

**MINUTES**  
**Tampa Bay Beekeepers Association**  
**April 9, 2009**  
***www.tampabaybeekeepers.com***

The Tampa Bay Beekeepers Association monthly meeting came to order on Thursday, April 9, 2009 7:30 pm at the Hillsborough County Extension Office old meeting hall. David Smith presided as president, Robert Mesineo as vice president, Joyce Lang as treasurer and Renee Hartmann as secretary, librarian David Kennedy. We had 5 guests and approximately 57 people attended the meeting. Refreshments were provided by Marie and Noel Blanchet. Thank you for bringing it all in this time with such short notice.

Presentation from Todd Jamison

Bee hives pests.

Several insects and mites and diseases affect our bee hives

American Foul Brood *Paenibacillus* larvae

American foulbrood symptoms are:

Sunken and perforated capping, glue like effect of the larva or ropery larvae, and smells is like a glue pot and pupa tongue where the tongue protrudes to the top of the cell. This ropery test is the most definitive field test. Just macerate the cell with a thin tooth pick and draw the pick out of the cell and see if it ropes. When the larva is dried and hardens, scales in the bottom of the cell are quite visible and are difficult to remove and are the constant source of infection.

Stages of the AFB are scales in the bottom of the cells. This is the remains of the brood.

Only way to rid the colony of AFB is burn the colony.

European Foulbrood *Streptococcus pluton* is stress related. It differs because it is not spore forming and it can be cleaned up with an antibiotic. Symptoms include orange or yellow larva and a fish odor.

Treatment is Terramycin and Tylan the active ingredient is Tylosen

Chalk brood *Ascosphaera apis* is a fungal disease of the honeybee larva. Symptoms of chalk brood are dead larva look chalky and have a fluffy cotton-like appearance. It is stress related. Mummies are deposited by the worker bees at the entrance. Best management practice is to Re-queen.

*Nosema apis* and *Nosema ceranae* is a microsporidium that damages the digestive system and starves the bees to death. Diagnosis is required in a lab. Fumigillin is the treatment

Viruses are caused by or vectored by the Varroa mite, *Varroa destructor* some include:

Israeli acute paralysis virus (IAPV)

Acute bee paralysis virus (ABPV) or (APV)

Sac brood

Disease like conditions caused by weak hives for the most part.

Greater Wax moth and Lesser Wax moth *Galleria mellonella* and *Achroia grisella*

Both threaten the supers of the honey bee. They are opportunistic insects.

Small hive beetles *Aethina tumida* use traps to capture the insect. They are attracted to sweet vinegars. There are several traps available.

Tracheal mites *Acarapis woodi* is a mite that enters the mite through the tracheal opening and is diagnosed with a dissecting microscope. Not a real common threat in Florida yet.

Starvation mostly occurs when the reserve honey is all used up during the winter and summer

dearth.

Varroa mites *Varroa destructor* is very large in comparison to the bee.

Treatments include: Api guard, Formic acid very weather sensitive, thymol. screen bottom boards and powdered sugar.

Screened bottom board allows the mite to fall down onto ground and dehydrate quickly.

Powdered sugar sprinkled as maintenance every two weeks to once a month on the brood makes the mite lose grip on the mite and fall off.

When the mites are in the capped cell they are protected from any control. Therefore treatment needs to be treated every two weeks until the mite counts are below thresholds or according to the labeled product.

Tropilaelaps Mite We do not have this yet in the US.

Colony Colapse Disorder Mainly one day things look good and the next the bees are gone except for a small cluster of bees with a queen still in the hive.

Older bees have no hair young bees are furry.

Old business:

Jimmy Johnson reports about Dominion Republic. He is challenging the club to fill buckets of honey for donation to the orphanage in Dominion Republic. He brought pictures of the orphanage that are cared for by mission trips.

Ruth Rymal update for the Australian project. She will need another month to report.

Break 8:30

Business meeting

Treasurer report. \$ 3244.57 Jim Alderman moved to accept the treasure report 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ruth Rymal and approved.

Minutes for March were approved.

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Seminar report: May 16, 2009 Rebecca Conroy is chairman for this seminar. Please talk it up so we have a good turn out. We have 6 registrations to date.

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Club Apiary Report: Bees have mites and some are in good shape. No work party this month. Door prize provided by Bert Kelly

Next meeting is May 14 2009

Meeting adjourned approximately 9:30 PM

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*Submitted by, RENEE HARTMANN*