



The following represents the annual election results for 2018 held at the January meeting

Beekeepers of Volusia County FL Club Officers:

President:	Dennis Langlois
Vice-president:	Marlin Athern
Secretary:	vacant
Treasurer:	TimBlodgett
Web Site/computer	Stephen McGehee/Marlin Athern / Quentin Prior intern/
News Letter:	Vacant
Refreshment Spvr:	Beth Langlois/volunteers & donations welcome

Beekeepers of Volusia County Club Meeting

Minutes of 01/24/17

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

52 in attendance

Treasurer's report \$ 1489.06 + \$50 petty cash. The treasurer gave a summary of FY2017 intake and expenses.

New attendees introduced themselves.

The long awaited 2018 Golden Queen Catcher Awards recognizing those who have an impact on improving Bee Culture in the State of Florida were announced. The winners are Members Woody Glover, Daniel Whitaker & Mary Bammer from the UF Bee Lab. Congratulations to all.

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

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

The 2nd reading of by-laws were approved, they are now in effect.

Bank minimum deposit issue. The president & Treasurer looked into the banking problem. Our account was changed to a simple business account. This will reduce the maximum monthly payment to \$5. There will be no fees if there are a minimum of 5 transactions per month. This is currently the best bang for the buck we can get. The issue is resolved.

501C3 status. The President looked into the issue since all other inquiries were void. It appears if we were a 501C3 we have since lost status due to neglecting to perform annual filing. We are not listed anywhere on non-profit state & federal search sites but other Bee organizations are. The issue is complicated & will be forwarded to the next administration to determine if the club will become an official non-profit 501C3. The President noted we lost an opportunity to obtain a Grant from the Gates Foundation this past holiday season because we are not a legal non-profit organization at this time. This will

not effect the normal operation of the club but it hinders outreach initiatives that we could be doing.

Bee College: The Club approved sponsoring 1 person from the club who has been a member for at least 1 year to the admission of Bee College. This will include an additional \$50 dollars to help defray the expense of a motel room. Applicants will submit a written summary of their contributions for the past year to Bee Culture to the Club President by the February 28, 2018 meeting for the President to review and select a winner based on the President's criteria. If no Club Member applies then the President will be sponsored and attend. The Club further specified a preference for this sponsorship be applied to the summer Bee College since more members are expected to attend at that time. The issue was voted on and motion passed to sponser admission, \$50 motel financial aid for the 2018 Bee College summer session.

Wild hive removal legislation. This issue has died in committee. Two things happened as far as I know. 1) Our new President brought the issue of collateral damage to managed hives from exterminator poisoning to the attention of the powers to be at the State level. This made reduced the legislation to little more than a fool's errand, 2) It appears the initiator of this legislation came from a Bee Removal company in South Florida who circulated a "bee hysteria" petition for the benefit of their own business that was less than factual. The legislation to limit wild bee removal to exterminators is now dead.

Mary Bammer from the University of Florida Bee Lab gave a presentation on the reduction of Drone sperm counts and its causes & effects on beekeeping. This subject brought to light a problem in Bee Research. The problem is that depending on who you get the research from will tell you there is a problem or not depending more on the research agenda and who's paying for it than reproducible science. Thus, to answer the question is there a problem? The answer is, "we don't know". "All the more reason why we need a Bee Lab."-

President's note.

Bee yard reminders & maintenance calendar review

Nectar sources reviewed

Adjourned 8:00 pm

Submitted Timothy Blodgett President

FYI:

-Looking for Queens? D&J has begun distributing Queens but apparently several persons who signed up were unprepared to receive them. So if you need Queens, give them a call. You may be able to get one early.

-D&J Apiaries will present Bee issues at the February 28 meeting and will be bringing their trailer store with them. They generally supply the Mann Lake product line. Space in the trailer is limited so if you need something in mass quantity or may not be considered a standard product then it is best to call them a few days in advance to be sure they bring your order with them to save on postage or fuel.

-Dr. Jamie Ellis & Sammy, a Delaware University PhD grad student spoke at the Seminole Agricultural Extension hosted by the Seminole Bee Club on Feb 7, 2018. The following is a report on that meeting.

Ellis -The topic was "What's killing our Bees". The focus was on Varroa. Most beekeepers understand they need to manage Varroa but efficiency is sketchy. Rule of thumb. Varroa attach on the abdomen. Thus, if you hear a beekeeper say they did not treat because they didn't see one it's not because they weren't there. More likely it's because they were hidden beneath the bees.. "We all have Varroa.". Recommend Varroa count by sugar shake or alcohol wash

every 2 months at least and treat for results as well as seasonal (fall/spring) routine.

“If you see a Varroa mite on a honey bee’s back it is either crowded out by too many mites already feeding on the Bee’s abdomen or it is looking for another bee to feed on.” This is why you will probably only see mites on bees backs under extremely bad conditions. Totally avoiding chemicals is not recommended. Rotating methods several times per year is highly recommended.

Sammy(grad student) –What are mites feeding on? His research began with examining mite poop. It was mostly crystalline. This is not possible if a mite is feeding on bee blood as is commonly believed. Sammy’s research led to freezing mites in the process of feeding. Then dissecting them to get a snapshot of mites feeding in action. The results. Very little bee blood is being ingested by mites by comparison to mites feeding on bees “fat bodies”. The fat body is an organ that stores energy, makes wax and insulates the bee during winter. Mites feeding on fat bodies would explain why a 30% reduction in winter hive kill occurs with good mite control in the fall. You should be aware that this research has not yet been published and contradicts a long held belief and the assumptions published by many bee experts. The study will be published and as presented was very compelling.


97 people attended the event

Over \$500.00 was raised for the Bee Lab, they still need another \$150,000. The lab was expanded to 3 buildings since its inception. The first building is expected to open later this year. Dr, Ellis extended a special thank you to Florida Bee Clubs who have been very influential in making the Bee Lab a reality and raising funds to make it happen.

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.**

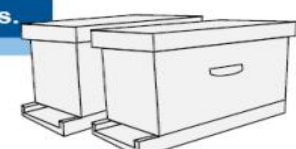
Making sure colonies are well fed will reduce Nosema spore counts (one million spores per bee is considered a high spore count). Some beekeepers also treat colonies with fumagilin with varied effectiveness (always follow label instructions). Recheck spore counts in colonies 2-3 weeks after treatment.

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

Colonies can be treated with Terramycin (oxytetracycline) or Tylan (tylsoin) 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

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:

2018, 2023 red, 2019, 2024 green 2020 purple, 2021 white, 2022 yellow

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 Caucasia*, 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.

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.