**Lake County Beekeepers**

Meeting Minutes – Thursday, February 4, 2016

**Opening**

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on 02/4/16 in the Lake County Ag Extension Office by President Billy Fussell.

**Present**

See member sign-in sheet for attendance. There were 5 families that visited the club for the first time from Howey in the Hills, Sugarloaf Mountain, Ocala, Tavares and Bushnell.

**Meeting Discussion Topics**

Mario Jakob of D&J Apiary spoke about his business and his long term relationship with the club. Located in Umatilla, D&J sell supplies and conducts bee keeping classes. Mario is offering a Beginning Beekeeping class in February (full) and another on March 12 with openings for about 20 people. The class includes indoor lectures and hands-on experience with the bees in the afternoon. Class cost is $50.00. There will be an Advanced Class on March 19. A special class on Soap and Lip Balm is scheduled for February 27. If interested, please call soon to reserve your spot at 352-669-4233.

Marion is a long term member of the American Bee Federation, ABF, and is a director representing commercial beekeepers. ABF is offering a complimentary membership until 12/31/16. Just go to [http://www.abfnet.org/](http://www.abfnet.org/%20) and click on the “Join now” link. The ABF is a great source of bee knowledge including webinars and an online magazine. A full membership runs $65.00 per year. Mario encourages us to consider joining.

Mario informed the group that 2016 Bee College presented by the University of Florida Honey Bee Research and Extension Lab will be held on Friday, March 4, 2016 at 7:00 AM - Saturday, March 5, 2016 at 4:00 PM (EST) in St. Augustine, FL. Here is the link. <http://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/honeybee/extension/bee_college.shtml>

Kris Gehman, our new Publicity & Communications Secretary shared with the club programs that she has planned and is soliciting other members to help such as hospitality, name tags, and mentoring. Kris is working on updating the web site. She would like volunteers to pick a section of the site and work on developing new ideas and content. Also, members may submit short stories about bees to share with the group. Pictures are great. Send items to Kris at Lakecountybeeks@gmail.com. Kris introduced two of her current helpers, Mike Matson, who will record the minutes and Courtenay Marra with membership.

Billy Fussell will be doing a “Day in the Bee Yard” on February 13 beginning at 9:00 AM at 33840 Grant Ave, Leesburg, Fl. If you need information you may reach Billy at 352-455-2412. Billy will divide up the group into three teams that will learn how to build frames and boxes, do a bee hive inspection, and honey extraction.

**General Conversation**

* There was a general discussion addressing the concerns of new beekeepers and the getting ready for the spring flow. Continue with the pollen patties and sugar water. The bees will be healthy and be ready to go once the blossom comes.
* If you will be purchasing a new hive for the first time you will need to register for a permit. You will receive a registration number that is best recorded on your hive as an indication of ownership. If you buy from a known beekeeper you first inspection will be waived. Don’t forget to renew if you are already registered on or prior to the anniversary date of your certificate. You can find more at freshfromflorida.com. The direct link is: <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Plant-Industry/Business-Services/Registrations-and-Certifications/Beekeeper-Registration>.
* If you are looking for a queen this spring, get on a list now. If you wait, you may not be able to get one.
* As a new beekeeper, you need to ask yourself what you are looking for. Is it for the garden, honey production or a small business? Don’t buy any equipment without talking to other beekeepers to get an idea of what they use and buy.
* Bees are a number’s game. They are here only to reproduce. If you care for the hive it will grow. How many hives should you have? One is a lonely number but cost the least. Three may be the perfect number.
* As we move into the mosquito season, Lake County will begin spraying and if it drifts into your hive, well, it can be very harmful. Call the county and give them your address to avoid spraying.
* Billy indicated that he gets up to 4 flows a year with, Orange blossom, Palmetto, Sourwood and Brazilian pepper because he moves his bees. If you don’t plan to move yours try and plant something for the bees that will produce flowers in different times of the year. Crape myrtle and bottle brush trees are great bloomers.

There was a power buy for beetle blasters, medium frames and boxes, member submitted purchase forms. Billy will notify us when there are in.

The 50/50 raffle collected $80 and $40 went to the winner. Good luck next time!

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. by Billy Fussell. The next general meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on 3/3/16 at Lake County Ag Extension.

Respectfully submitted by Minutes Recording Chair: Michael Matson