

From the President:

January/2017

During Cold winter months hive inspections should be kept to a minimum. A good rule of thumb is to avoid hive inspections when the temperatures are less than 65 degrees. Cold stress can result in high mortality of brood and inhibited egg laying by the Queen. Winter Apiary chores include treating for Varroa Mites and applying Terramycin Pre-Mix to prevent American Foul-Brood. During winter you may notice fecal staining on the outside of your hives after a long period of cold temperatures this is an indication of a high level of Nosema which is a disease of the adult bee digestive tract. In order to keep your hive healthy and ready for spring, treat your hive with Fumagilin B in your sugar water feeding. There are also organic treatments you might want to look into on You Tube by searching "Fat Bee Man". If you plan to increase the number of hives in your apiary, you should have already placed your order with suppliers. Many suppliers advertise in the Bee Culture and American Bee Journal Magazines. This includes: Mann Lake, Kelly Bees, Brushy Mountain, Glory Bee, Dadant. etc. D&J Apiaries in Umatilla, FL is one of the few that has an actual store front instead of catalog shopping for supplies. Also we have **several local suppliers on our website who advertize in the classified section**. If you have any questions regarding equipment to order or other suppliers feel free to give me a call or plan to attend our monthly meetings and network with other local beekeepers. Don't forget, winter is a great time to clean your unused equipment, paint and clean queen excluders of propolis, during cold temperatures propolis pops right off. Spring is right around the corner!

Bee Healthy, Bee Happy,

Tim

## Agenda

### Old Business:

1. Meeting called to order

### New Business:

1. Treasurers report, 50/50 raffle
2. Welcome back
3. Bee College –Sponsorship, Bee Lab support
4. Housekeeping: Elections, A-V equipment, Kudoes, storage, PM, year in review, updates

- 5 Break
- 6 Ormond Beach project needs your help
- 7 Planning a Queen Cloning exercise
- 8 Bee Yard reminders, plants in bloom
- 9 Q&A

## Bee Stuff:

### **Parthenogenesis**

Parthenogenesis is the development of an unfertilized egg. Parthenogenesis is found in many species of ants, wasps and bees. So, drone honey bees are the result of parthenogenesis. The queen does not fertilize drone eggs when she lays them.

### **Neonicotinoids**

Neonicotinoids are a central nervous system poison to insects. Supposedly they have a reduced toxicity to mammals. These pesticides are considered by many to be related to Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). France and Germany have banned some or all use of neonicotinoids due to the damage they have done to honey bees.

### **Trophallaxis**

This is food exchange between adult worker bees and takes two forms. First is the transfer of nectar from a forager to a house bee for conversion to honey. The second is an exchange of food among all the bees in the hive. This second type of trophallaxis would seem to be some sort of social ritual not simply the exchange of nutrients. What is being exchanged among all the workers is not clear but may be important for the exchange of queen essence among the members of the hive. There can be a negative ramification to this process. Bees can transfer diseases and pollutants to each other. What ever the reasons it is clear that trophallaxis is an important part of bee life.

### **Honeybee Democracy**

Thomas Seeley, professor of neurobiology at Cornell University, is the author. He is also a beekeeper. The book is fantastic. Honeybee Democracy is the best science book I have read in

years. The book is about honey bee swarming... what, how and why. Tom Seeley is an ethologist which is a scientist who studies animal behaviors in the field rather than the lab. This makes his studies truly real world. Another very interesting aspect of the book is the explanations of the experiments themselves. The thoroughness and elegance of his work is as interesting as the main subject matter. Would you like to know.

- What makes bees 'decide' to swarm?
- How do the bees search out a new home?
- What does a scout bee look for in a good hive location?
- How do the scout bees inform the swarm of their finds?
- How does the swarm come to a consensus regarding which new hive location to pick?
- Why is the choice usually the best available?
- How does the swarm know when to fly to their new home?
- How does the swarm find their new hive location? Get your hands on the book and read it. Hard to put down once the reading starts.

Thomas Seely's work can be found on You Tube or his book on Amazon.com.

### **Bee College And Master Beekeeping**

Bee College will take place March 10—11, 2017. This is definitely a key event of the year. There are classes for all levels of beekeepers. There is one complete track designed for beginners. Check out the information and get registration forms at...

[http://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/honeybee/extension/bee\\_college.shtml](http://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/honeybee/extension/bee_college.shtml)

Florida Management Beekeeper Calendar – Central Florida Used with permission of University of Florida Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory Month Management Calendar:

January 1- Feed colonies if light (colonies can starve!) 2- Nosema can be a significant colony problem this time of year. You can treat colonies for Nosema disease using Fumigillin. Colonies may need as much as 4 gallons of medicated syrup to control Nosema ceranae. 3- Repair/paint old equipment Sand. PineF , MapleF , WillowFM continues to bloom in F February, FM continues to bloom in February and March.

February 1- Feed colonies if light (colonies can starve!) 2- Can treat colonies for Nosema disease using Fumigillin. 3- Can treat with Terramycin or Tylan for AFB. PlumM , CherryM , OakM , Walther ViburnumM , Sweet CloverM , BlueberryM , HawM , FetterbushM M continues to bloom in March

March Note: Citrus blooms in March. Make sure your colonies are ready. Talk with your growers about their pesticide habits. 1- Attend UF Bee College in Marineland!!! 2- Colony Populations begin to grow! Add supers and/or control swarming as necessary. 3- Can treat with Terramycin or Tylan dust for AFB/EFB. 4- Make nucs/splits. Orange, Spanish Needle

April 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 Orange, Sweet clover, Wild Blueberry, Haw, FetterbushM , Spanish NeedleMJ, GalberryM , Dog HobbleMJ , PalmettoMJ, Mexican CloverMJ, Butter MintMJ M continues to bloom in May J continues to bloom in June MJcontinues to bloom in May and June

May 1- Continue to inspect for colony maladies but don't treat for diseases while producing honey 2- Continue swarm control 3- Super as necessary PalmJ , Gopher AppleJ , Joint WeedJ , Sandhill Prairie CloverJ , Spiderwort/ DayflowerJ J continues to bloom in June Florida

June 1- Super as necessary for late flowers 2- Varroa populations begin to grow – monitor colonies closely. The economic threshold is 60+ mites/day on a sticky screen or 17+ mites in an ether roll. Treat if you exceed these numbers. Mangrove, Red Bay, Cabbage Palm

July 1- Remove and process honey – main flow stops 2- Varroa populations begin to grow – monitor colonies closely. The economic threshold is 60+ mite/day on a sticky screen or 17+ mites in an ether roll for a colony of average strength. Treat if you exceed these numbers. Option include: Apivar strips(apply in fall to avoid honey bound brood box), Mite Away II, folic acid, oxalic acid. Spanish NeedleAS, Palmetto, Mexican CloverAS, Buttermint, Palm, Gopher Apple, Joint WeedA , RedbayAS, Sandhill Prairie CloverA , Partridge PeaA , MangroveA , Primrose WillowAS , Spiderwort/DayflowerAS A continues to bloom in August AScontinues to bloom in September

August 1- Monitor colonies for varroa (see July)! 2- Treat with Terramycin dust for AFB/EFB 3- Feed colonies if light 4-Monitor for and control small hive beetles 5- It's hot! Ensure adequate colony ventilation Spotted MintS , GoldenrodS , Vine AsterS , SumacS S continues to bloom in September

September 1- Monitor colonies for varroa (see July)! 2- Super colonies if strong B. Pepper flow 3- Consider treating colonies for Nosema disease using Fumigillin-B. Colonies may need as much as 4 gallons of medicated syrup to control Nosema cerana. 5- If no nectar flow, feed colonies if

light Smart Weed, Brazilian Pepper, Bush Aster Note: Brazilian Pepper blooms from September through October and is a significant fall source of nectar for bees.

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: Apivar strips, Apigard, Mite, Oxalic Acid 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+, 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. Oct: Spanish Needle, Mexican CloverN , Primrose WillowN , Spotted MintN , GoldenrodM , Vine AsterN , Smart WeedN , Bush AsterND N continues to bloom in November D continues to bloom in December Nov: Nothing new blooms Dec: Nothing new blooms