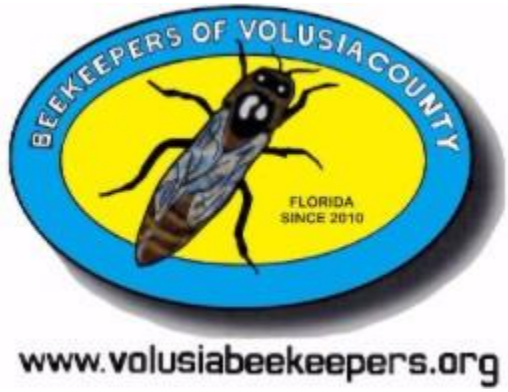

March 2018 News Letter: The next meeting of the Beekeepers of Volusia County will be March 28, 2018 at 6:30 pm.

Beekeepers of Volusia County FL Club Officers:

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

Beekeepers of Volusia County Club Meeting
Minutes of 02/28/18

Called to order by President Dennis Langlois @ 6:30pm

70 in attendance

Treasurer's report:
Beginning Balance $1,420.55
Deposits/Credits $20.00
Checks $.00
Withdrawals/Debits $32.09
Ending Balance $1,408.46
Petty Cash $50.00

Mario Jacob presented a report on the ABF (American Bee Federation) Conference. Of particular interest was a new law limiting Commercial Beekeeping drivers to 8 hours driving time and monitored with electronic devices. This is a problem for bees, chickens, cattle, swine & any other livestock that requires their transports to move in order to remain cool during seasonally hot weather. The bees will cook before the sun goes down if not moving. ABF is seeking an exemption.

Next was a new FDA labeling requirement to list added sugars to honey. The problem is this law is based on enhancement additives to products. Honey is not enhanced by human hands and the amount of sugars in any honey crop varies with nectar source. These are some of the issues being handled by the ABF. Mario also provided ABF membership forms and reported the California Almond crop was short 2oo,ooo hives for pollination and plans are to increase the almond crop next season by 100,000 acres. Sounds like a business opportunity. D&J operates 5000 hives.

UPS is the only carrier who will ship bees.

Mario & Dennis both emphasized the need for at least monthly Varroa Counts. Preferably performing an alcohol wash using about 300 bees to count their Varroa count or a 72 hour sticky board placed in the bottom of your hive.

Dennis presented an organic treatment called Mighty Mite Killer by Bee Hive Thermal Industries. It heats up a hive to 106 degrees for 160 minutes killing mites and small hive beetles. Website: https://www.beehivethermalindustries.com. This treatment runs on 120v ac and costs $300. It recommends 3 annual treatments; Spring, Summer & Fall It is less expensive than the Victor($400) or the thermal solar hive($680)

Speaking of Varroa, Dr. Jamie Ellis spoke at the past Seminole County Club meeting on “What is killing Honey Bees?”. The answer was Varroa mites and a severe lack of monitoring them. Accompanying him was a grad student from Delaware who in the process of writing up his research on Varroa feeding on Honey Bees. He discovered that most of what Varroa are eating is not hemolin as has been thought for years but rather “fat bodies” on the bee abdomen. These structures provide energy, wax production and insulation. He also pointed out that most beekeepers are not seeing Varroa because they are underneath the bee. Also, if you do see one on a bee it is probably looking for a new host because the one it’s

on has been expended.

The 2018 Golden Queen Catcher Awards recognizing those from Volusia County who have an impact on improving Bee Culture in the State of Florida was presented to Daniel Whitaker. Daniel is an outstanding example of the future of beekeeping in Volusia County, Congratulations.

The 2018 membership dues & renewals are due unless you already paid. March is the end of the membership drive..

Meeting Adjourned 8:00 pm

Submitted: Timothy Blodgett Treasurer

FYI:
A Sharing Table is authorized at each meeting for members to give away or sell items at the back of the room.
-Detroit is establishing Bee Hives on empty lots to help their lack of Bees in the area.
-If you see several bees facing the entrance to your hive while fanning their wings it is both a defensive behavior as well as spreading the Queens pheromones to aid newer bees find their way home.

Bee Facts:
- Only female honey bees can sting, the males (drones) are not able to sting, but if you are stung it will probably be by a worker. Queen honey bees can sting, but they remain close to the hive, and so a sting from a honey bee queen would be very rare.
- If the queen honey bee is removed from the hive, within 15 minutes, the rest of the colony knows about it!
- A typical honey bee colony may have around 50,000 workers.
-Male honey bees (drones) have no father, but they do have a grandfather!
-The queen honey bee is about twice the length of a worker.
-A queen honey bee may lay as many as 1000 - 2000 eggs per day as she establishes her colony.

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 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 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.