Monthly Meeting

Our regular 2010 meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of each month unless otherwise noted.

Our Next Regular Meeting will be Wednesday, March 10, 2010, 6:30 PM
Lee County Extension, 3406 Palm Beach Blvd, Ft. Myers, FL 33916-3736

Main Topic of the Q&A Discussion Period will be pertaining to the subject of “Swarming”, hand-outs will be provided for your notebooks.

Our Association Officers

President: Keith Councell
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VP: Dennis Riggs
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Secretary: Lisa St. John
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Treasurer: Virginia Riggs
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Delegate to FSBA: Ron Weisburg
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What’s Blooming
Chinese Violets, Asystasia gangetica
Gallberry
Golden Trumpet Tree
Mexican Clover (Pusley)
Oak
Orange
Primrose Willow
Sky Flower (Duranta repens)
Skyblue Clustervine
Sleeping Hibiscus, Turks Cap
Snow Squarestem
Spanish Needle
Tropical Sage
Weeping Bottle Brush

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Legislative News

Bring on the Bees

New York Times announced March 16, 2010: "New York City’s board of health voted Tuesday to lift a ban against beekeeping, legalizing the hives of hundreds of residents who have tended bees in defiance of the law.

The unanimous vote amends the health code to allow residents to keep hives of Apis mellifera, the common, nonaggressive honeybee. Beekeepers will be required to register with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and to adhere to appropriate practices. That means they must be able to control bee swarms and ensure that the hives do not interfere with pedestrians or neighbors."

Earth Day at Ding Darling

Noon - 4 pm
Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge & Education Center
1 Wildlife Dr Sanibel, FL 33957

From sanibelcaptiva.com:
“Exhibitors will display and demonstrate green household cleaning products, recycled items for the home, Nature’s Pollinators (a live beehive), rain barrel water catchments, composting with worms, and buying organic food. You can even try some free samples of shade-grown coffee.”

Dennis Riggs will be educating the public about beekeeping at the event. He will have an observational hive so that visitors to Ding Darling will be able to see the bees in action!

Florida State Board of Managers Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Florida State Board of Managers is Monday, April 19 at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Standard time. phone: 712-432-0175 and use Access code: 939168#

The call is scheduled for an hour.
Agenda Items include the following:
-Summer meeting; the following will appear in the Melitto Files;
-The Pine Jog Environmental Center, 6301 Summit Boulevard, West Palm Beach, FL 33415-3599 is the venue for the Florida State Beekeepers Association’s Summer Fling on Saturday, June 19, 2010. This all-day event hosted by the Palm Beach Beekeepers Association is expected to feature speakers, classes, hive demonstrations, candle making and honey judging.

Registration fee is $35.00. You can contact Brendhan Home at 786-256-9622 for further information, or e-mail: beekeepers@beekeeperspbc.com

West Virginia Beekeeping News

West Virginia just became the first state in the nation to pass a Beekeeper’s Immunity Law which limits the liability of apiary owners and operators.

West Virginia’s HB4527

Per Dan O’Hanlon (Legislative Chair of West Virginia Beekeepers Association): “It passed our House 94-2 and our Senate 34-0. The final version of the bill is attached. Many thanks to the bill’s sponsors and the many others in both chambers who helped out. The bill was made effective on passage. I will be explaining it at the WV Beekeeper’s Spring Meeting in Huntington April 10th. HOORAY!!!!

What’s going on with your hives?

We would like to know what kind of activity your hives are having. Please contact Dennis or Rebecca to have your hives featured in our monthly Members’ showcase.

Newsletter Information

Send suggestions and comments to Dennis Riggs (bees@oldmanriggs.com) and Rebecca Wilson (rebecca@beck-wilson.com).
Monthly Topic: Swarming

Swarming is when the old queen and part of the bees leave to start a new colony. Afterswarms are after the old queen has left and there are still too many bees so some of the swarm queens (which are unmated queens) leave with more swarms. Sometimes a hive has a several after-swarms.

Generally swarming is considered a bad thing because you usually lose those bees. But if you catch them it’s a bonus because swarms are notorious for building up quickly. The bees are focused on it already and it’s in the natural order of things. Back in the days of skeps and box hives it was always considered a good thing. It was a chance to make increase.

It’s good to realize that swarming is the normal response of a hive to success. It means they are doing well enough to reproduce the hive. It is the natural order of things. However, it is inconvenient for the beekeeper to have them swarm, so let’s think about what causes them to want to swarm.

(http://www.bushfarms.com/beesswarmcontrol.htm)