

## BBA Meeting Minutes 12-10-15

The new location of meeting at the Coconut Creek community center has been well received by the membership.

### RECENT BBA EVENTS IN THE COUNTY.

The October 31st weekend events:

Dania Patch program was a success. Urban garden/Farmers Market. Crissy and Thom represented us. BBA brought the observation hive and spread information about beekeeping.

The November 14<sup>th</sup> weekend events:

Chrissy and Patricia went to the SW Ranches Farmer's Market and Car Show. Rained but it was a good turn out and a lot of honey sold. Observation hive was a hit, too.

Same weekend Quiet Waters Park GREEN EXPO. Observation hive again a big hit. While there the QW Park gave the BBA a GREEN LEADER AWARD. Our first award for being Green!

Wynmoor Nature Group sent a nice thank you note for the presentation Dan provided on 12/3

At the Quiet Waters event a girl came up claiming she was Vegan and demanded bees should be free to leave and not be kept in boxes being forced to produce honey. She was against beekeeping and thinks it is cruelty to bees. Was thinking that smoking the bees to death to get the honey is cruel to them. Dan told her that his beehives are open 24/7 and free to leave anytime they wanted.

No one went to the Beekeepers conference in Jacksonville from our group.

Harry-VP-November BBA call report: 50 calls were received. 25 of them have already called people on the list. Of the other 25 are surprised that there is a charge and don't call back. About 10-15 will be referred to someone on the list. December has been slow only 8 calls. 3 of the 8 have already called off the list. 2 others didn't like the charge. Another in a tree 30 feet up Joyce has handled. Another guy said his whole family was allergic but then hung up when he found there was a charge.

Dan has met a Professor of Entomology at the University of Suez Canal. Dr. Soliman Elsaka. He is giving us presentation tonight.

"Beekeeping lab in Seattle is ongoing with the University. Steve had an idea about a particular bee species. Beekeeping images found in the tomb of PABASA in 610 B.C. He helped Steve with his research in diminishing Africanized bees through mitochondrial DNA research.

Egypt and their beekeeping history was discussed. In Egypt the bee species were becoming more Africanized and harder to handle. 1930-1945 there was an influx of European bees to Egypt which started to diffuse the *apis mellifera lamarckii* – the Egyptian bee. Dr. A wanted to find and identify the true Egyptian bee dna of *lamarckii*. These bees were traditionally kept in mud hives. MUD Hives were not accessible and disrupted colonies. Dr. A made efforts to transfer the mud hive bees to Langstroth and

top bar hives. The Lamarckii is 2/3 smaller than the species of Carnica bees that they had been diluted with. The development of Lamarckii bees is shorter than the typical bee. This is of interest to the prevention of varroa mites to see if the race of the bee will be resistant to the varroa mite.

Mitchner is the most authoritative person on bee taxonomy. Cornell University is very authoritative, as well.

Ligustica bees and carnica bees are close in appearance, so they are hard to distinguish.

Varroa mite problem in Egypt is under control and the bees are able to survive. The number one problem in Egypt is the genetic characteristics of bees, and the unavailability of queens in Egypt causing a shortage of bees. Importation of bees was banned but people smuggled in bees that had problems and disease. There is not a big colony collapse in Egypt but there is environmental stress. “

End of the discussion and questions and answers.

Dan will show the bees in the plaster bear that he rescued from a woman's home. BEAR BUTT HONEY! The bees were using the bear's butt for an exit and entrance. Was humorous but the bees didn't know that!

The Coconut Creek video was shown. Most members had not seen it.

Questions from the Members following the video:

Q: Why do you sometimes have gloves and sometimes not? It is based on the bees, they have characteristics and clearly have better days than others or reasons for being calm or excited. We just take it one situation at a time and get a sense of whether we need gloves or not.

Q: Did you ever find out why they died? No still no idea what the exact cause was. Dan had to destroy all of his hive bodies in the trash.

Q: Any leftover bees survive to rebuild? No, He let them die out because he did not have the heart to euthanize them.

Q: Where do I get bees? This is a question people getting into beekeeping ask.

- Bees can be purchased in packages available through mail-order or local at SoFlaBee Supplies in Miami. There is no guarantee that once you install any colony of bees they will stay.
- You can find a beekeeper to help you find bees.
- Put a swarm trap out and hope they move in. Jim Yinger puts out his nuc box and always has a colony move in. Lemongrass and foundation in frames. Dan doesn't buy bees, all of his have been feral.

Q: Why is old wax darker? The wax that bees produce is a lipid, a fat, not a petroleum, and yes it darkens with age. Every time a cell is used there is a darkening of the wax.

Dr. Kern – current recommendation is to replace your combs every five years. 2 frames a year to replace. The wax picks up pathogens and pesticides so a Beekeeping suggestion is to replace the combs over five years.

Q: Member has a question about Wax Moth problem. Cedar? Does it protect against the wax moth? Cedar offers no protection against the wax moth in Harry's experience. Dr. Kern says just keep your hives strong, you almost never have wax moths until the colony is in decline.

Q: Can wax moths get in through the screen bottom? Dr. Kern said no they usually just come in through the entrance. The times when you restrict the entrance is in winter or if your hive is having problems with yellow jackets.

Light to keep wax moths out of hives is generally used for stored hives not for hives that have colonies in it. If there are holes in the box the bees will just fill it in with propolis.

John Rochester demonstrates the HANSEN METHOD OF PUTTING IN A PACKAGE OF BEES TO A LANGSTROTH HIVE.

Close off front of hive. Take cover of bees off and put the bulk bees in the lower brood box (no frames). Spray the bees lightly with water before installing. Put queen cage with candy plug into 2<sup>nd</sup> brood box above the excluder. Frames installed. Go over 4 frames and put the cage with the queen plug facing up. Place inner cover on top of this. Put another empty hive body on top of that. Put a feeder in the top hive body so that cluster around her as they go to the feeder.

Dr. Kern – in Florida avoid buying a three pound box of bees and go with 2 lbs so they don't die from overheating. It is worth the extra to clip and mark the queen.

Member says that the darker the boxes the more the bees will stay outside the hive. Now he paints the boxes white.

Ivan got a Questionnaire from a group in the Netherlands who are interested in how we keep bees in winter in Florida.

If you have a weak colony, then take a frame of brood with very young larvae, and a frame with capped brood, and place in the weak hive. The bees should be motivated to make a queen if the pupae is young enough.

Mosquito control people here don't care about beekeepers and bees. They won't let you know when they do aerial spraying. They say they don't spray when bees are active but that is not really effective. GET THE FORM FROM MOSQUITO CONTROL IN BROWARD COUNTY. Everyone should do it.

You need a permit to move your bees across state lines. Dr. Kern: Unless you have re-queened with a mated queen that is marked, there is an issue of moving South Florida bees. It is difficult to produce queens in Florida that do not have at least some Africanized genetics from her mating flight. If the bees get aggressive then you have to remove her and re-queen. All over the US the queens are only lasting about 6 months. Short gestation means there is no time for varroa to gestate with them. Africanized bees that have a 19-20 day gestation.

The apiary was approved by the Urban Farm in Oakland Park 501.C 3.