



www.volusiabeekeepers.org

Founded February 9, 2010

# Beekeepers of Volusia County Florida

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Newsletter, May 2016

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## Management Calendar

### May 2016

1. Continue to inspect for colony maladies but don't treat for diseases while producing honey
2. Continue swarm control
3. Super as necessary

### Blooming Plants

Palm, gopher apple, joint weed, sandhill prairie, clover, spiderwort/day flower

### June 2016

1. Remove and process honey - flow stops
2. Varroa populations begin to grow - monitor colonies closely and treat if necessary

### Blooming Plants

Mangrove, red bay, cabbage palm

### Club Officers

**Tim Blodgett**, President  
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**Donna Balo**, Secretary  
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Master Beekeepers: Tom Bartlett & Marlin Athearn

## Events of Interest to Beekeepers

Volusia County Beekeepers Meeting  
May 25, 2016, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm  
Fourth Wednesday of the month  
Volusia County Fairgrounds

Volusia County Beekeepers Meeting  
June 22, 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  
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New Smyrna Beach

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

**Mike Hays** 386.957.4795  
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**Newsletter**  
Tom Homan 386.679.5471  
THoman50@gmail.com

**Website**  
Stephen McGehee  
Beekeepers of Volusia County  
'abfnet.org'

## *A Message from the President*

From the President:

Hello.

Summer is here bringing hot days and warm nights. The Bee's are now working from sun up to sun down, they are building new comb and bringing in nectar and pollen and storing honey. During the evening and nights you may observe that many bees are outside the hive (not all inside as during the winter months), this is somewhat normal as they may be just trying to keep cool and not over heat the hive.

Continue your hive inspections once every 10 to 14 days, looking for queen cells, brood patterns, and hive beetle population. Remember to focus on the presence of uncapped larvae which help to confirm a healthy egg laying queen even if you do not see the queen. The months of May and June continue to produce a strong nectar flow. Citrus, Gallberry and Palmetto are major nectar plants that continue blooming May and June so honey stores will continue to swell. Add honey supers as needed. The general rule is to add a new super once 8 of 10 frames has been filled. Do not add too many supers as this will attract hive beetles. It is important to provide lots of space for your bees to grow and store honey but we don't want to encourage the hive beetles.

Planning ahead is always a good idea in beekeeping. Now is the time to gather your honey extracting equipment and bottling supplies. On average a medium super of honey will produce 30 pounds of honey. Many beekeepers will extract honey in late June or early July. You can expect an average of two medium supers per (established) hive or 60 pounds of honey. As long as there are good nectar sources within their feeding area. More on this at the next meeting.

Enjoy your Bees! Have a great season.

Bee Healthy, Bee Happy,

Timothy R. Blodgett -President, Beekeepers of Volusia County

# Beekeepers of Volusia County, Florida

## Meeting Agenda May 25, 2016

### **Old Business:**

- Meeting called to order
- Approval of the minutes
- Mystery Guest

### **New Business:**

- Mystery Guest

- Treasurers report

- Website Activity

- What are the bee's doing

- May-June; hive maintenance & what's in bloom

- Break

- Ankle Biter Bees

- Extraction; honey potential, extraction methods, costs, hydration & hygiene considerations

- Q&A

**Beekeepers of Volusia County Club Meeting**  
**Minutes of 04/27/16**

Called to order by President Tim Blodgett @ 6:29pm.

53 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.  
The installation of the hive will be May 7.

The Grand Opening will be May 21 2016. Equipment & bees at D&J Apiary. Volunteers to help with the installation as well as to maintain & work on the hives are needed. Contact Marlin.

Thank-yous presented to those who have done extra for the Volusia County Bee Club in the past year:

Tom Homan  
Marlin Athearn  
Donna Athearn  
Mike Hays  
Tom Bartlett  
Lenny Pike  
Stella Pike  
Ron Kull

Oxalic acid treatments for varroa mite discussed.

Snack break & social time.

Master Beekeeper Tom Bartlett discussed oxalic acid as a new & controversial method of treating varroa mites. Tom recommends doing bee hive inspections periodically. Commonly varroa mites are more of a problem in Florida, during the fall.

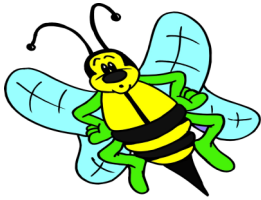
Stephen McGehee gave a demonstration of the vaporizing method of oxalic acid treatment for varroa mite.

Hygienic bees and powdered sugar treatment for varroa mites were also discussed.  
Tom recommends following the University of Florida research & recommendations.

\$86 was collected in a 50/50 drawing.

Adjourned 8:05 pm

Submitted Donna Balo, secretary



## Did You Know?

Pollen is the primary source of protein for honeybees. As we watch our honeybees return to the hive we can observe pollen of many different colors attached to their legs. Have you wondered which plants the pollen is from? Click the link provided in the email to read an article by Terra Freeman, 'Nectar and Pollen Providing Plants for Honey Bees (*Apis Mellifera*)' from University of Florida

Products: Queens, Nucs, Honey

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