**Lake County Beekeepers**

Meeting Minutes – Thursday, May 5, 2016

**Opening**

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. in the Lake County Agricultural Extension Office by President Billy Fussell. See member sign-in sheet for the list of 59 people in attendance. The club had some new people at the meeting from Clermont, Eustis and Plymouth. Some newbees learned about the club at the Landscape and Garden Fair in April.

At the next meeting, the club will do a class on how to extract honey. A full 9 frame medium super can produce 2 ½ gallons or 30 pounds of honey. Or each full medium frame can produce about 1 quart or 3-4 pounds of honey. Members are encouraged to bring in their full capped frames and appropriate sized collection container. The club owns an extractor and can be used by members after reserving the equipment with Kris at [lakecountybeeks@gmail.com](file:///C:\\Users\\kris.gehman\\Downloads\\lakecountybeeks@gmail.com).

**General Conversation**

* Honey Flow: Most of the commercial beekeepers were not very happy with the honey flow from the orange blossoms this year, the rain dampened the effort. However palmetto is doing very well for most, and may continue through Memorial Day. As a reminder, good flowering plants for the bees include Crepe Myrtle, Bottle Brush, Red Maple, and Brazilian Verbena. Be sure to fertilize these trees to maximize flowering.
* If you are having problems with your hive or don’t understand what you see, take a picture, or write a note and send it to Kris at [lakecountybeeks@gmail.com](file:///C:\Users\Mike\Data\2016\lakecountybeeks@gmail.com). She will try to get some answers for you. The hope is to gather additional pictures for a reference page on our site.
* This is the time that mites are coming back. There are a number of ways to treat mites depending upon your preferences. Oxalic acid treatments are an organic way to treat for mites. Don’t use wood bleach from the hardware store as it has added unknown components. You can purchase 99% oxalic acid on line. Billy discussed two different tools that can be used to apply it as a vapor: one is cheaper but slower and the other more expensive and fast. Be very careful not in inhale the vaporized fumes. He also uses Apivar twice a year in Jan/Dec and August/September and then uses the Oxalic acid as maintenance in between. You can also treat for mites with powdered sugar as a part of your inspection routine. It is sifted over the brood chamber; the bees clean off the sugar and in turn the mites and fall through the screen board or set your sticky bottom board for 24 hours to get a count. Beware some of these treatments cannot be used during the honey flow.
* A good article on Oxalic Acid was found it in the Bee Journal at <http://www.beeculture.com/oxalic-acid-effective-easy-on-bees-but/>. And an article on mites was found at <http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/misc/bees/varroa_mite.htm>
* The 50/50 raffle was $49.00 and thanks to the members who contributed eggs and plants to the 50/50 drawing.

The next meeting will be on Thursday June 2, 2016, dinner at 6:30 meeting at 7:00.

Respectfully submitted by Minutes Recording Chair by: Michael Matson