

From the President:

February/2017

Spring is here! The three cold days of February have come and gone. More importantly I've seen and I've heard reports that Drones are already in some hives. This means producers will be actively breeding Queens & nucs are on the way very soon. Hive numbers are building early but spring blooms are still sparse so keep feeding if you aren't already. Starvation is a prevalent problem under these conditions. Spring is a good time to place pollen traps on your strong hives to capture a little for yourself and a few friends. Don't forget to alternate days, a good idea is to use two days on and three days off to share the pollen with the bees. During February and March you should continue to keep your hive inspections at a minimum, especially during cool (below 75 degree) temperatures. Continue to monitor for fecal staining on the outside of your hive which may indicate noseema problems and treat with Fumagilin B if necessary. And take steps to perk up weaker hives and beef up hive beetle prevention measures. The warm days ahead will bring an increased chance of swarming as discussed during our last meeting. You should consider having a few swarm traps out to recapture your bees. Now is a good time to add honey supers to your hives if your box is 75% or more full. This will give the bees space to grow, which will help minimize swarming. Also, it's a good idea to have your honey supers on a little early to catch that early nectar flow. If you are planning to start beekeeping in the spring, requeen or increase the number of hives in your apiary, you should have already placed your order with suppliers. Beekeeping Equipment and Honey Bees will be in short supply once the season gets in full swing. Many suppliers advertise in the Bee Culture and American Bee Journal Magazines. Also we have several local suppliers who attend our monthly meetings and advertise in the classified section of our website (<http://volusiabeekeepers.org>). If you have any questions regarding equipment to order or other suppliers feel free to give me a call and plan to network with other beekeepers at our monthly meetings. And don't forget the D&J trailer will be at the next meeting starting at the break.

New-bee Tip: it's going to get crowded in there. Queens are laying eggs as fast as they can to build hive strength and meet the upcoming honey flow. If you wait until after 10am to work in the hive the foragers will be out in the fields significantly reducing the congestion & excitability of the hive.

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

Finally, it's warming up. More bees mean more water need. The rainy season in Florida is from June through December. Avoid neighborhood problems make water available for your hives if you are not near a natural water source.

Bee Healthy, Bee Happy,

Timothy R. Blodgett -President Beekeepers of Volusia County

Beekeepers of Volusia County Club Meeting
Minutes of 01/25/17

Called to order by President Tim Blodgett @ 6:28pm

44 in attendance

New projector was utilized, recently purchased for approximately \$340 discounted from \$1299 through factory/holiday discounts, our TV sale and a \$150 donation from Bee presentation Tim did in Ormond Beach

50/50 raffle announced

Treasurer's report \$1100.

A Sharing Table has been instituted for members to share vegetables, plants, sell honey etc. Please share the table space as it will be limited

Introduction of newcomers to the meeting.

Don Ruckett announced that he has a friend who is ready to sell hives & beekeeping equipment.

Kudos for longest service to treasurer Ron Kull & secretary Donna Balo each received Beekeepers of Volusia County coffee mugs for their service

Golden Bee Catcher Award to the team of Jack Dunlop, Master Beekeeper Marlin Athearn, Tom Winn, Vern & Sharon Weatherholtz for establishing & maintaining an observation hive at the Ormond Beach Environmental Discovery Center.
Golden Bee Catcher Award to Robin Freeman for 1st successful group buy of Queens adding 85 Buckfest bees from Groveland, FL to Volusia County.

Bee College is March 10 & 11 at Whitney Marine Laboratory in Marineland. Fulltime members are invited to submit information about what they have contributed to the Volusia County Bee Club. One member will be selected to receive free admission to the Bee College & \$50 towards a hotel room. Larry Hirt was announced via email as winner.

The club voted to donate \$150 to the Bee Lab at the University of Florida. The donation was submitted along with the Bee College ticket payment to UF.

The past year in review: club members have provided community services to assist home owners with Bee problem through referrals from the County Agricultural Extention, done swarm & hive captures, presentations throughout the county to schools, garden and home owner groups, maintained the observation hive at the Ormond Beach Discovery Center, presented at the Volusia County Fair & the Daytona Home Show. And provided free bee removal for various utility companies and the Deltona Water

Company. Tim mentioned that the bee removals have been completely at his own expense so in the future a donation will be required from utility companies to the club for these services to remove & dispose of these primarily Africanized Bees.

Yearly membership dues \$15/family/year are due now. Membership will close at the end of the March meeting.

Discussed new A-V equipment & storage equipment.

Review of the mission statement & organizational chart.

Break

Elections:

President Tim Blodgett

Vice-president Larry Hurt

Secretary Donna Balo / Assistant Cindy Stretz

Treasurer Don Ruckett

Web Site support Stephen McGehee / Quentin Prior intern

News Letter Tom Homan/Marlin Athern intern

A-V support Amanda Suttles

Refreshment Supervisor Pat Blodgett

Library of Beekeeping DVDs are available, see the treasurer to borrow a DVD.

D&J Apiaries will be at the next meeting & will have beekeeping supplies for sale. If there are specific items you would like them to bring, call D&J prior to the meeting.

A Spanish Needle sample was passed around so attendees can see an example of a seasonally available nectar source currently in bloom.

Beekeepers Management Calendar for January was shown & discussed.

As of January 1, 2017 veterinarians must prescribe antibiotics for beehives. Antibiotics will no longer be available from bee supply companies. This effects Fumagillin-G for treatment of Nozema and Terramycin for the treatment and prevention of American Foul Brood.

President Tim Blodgett will be at a park in Deltona (415 & Howland Ave) on Saturday January 28, 2017 @ 10am for Beekeeping 101.

Adjourned 8:05 pm

Submitted Donna Balo, secretary

Agenda for February 20, 2017

Old Business:

1. Meeting called to order
2. Beekeeping 101 meeting
3. Bee College March 10,11; \$80 1-day, \$185 2-day Jr-\$10 Sat only ages 6-12
8a-4p

New Business:


- 1 Treasurers report, 50/50 raffle
- 2 Mario Jacob owner D&J Apiary Umatilla, FL National Issues, Antibiotic issue
- 3 Break
- 4 Bee yard reminders & maintenance calendar review
- 5 Nectar source review & samples for February
- 6 Bee diseases and treatments: American Foul Brood/EU Foul Brood, Nosema, Tracheal Mites. Demo: making your own treatments vs commercial preparations vs rotating treatments
- 7 Q&A

Beekeeper MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

FEBRUARY



north

 **Remedy failing queens as necessary.**

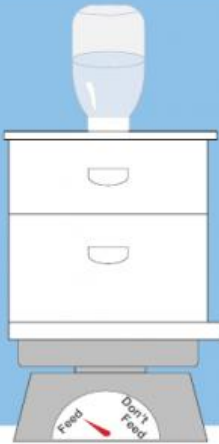
Queen issues are especially problematic this time of year.



central

south

 **Feed colonies if light.** *Also supply pollen supplements in North Florida if necessary.*



 **Nosema can be a significant problem this month.**

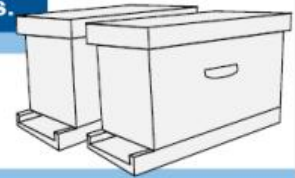
Making sure colonies are well fed will reduce Nosema spore counts (one million spores per bee is considered a high spore count). Some beekeepers also treat colonies with fumagilin with varied effectiveness (always follow label instructions). Recheck spore counts in colonies 2-3 weeks after treatment.

 **Colonies can be treated for AFB and/or EFB.**

Colonies can be treated with Terramycin (oxytetracycline) or Tylan (tylosin) for American foulbrood (AFB) prevention or Lincomix (lincomycin) or Terramycin (oxytetracycline) for European foulbrood (EFB). These products require a prescription or a Veterinary Feed Directive from a veterinarian.



 **Make nucs/splits.**



What's Blooming?

north

Blueberry	Plum
Cherry	Sand Pine
Fetterbush	Spring Titi
Haw	Sweet Clover
Maple	Viburnum
Oak	Willow

central

Blueberry	Plum
Cherry	Sand Pine
Fetterbush	Swamp Titi
Haw	Sweet Clover
Maple	Viburnum
Oak	Willow

south

American Beautyberry	
Mexican Clover	
Primrose Willow	Blackberry
Spanish Needle	Coreopsis
Sweet Acacia	Oak
Sweet Clover	Orange