

From the President:

Hello,

There is no meeting in November & December. The Fair exhibit takes November activities. It was very successful especially taste testing honey and the Halloween Bit-O-Honey giveaway. Good weather contributed to a steady stream of visitors.

Bee availability: there are no Queens from Florida until the spring. If you still need Queens they are available from places like Hawaii and the shipping is very pricey. Nucs have been found available from Jesse Bees in New Smyrna and Jester Bees in Mims, see the classified section of our website for contact information.

Queens will down size the hive population by reducing daily egg output from now until Spring. If you haven't treated for Varroa you're late. Varroa are the biggest killer of hives at this time of year second only to starvation. Feel free to start feeding there's little to forage on out there and it's going to get worse. Don't forget to check pollen storage. Bees cannot live by sugar water alone. Add a small pollen patty if needed and remove it or replace it every 10-14 days during hive inspections.

The cold. Brood begins dying below 75 degrees. Check hives during warmest part of the day, move quickly during inspections to limit exposure. Don't be surprised if your hive has shrunk to the size of a softball. It's conservation of resources. Up north hives actually shut down brood production for several weeks providing an optimal time for Varroa treatment. Adding insulation to the hive is usually unnecessary. But if you feel you must a single Styrofoam sheet across the top is very effective and/or inserting the solid bottom board when weather is expected to dip below 40 degrees.

See you all in January. Elections will be held and all are encouraged to knock me off my Throne.

Bee healthy, Bee happy,

Tim President BKofVC

timblodgett@netzero.net 407-314-9667

Announcements/News/Website

-A day in the Bee Yard is scheduled for Saturday morning from 10am-12noon December 2, 2017 at Marlin's house, 684 Corbin Park Rd, NSB, 32168. **Important: Bring your own lawn chair.** A \$5 lunch will be served. Please contact me by email, phone or text by Thursday November 30th if you plan to attend. The number of attendees is growing please reserve your spot ASAP. If you want to attend contact me by email or call/text me at 407-314-9667

-Next meeting Beekeepers of Volusia County: Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 6:30pm Ag Center Auditorium State Rd 44, Deland.

-It is my sad duty to report that the Ormond Beach live Public Observation hive has died. Nearby lake treatment is suspected of contributing to its demise. We will continue our commitment to support this endeavor for those providing the maintenance.

-We are now a part of the annual Volusia County Farm Tour on Battle Island in New Smyrna Beach. We are doing this along with lifetime member Jesse Azam and Cindy McCallister, the Island's owner & Operator of Battle Island Kayak Adventures. This event is sponsored by UF at Gainesville in cooperation with The Volusia County Ag Extension Center. It is held on the Friday before Thanksgiving & we have the 3-4pm slot.

-We will be presenting at the Ocean Center Home Show January 5, 6, & 7. We will need a few volunteers to occupy the exhibit. Please contact me if you are available.

-Ground has been broken and the walls are going up at the Bee Lab

Panhandle Bee College

Friday & Saturday, March 23-24, 2018

[Blountstown High School](#)
[18597 NE SR 69](#)
[Blountstown, FL 32424](#)

Beekeepers of Volusia County FL Club Officers:

President:	Tim Blodgett
Vice-president:	Larry Hirt
Secretary:	Donna Balo /asst. vacant
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 010/25/17

Called to order by President Tim Blodgett @ 6:30pm

35 in attendance

Treasurer's report \$1843.74

New attendees introduced themselves.

A Sharing Table is available at each meeting for members to give away items or sell items.

The 2018 membership dues & renewals are now due unless you already paid. The membership drive will continue until March.

The president posted the proposed by-laws. Suggestions will be incorporated into the draft and posted at next meeting. This will be considered the first reading of the by-laws.

No input was provided regarding the Bank minimum deposit issue. The president will look into the banking problem. F/U at next meeting.

The President is looking into possible issues with the club's 501C3 status. A member offered to look into our status. F/U at next meeting.

Lisa Reyes Florida State Bee Inspector was a no show

A case study of a colony collapse was discussed

The Volusia County Fair Exhibit was discussed

End of year Varroa treatment & Winterizing your hives was discussed

Bee yard reminders & maintenance calendar review

Nectar sources reviewed

Adjourned 8:00 pm

Submitted Timothy Blodgett President

Meeting Agenda January 24, 2018

Old Business:

- The Year in Review

- By-Laws
- Bank Account min. balance issue follow-up
- 501c(3) status
- **New Business:**
- Treasurer's report
- Bee College
- Mary Bammer, Extension Coordinator, UF at Gainesville -guest speaker
- Q&A
- 50/50

FYI:

-Apivar is available from Amazon.com with free shipping if you are a Prime Member for about \$36 10/strip box.

-As per the Bee Lab the only truly effective approved Varroa chemical treatment:

active ingredient: amitra

Beekeeper MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

NOVEMBER



north - central - south

📡 Monitor colonies for Varroa.

The economic threshold is 60+ mites/day on a sticky screen or 3+ mites/100 bees in a powdered sugar shake for a colony of average strength. Treat if you exceed these numbers. Options include: Apiguard, Apistan, Apivar, Hopguard, or Mite Away*.



📡 Consider treating colonies for Nosema disease using Fumagilin*.

📡 Monitor for and control small hive beetles.

Options include: GardStar*, Hood traps, West Beetle traps, and Better Beetle Blasters












📡 Feed colonies if light.

*Always follow label instructions.



What's blooming?

north	central	south
	Smart Weed   Mexican Clover Spanish Needle   Primrose Willow	
	Bush Aster  Vine Aster   Golden Rod Spotted Mint 	
		Melaleuca* 

*Melaleuca is considered an invasive pest in Florida and is actively being managed in an attempt to eradicate the species from the state.

Beekeeper MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

DECEMBER



north - central - south

Monitor colonies for Varroa.

The economic threshold is 60+ mites/day on a sticky screen or 3+ mites/100 bees in a powdered sugar shake for a colony of average strength. Treat if you exceed these numbers. Options include: Apiguard, Apistan, Apivar, Hopguard, or Mite Away*.



Consider treating colonies for Nosema disease using Fumagilin*.

Monitor for and control small hive beetles.

Options include: GardStar*, Hood traps, West Beetle traps, and Better Beetle Blasters














Feed colonies if light.

*Always follow label instructions.



What's blooming?

north	central	south
	<p>Smart Weed </p> <p> Mexican Clover</p> <p>Spanish Needle </p> <p> Primrose Willow</p>	
	<p>Bush Aster </p> <p>Vine Aster </p> <p> Golden Rod</p> <p>Spotted Mint </p>	
		<p>Melaleuca* </p> <p> Red Maple</p> <p>Willow </p>

* Melaleuca is considered an invasive pest in Florida and is actively being managed in an attempt to eradicate the species from the state.

Monthly recurring reference materials:

-Readily available common kitchen Refractometer water content calibration oils:

Sunflower oil (Sainsbury's) 25.0%

Olive oil regular (Sainsbury's) 27.2%

Olive oil regular (Bertolli) 27.2%

Olive oil, Spanish extra virgin (Sainsbury's) 27.0%

Olive oil, Italian extra virgin (Filippo Berio) 27.0% Calibrating a refractometer. Owing to the remarkably consistent properties of Extra-Virgin Olive Oil, one drop of it on the slide will always read between 71 and 72 on the Brix scale. If you set the lock-nut to show any such oil at 71.5, you will have correctly calibrated the water content scale at the same time.

Queen color codes:

**2015, 2020 purple 2016, 2021 white 2017, 2022 yellow 2018, 2023 red
2019, 2024 green**

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 Caucasicus*, 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 nectar

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

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.