**Lake County Beekeepers**

Meeting Minutes – Thursday, January 7, 2016

**Opening**

The regular meeting and Holiday Party of the Lake County Beekeepers was called to order at 7:04 p.m. on 01/7/16 in the Lake County Ag Extension Office by Billy Fussell.

**Present**

See member sign-in sheet for attendance. Two visitors from Howey in the Hills were introduced. They are interested in becoming beekeepers and won a nuke in the Holiday Raffle!

**Approval of Minutes**

Majority of members approved.

**Meeting Discussion Topics**

President Billy Fussell opened the meeting with a brief overview about the club and explained that instead of the usual 50/50 raffle, tickets were given to all for a chance to win Holiday Party gifts. The gift donations were provided by individuals and companies. Donations included 4 Universal tickets from Courtney and Peter Mara, Window Tinting from Chris & Kris Gehman, 5 Publix gift cards from Mike and Maggie, plants from Courtney, nukes from Bee Fussy and Jerry Harrington, a bee basket including a smoker and other equipment from D&J. Other gifts included club shirts, bee towels and gift cards to various restaurants. A wonderful potluck Holiday dinner was enjoyed by all. Dan of Barnwood BBQ provided the entrée of BBQ meat.

The meeting was opened up for questions and a number of topics were discussed. (1) Billy reminded everyone that this is the time of year to perform a Mite Wash, treat for Foul brood with Terra-Pro, and feed bees with pollen patties. (2) The weather has been warmer this year with Spanish Needle and Sun Hemp still blooming. Red Maple should be kicking in soon for the bees. (3) Also a brief discussion ensued about bears in Central Florida and to consider putting in a hot wire (electric fence) to keep them from getting to the hives. Rural King carries hot wire supplies. They are simple to build and there are various alternatives, such as battery and solar power. Billy reviewed how he wires his fence using 4 strands. (4) One member has hive beetles. It was discussed about treatment with Gard Star, available at D&J and Rural King. Beetle Blaster can also be used. (5) Nukes and Queens availability was reviewed: Jerry Harrington may have nukes by March, Queens will normally be available by June or July, D&J may have some by April, Billy may have some available in March.

Votes for officers were collected and the result will be announced in the February meeting. Bill is seeking volunteers for presentations to schools and libraries, and other locations such as Rural King. Billy mentioned that the club could benefit from power buys on such things as Beetle Blaster, supers and frames, no final decision was yet made. The next Bee Yard is scheduled at Billy’s Home on 1/16/16 at 9:00 a.m.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. by Billy Fussell. The next general meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on 2/4/16 at Lake County Ag Extension.

Respectfully submitted by Minutes Recording Chair: Michael Matson