

From the President:

April/2017

Let the nectar flow begin! Rules to follow: hive inspection ever 7-10 days. Check for eggs/larva/brood & "right conditions". Feed 1:1 sugar water until comb on those frames are built out, establish Hive beetle preventive measures, if the brood box is 75-80% filled...add more space either a second brood box to make bees or a honey super to make honey. Spring was early, swarms were plentiful but swarm season is not done yet. Queens from last year are most susceptible & remember, once the hive has decided to swarm there is virtually nothing you can do to stop it. Prevention before and management after is all you can do.

Several people have asked if they really need a queen excluder. The short answer is, no. A queen excluder is an organizational tool made to separate brood from honey and used in a standardized processing procedure that we use in Lansthrom Hives, the most common method used in the club. You need only look at a top bar hive to see an alternative to using queen excluders. Top bars don't have one, the Bees separate honey from Brood rather efficiently. It also matters if you plan to harvest by hand or extractor. It is impossible to separate brood from honey in an extractor.

Recently I received notice of massive bee kills near Casselberry. I also attended the new Seminole County Bee Club Meeting where I learned Seminole County Mosquito Control is conducting follow-up spraying for Zica. The infected people came from out of country. I've also noticed the box stores selling Sevin for lawn grub treatment as well as round-up 2-for-1 sales. I've heard that 1 crystal of Sevin can kill an entire hive & round-up lasts for months. I'm reproducing an article from one of our old newsletters for guidance on this subject:

What Do I do if I suspect Pesticide Poisoning in my Bees?

1. First, look at the bees, Pesticide incidents exhibit a mass of dead bees and/or dying bees shaking and disoriented in front of the hive, this affects all hives, not just one.
2. Next, try to determine the poison, Look for any evidence of spraying, Orchards, agriculture fields and mosquito spraying are likely culprits.
3. Contract your apiary office or (352) 372-3505, Ext. 114 to get you inspector's contact information.
4. Your inspector will then contract the Division of Agricultural Environmental Services (AES) Apiary will provide assistance, and AES will conduct the investigation. Unfortunately, pesticide poisoning is a reality in beekeeping and does occur on occasion.

Bee Healthy, Bee Happy,

Timothy R Blodgett -President

timblodgett@netzero.net 407-314-9667

Next meeting Beekeepers of Volusia County: Wednesday, April 26, 2017, 6:30pm Ag Center Auditorium State Rd 44, Deland.

Beekeepers of Volusia County FL Club Officers:

President: Tim Blodgett
Vice-president: Larry Hurt
Secretary: Donna Balo / Assistant Cindy Stretz
Treasurer: Don Ruckett
Web Site/computer: Stephen McGehee/Marlin Athern / Quentin Prior intern/
Support: Tom Homan
A-V support: Vacant
Refreshment Spvr: Pat Blodgett/volunteers welcome

Library of Beekeeping DVDs are available, see the treasurer to borrow a DVD. Library kept at meeting room.

Beekeepers of Volusia County Club Meeting
Minutes of 03/22/17

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

38 in attendance

Comb honey will be included in the 50/50 raffle.

Membership will close at the end of the March meeting.

Treasurer's report \$1163.09

Yearly membership \$15/family/year are due now.

New attendees introduced themselves.

Give away, share, sell table announced.

Review of University of Florida Bee College 2017 at Whitney Marine Laboratory in Marineland.: Queen Life spans in Florida, stingerless bee honey, best floral food sources for all bees, bee predator hornet devastating European bee populations, GMO's destroying bee reproductive systems.

State FL inspector job openings. At this time it is difficult to inspect all hives every year since there are so many bee keepers and so few state inspectors.

FL beekeepers are required to register with the state. The cost is:

Number of Colonies	Fee
1-5	\$10
6-40	\$20
41-200	\$40
201-500	\$70
501 +	\$100

Payment can be made by mail or online. Go to www.freshfromflorida.com

The official purpose of State inspection is to provide:

- Freedom or substantial freedom from honey bee pests of regulatory significance and
- Freedom from unwanted types of honey bees.

How many hives per acre? Latest copy with additions of “Best Bee Practices”, are at the end of this news letter.

Welsh Honey Judge Don Kent discussed entering honey & other bee based products in contests. There are 22 types of entries. To become a Welsh Honey Judge requires a training program that is provided at 2 consecutive annual Bee Colleges.

To contribute to the University of Florida Honey Bee Research & Extension Laboratory go to: www.buildthebeelab.com Tell your friends.

Classified ad space is available to sell local honey at the club website www.volusiabeekeepers.org

Beekeeper March Management Calendar discussed.

Cheerios is offering a free packet of Wildflowers Seeds. Go to www.cheerios.com/bringbackthebees. (update: the program was wildly successful and ended after providing hundreds of times more seeds than was projected.)

Planning Queen Cloning Demonstration April 1, 2017 @ 11am @ Woody/s house.

50/50 raffle announced

Adjourned 7:53 pm

Submitted Donna Balo, secretary

Meeting Agenda April 26, 2017

Old Business:

- Meeting called to order
- Queen cloning demonstration Day in the Bee Yard
- **New Business:**
- Treasurer's report
- Bee assessment & evaluation for disease states & pesticide poisoning by Marlin Athearn, Master Bee Keeper and former President Beekeepers of Volusia County
- Break
- Bee assessment & evaluation for disease states & pesticide poisoning by Marlin Athearn, Master Bee Keeper and former President Beekeepers of Volusia County
- Bee yard reminders & maintenance calendar review
- Nectar source review & samples for April
- Q&A

Common Honey Bee Races in North America:

Italian—*Apis Mellifera Ligustica*—Most popular bee—gentle & good producers—prone to rob & drift
Cordovan—Subset of Italian—slightly more gentle, more likely to rob, light tan in color easy to find queen.

Caucasian—*Apis Mellifera Caucasica*, silver gray in color, tend to propolis excessively. About same productivity as Italians.

Carniolan—*Apis mellifera carnica*—dark brown to black, better in northern climates. Less productive than Italians

Russian—*Apis mellifera caucasica*—mite Resistant, a bit defensive, Swarminess and productivity are a bit more unpredictable. Traits are not well fixed.

Buckfast—a mixture of bees developed by Buckfast Abbey. Similar to Italian bees, fast spring build up, resistant to tracheal mites Reference—[Bushfarms.com/bee races](http://Bushfarms.com/bee_races)

***Michigan hygienic, University hybrids & ankle biter varieties not readily available from local producers are not listed.

Tips on hive pest management : In nature strong colonies are the key to battling hive pests such as ants, hive beetles, wax moths, wasps, spiders etc.. Wax moths are even considered beneficial to a wild hives being they remove old comb but they will not be beneficial in a managed(boxed) hive by any stretch of the imagination. A major goal of all managed hives is to reduce hive stressors while promoting optimal hive qualities. Pest prevention is part of this goal. Some preventative measures include: a) placing the legs of your Apiary Stand in coffee cans filled with water to form a defensive moat and/or b) Surround the legs of your Apiary Stand with Diatomaceous Earth(DE). Spreading DE under your hive will also kill any pests fallen through the grating on the bottom of your bottom board such as Hive Beetles. Unfortunately DE will wash out with rain so reapplying is necessary. Fortunately, the non-rainy season in Florida occurs during late winter & Spring while the hives are most vulnerable so reapplying DE is less frequent. DE is available in the garden section of Home Depot, Lowes, Walmart and Pinch-a-Penny Pool Supply Stores.

Monthly Apiary 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 F continues to bloom in February FMcontinues 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

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. Options include: Apigard, ApilifeVAR, Mite Away II. 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 Fumidil-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 nect

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: Apiguard, ApilifeVAR, Mite Away II 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

Beekeeper MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

APRIL



north - central - south

 **Remedy failing queens as necessary.**

Queen issues are especially problematic this time of year.

 **Continue to control for swarming.**

 **Make nucs/splits.**

New queens and packages become available.

 **Super as necessary.**

The primary nectar flow in South Florida begins this month.

What's Blooming?

north

American Holly	Spring Titi
Blackberry	Swamp Galberry
Blackhaw	Sweet Clover
Buckwheat Tree	Tuliptree
Butter Mint	Tupelo
Chinese Privet	Water Locust
Dog Hobble	Wild Blueberry
Fetterbush	Yaupon Holly
Galberry	
Haw	
Mexican Clover	
Orange	
Palmetto	
Spanish Needle	
Sparkleberry	

central

American Beautyberry
American Holly
Butter Mint
Dog Hobble
Fetterbush
Galberry
Haw
Mexican Clover
Orange
Palmetto
Spanish Needle
Sweet Clover
Tupelo
Wild Blueberry
Yaupon Holly

south

American Beautyberry
Buttonwood
Button Sage
Galberry
Macadamia
Mexican Clover
Orange
Pineland Lantana
Primrose Willow
Seagrape
Shrubby False Buttonweed
Smart Weed
Spanish Needle
White Mangrove
Wild Coffee
Wild Lime

BEST MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTAINING EUROPEAN HONEY BEE COLONIES ON NON- AGRICULTURAL LANDS

The colony density limits in areas not classified as agricultural pursuant to Section 193.461, Florida Statutes, below, minimize potential conflict between people and honey bees and beekeepers following the BMRs outlined in this document. The honey bee colony requirements /densities may not be exceeded except under a special permit issued by the Director of the Division of Plant Industry in accordance with the requirements of Rule 5B-54.0105(3), F.A.C.

1.

The placement of honey bee colonies on non-agricultural private lands must agree to and adhere to the following stipulations:

A.

When a colony is situated within 15 feet of a property line, the beekeeper must establish and maintain a flyway barrier at least 6 feet in height consisting of a solid wall, fence, dense vegetation or combination thereof that is parallel to the property line and extends beyond the colony in each direction.

B.

All properties, or portions thereof, where the honey bee colonies are located must be fenced, or have an equivalent barrier to prevent access, and have a gated controlled entrance to help prevent unintended disturbance of the colonies.

C.

No honey bee colonies may be placed on public lands including schools, parks, and other similar venues except by special permit letter issued by the Director of the Division of Plant Industry and written consent of the property owner.

2.

Honey bee colony densities on non-agricultural private land are limited to the following property size to colony ratios:

A.

One quarter acre or less tract size - 3 colonies. Colony numbers may be increased up to six colonies as a swarm control measure for not more than a 60 day period of time.

B.

More than one-quarter acre, but less than one-half acre tract size - 6 colonies. Colony numbers may be increased up to 12 colonies as a swarm control measure for not more than a 60 day period of time.

C.

More than one-half acre, but less than one acre tract size - 10 colonies. Colony numbers may be increased up to 20 colonies as a swarm control measure for not more than a 60 day period of time.

D.

One acre up to two and a half acres - 15 colonies. Colony numbers may be increased up to 30 colonies as a swarm control measure for not more than a 60 day period of time.

E.

Two and a half to five acres - 25 colonies. Colony numbers may be increased up to 50 colonies as a swarm control measure for not more than a 60 day period of time.

F.

Five up to 10 acres

50 colonies. Colony numbers may be increased up to 100 colonies as a swarm control measure for not more than a 60 day period of time.

G.

Ten or more acres –100 colonies. The number of colonies shall be unlimited provided all colonies are at least 150 feet from property lines.

3.

Beekeepers must provide a convenient source of water on the property that is available to the bees at all times so that the bees do not congregate at unintended water sources.

4.

Beekeepers must visually inspect all honey bee colonies a minimum of once a month to assure reasonable colony health including adequate food and colony strength. If upon inspection honey bees appear to be overly aggressive the beekeeper shall contact their assigned apiary inspector for an assessment.

5.

Re-queen collected swarms, new colonies and maintain colonies with queens or queen cells from EHB queen producer(s).

6.

Practice reasonable swarm prevention techniques as referenced in University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences extension document "Swarm Control for Managed Beehives", ENY 160, published November 2012.

7.

Do not place apiaries within 150 feet of tethered or confined animals or public places where people frequent. (Examples - day care centers, schools, parks, parking lots, etc.)

8.

Do not place colonies in an area that will impede ingress or egress by emergency personnel to entrances to properties and buildings.

9.

Deed restrictions and covenants that prohibit or restrict the allowance for managed honey bee colonies within their established jurisdictions take precedence and as a result supersede the authority and requirements set forth in Chapter 586 Florida Statutes and Rule Chapter 5B-54, Florida Administrative Code. It shall be presumed for purposes of this article that the beekeeper is the person or persons who own or otherwise have the present right of possession and control of the tract upon which a colony or colonies are situated. The presumption may be rebutted by a written agreement authorizing another person to maintain the colony or colonies upon the tract setting forth the name, address, and telephone number of the other person who is acting as the beekeeper.