**Lake County Beekeepers**

Meeting Minutes – Thursday April 7, 2016

**Opening**

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

**Present**

See member sign-in sheet for the list of 61 people in attendance. Be sure to look at the web site and sign-up to get the newsletter and minutes. There were 15 or more new faces at the meeting. Families that visited the club for the first time were from Eustis, Fruitland Park, Homosassa, Weirsdale, Tavares, Paisley, Longwood, Sorrento, Mt Dora and a visitor from Minnesota. The word is spreading!

**Meeting Discussion Topics**

Billy reminded us that the club has an extractor and if you need it, please use the sign in sheet. Spring is here and the abundance of palmetto will be in bloom for the bees very soon. The orange trees were blooming in the last weeks but the heavy rains hurt the blossoms. A question was asked; when do you stop feeding sugar water to the bees? The bees will stop eating it when they begin to find better natural food sources.

The Bee club began with only 3 hives but with splits are up to 7 hives. Our past visitor from Illinois has donated a hive box to the club and Billy’s daughter began painting it to establish a hive for the kids!

The club dues are $20.00 for family a year. Dues will be prorated by quarter to keep it simple with all expiring on December 31. You must be a member to participate in “Day in the Bee Yard” The club will be asking participants to sign a sting waiver of liability. As the club gets closer to the nonprofit status, the club can then begin to raise more money for activities and items to support the club and its members.

**General Conversation**

What does it mean when the bees are collecting in mass in front of the hive? Like Billy says, if you asked 10 beekeepers this question you will get 11 answers. There could be a number of reasons, overcrowding in the hive, or they may be fanning out the hive to drop the humidity, or they are waiting for the queen to emerge and they are ready to go.

Billy Fussell will be doing a “Day in the Bee Yard” on April 30, Saturday beginning at 9:00 AM at 33840 Grant Ave, Leesburg, FL 34748. If you need information, you may reach Billy at 352-455-2412. Eventually we will be moving some of the hives to the Agricultural Center and will be holding the classes there.

Mario Jakob of D&J Apiary had a few words for the club this evening. There is a bee class at his location on May 14 and a queen rearing class on May 21. If interested in the classes please call soon to reserve your spot at 352-669-4233. Please click on D&J’s link to lean more at. <http://www.dandjapiary.com/>. Be sure to check out the classes and the events calendar. There are many other avenues to meet-up with other beekeepers in different areas.

**Special Guest Speaker**

Lisa Reynes is our Lake county Apiary Inspector but she actually handles many of the surrounding counties as well. She can be reached at [Lisa.Reynes@FreshFromFlorida.com](file:///E%3A%5CLisa.Reynes%40FreshFromFlorida.com).

While she was visiting our club, she processed many applications for apiary inspections. Additional information can be found at the Fresh from Florida site. <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Agriculture-Industry/Search-by-Industry/Bees-Apiary/Apiary-Inspection>

Usually you will need an inspection on the first year, however if buying a nuke from one of our local commercial beekeepers, you may get a pass for the first year. After your application is processed you will receive a Firm ID number and a registration number. You are required to permanently imprint your number on your hives in the upper left hand corner and a good idea to mark your frames.

Lisa spoke about Best Management Practices, a guide for better stewardship of the bees. Below the minutes is an excerpt from their web site. There are many things to be aware of. For example, there are rules on hive density based upon the size of your lot, concerning how far your hive needs to be from the neighbor lot line, if you need fences or bushes protecting your hive, and does your HOA have rules on keeping bees and so forth. It a good idea to provide a source of water for the bees before they find the neighbors pool with all the kids. Please take the time to go to their site and read these sections. A BIG thanks to Lisa for her support of the club and for the information she brings.

The 50/50 raffle collected $108 and $54 went to the winner, Jerry Griffith.

**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 5/5/16 at Lake County Ag Extension.

Respectfully submitted by Minutes Recording Chair by: Michael Matson

* Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)
* 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.
* The placement of honey bee colonies on non-agricultural private lands must agree to and adhere to the following stipulations:
	+ 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.
	+ 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.
	+ 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.
* Honey bee colony densities on non-agricultural private land are limited to the following property size to colony ratios:
	+ 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.
	+ 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.
	+ 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.
	+ 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.
	+ 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.
	+ 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.
	+ Ten or more acres – 100 colonies. The number of colonies shall be unlimited provided all colonies are at least 150 feet from property lines.
* 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.
* 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.
* Re-queen collected swarms, new colonies and maintain colonies with queens or queen cells from EHB queen producer(s).
* 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.
* 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.)
* Do not place colonies in an area that will impede ingress or egress by emergency personnel to entrances to properties and buildings.
* 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.