

## **From the President:**

Hello,

If your weather has been like mine with thunderous down pours 19 of the past 21 days...feed your bees. Thunderstorms wash all nectar out of blooms to the point of leaving feeding grounds, "a desert" in the words of Mario Jacob from D&J Apiaries. The recovery time for each plant species varies but it's safe to expect that daily washouts are not in your bees best interest. Check your bees pollen storage while you are doing your hive inspections too and supplement if needed.

Planning ahead is always a good idea in beekeeping. Now is the time to gather your honey extracting equipment and bottling supplies. On average a honey super will produce 30 pounds of honey. Many beekeepers will extract honey in late June or early July. You can expect an average of up to two medium supers per (established) hive or 60+ pounds of honey as long as there are good nectar sources within their feeding area. More on this at the next meeting.

Summer dearth (lack of nectar sources) is coming soon. Bee sure you leave some honey for the lean months and begin continuous feeding until the autumn nectar flow begins. Normally the spring flow is the most productive in Florida but I can't wait for the fall when the rain trees bloom. In my area this means honey flows by the gallon.

This year has been more productive club wise than most I recall. There seems to be more success stories than tragedies. I hope that this is in no small part because of the vast interest in the Bee College this year and the reference materials that are being made available for individual needs. I don't know if anyone noticed but almost everything we do has come about due to the input of all of our beekeepers who offers their 2 cents. Thanks for the input and please keep it coming.

Bee Healthy, Bee Happy,

Timothy R Blodgett -President

[timblodgett@netzero.net](mailto:timblodgett@netzero.net) 407-314-9667

## **Announcements/News/Website**

-Next meeting Beekeepers of Volusia County: Wednesday, June 28, 2017, 6:30pm Ag Center Auditorium State Rd 44, Deland.

-At the last meeting I mentioned being contacted regarding an Ocean front lot in Ormond Beach thought suitable by the County for an Apiary. Club feedback would tend to disagree. None the less I am providing the following information for anyone interested in pursuing this piece of property: Realtor, Tina Pratt Beshara, Reality Group Specialists 4073422110cell/4072757085ph. Site address; Ocean Shore Blvd, Ormond Beach FL 32176, PID#A 3241-09-02-0010/ ALT# 2995530. This property does not meet the setback requirements to build anything and is zoned Z-RC. Z refers to flooding history &

RC allows for Apiaries and Aviaries. Current taxable just value is \$500, it has tax certificates issued against it, and the sand dunes on the property have been destroyed by foot and vehicle traffic. It's roughly 80'x180' worth about \$1000 and the realtor will waive their fee to be rid of it.

-I met an exceptional young boy at a presentation I did at a "bug camp". This boy knew almost all the answers to all the bee questions I threw out to the audience of about 300 children including how many different varieties of bees are there in the United States? I was impressed! Turns out he is Woody's(hosted queen cloning demo) grandson.

-Tropical Bee of Edgewater, a family owned Florida business, was sold to a Texas honey producer. They built a new retail store along US1 in Edgewater if anyone is interested in checking it out.

**-Kudos to Mary Bammer:** Profile; Mary is the extension coordinator for the Honey Bee Research and Extension Lab. She works to strengthen the direction of the lab's extension initiatives and is currently pursuing a Masters in Extension Education at the University of Florida.

Mary has just completed/posted on her web blog at UF/IFAS the 12<sup>th</sup> month of the bee calendar that we review each meeting. This completes the set and provides a quick reference for Florida Beekeepers based on the region in which they are located. Thank you Mary! We really appreciate it. This may make her eligible for the golden Queen catcher award.

### **Beekeepers of Volusia County FL Club Officers:**

President:	Tim Blodgett
Vice-president:	Larry Hirt
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.

### **FYI**

A bee will produce about ¼ teaspoon of honey during its working lifetime. A teaspoon of

honey is produced from bees visiting from 4.5-5 million flowers.

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

### **Minutes of 5/24/17**

Called to order by President Tim Blodgett @ 6:30

39 in attendance

Old Business: None

New Business:

Treasurer's report \$1072 plus \$50 in petty cash

50/50 raffle with choice of carrot cake or the pot

New attendees introduced themselves

Tim reviewed web activity resulting in bee presentations being taught to some local groups

Some quick reminders about harvesting honey; capping, freezing, dehydrating, moisture content, Bee Lab Update; \$3.7 funded to build main building, \$200K funded by UF, they are asking to raise \$500k to fund the annex and furnishings.

Maintenance has to be done on the PA amplifier after the handle broke off and dropped. Hardware has to be bought. \$20-30 to fix. Voted to reimburse.

Honey flow is coming to an end next month.

Bee assessment & evaluation for disease states & pesticide poisoning by Special speaker Marlin Athearn presented, "Bee Hive Evaluation & Diagnosis Part 2 –Real Trouble". Included strong vs weak hive response to hive beetles, wax moths and varola mites. Also storage recommendations for built out comb frames. Had question and answer session. Part three on Nosema, viruses & American/European foul brood will follow in 2 months at the July meeting.

Break

Bee Management Calendar of bee yard tasks and native plants in bloom for May was reviewed.

50/50 pot was \$26.

Adjourned at 8:05pm

Submitted by Cindy Stretz, assistant secretary

Business cards available with contact & meeting information made available for newbees on the refreshment table.

Adjourned

Submitted Cindy, secretary

## **Meeting Agenda June 28, 2017**

### **Old Business:**

- None
- **New Business:**
- Treasurer's report
- Dr. Jaime Ellis varola mite management & control
- Break
- Extraction: Manual/power extractor/dehydration/packaging
- Bee yard reminders & maintenance calendar review
- Nectar source review
- Q&A

# Beekeeper JUNE

# MANAGEMENT CALENDAR



north	central	south
<p><b>Monitor colonies closely for Varroa.</b> Consider treating when Varroa levels reach 3 mites/100 bees (use alcohol wash or sugar shake). Treatment options include: Apiguard, Apistan, Apivar, Hopguard, and Mite Away*.</p>		
<p><b>Remove and process honey as main flow slows or stops.</b></p>		
<p><b>Super as necessary for late nectar flows.</b></p>		
<p><small>*The label is the law. Always follow product label instructions.</small></p>		

## What's Blooming?

north	central	south
Chinese Privet Chinese Tallow Dahoon Holly Dog Hobble Elderberry Gopher Apple Joint Weed Loblolly Bay Low Bush Galberry Mexican Clover Palm	Palmetto Partridge Pea Possumhaw Red Bay Red Cabbage Sandhill Prairie Clover Spanish Needle Spiderwort Swamp Bay Swamp Titi	Cabbage Palm Dahoon Holly Dog Hobble Elderberry Gopher Apple Joint Weed Loblolly Bay Mangrove Mexican Clover Palm Palmetto
	Red Bay Sandhill Prairie Clover Spanish Needle Spiderwort Virginia Creeper Walter's Viburnum	Spanish Needle Virginia Creeper Walter's Viburnum

@UFhoneybeelab
#UFbugs

### Monthly recurring reference materials:

#### Common Honey Bee Races in North America

Italian—*Apis Mellifera Lizustica*—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

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

### **12 Month Apiary Calendar(TEXT) UF reproduced**

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. Option 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

**Florida Beekeepers are required to register their hives Annually. We advise members to be proactive towards registration for many reasons and especially because it is simply the cheapest liability insurance policy you will ever buy. The following is the Fee Schedule per number of hives:**

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

Payment for hive registrations can be made by mail or online. Go to [www.freshfromflorida.com](http://www.freshfromflorida.com)

### **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.