



Founded February 9, 2010

# Beekeepers of Volusia County Florida

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Newsletter, September 2016

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## Management Calendar

### September 2016

1. Monitor colonies for Varroa (see July)!
2. Super colonies if strong for B. Pepper flow.
3. Consider treating colonies for Nosema disease using Fumigillin (see north Florida Sept above).
4. If no nectar flow, feed colonies if light.

### Blooming Plants

Smart Weed, Brazilian Pepper\*, Bush Aster

### October-December 2016

- 1 Varroa populations peaked in Aug/Sept. Monitor Varroa populations closely and treat if necessary. Treatment options include: Apiguard, Apilife VAR, Apistan, Mite Away II, Hopguard and Apivar.
- 2 Can treat colonies for Nosema disease using Fumigillin. Colonies may need as much as 4 gallons of medicated syrup to control *Nosema cerana*.
- 3 Monitor for and control small hive beetles (options Include Checkmite+, GardStar, Hood traps, West Beetle traps, beetle blasters, and more).
- 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).

### Blooming Plants

**Oct:** Spanish Needle, Mexican CloverN, Brazilizn Pepper\*, Primrose WillowN, Spotted MintN, Golden RodN, Vine AsterN, Smart WeedN, Bush AsterND

**Nov:** nothing new blooms

**Dec:** nothing new blooms

\*Brazilian Pepper blooms from September through October and is a significant fall source of nectar for

## Events of Interest to Beekeepers

Volusia County Beekeepers Meeting  
September 28, 2016, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm  
Fourth Wednesday of the month  
Volusia County Fairgrounds

Florida State Beekeepers Association  
2016 Annual Conference Center  
October 20-22, 2016  
UF Hilton, Gainesville, FL

Florida State Beekeepers Association and  
Florida Association of Property Appraisers  
October 21, 2016, 1:00 pm  
Roundtable Discussion-Developing Guidelines for Agricultural Classification of Apiary Operations  
UF Hilton, Gainesville, FL

Volusia County Beekeepers Meeting  
October 26, 2016, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm  
Fourth Wednesday of the month  
Volusia County Fairgrounds

Volusia County Fair  
Thursday, November 3rd - Sunday, November 11th  
Hours: weekdays 4:00 pm "until midway thins out"  
weekends 11:00 am "until midway thins out"  
Volusia County Fairground



**Need Help?**  
**Call a Mentor!**

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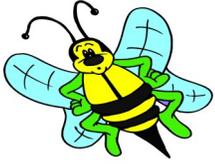
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Master Beekeepers: Tom Bartlett & Marlin Athearn



## *A Message from the President*

Hello,

September is here and that means honey flow! Saw Palmetto as well as several other palms are in bloom and my personal favorite the rain tree. The rain tree looks like any other green leafed tree on the side of the road until it bursts into yellow blooms. A closer look and you will see it teeming with honeybees harvesting their crop. Later the blooms turn orange and fall off. If you have these trees near you I'd suggest checking your honey supers at least weekly until the blooms disappear. A healthy hive can fill up a super of these trees in as little as 3-4 days.

Things to remember this time of year. 1) Don't be in such a hurry to pull those honey supers. If you pull them off after 2-3 days of dry weather then the percentage of water will be lower. Making your honey sweeter and less likely to ferment as it dips below 20% water content. 2) Honey is darker this time of year due to increased protein content in the nectar blooms. 3) Pulling uncapped honey is ill-advised and can lead to fermentation and really foul tasting honey. 4) It is advised to stop harvesting honey supers about mid-October to leave it for the ladies as winter feed.

During September and October continue to perform your hive inspections at the two to three week intervals. Remember your honey bee biology and focus on a queen right condition. Fall is a good time to re-queen. A younger queen at this time or adding one to a split can reduce swarming in the spring. Ultimately making a stronger hive to prevent wax moths or hive beetle infestation so you don't lose your hive.

We are fortunate to live in Florida, something is almost always blooming and the winters are usually mild which promotes good Beekeeping. Are you monitoring your Varroa Mites in your hives? Are you in the process of acquiring your fall medications? Remember many medications should be applied without honey supers, so fall is a season to correct any unfavorable diseases or pests.

Don't forget to support your local Beekeeping Suppliers, some are listed under the classified sections of our website and I will be soliciting a variety of catalogs for distribution at the fair.

Only 1 more meetings until the Fair.

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

Enjoy your Bees and they will enjoy you.  
Bee Healthy, Bee Happy,

Timothy R. Blodgett -President Beekeepers of Volusia County

## **Beekeepers of Volusia County, Florida**

### **Meeting Agenda September 28, 2016**

#### **Old Business:**

1. Meeting call to order
2. Approval of the minutes
3. 50/50 Raffle

#### **New Business:**

1. Treasurers report
2. Volusia County Fair
3. How to present honey for honey competition
4. Preventive medications for fall & winter beekeeping
5. 50/50 winner
6. Q&A

## **Beekeepers of Volusia County Club Meeting**

**Minutes of 08/24/16**

Called to order by President Tim Blodgett @ 6:33pm.

42 in attendance.

Anyone who did not receive a newsletter via email, please contact Tim.

Beekeeping 101 basics discussed at this meeting.

Jim Pasha gave a demonstration of beekeeping with a top hive system.

Tim gave a demonstration of the Langstroth hive & showed basic beekeeping supplies.

Don Kent & Stephen McGehee gave demonstrations on how to construct bee frames, foundation & a beehive

The club ordered Buckfest queens for members who wanted them.

Adjourned 8:14 pm

Submitted Donna Balo, secretary



## Did You Know?

### *Create Cool Stuff with Propolis*

Propolis (sometimes call “bee glue”) is the super-sticky, gooey material gathered by the bees from trees and plants. The bees use this brown goop to fill drafty cracks in the hive, strengthen comb, and to sterilize their home.

Propolis has remarkable antimicrobial qualities that guard against bacteria and fungi. Its use by bees makes the hive one of the most hygienic domiciles found in nature. This remarkable property has not gone unnoticed over the centuries. The Chinese have used it in medicine for thousands of ears. Even Hippocrates touted the value of propolis for healing wounds. In addition, propolis has been used for centuries as the basis for fine wood varnishes.

When cold, propolis is hard and brittle. But in warm weather propolis is gummier than words can express. When you inspect your hives at the end of the summer and early autumn (the height of propolis production), you’ll discover that the bees have coated just about everything with propolis. The frames, inner cover, and outer covers will be firmly glued together, and they’ll require considerable coaxing to pry loose. You’ll get propolis all over your hands and clothes, where it will remain for a long, long time. It’s a nuisance for most beekeepers. But be sure to take the time to scrape it off, or you’ll never get things apart next season. Be sure to save the propolis you scrape off with your hive tool! It’s precious stuff. I keep an old coffee can in my toolbox and fill it with the propolis I remove from the hive. And I keep another can for the beeswax (burr comb) I remove.

Keep a spray bottle of rubbing alcohol in your supply box. Alcohol works pretty well at removing sticky propolis from your hands. But, for goodness sakes, keep propolis off your clothes – because it’s nearly impossible to remove.

Many beekeepers encourage the bees to make lots of propolis. Special propolis traps are designed just for this purpose. The traps usually consist of a perforated screen that is laid across the top bars – similar to a queen excluder, but the spaced are too narrow for bees to pass through. Instinctively, bees fill all these little holes with propolis. Eventually, the entire trap becomes thickly coated with the sticky, gummy stuff. Remove the trap from the hive (gloves help keep you clean) and place it in the freezer overnight so that the propolis becomes hard and brittle. Like chilled Turkish Taffy, a good whack shatters the cold propolis, crumbling it free from the trap. It then can be used to make a variety of nifty products. I’ve included some recipes to set you started. Note: A propolis trap can be placed where the inner cover usually goes. In no time, bees will coat the entire trap with precious propolis.

#### **Propolis tincture**

Here’s a homemade and all-natural alternative to iodine. Note: Like iodine, it stains. Use it on minor cuts, rashes, and abrasions. Some folks even use a few drops in a glass of drinking water to relieve sore throat. The shelf life of this tincture is several years.

1. Measure the crumbled propolis and add an equal measure of 100-proof vodka or grain alcohol ( for example,one cup propolis and one cup alcohol). Place in an ovenproof bottle with a lid
2. Heat the closed bottle in a 200-degree (Fahrenheit) oven. Shake the bottle every 30 minutes. Continue until the propolis has completely dissolved in the alcohol.
3. Strain the mixture through a paper coffee filter or a nylon stocking.
4. Bottle the tincture into a dropper bottles, which you can get from your pharmacist.



## Did You Know?

### *Create Cool Stuff with Propolis*

#### **Propolis ointment**

This ointment can be applied to minor cuts, bruises and abrasions.

Melt the ingredients in a microwave or a double boiler.

1 teaspoon of beeswax

4 teaspoons of liquid paraffin

1 teaspoon of finely chopped propolis granules

1 teaspoon of honey

Remove from heat and stir continuously until it cools and thickens

Pour into suitable jars.

#### **Propolis varnish**

If you happen to have a multi-million-dollar violin made by Stradivarius, you already know that the finest string instruments ever made had a varnish made from propolis. But this superior lacquer need not be reserved for such exclusive uses. Propolis varnish provides a warm, durable finish for any wood project. Here's a recipe from a friend of mine who refinishes museum-quality violins.

Combine all ingredients in the following list in a glass jar at room temperature. Cover the jar with a lid. Allow mixture to stand for a week or more while shaking at regular intervals.

4 parts blond shellac

1 part manila copal (a soft resin)

1 part propolis

Filter solution through a few layers of cheesecloth or a nylon stocking before using.

Note: the manila copal resin is available from specialty varnish suppliers, such as Joseph Hammerl GmbH & Co. KG, Hauptstrasse 18, 8523 Baiersdorf, Germany

Source: Beekeeping for Dummies, second edition, pages 294 - 297

Author: Howland Blackiston, Published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

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