

MINUTES
Tampa Bay Beekeepers Association
September 10 2009
www.tampabaybeekeepers.com

The Tampa Bay Beekeepers Association monthly meeting came to order on Thursday, September 10, 2009, 7:30 pm at the Hillsborough County Extension Office old meeting hall. David Smith presided as president, Robert Messineo as vice president, Joyce Lang as treasurer and Renee Hartmann as secretary, librarian David Kennedy. We had 6 guests and approximately 70 people attended the meeting. Refreshments were provided by Nell and Dwight Aman. Thank you very much.

Speaker Gary VanCleaf :Gary holds monthly and bi-monthly seminars at the botanical gardens on the USF campus in Tampa. His website is <http://www.americasbeekeeper.com/>.

Gary VanCleaf presents us with "What to inspect the hives for and how to inspect the hive."

The time to inspect is between 10 to 2 PM when bees are working or foraging. Reasons we inspect for are disease and pests, and general observation of behavior.

Ants take over in hours, and small hive beetle can take over in weeks, while Varroa and Tracheal mite can take over in time. Gary mentioned chalk brood, and viruses. Predators such as bears and raccoons knock over the hive while skunk only eat the bees. Inspection for brood stages like, stick eggs, larva, pollen and queen are very important. When inspecting, use all your senses. If you raise the lid and all the bees are looking at you, use your smoker. Check the front for bees going in and out. Smell for an off odor. Check the weight of the super to see if the honey is in there. Use protective clothing at all times to some degree, when you have determined your threat level you can shed protective clothing as directed by the bees behavior. Do not inspect when you just caught a swarm, or have re-queened. A healthy hive is 7 to 10 frame full of all brood stages present. Look for over crowding. Start at one edge inspect for brood stages, eggs, larva, and capped brood .and do not rearrange the frames as you place the frame back into the hive. Remedies for problem are chemical and natural. It depends on how you think about things. Gary advises that many things are corrected by re-queening.

The next meeting at the USF botanical gardens he will be extracting honey.

Question: What is the good smell? The smell of the hive is the evaporating of the honey.

Question: Can you control drones? The bees will take care of the drone population. Sometimes the comb is bad and drones are on them. Should we replace the comb? The bees again will tear the comb down and build drone comb if they want.

The nature of the hive is to have brood on the bottom and super on the top.

In the winter leave one super on the top for the bees.

Question : Do we run one or two deeps in Florida? Gary uses one deep and one Illinois.

The workshop schedule is on the TBBA website and Gary's site the AmericasBeekeeper.com

End of the month he will demonstrate how to make splits.

In March he is going to Honduras to train novice Beekeepers, information is on the website.

Question: How do you keep the smoker lit? The taller one stays lit better. The more seasoned the smoker the better it stays lit. The fuel is pine needles. Also hay and wood pellets. Using the smoker throughout the inspection keeps it lit.

Question; Do Sourwood trees grow in Florida? Bert Kelley responded with "Not too good". It needs 2000 ft elevation in the mountains.

Break 8:30PM

New Business:

Does anyone have bees on the corner of 39 and 60? They are 25 feet on the other properties and trying to find the people before the hives get burned. Call David Smith if you know whose hives these are.

Bert Kelley suggests we nominate as a club positions for the state association.

Jimmy Johnson nominates Bert Kelley for treasurer of FSBA

Bert Kelley nominates Gary Ranker for vice president

Gary Ranker nominates David Webb for the president.

For the FSBA nominees of the year:

The woman of the year Rebecca Conroy

Pioneer Bill Roberts

Researcher David Westervelt

Beekeeper of the Year Jimmy Johnson from TBBA.

Club Apiary Report: Hives are back at the Upper Tampa bay Park. Every person at the apiary needs to have signed waivers . Wear long sleeves and long pants .

.Report on the hives that David had stolen. The authorities recovered the boxes and the convicted person stayed in jail for 24 hours. Please try to Identify your hives someway. The Branding irons come in small sizes.

Marie Branchett: Ag in class to fair 9: to 12 for 8 days October 20 , 22, 23, :26 27 28 29.

Suggestion to buy raffle tickets for \$ 1.00 per ticket. Tabled the suggestion.

.Treasurer report. \$4723.86 in the checking and 1000.00 CD Motion to approve .and passed.

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Door prize provided by Bert Kelly.

Thank you to Nell and Dwight Aman for the supper tonight.

Next month Marie and Noel Branchett are signed up to bring refreshments.

Work party meets at 9:30 AM.

Next meeting is October 8, 2009

Meeting adjourned approximately 9:11 PM

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Submitted by, RENEE HARTMANN