



www.volusiabeekeepers.org

Founded February 9, 2010

# Beekeepers of Volusia County Florida

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Newsletter, July 2016

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## Management Calendar

### July 2016

1. Remove and process honey - main flow stops
2. Varroa population begins to grow - monitor colonies closely and treat if necessary. Treatment options include Apiguard, Apilife VAR, Apistan, Mite Away II, Hopgard and Apivar

### Blooming Plants

Spanish NeedleAS, Palmetto, Mexican CloverAS, Buttermint, Palm, Gopher Apple, Joint WeedA, RedbayAS, Sandhill Prairie CloverA, Partridge PeaA, MangroveA, Primrose WillowAS Spiderwort/DayflowerAS,

### August 2016

1. Monitor colonies for Varroa (see July)!
2. Treat with Terramycin *dust* for American foulbrood/European foulbrood.
3. Feed colonies if light.
4. Monitor for and control small hive beetles.
5. It's hot! Ensure adequate colony ventilation.

### Blooming Plants

Spotted MintS, GoldenrodS, Vine AsterS, SumacS

## Club Officers

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## Events of Interest to Beekeepers

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

Volusia County Beekeepers Meeting  
August 24, 2016, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm  
Fourth Wednesday of the month  
Volusia County Fairgrounds

**Need Help?  
Call a Mentor!**

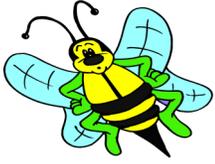
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## *A Message from the President*

Hello,

During the summer months the Volusia County conducts a number of mosquito spraying days that may affect hives in your control district. It is a good idea to check the Volusia County Mosquito Control website and familiarize yourself with control measures taken in your particular district. A map is provided for scheduled spraying activities along with an online request form that is subject to the county guidelines for mosquito control spraying. I will be reviewing the county plan at the next meeting. Take precautions as necessary.

The months of July and August produce a moderate to low nectar flow. Various palms are the major nectar plants which bloom in July and August so honey stores may grow at a low rate. Add honey supers as needed. Remember 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 gives hive beetles more undefended areas to hide in from the bees.

Remember, don't be too concerned about a blanket of bees on your hives at night during the summer months; they are just trying to keep cool.

Summer hive inspections: the threat of swarming tends to be reduced, so you may modify your hive inspections to once every 15 to 20 days, looking for queen cells, brood patterns, and hive beetle population. Remember to focus on the presence of uncapped larvae which helps to confirm a queen right condition even if you did not see the queen. Add honey supers as needed. Remember 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 give the hive beetles more undefended areas to hide from the bees. The research shows parasite numbers begin to increase during the summer & peak by Fall, check from now on to get ahead of future problems.

There never seems to be enough time to cover demonstrations on bee competition skills for November so I will try to start reviewing at least one per meeting from now on. Only 4 more meetings until the Fair.

Tropical Storm season is upon us! Did you secure your hive(s).

Enjoy your Bees! Have a great summer.  
Bee Healthy, Bee Happy,

Timothy R. Blodgett -President Beekeepers of Volusia County

# Beekeepers of Volusia County, Florida

## Meeting Agenda July 27, 2016

### **Old Business:**

- Meeting call to order
- Approval of the minute
- 50/50 Raffle

### **New Business:**

- Treasurers report

- New-Bees/Kudos/Eulogy/Website Activity/Hive Stuff 4sale

- Mystery Guest-again?

- Break

- July-August; hive maintenance & what's in bloom

- Zika Virus treatment in Volusia

- Chunk Honey Demonstration

- 50/50 winner

- Q&A

**Beekeepers of Volusia County Club Meeting**  
**Minutes of 06/22/16**

Called to order by President Tim Blodgett @ 6:30pm. 50 in attendance.

**Old business:**

Meeting minutes of 5/25/16 were approved by majority vote

**New Business:**

1. The treasurer is on vacation and the appointee was delayed by work obligations so there is no treasurer's report nor 50/50 raffle.
2. The mystery guest had car problems & did not attend
3. Web activity: More photos of City of Ormond Beach Echo Park on Division Road environmental observation honey bee hive, Pics of hive removal from split 60ft pine tree in Deltona. New FAQ regarding: beeswax uses & properties now on site. Swarms captured & notice that if you are interested in swarms you need to let me know your limitation. I am establishing a small regional referral network with member getting first crack at swarms except if in structure or too high. I will screen contacts & determine most appropriate referral.
4. Discussion on genetics of "hygienic, ankle biter bees".
5. Discussion on food sources & summer bee-behaviors.
6. Discussion on manual honey extraction and double filter device that filters at 800 and then 400 microns.
7. Dehydration procedures using a small spare room & a portable dehumidifier were reviewed. Need and use of a refractometer were discussed and the need to reduce water content below 20% to prevent fermentation and honey grading

Adjourned 8:00 pm

Submitted: Tim Blodgett President



## Did You Know?

### NASONOV PHEROMONE

When working a colony, you will often see worker bees on the landing board, facing the entrance. Look closely and you'll notice that their abdomens are raised in the air with the tip bent down just a bit. This position separates the last two abdominal segments, exposing a bit of the whitish integument below. Located at that spot is the Nasonov gland, which produces Nasonov pheromone. Exposing that gland allows some of the pheromone to waft away. To help distribute this sweet-smelling chemical, the bee will rapidly beat her wings. She is said to be fanning or scenting. This is intriguing behavior, and only workers can do it. Broadly speaking, this is an orientation signal produced to guide disoriented, lost, or following workers back to the hive.

Interestingly, when one bee begins fanning, it stimulates nearby bees to do likewise, and those bees that return begin to fan also. Very quickly you'll see many, many fanning bees on the landing board or the top edge of an open super, guiding their lost nest mates home.

This pheromone is also part of the glue that keeps a swarm together and all going in the same direction as it leaves its nest when heading for a new home.

Workers use this pheromone in a variety of other ways inside and outside the hive. You may see bees scenting at a source of fresh water. What you'll notice most, though, is that when you open a colony, the natural upward ventilation, partially driven by the body heat of thousands of bees, wafts up the commingled, subtle aromas of curing honey, stored pollen, and a good bit of Nasonov pheromone. This cocktail produces the distinct smell of the beehive. This is what makes all colonies smell mostly alike, but all a bit different. There is no other aroma quite like it or quite as attractive to both a honey bee and a beekeeper.

*Note:* When a hive cover is removed, some bees will fly away. If they are unskilled flyers or too young to have flown orientation flights, they may become lost, almost immediately, because they don't know landmarks. Skilled or experienced bees that fly off will immediately return and begin scenting behavior by exposing their Nasonov glands and fanning their wings to drive the pheromone away from the colony. The inexperienced bees will pick up on the pheromone's aroma and follow it home.

Source: The Backyard Beekeeper, Revised Edition 2010, page 81  
Published by Quarry Books, Author Kim Flottum

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