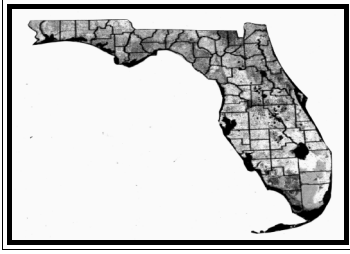


The Florida Beekeeper



Florida State Beekeepers Assn.
May 2004
<http://floridabeekeepers.org>

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For other contact information, see the associations' Web site or visit Who's Who in Apiculture at <<http://beeculture.com>>.

Membership Report

At this time, 76 percent of the current membership has yet to pay dues for 2004. The Association is lacking \$5430 in operating funds because of this situation.

The membership of the Association is as follows according to the master address list:

104 Lifetime members (do not pay dues)
117 Active members who have paid dues for 2004
362 Members who have yet to pay dues for 2004

Again, the bylaws state, "Any member whose dues are not paid by December 1, shall be given a written notice by the Executive Secretary. If dues are not paid within thirty (30) days from the mailing of said notice, the name shall be dropped from the membership roll."

I have given two dues notices at the present time in both the January and March newsletters. Please send your dues to Bert Kelley if you wish to remain an active member. Again, your address label will show your membership status. If you see simply the word "Member" above your name you have **not** paid dues and are at risk of being removed from the mailing list

You can find a membership application at <<http://floridabeekeepers.org>> (click on the "Member" button and linked to the home page) or <<http://apis.shorturl.com>>. If all else fails, simply send a check for \$15.00 to Bert Kelley's address in the contacts area of this newsletter.

Annual Meeting

President Cutts is scheduling the annual convention in his hometown of Chipley, in the Florida Panhandle west of Tallahassee. The dates are November 11, 12 and 13, 2004. Notice this is quite different timing than years past, which have usually seen the meeting occur at the end of October. So put it on your calendar now. In addition, please communicate with me or others in the leadership what topics you would like to see addressed.

Newsletter Scheduling

This is the second newsletter issue since the November annual meeting with no advertisements. These are printed free of charge by the Florida Farm Bureau as a service to the Association and are four pages in length. I am contemplating the following scenario for newsletter production. The next newsletter will be issued in June; it will contain ads and be in booklet form. A "no ad" newsletter will be published in July or August, followed by one with ads in September, and one containing final information on the convention shortly thereafter. This is subject to change depending on circumstances.

Revision of the Apiary Inspection Law

The latest revision of rules to the Florida Apiary Inspection Law has been released. The fees have been changed for registration to the following:

Number of Colonies Fee

1-5	\$10
6-40	\$20
41-200	\$40
201-500	\$70
501 - Over	\$100

There will also be a \$25 fee per certificate for out of state movement or any special inspection plus a mileage charge. The Florida Apiary Inspection Law encompasses the following topics: registration, inspection and inspection conditions, identification of hives (registration number), certificates of inspection and special certificates, quarantine and treatment of infested hives and finally, abandoned apiaries. For a summary of the law, see Florida Bee Inspection at <<http://apis.shorturl.com>>. Other questions should be directed to G. W. Hayes, Jr., Apiary Inspection Section, Division of Plant Industry, P.O. Box 147100, Gainesville, FL 32614-7100, ph 352-372-3505 x 114, 128 or 421 or e-mail <hayesg@doacs.state.fl.us>. <<http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/plantinsp/bees.html>>.

New Beekeepers Association

A hearty welcome to the newest beekeeping association in Florida. Michael Shreves sends word that the Tri-County Beekeepers Association was formed January 1, 2004 in the Crestview area (Florida panhandle). The association will serve beekeepers from Pensacola, FL to Florala, AL to Bonifay, FL. It has 35 members and is affiliating with the Florida State Beekeepers Association. The officers include

Micheal E. Shreves, President (850-682-8390), Mark Bundrick, Vice President (850-682-3401), Kim Purette, Secretary, and Stacey Taylor, Treasurer. For further information, contact the Association at 121 Pin Oak Court East, Crestview, FL 32539-8316.

Activities of the Farm Bureau's Honey Advisory Committee

The Florida Farm Bureau Federation convenes two meetings each year of the Honey Advisory Committee. The latest was held at the Lake County Farm Bureau Office in Tavares on April 13, 2004.

The role of this group is to use information from knowledgeable individuals in apiculture to make policy recommendations that the Farm Bureau then pursues through its lobbying efforts. These are also brought before the National Farm Bureau at its annual meeting for adoption as national policy. Those voted on and adopted at the 62nd Annual Florida Farm Bureau meeting cover a broad range of topics from treatment of criminals to sales tax. The advisory committees developing these are also quite varied, including governmental issues, labor, peanuts, swine, equine and of course, honey.

Policies published by the Florida Honey Advisory Committee include:

1. We recommend that beekeepers be permitted to keep honey bees on appropriate public-owned land.
2. We support the continuation of a Honey Loan Program and/or a subsidy payment in an effort to assist Florida beekeepers.
3. We strongly recommend that the FDCAS, USDA and FDA take immediate action to eliminate problems with adulterated and/or mislabeled honey and honey products, foreign and domestic by enforcing existing laws.
4. We encourage strict enforcement by the agricultural enforcement agencies to mitigate the theft and vandalism of a beekeeper's property.
5. We should continue to work with the Florida State Beekeepers Association and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to manage the bear problem.

These policies were recommended for adoption at the Fall meeting of each advisory committee meeting. The Spring meeting is strictly informational in nature. At the Tavares meeting it was revealed that after an absence of several years, the Farm Bureau will again convene a Honey Advisory Committee at the national level.

IFAS News

This year members of the Florida Honey Advisory Committee met with the Vegetable Advisory Committee in an effort to try to develop and strengthen ties between the two groups. At the April 6, 2004 meeting in Valrico, Florida both Laurence Cutts, President of the Florida State Beekeepers Association, and Elmore Herman, Chair of the Honey Advisory Committee, discussed the problems beekeepers are having and how this has translated into fewer bees for pollination purposes.

According to minutes from the committee, "Mr. Cutts and Mr. Herman also shared with the Vegetable Advisory Committee about the economic impact currently facing Florida beekeepers. Florida Beekeepers are receiving .85/lb on average for honey. Last year at this time Beekeepers received a record-high \$1.50/lb for honey. The reason for the record-high price for honey is China was banned from importing honey into the United States. China has recently been allowed to again import honey into the U.S."

Chairman Herman also said, that apiary and vegetable industries would benefit by working together. He said that last year the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Apiary Inspection was in danger of being eliminated, but was saved at the last minute. Mr. Herman's hope is that if apiary inspection is threatened again, Florida beekeepers will be able to ask other agricultural groups to help conserve this important program.

At the vegetable meeting, contact was made with Danny Raulerson, Director, Marketing and International Trade Division, Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association. In January of this year, that association's magazine, *The Harvester*, ran an article on the shortage of bees for pollination, interviewing both Florida's new Chief Apiarist, Jerry Hayes, and others. Given that recognition of the importance of managed colonies for pollination, the Florida State Beekeepers Association is investigating how it can best associate itself with the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association. For information on the latter group, visit the web site <<http://ffva.com>>. The following beekeepers are members of the Honey Advisory Committee: Elmore Herman, Laurence Cutts, Stephen Cantu, John Gentzel, Larry Gruwell, L.L. Lanier, Bill Merritt, Gary Ranker, Bill Rhodes, John J. Tilton, Jerry Turner and John Westervelt. The coordinator of the Committee is Carolee Howe, Ag Policy Division, Florida Farm Bureau Federation, Box 147030, Gainesville, FL 32614-7030, ph 352-378-8100 x 1091, e-mail: <chow@sfbcic.com>. For more information on the Farm Bureau, visit its web site <<http://floridafarmbureau.org>>.

**24% of the membership
has renewed for 2004**

Dr. Glenn Hall of the Department of Entomology and Nematology reported the following to the Farm Bureau's Honey Advisory Committee. His Varroa mite research continues, attempting to find the genetic basis for Varroa tolerance in honey bees. He had some complications last fall that compromised data collection. The project is doing much better this time around, however, and there are some promising preliminary results.

Unfortunately, Dr. Hall's funding from USDA runs out at the end of August. He is applying for an extension, but if not renewed, a major risk is that highly trained personnel will have to be laid off, threatening to reverse much of what has been accomplished. John Westervelt made a motion, seconded by Gary Ranker that the FFBF Honey Advisory Committee write a letter to Dr. Capinera, Chair of UF-IFAS Entomology and Nematology Department, that the position be continued using other funding. Motion passed.

There is information that the Department of Entomology and Nematology at UF-IFAS will be employing a youth/apiculture specialist in the near future, perhaps as early as this summer. This has been corroborated by Dr. Capinera and others involved with IFAS. Recently, two letters have been written to Dr. Capinera showing support for this from Richard Gaskalla, Director Division of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Florida State Beekeepers Association President Cutts.

This is good news indeed. IFAS has always been known for its help to the beekeeping industry and hiring such a specialist will go a long way in continuing the tradition. After approval, a position description will be developed and finally, the job will be advertised. If you have ideas about the kinds of things a specialist might do for the industry, please communicate them to myself or president Cutts.

Jim Alderman Steps Down New Bee Inspector Needed

Jim Alderman, long-time Florida bee inspector, resigned in March. Therefore, the state is looking for a bee inspector for District VB, which includes Pinellas, Hillsborough, Hernando, Pasco and Manatee counties.

This is an OPS job (no full-time benefits) with extremely flexible hours. This region contains approximately 10% of Florida's colonies (27,000). Plenty of beekeeping experience and local geographic knowledge are pluses for anyone considering this job. Those interested should contact Richard Dunaway (the region's supervisor), ph. 863-298-7711 and/or Jerry Hayes in Gainesville, ph. 352-372-3505 x 114 or 128.

State Fair Happenings

The Centennial of the Florida State Fair (1904-2004) held in Tampa, February 5-16, 2004 was a success in many ways. Gary Ranker the Association's advertising manager, came away with the most awards from the honey show, winning 2nd place in extracted dark honey, 3rd place in creamed honey, 3rd place in single-piece beeswax and 1st in chunk comb honey. Congratulations Gary!

The Association's booth sales exceeded last year's level. Thanks to all those who volunteered to man the display around the clock. This made it much more available. In addition, the exhibit won 1st place as an educational agricultural display. Thanks too to the general coordinator, Bert Kelley, who saw to it that things went smoothly as planned.

Digitizing Works in the Phillips Library

At a recent meeting of the Tampa Bay Beekeepers Association there was discussion and a vote to provide \$1000 towards The Eastern Apiculture Society's program by the Phillips Library at Cornell University to digitize its beekeeping collection. To find out more about this effort see

the following web site: <<http://www.easternapiculture.org/programs/phillips.pdf>>.

Beekeeping Seminars

The Tampa Bay Beekeepers and Ridge Beekeepers Association will host two honey bee seminars. The first is scheduled on Saturday, May 22, 2004, from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM at the Hillsborough County Agricultural Extension Office, 5339 S. County Rd 579, Seffner, FL (corner of Old Hillsborough and 579.) There will be programs both for beginner and advanced beekeepers.

Pre-registration (before May 13) cost is \$ 15.00 and \$5.00 for additional family members. Registration the day of the Seminar will be an additional \$5.00. Lunch and refreshments during the breaks are included in the cost. To Register send a check to: Tampa Bay Beekeepers Association 1509 Highcrest Circle Valrico, FL 33594. For further Information call: 813-684-7814 or 813-654-4705.

The second will be held Saturday, June 12, 2004, 8:30 a.m. To 3:30 p.m. at the Polk County Agriculture Center, Stuart Auditorium, 1710 Hwy 17/98 South, Bartow, FL. To register, send a check before June 3 to Ridge Beekeepers Association, 6709 Old Highway 37, Lakeland, FL 33811. For further information, call 863-644-6944.

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