



The Florida State Beekeepers Association

Dedicated to keeping Florida apiculture strong and healthy in the new millennium

<http://floridabeekeepers.org>

Florida has approximately 1,500 small-scale beekeepers, managing five or fewer honey bee colonies, and 500 full time side liner commercial beekeepers.

The value of honey bee pollination to Florida growers is estimated to be \$26.4 million annually . Nationwide this is value is thought to exceed \$14 billion.

All beekeepers in Florida must be registered by law, and no colonies can be sold or purchased without a health certificate issued by the Apiary Bureau, Division of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services <http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/plantinsp/apiary/apiary.html>.

The Florida State Beekeepers Association was organized at Gainesville on October 6, 1920. A report of the organizational meeting states that a group of 100 enthusiastic beekeepers from all over the state were in attendance. It followed the organization of several strong local associations. The Association has also been responsible for several important activities:

1. An act of the Florida State Legislature, July 1, 1957, which provided to beekeepers compensation for bees and equipment destroyed by the State because of American foulbrood. This has resulted in an extremely low infestation of this important disease.
2. A 1962 program by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to certify the specialty honey varieties tupelo and citrus. This provides the possibility of getting a superior price for Florida beekeepers.
3. Hiring extension professionals in apiculture from the 1940s onward by the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS). See the most recent publications dedicated to beekeepers at http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TOPIC_Beekeeping.
4. Providing over \$20,000 in direct honey bee research funding for projects at the University of Florida and elsewhere. Responsible for over \$700,000 in honey bee research funding from the Florida Legislature over the last several years.

There has been a recent increase the number of beekeepers in Florida. As a consequence, Association membership now eclipses 600 active members. Many of these beekeepers are affiliated with local associations, which include the following groups: Alachua, Apalachee, Ridge, Tampa Bay, Tupelo, Escarosa, Tri-County, Orange Blossom, Northeast Florida, Palm Beach, North Escambia, Beekeepers of Southwest Florida, Suncoast, Broward, Putnam County, Gainesville, Dixie County, Jacksonville. This robust growth in the beekeeping community has produced a large population of new beekeepers to educate. This has also been a focus of recent Association activities in cooperation with Florida's Master Beekeeper Program <http://ufhoneybee.com> at the University of Florida.

Recently, the Association has been further supporting beekeepers by:

1. Exploring options in terms of making local beekeeping regulations that provide for the public safety, while allowing residents to keep bees responsibly.
2. Exploring options to encourage small-scale honey processing and marketing, while providing a safe food product for the public.
3. Supporting an active honey queen program, geared to marketing honey to the consuming public.

Florida beekeepers also participate in two important committees: 1) Honey Bee Technical Council sponsored by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) advises Florida's Agriculture Commissioner on various honey bee issues. Contact Jerry Hayes: ph 352-372-3505 ext. 128., and 2) Apiculture Advisory Committee sponsored by the Florida Farm Bureau Federation <http://floridafarmbureau.org>. Contact Frankie Hall: ph 352-378-8100.

The contributions of the above committees, in conjunction with the Association cooperating with both the University of Florida's Bee College and Master Beekeeper Program as well as Florida's Apiary Inspection Bureau, provide an environment that supports beekeeping without parallel in the U.S. Join Florida's beekeeping community today!

Membership Application:

Membership is open to anyone interested in beekeeping activities in Florida. Benefits include:

1. Discount subscriptions to *American Bee Journal*, *Bee Culture*, *The Speedy Bee*
2. Representation in the legislative arena in Tallahassee and at U.S. national beekeeping meetings
3. Increased support for research and education about honey bees and beekeeping
4. Regularly published newsletter, *The Florida Beekeeper*, web site: <http://floridabeekeepers.org> and FSBA Ezine (members only)
5. Annual convention held in different locations around the state (October - November)
6. Active honey queen program
7. Support of beekeeping in urban areas through liaison with the Florida Apiary Inspection Bureau
8. Support of local, small-scale processing and marketing of honey through reasonable food safety regulations

Name _____	
_____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____	
Address _____	
Phone Number _____	E-mail address: Important - Much business is done by electronic mail
Local Association Affiliation: _____	
1. Regular Membership (\$15.00) []	Voluntary Contribution to Beekeeping Research: \$ _____
2. Life Membership: Equivalent ten-frame colony of honey bees w/three supers including drawn frames (check with apiary manager for specifics) or \$250.00. []	
Send form and payment (checks payable to F.S.B.A.) to: Bert Kelley, Treasurer, 115 Patten Heights Street, Lakeland, FL 33803-2248, phone/fax (863) 644-6944, E-mail: KelleysApiaries@aol.com .	