**Beekeepers of Volusia County FL Club Officers:** **August 2018**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| President: | Dennis Langlois | Dennis2021@yahoo.com 407-330-8542 |
| Vice-president: | Marlin Athern | |
| Secretary: | vacant | |
| Treasurer: | Tim Blodgett | |
| Web Site/computer | Stephen McGehee | |
| News Letter: | Vacant | |
| Refreshment Spvr: | Elizabeth Langlois/volunteers & donations welcome | |

September 2018 News Letter: The next meeting of the Beekeepers of Volusia County will be September 26, 2018 at 6:30 pm. Volusia County Ag Center Auditorium, Fair Grounds, 3100 E. New York Avenue, Deland, Florida 32724.

**Beekeepers of Volusia County Club Meeting**
**Minutes of 08/22/2018**

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

Intro: New-bees

- Discussion regarding mite killer borrow program.

- On October 3, 2018 Dr. Leo Sharashkin will give a presentation on Horizontal Bee Hives at Calico Creek Millworks, 110 Tech Drive, Sandford, FL 32771 at 6:30pm. There was mention that this millworks will improve their hive box designs with the input of beekeeper and use Cyprus to enhance durability. This event is being sponsored by the Seminole County Bee Club and is free to Seminole Club members & $10 to all others. Tickets are available through Eventbrite a link is available on the Volusia County Bee Club Face Book site.

Treasurer's report:

Balance: $ 483.73

30 in attendance

Meeting Adjourned 8:00 pm

Agenda for September 26 meeting:

Donna Athern: Volusia County Fair
Jennifer Holmes: President Florida State Beekeeper's Association

Announcements:

**2008 Bee College is Full**.

The winner of the Bee College Grant is Tim Blodgett.

We received a $250.00 donation from the Thunder City Derby Sirens. These funds will go toward Varroa mite sticky boards used for our mite killer borrow program. We only ask you report your results before you treat and 6 weeks after the treatment. A thank you letter is pending.

FYI:
A Sharing Table is authorized at each meeting for members to give away or sell items at the back of the room.

I attended a meeting with the head of FL State Apiary Inspections. He reviewed some tricks for finding Queens and mentioned that during some research he did they found about 1/3 of hives have a sister queen. Most notably in hives that appear packed solid with brood. He also mentioned certain updates have been published. The following for best Bee practices. Please review.

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES**

**DIVISION OF PLANT INDUSTRY**

**BUREAU OF PLANT AND APIARY INSPECTION**
**APIARY INSPECTION SECTION**

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR MAINTAINING
**EUROPEAN HONEY BEE COLONIES**

1. This is a voluntary program designed to minimize the threat of Africanized Honey Bees (AHB) in Florida and to dilute any feral AHB populations that may become established in Florida as our gentle managed colonies are our best line of defense against AHB.

2. Beekeepers participating in this program must sign a compliance agreement with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

3. Beekeepers will maintain a valid registration with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services/Division of Plant Industry (FDACS/DPI), and be current with any and all special inspection fees.

4. A Florida apiary may be deemed as EHB (European Honey Bee) with a minimum 10% random survey of colonies using the FABIS (Fast African Bee Identification System) and/or the computer-assisted morphometric procedure, ie. universal system for the detection of Africanized Honey Bees (AHB) (USDA-ID), or other approved methods by FDACS on a yearly basis or as requested.

5. Honey bee colony divisions or splits should be queened with production queens or queen cells from EHB

breeder queens following Florida's Best Management Practices.

6. Florida beekeepers are discouraged from collecting swarms that cannot be immediately re-queened from EHB queen producers.

7. Florida Beekeepers should practice good swarm prevention techniques to prevent an abundance of virgin queens and their ready mating with available AHB drones that carry the defensive trait.

8. Maintain all EHB colonies in a strong, healthy, populous condition to discourage usurpation (take over) swarms of AHB.

9. Do not allow any weak or empty colonies to exist in an Apiary, as they may be attractive to AHB swarms.

10. Recommend re-queening with European stock every six months unless using marked or clipped queens and having in possession a bill of sale from a EHB Queen Producer.

11. Immediately re-queen with a European Queen if previously installed clipped or marked queen is found missing.

12. Maintain one European drone source colony (250 square inches of drone comb) for every 10 colonies in order to reduce supercedure queens mating with AHB drones.

13. To protect public safety and reduce beekeeping liability do not site apiaries in proximity of tethered or confined animals, students, the elderly, general public, drivers on public roadways, or visitors where this may have a higher likelihood of occurring.

14. Treat all honey bees with respect.

**Apiary hurricane preparedness**

As always during hurricane season, your safety, and that of your family and neighbors is the top priority as a pending storm approaches. As long as you are otherwise safe and prepared, however, take a few minutes to consider preparing your apiary as well. Below are some recommendations that may help your colonies weather the storm*.

**1. Move hives from low-lying areas.** Colonies in depressions (even those on pallets) may be flooded. Alternatively or in addition to relocation, colonies may be secured to hive stands.

**2. Move hives away from trees.** Falling tree limbs can be detrimental to your apiary in a storm.

**3. Secure hives with ratchet straps.** Positioning straps vertically around an entire hive may keep the hive bodies and lid secured to the bottom board (Figure 1). Stapling the lid to the boxes may also help.

**4. Fasten hives to a post.** Drive a t-post or piece of rebar into the ground near your hive(s) then secure the hive(s) to the bar with a horizontally placed ratchet strap (Figure 1). This may help keep your colonies upright in strong winds

**5. Tilt hives slightly forward** to prevent water from accumulating in the bottom (if you use solid bottom boards).

**6. Remove any external hive feeders** to prevent them from being blown off, possibly further exposing your colonies to wind and rain.

*Note: The stronger the storm is, the less effective the above precautions may be.

**We hope that you, your  family, and your apiary stay safe during this hurricane season!**

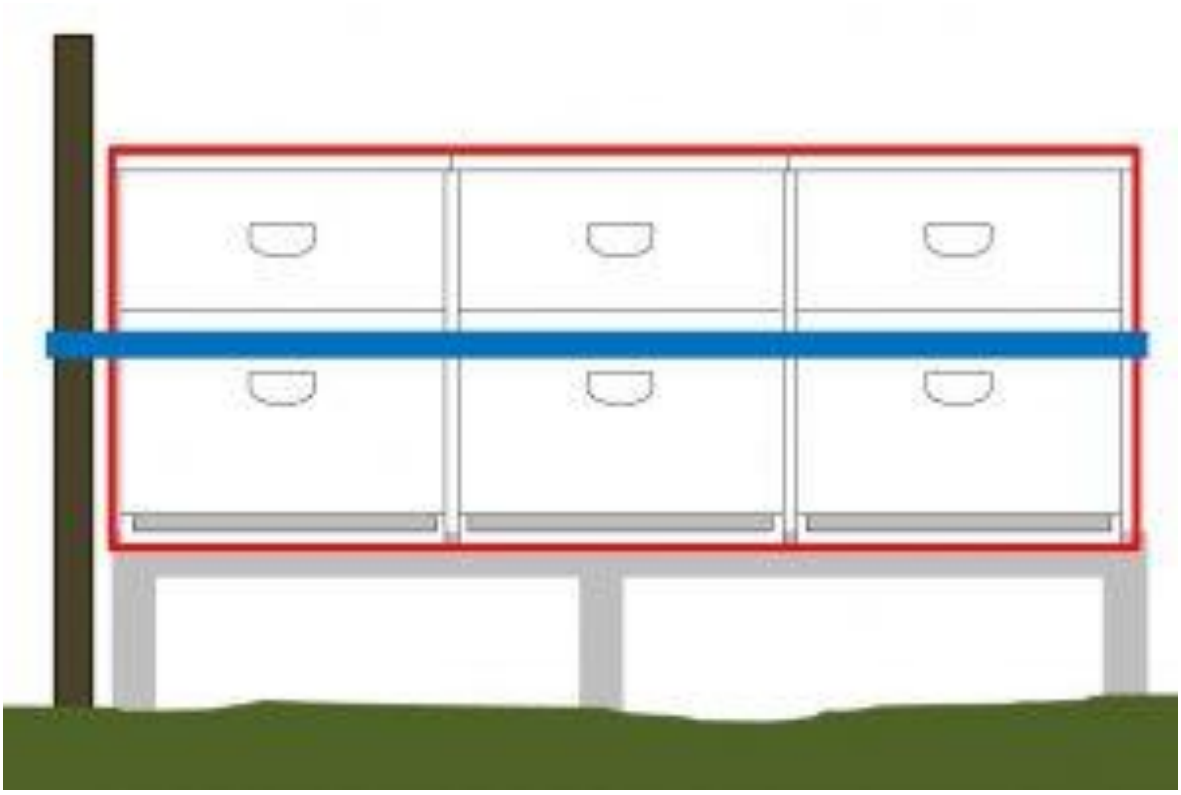

Figure 1: Secure hives. 1) Tighten a ratchet strap vertically around hives [shown in red] to keep the lids secure. 2) Drive a post into the ground and secure hives to it with a horizontally placed ratchet strap [shown in blue].

-Mary Bammer UF/IFAS University of Florida

# Beekeeper MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

# SEPTEMBER


## north

## central - south

- If no nectar flow, feed colonies if light.

- **Monitor colonies for Varroa.**
  *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*.*
- **Colonies can be treated for Nosema disease.**
  *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*. Recheck spore counts in colonies 2-3 weeks after treatment.*
- **Super colonies if there is a strong Brazilian Pepper flow.**

**Always follow label instructions.*

## What's Blooming?

### north

Bush Aster
Goldenrod
Mexican Clover
Primrose Willow
Red Bay
Smart Weed
Spanish Needle
Spiderwort
Spotted Mint
Sumac
Vine Aster

### central

Brazilian Pepper
Bush Aster
Goldenrod
Mexican Clover
Primrose Willow
Red Bay
Smart Weed
Spanish Needle
Spiderwort
Spotted Mint
Sumac
Vine Aster

### south

Brazilian Pepper
Melaleuca
Mexican Clover
Palm
Primrose Willow
Shrubby False Buttonweed
Smart Weed
Spanish Needle

UF IFAS Extension UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA | Honey Bee Laboratory | @UFhoneybeelab | #UFbugs

This calendar is meant to be a reference point for management and is not comprehensive.

JOIN THE MASTER BEEKEEPER PROGRAM TODAY!

The long awaited Apprentice Level online course for the University of Florida Master Beekeeper Program is finally here! If you are interested in joining the UF MBP, this course will be your entrance to the program. You do not need to apply and there are no education or experience requirements to begin.

The second half of the online Apprentice course is still under construction. As such, Part 1 is currently available to begin today. Part 2 will be available by Fall of 2018.

The requirements for the Apprentice level have changed in the new program. Read through the revised

program manual here.

https://ifas-honeybee.catalog.instructure.com/courses/ufmbp-apprentice1


## From the State: Selling Bees

As of March 27th, 2018, if you are selling bee colonies (nucs, full colonies, etc.) in Florida you must follow these two steps. First, your queens must come from a certified queen source. This is to ensure European motherlines across the state. Second, you must be certified by the state as a Stock Dealer. As a registered Stock Dealer in Florida, you are **not** required to permanently mark the hives that you plan to sell. Rather, the individual that you sell the colony to will be responsible for marking it with his/her firm number. For information on how to become a Stock Dealer, contact your local apiary inspector.
-Mary Bammer UF/IFAS University of Florida

## 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 at the Bee Lab at UF Gainsville!!! 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 or June Thermal treatment for Varroa in late spring.

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 5+ 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 5+ 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 Thermal Varroa Treatment summer treatment due.

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 5+ mites in an ether/alcohol roll for a colony of average strength. Treat if you exceed these numbers. Options include: Apivar, Varroa thermal treatment due Oct-Nov fall treatment
- 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.