



Beekeepers Association of Southwest Florida NEWSLETTER

Monthly Meeting

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

Our Next Regular Meeting will be Wednesday, July 14th, 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 "Harvesting". Hand-outs will be provided for your notebooks.

Our Association Officers

President: Keith Councill
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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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Lee County Extension

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Florida Apiary Inspection

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What's Blooming

Black Mangrove
Chinese Violets
Melaleuca
Mexican Clover
Orange
Pickerel Weed
Primrose Willow
Sabal Palm

Saw Palmetto
Sky Flower
Skyblue Clustervine
Sleeping Hibiscus,
Turks Cap
Snow Squarestem
Spanish Needle
Tropical Sage



Melissa Dahn

Other Buzz

Florida State Beekeepers Association 90th Annual Convention Estero Community Park, Estero Florida

October 28, 29, & 30, 2010

The Beekeepers Association of Southwest Florida is pleased to announce 2010 Florida State Beekeepers Association Annual Convention will be held in Southwest Florida on October 28, 29 & 30, 2010. Currently not all details are available as the convention is still in early planning stages. Please check back from time-to-time for additional news and updates regarding this year's convention. We will provide additional information as it is made available to us through our own progress or the efforts of the Florida State Beekeepers Association.

The convention will begin with a President's Reception/BBQ at BASF President, Keith Councill's home in Cape Coral, FL the evening of Thursday 28 October 2010.

The Convention will be held at the Estero Community Park, Estero, FL on Friday & Saturday October 29 & 30, 2010.

Seminars and Venders will be in the Park recreation center and on the Park grounds. A live bee yard will also be on the Park grounds for training on Saturday, October 30, 2010. The convention is open to the public.

Monthly Topic: Harvesting

Richard Taylor on Comb Honey:

"A comb honey beekeeper really needs, in addition to his bees and the usual apiary equipment and tools, only one other thing, and that is a pocket knife. The day you go into producing extracted honey, on the other hand, you must begin to think not only of an extractor, which is a costly machine used only a relatively minute part of the year, but also of uncapping equipment, strainers, settling tanks, wax melters, bottle filling equipment, pails and utensils galore and endless things. Besides this you must have a place to store supers of combs, subject to damage



by moths and rodents and, given the nature of beeswax, very subject to destruction by fire. And still more: You must begin to think in terms of a whole new building, namely, a honey house, suitably constructed, supplied with power, and equipped....

"All this seems obvious enough, and yet time after time I have seen novice beekeepers, as soon as they had built their apiaries up to a half dozen or so hives, begin to look around for an extractor. It is as if one were to establish a small garden by the kitchen door, and then at once begin looking for a tractor to till it with. Unless then, you have, or plan eventually to have, perhaps fifty or more colonies of bees, you should try to resist looking in bee catalogs at the extractors and other enchanting and tempting tools that are offered and instead look with renewed fondness at your little pocket knife, so symbolic of the simplicity that is the mark of every truly good life."

Bee Calendar

If you are wondering what you should be doing with your hives this month, here are some suggestions for South Florida.

July

Check ventilation

Harvest honey

Test for Varroa mites (medicate if needed)

Newsletter Information

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

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.

Member Photo

Have a photo you'd like to see in the monthly newsletter? Send it over! We will pick the best one and share it with the rest of the members.

This month's photo is from Cheryl King.

