

MINUTES
Tampa Bay Beekeepers Association
August 13, 2009
www.tampabaybeekeepers.com

The Tampa Bay Beekeepers Association monthly meeting came to order on Thursday, August 13, 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 Steve Woolheater.

Thank you very much.

David Smith presented David Miksa, our speaker, with a life time membership for his donation of 60 Cordovan queens to the TBBA apiary.

David Miksa is in the business of raising queen bee for the commercial as well as hobbyist market. He is on the advisory committee of PAM. **www.ProjectApism.org**

David Miksa has been grafting queens and raising queens since 1961.

He buys stock from breeders. He grafts from them. He has the queen raising business in Groveland Florida. He explained the day to day tasks involved in raising queens. He spoke about the monitoring and timing and record keeping involved in raising queens commercially. Such tasks include, grafting, cell building and incubation of the queen cells. He ships queen cells which are the peanut sized cell with a queen ready to emerge at delivery. He also ships mated queens in queen cages as well via UPS. Shipments go all around Florida and as far as California. In his talk he spoke about sources of virus. He told us the drones travel up to 6 miles away and move from hive to hive. The drones appear to be source of virus.

He explained a couple of ways to re queen if you have an under productive queen or if the brood is queen less.

Question: Which queen variety is the best layer? His opinion was a mongrel.

To raise your own queen, take a strong frame of brood from a strong laying queen, and put it in a weak hive that the queen has been killed, mark the frame and when the queen cells are formed cut out the others produced in the weak hive on other frames and let those from the strong hive emerge.

After putting the queen in your hives check them in one week or two weeks is best. The take on a caged queen is; 95 %. The take on queen cells is 65% to 70 %. . People outside of the area of mating yards have better take percentage than on the queen rearing farm. The constant manipulation has an effect on the bees.

Club Apiary Report: Sunday work party 9:30am. Upper Tampa bay Park..

4 barrels of honey were pulled last month. Hives are back at the Upper Tampa bay Park. We will be checking the new queens put in last month and pulling honey again. Every person at the apiary needs to have signed waivers. Please remember to wear long sleeved shirt and pants with either socks or duct tape to cover the ankles and gloves if you are inexperienced. The club has veils to protect the face. These items are important when we pull honey especially.

Break 8:30PM

Any business:

Todd Jamison has gone into farming and has left the state as the bee inspector. He has really been a great help to so many and he will be missed.

Amy Walker suggested nominating Nancy Gentry as Woman of the Year in Agriculture. Rick Crites moved to nominate Nancy Gentry. Seconded and all were in favor.

Suggestion to donate money to Project Apis M. Jim Alderman motioned to donate \$2.00 per hive to the PAM. PAM is a research project funded by growers and beekeepers. Find out at **www.ProjectApism.org**

Seconded and approved by the club.

Next month we will take nominations for officers. If none are presented we will be keeping the

officer presently holding those jobs.

A formal thank you was extended to Rebecca Conroy for her outstanding job of chairing the seminar in May.

New business. Gary Ranker reminds us of the annual Florida State beekeepers association newsletter advertisement. The club purchases a one page ad in the newsletter. Gary Ranker also suggests that TBBA sponsor a break. for the annual meeting in November. Please look up the Florida Beekeeping Association online for more information on the meeting.

The cost for one page advertisement in the newsletter is \$130.00. And the cost to sponsor a break at the annual meeting is \$100.00. Both were voted on and approved by the club.

Gary VanCleaf will be at the University of South Florida Botanical gardens teaching about building hives on Saturday August 15. The second week in September he will be demonstrating how to pull honey and the last week on September the subject will be swarm splits and package bees. Be sure to check out these classes at the USF botanical gardens.

Treasurer report. \$ 4324.58 in the checking and \$1000.00 CD. A motion to approve and it was passed

Door prizes provided by Bert Kelly. Next month Nell and Dwight Aman are signed up to bring refreshments.

Next meeting is September 10, 2009

Meeting adjourned approximately 9:11 PM

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Submitted by, RENEE HARTMANN