/24/16

Called to order by President Tim Blodgett @ 6:30pm.
43 in attendance.

Master Beekeeper Marlin Athearn discussed

City of Ormond Beach Echo Park on Division Road will soon have an environmental observation honey bee hive. Expected grand opening will be May, 2016. Equipment & bees at D&J Apiary. Volunteers needed to maintain & work on the hives. The Club has secured a booth for community outreach at the Daytona Beach News Journal's Spring Home Show April 1-3, 2016 10am-6pm Friday & Saturday. Sunday 10am-4pm at the Ocean Center. Volunteers will be needed for the booth. A resident in Orange City has bees in his shed & would like someone to remove the bees without destroying them. Contact Marlin.

Welcome to new attendees who introduced themselves.

Mission statement proposed, passed.

Motion proposed & passed an organizational chart.

Please pay annual dues \$15 per family.

Bee feeder demo by Stephen McGehee. For more information go to the website.

Lisa Reyes state bee inspector in attendance. Bee Management Requirements reviewed. 82 registered beekeepers are in Volusia County. In the works is a method by which experienced beekeepers can get continuing education in lieu of bee inspections. She discussed the importance of mentoring and good will to assist & educate new beekeepers & the public about bees. Contact Lisa to arrange an inspection or for questions.

Snack break & social time.

To give the illusion of more room in the hives, rotate hives & rotate (top & bottom) frames.

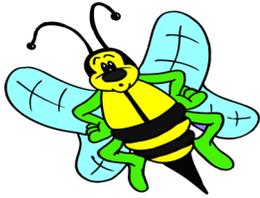
Tom Homan discussed the Newsletter.

Don & Woody demoed queen cloning & grafting

A member is rooting sweet almond trees and will have them available at a meeting.

Adjourned 8:05 pm

Submitted Donna Balo, secretary



Did You Know?

Keeping the Girls from Leaving Home

There are two primary reasons bees swarm: congestion and poor ventilation. Occasionally, a poorly performing queen can contribute to the swarming impulse. But all these conditions can be anticipated and avoided. Here are some things you can do:

Avoid congestion. Because overcrowding is a primary reason a colony will swarm, make sure to anticipate your bees' needs and provide them with more room *before* they need it. If you wait until it's obvious that the colony is crowded, you're too late! The colony is likely to swarm, and there is little you can do to prevent them from swarming once they've set their minds to it. However, you can do the following to prevent congestion happening in the first place:

- Reverse your hive bodies in the early spring to better distribute the fast-growing population
- Add a queen excluder and honey supers before the first nectar flow in the early spring (stop feeding and medicating before you add honey supers)

Provide adequate ventilation. To ensure proper ventilation, you can do a number of things:

- If your inner cover has a notched ventilation hole in the front of the inner cover, make sure it is open. Here's how. Stand at the rear of the hive and push the outer cover forward. Doing so prevents the overhang of the outer cover from blocking the notched hole on the inner cover.
- Glue a short length of a wooden Popsicle stick to each of the four corners of the inner cover. By doing so you create a thin gap between the inner cover and the hive and improve air flow into and out of the hive. (Alternatively, you can place a short screw with a fat, domed head in each corner. The fat head of the screw creates the gap you want.)
- Drill wine cork-sized holes in your upper deep (below the hand hold) and in all your honey supers. Doing so not only provides extra ventilation but also provides the bees with additional entrances. This ventilation can even be helpful in the cold winter months. You can control airflow and access by blocking and opening these holes as needed with corks or strips of duct tape. Be sure to close off these entrances for a new colony whose population is still too small to defend all these extra openings.

Make the bees comfortable in hot weather by doing the following:

- Supply a nearby water source. The bees will use this water to regulate the hive's temperature.
- Shield the hive from a full day of blazing sun. Particularly if you live in a blazing hot area. Locating the hive in dappled sunlight is the best solution.

Continued on next page

Remove queen swarm cells – all of them. The earliest evidence that your bees are thinking about swarming is that they start to make swarm cells. During the spring and early summer, inspect your hive every week or ten days to look for swarm cells. They can be found along the bottom of the frames. If you see any, remove them by cutting them out with the sharp end of your hive tool. The colony won't swarm if it doesn't have a new queen in the making.

This technique only works if you remove 100 percent of the swarm cells. If just one cell remains behind, the colony has the green light to swarm.

Replace your queen every other autumn. Colonies with young queens are far less likely to swarm.

If the hive is simply boiling over with bees and you failed to take any of the above precautions, there is a last-resort emergency measure. You can remove all frames of capped brood from the hive (with bees still on the frames) and replace them with frames of foundations. *A colony will not swarm if it does not have capped brood equal to the number of bees swarming.*

Make sure that the queen is not on any of these frames. You can use these frames of bees and brood to start a new hive! If there are eggs on those frames, the 'new' hive will raise a new queen. Or you can play it safe and order a new queen from your bee supplier.



www.volusiabeekeepers.org The Beekeepers of Volusia County Florida

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION/RENEWAL

2016

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail address: Important- Much of our business with members is done via E-mail

1. Regular Membership (\$15.00) []
New [] Renewal []

2. Life Time Membership (\$250.00) []

Send form & payment (checks payable to Beekeepers of Volusia County, Florida)

Mail to:

Ron Kull, Treasurer,

2525 Palm Dr.

Port Orange, FL 32127

Phone: 1-386-451-2978

E-mail: Kullrp@yahoo.com

Products: Queens, Nucs, Honey

S & S Apiaries: Jesse Azam

2429 Pioneer Trl

New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168

Phone

386-478-9722(JESSE)

Fax

386-427-6543

Email

jesse@jessebee.com

Website: <http://www.jessebee.com/>



Mario & Shelly Jacob

Products: Queens, Nucs, Honey, Bee Keeper Supplies, Store

17732 SE 283rd Ave.

Umatilla FL 32784 USA 352-669-4233

Website: <http://www.dandjapiary.com/>



Kevin Jester

2600 Honeybee Lane

Mims, FL 32754

Ph: 870 243 1596

Products: Queens & Nucs

E-MAIL: Order@jesterbee.com

kevin@jesterbee.com

website <http://www.jesterbee.com/>

