

# **Jacksonville Beekeepers Association**

Monday, June 20, 2011

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Welcome and Member Introductions:**

President, Mike Leach called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Guests were welcomed and asked to introduce themselves. 3 guests were present.

### **Previous Minutes:**

May's minutes were read (with corrections) and approved.

### **Treasurer's Report / Membership Benefits:**

Kent Wooldridge, Treasurer, reported \$3,150.39 in the treasury. A detailed breakdown of the club's financial status is available upon request.

80% of 2010's members have renewed. Currently, there are 53 individual members, 52 families with a total of 105 memberships – individual and family combined.

### **COMMUNITY GARDEN HIVES:**

Ray Gutowski installed and harvested 2 supers. 2 more supers are needed. There is a possible opportunity for a small garden next to the hives.

### **PROGRAM:**

George Waldock gave a demonstration on hive inspection outside in the parking lot. Inside, a video; Small Hive Beetles with Dr. Jamie Ellis, Extension Specialist with the University of Florida; was shown.

The program was given prior to the business meeting. A question and answer session was held following the business meeting.

### **COMMITTEES:**

Website – Mike Leach, Mike Booth, Wesley Altmiller and Kent Wooldridge are on the committee.

In the works are: building documents to maintain the site, creating a dropbox account to store digital documents online.

If you have something to share on the website, send an e-mail to Mike Leach (Jaxbeeks@gmail.com). In the future, Wesley Altmiller and others will make updates such as adding pictures.

Fair – Ray Claxton is the chairman for this committee. He has 8 volunteers, so far. There was a meeting after the club meeting at 8:30 p.m.

A new committee is being formed (name pending) to discuss the club becoming a non-profit entity. Don Peppers is the chairman. Volunteers are needed, particularly someone with legal experience. They will review the current structure and report back on the steps needed to take to get the non-profit status. This should take approximately a month to review.

**FSBA:**

FSBA Spring Jubilee 2011 had good participation.

Kent Wooldridge was appointed as the Board Manager Representative for our club. Any member wanting information, please contact Kent.

FSBA will meet in Orlando, FL on Oct 27 – 29.

**MISC:**

THANK YOU to the members who supplied snacks for the meeting.

Jane Pope made a donation to the club as a thank you for Jim Altmiller coming out to remove a feral colony.

The video, Vanishing of the Bees, is available on Amazon for about \$10. Also available on Netflix.

Our July meeting will be using only half the room with chairs only.

Dadant is sponsoring a Honey Day on August 20 in High Springs, FL.

There are items for sale on the back table. Honey and Queens, from members, are available as well.

**FUTURE MEETING PROGRAMS:**

August – Barbeque - more information will be forthcoming. Ideas for the barbecue include the possibility of a cooking contest of items made with honey.

October – possible guest speaker. Inquiries are being made for Dr Juliane Rangel – The Biology of Bees and Queen Rearing.

**RAFFLE DRAWING:**

2 buckets of sugar, GRIT's Backyard Beekeeping and Honey, Torch w/self starter and 5 "Save the Bees" bracelets were given.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Q & A following:

Q: What is currently blooming?

A: Not much. Cabbage Palm and Loblolly Bay. Since Cabbage Palm honey ferments if left on the hive, they need to be harvested as soon as they are capped. Keep an eye on them.

Q: Is a refractometer needed?

A: No. However, extracted honey should be kept in a room with a dehumidifier or air conditioning.

Q: Which bottom is better, screen or board?

A: George – Do not use a screen bottom. You cannot medicate effectively with a screen bottom.

Ray – Each has their place. However, if using IPM, a screen bottom is preferred.

Q: What do I do if my hive has wax moths?

A: Start over. The hive is probably queenless. The eggs will come in with the pollen and if the hive is queenless, they will survive and reproduce. You can reuse the frames that have light damage. Freeze the frames to kill all eggs and larvae (of the wax moth).

Q: What is the best time to split a hive?

A: The middle of August.

Q: Will the pollen pick back up after the nectar flow?

A: Yes

Q: The supers are full of honey, but not capped, can they be harvested?

A: Yes. Remove the frames, harvest the honey and then return to the hive to be cleaned. This is not recommended unless the frame is 90% capped and the nectar will not shake from the comb. A moisture meter is recommended if extracting honey that has not been capped.

Q: Can sugar water be stored in the refrigerator?

A: It is best to make only what you need.

Q: Bees are swarming over the oak trees, why?

A: In January and February, the aphid population is very high (bees harvest the honey dew off the aphids). It is possible the same thing is occurring now.

Q: Can there be too much pollen in the frames?

A: Yes. Remove the frames, dip them in water and return to the hive to be cleaned by the bees, encouraging them to work the frames differently.

Q: Should a hive be ventilated right now?

A: Yes – simply prop the lid open.

Q: Where should a beetle trap be placed?

A: Mike Leach puts his where ever he sees the beetles. Ray Claxton says if you use the Beetle Blaster, they should be laid flat on the top of the frame or else the beetles will hide under the flanges of the trap – keep a close eye on them, as the plastic can warp in the heat. If using AJs – wire them closed to prevent the cover from inadvertently coming off while inspecting the trap, and spilling the oil on the bees killing them. A strong hive is your best defense.