

## Beekeepers of Volusia County FL Club Officers:

February 2019

President:	Donna Athern (Office) 386-428-0838 (Mobile) 386-426-3198 <a href="mailto:southofthemouthcafe@msn.com">southofthemouthcafe@msn.com</a>
Vice-president:	Marlin Athern
Secretary:	Erin Whitaker
Treasurer:	Tim Blodgett
Web Site/computer:	Quinton Prior
News Letter:	TBA
Refreshment Spvr:	Erin Whitaker

February 2019 News Letter: The next meeting of the Beekeepers of Volusia County will be February 27, 2019 at 6:30 pm. Volusia County Ag Center Auditorium, Fair Grounds, 3100 E. New York Avenue, Deland, Florida 32724.

### **Beekeepers of Volusia County Meeting Minutes 23 January, 2019**

6:28 Tim Blodgett called to order. Gave financial report

Dennis: Official resignation

Donna Athern: Demonstration of Club Fair space.

Opened discussion Re: Community outreach, Home Shows, (22-24 March), DeLand Flower Festival, Daytona Home Show, (April).

**Appealed to members:** Club needs to make a presence at local events. Need to make a list of booth opportunities.

Thanked members for helping with Fair set up.

Marlin Athern: Nominated new officers

Marlin nominated Donna. Tim seconded. Donna Athern elected unanimously.

Marlin Athern elected Vice President

Erin Whitaker elected Secretary

Tim Blogett retained as Treasuer

Quintin Prior agreed to post of Web Master

Refreshment volunteer: Daniel and Erin Whitaker

Tim opened discussion Re: Website maintenance, Facebook page and E-presence.

Marlin: Suggested Sign up sheet for refreshment table.

Welcome New Bees:

Heather and Chris Cayhill, Suzy Cantley, Robert & Dean

Jeana and husband from Michigan stopped by to say hello.

Break 7:04. Resumed 7:19

Marlin- proposed 2 classes in spring.

1. Wax rendering / candles
2. How to be a hive detective, ie. Identifying what's going on in your hive and understanding what they need.

Discussed- Day in the Bee Yard- Flow hives (a Sunday)

Members welcomed to submit ideas for classes

### **Open Discussion : General topics**

Ormond beach observation hive to be set up again soon

Bee College in Davy FL March/April

South Florida- Africanized bee problem

CA Almond pollinizing

### **Marlin began Q & A Session:**

Wax moths and how to treat?

Hive placement?

D & J to meetings? Will ask for Feb. Need \$500 orders to make the trip.

Quintin suggested Facebook Closed Group page. General acquiescence from members

Marlin was asked about ideas on splitting now.

Queens available April

Marlin Thanked members and Final Questions

Donna proposed committee for speakers, community education, outreach

Doug McGuinness March

Meeting Adjourned 7:49

**Cu-does to Daniel Whitaker! He was published in a Farm Bureau feature article. Congratulation to Daniel for being an excellent role model for the youth of America.**

Treasurer's report

FY 2018 Totals:

Starting bal \$1489.06

Deposits \$1381.00

Withdrawals \$2219.33

Ending Balance \$540.73

Operating exp: -\$877.71

Education exp: -\$479.95

Equipment: -\$550.00

Pantry: -\$530.17

Bank Fees: -\$105.00

-Dennis Langlois has taken a position on the ABF Board and will not continue as club president. We wish him well on his endeavors to promote beekeeping.

\$20 dues are now due. Payment by check or cash to Beekeepers of Volusia County. Please provide a current, legible email address when making payment to assure you are credited appropriately. Pay the Treasurer at the meeting or by mail to: Tim Blodgett Treasurer, 2707 Timberlake Avenue, Deltona, FL 32725. Any problems feel free to call me 407-314-9667.

### **From the President:**

Queen Bees Letter  
To Our Organization,

First, I want to thank you for your vote of confidence in my ability to lead our Beekeepers into a new year. I hope that I will be able to count on you to help me with setting goals and obtaining the most from our meetings and activities together as one organization. One organism working for the same end results. Prosperity and higher knowledge of what we do with our honey bees.

Second, our February meeting will be our first move into planning for the year ahead. We will have sign up sheets for you to help with our various committees.

You will have an opportunity to participate in our

Web Page Design Committee,  
Educational Topics Committee for our monthly meetings,  
Special Event & Booth Presentations Committee,  
"Day in The Bee Yard" Committee  
Ormond Beach Community Project Hive Team,  
New Beekeeper Mentoring committee,

Each month this year will be planned with the members interest in mind. What plants are being pollinated, how the honey is flowing, places to locate hives, ways to preventing swarming, honey processing, and expanded bee biology. These will be part of our focus. You will help design the topics as part of the Educational Topics Committee. The March meeting will feature Doug McGinnis from Tropical Blossom to teach about the changes in beekeeping and honey processing over the last 100 years.

Third, I would like to see our club come together as a group with Special Event Opportunities. The Special Event & Booth Presentations Committee may have an opportunity for our organization to set up on locations for a teaching event about bees and the products they make. This could include events like the Home & Garden Shows, the Florida Wildflower Festivals or an Environmental Event. It could also include Farmers Market events. The Special Event & Booth Presentation Committee will work toward that goal.

Fourth, "Day in The Bee Yard" Committee will have various locations for the club to do more hands on work inside a hive. April is an opportunity to join one of our members in his flow hive to get a better understanding of how they work and the pros and cons of the hive design. We can also join together at another location for top bar hive work with another member depending on the committees suggestions.

Fifth, The Club may want to hold a special event to educate the public at the Ormond Beach Environmental Center. The findings of the Ormond Beach Community Project Hive Teams may have some suggestions. You get to hear from the committees and make the discussion if you can help out there by participating on site.

Sixth, We will develop a yearly calendar for the members from the committees accumulated results. You will have a picture of what is coming up in a future meeting so that if you find someone interested in a particular topic, you can invite them to join in. Either a garden club member you meet, a new beekeeper, or a neighbor. Some special events may be the months meeting as with the Volusia County Fair in November.

Finally, I would like to ask for us to work with each other to build our club membership back to where we were several years ago. We can make an impact in our community and in our bees environment if we each do a little something. Just like the circle of the hive members, we will be functioning in the same manor. The committees make the decisions for the group. Relying on each other to do their part to make the whole organism work like a well oiled spinner.

Thanks for joining me in a new year. I look forward to hearing from you.

Donna Athearn  
President  
Beekeepers Of Volusia County  
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(Mobile)386-426-3198  
[southofthemouthcafe@msn.com](mailto:southofthemouthcafe@msn.com)

**FYI:**

## **Top 7 Reasons for Cranky Bees** By [Melissa Caughey](#) on May 13, 2015

Cranky Bees. They are one of the worst nightmares of a beekeeper. Cranky bees are not enjoyable to keep. They have aggressive tendencies and are overprotective of the hive. Often when you have cranky bees, you will be unable to get near the hive or you will get stung. Sometimes these bees chase you for just being within eyesight of the hive. In my case, I could not tend to my garden without honeybees hitting my head and face. After investigating why this nice hive turned mean, it was clear that I needed to re-queen this hive. But where do you begin when this happens in your own backyard apiary? Here are some things to consider.

**Bad Weather.** One thing new beekeepers quickly learn is that honeybees prefer calm days with abundant sunshine. They do not care for cloudy, windy, or rainy weather. These types of conditions as well as other weather extremes greatly affect the bees' temperament. Thus, it is never recommended to go into a hive on less than optimal days.

Smoking the bees can help to keep the bees calm as you work the hive.

**Hive Inspection/Manipulation.** Any of us would be upset if someone came into our homes and began poking and prodding around. It is only natural that the bees become aware and protective of their home. Sometimes, bees can be cranky for a few days following a more thorough inspection or hive manipulation. So, when going into the hive consider the time of day. Optimal time to enter the hive is later morning until early afternoon during times of good weather. Using a smoker during the inspections can also cut down on hive crankiness afterwards.

**Starvation.** Hungry and thirsty bees are not happy nor should they be. Pay attention to the nectar and pollen availability in your area and remember to feed the bees during droughts and nectar dearths to prevent crankiness and other bee issues.

**Predators.** Bee predators that lurk around the hive can cause bees to increase defensiveness of the hive. Sometimes it takes a bit of detective work to see if this is a cause of bee irritability. Skunks for example love to bring their families to the hives at night during the summer when the bees cool their hives by bearding. Skunks are only sensitive to bee stings on their abdomens. Therefore they sit outside the hive and pick off bees one by one until they have had their fill.

**Mean Queen.** All the other bees in the hive emulate the personality and temperament of the queen. If the queen is nice, the hive should be gentle. If she is nasty the hive will turn nasty. In this situation, beekeepers are encouraged to re-queen the hive.

**Queenless.** If the queen goes missing through death or other mishap, the hive soon senses that she is gone. As they work to requeen the hive, they can become more protective and defensive until the new queen emerges, mates, and sets the overall tone of the hive.

**Africanization.** Africanized bees do reside in certain areas of the country. Known for their aggressiveness, it has become more and more apparent that they are contributing to the gene pool of bees in the United States. Virgin queens will mate with available drones in the area. Even if you are in an area where Africanized bees do not reside, it is not entirely impossible that some Africanized traits/genes traveled in packaged bees from the South to your area. These drones then mate with the local virgin queens and then incorporate their genetics into the local gene pool. If you suspect this has happened, the first step is to re-queen the hive with a mated queen and see if it makes a difference.

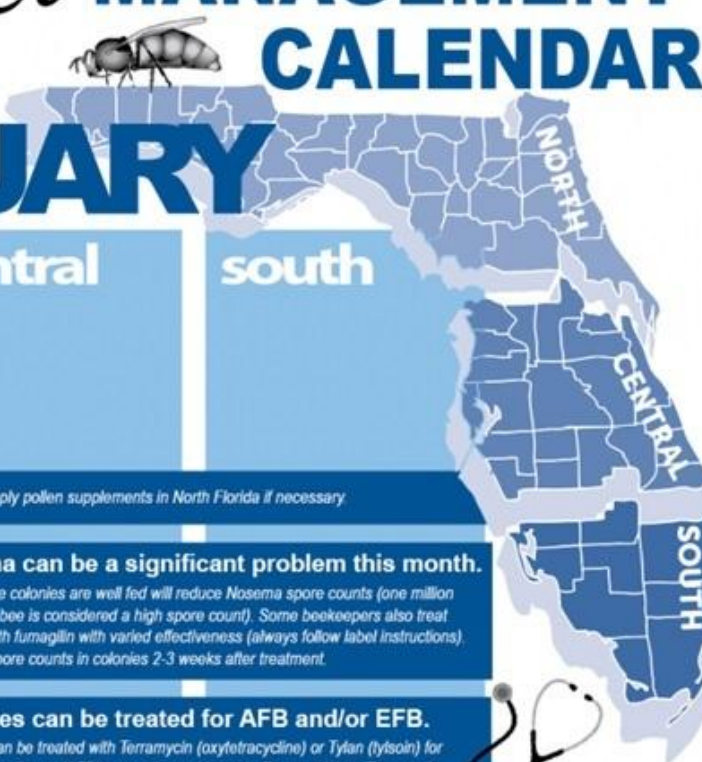


Spring! Time to fix up the hives, do some painting and sanitize unused equipment. Make sure your hives are level and protect your stand legs from ants.




# 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 (tylosin) 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		central		south	
Blueberry	Plum	Blueberry	Plum	American Beautyberry	
Cherry	Sand Pine	Cherry	Sand Pine	Mexican Clover	Blackberry
Fetterbush	Spring Titi	Fetterbush	Swamp Titi	Primrose Willow	Coreopsis
Haw	Sweet Clover	Haw	Sweet Clover	Spanish Needle	Oak
Maple	Viburnum	Maple	Viburnum	Sweet Acacia	Orange
Oak	Willow	Oak	Willow	Sweet Clover	





[@UFhoneybeelab](https://twitter.com/UFhoneybeelab)
[#UFbugs](https://twitter.com/UFbugs)

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

**Eversweet Apiaries**

Honeybees are usually selected for their positive traits which are passed down from the queen & the drones she mated with. There are pros & cons for each breeds' traits. These breeds are the most common in the United States.

# HONEYBEE BREEDS



TRAIT	AFRICAN	BUCKFAST	CARNIOLAN	CAUCASIAN	CORDOVAN	ITALIAN	RUSSIAN
CALM ON COMBS	1	10	8	10	7	5	5
DEFENSIVE BEHAVIOR	10	1	1	1	1	2	7
EARLY BUILD UP	10	8	10	6	5	8	10
FORAGES EARLY	5	10	10	1	5	5	10
HONEY COLLECTION	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
HONEY STORAGE	1	10	10	8	8	10	5
NOSEMA RESISTANT	10	5	6	1	5	5	5
POLLEN COLLECTION	5	5	10	5	5	5	5
PROPOLIS COLLECTION	5	5	2	10	5	5	5
TENDENCY TO SWARM	10	2	5	2	5	2	7
TRACHEAL MITE RESISTANT	8	10	8	3	5	5	9
VARROA RESISTANT	10	3	4	3	3	3	5
WINTERS WELL	1	10	10	10	5	10	10

1 = Low Tendency for Trait      10 = High Tendency for Trait

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## 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 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 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 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](http://Bushfarms.com/bee_races)

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

## **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.

**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.