

**MINUTES**  
**Tampa Bay Beekeepers Association**  
**July 10, 2008**  
***www.tampabaybeekeepers.com***

The Tampa Bay Beekeepers Association monthly meeting came to order on Thursday, July 10, 2008, 7:30 pm at the Hillsborough County Extension Office meeting hall. President Charlie Hammond presided, Annemarie Hammond filled in for Renee Hartman as Secretary. There were 6 guests including Elvis and Margery, Crystal and Todd with baby, and Jennie, Approximate number of attendees: 44. Rick and Ellen Crites provided the refreshments. Door prizes provided by Connie and Rick Parker, and Bert Kelly.

Speaker: Bert Kelly spoke tonight. He will be closed for the month of August. On bottling: He is bottling for small beekeepers or having people bottle at his approved facility. The label has show where the honey was bottled. He requires that the beekeeper buys the containers from him and charges by the hour (reasonable rate). The visiting beekeeper has to provide his own labels.

Bert's tale of woe: A friend of his contacted him to tell him that his neighbor was selling some bee hives. Turns out they were Bert's! Bert called the sheriff at Polk County Ag Division. They came to the bee yard and showed the spot were the missing hive is. The man who stole the hive kept the stolen hives in his backyard. Bert has his equipment branded and also verified with his own inventory. The Sheriff saw the "contraband" in the backyard. The man was allegedly going get more hives from Bert's bee yard that night and a stakeout was organized. Unfortunately, the man did not come out and upon a warrant served; the man bolted out his back door and is on the run. Bert's equipment was returned to him, no damage was done. Lessons learned: 1) make sure you brand/mark your equipment both the frames and boxes and 2) inventory your bee yards. Remove all loose equipment and store away. This tough economy can make some people do desperate things.

Club Business Meeting

June Minutes were accepted.

Treasurers report: \$6,212.62 balance in club account.

General Discussion:

On bottled honey: Jane presented an email from Tony Hogg of Appalachia Beekeepers Assoc. Attached was a resolution for change in regulation prohibitive to wellbeing of part-time beekeeping in regards to honey bottling. A copy of this resolution was shared with the group tonight. The purpose of the resolution is to change the current honey bottling rules by Legislative Action. The State Beekeepers are trying to find a legislator that will champion this new bill. Since Congressmen can only sponsor two bills at a time, there is a large demand for congress members to sponsor bills. Gary is working on getting a special session ASAP with members of congress to untable this issue so we can change this law. Hobbyist beekeepers should not have to buy three-chambered sinks and expensive sanitation systems. Egg and sorghum sellers have been able to by-pass this law and so should beekeepers. In light of recent local beekeepers who had issues with bottling "illegally". The State Inspector just told them to stop selling. Currently in the State of Florida, beekeepers need to have a separate bottling facility. Beekeepers cannot bottle in your home. Charlie Hammond states that it is tough to get a bottling license in Florida. If you sell at a roadside stand labeled honey, a state inspector can inspect the beekeeper. David Smith states you can sell in a 5-gallon or drum (in bulk) legally. Bottled honey requires a license. Does the extraction room have to be separate from the bottling room? The bottling room has to be insect-free and since bees are insects, then that would apply. Best advice: talk to someone who has a bottling facility. Also contact your local government to see if they have any ordinances or zoning rules.

New website manager, Rick Crites, asked if anyone used the forum (Q&A) and if anyone would miss it if it was removed. It has not been used lately, but with new members, it would have some benefit. Rick also wants to post a news blog so that people and post news stories. New members stated that the forum would be beneficial.

Our guest, Crystal, asked about encouraging a hive of bees to move from a tree hive to a box hive. It would be very difficult. One way to encourage the hive to stay would be to place a frame of brood in the hive body. It's up to the bees if they decide to stay.

After the last honey flows in the fall, how much to leave on the bees? Best to leave at least one super to feed the bees.

Club Apiary Report: Last month the club requeened the hives. David Smith extracted the clubs honey from the last honey pull. He extracted over three hundred pounds (about ½ a drum). The club needs to decide what to do with this honey.

This Saturday's work party, bees will be medicated. We will start around 9:00 a.m. Second treatment needs to be 10 days after. The second treatment will need to occur a week from Tuesday. We will need some people to do the second treatment if they are available. There was discussion about using the bee treatment this soon. It was suggested to wait until August when it is hottest. Charlie does not want to lose hive again like last year.

Announcements: Jerry Hayes, Chief Apiary Inspector was hurt over the Fourth of July weekend. He as beaten by some thugs on his street and was hospitalized. As of this meeting, there is no word on his condition. A get-well card was passed around for members to sign.

Old Business:

No old business

New Business:

No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30.

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 7:30 p.m. at Hillsborough Extension office meeting hall. Bruce Cathy McGee will bring the refreshments.**

**Guest speaker will be**

- Submitted by A. Hammond