

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
BROWARD BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

**Held At Sawgrass Nature Center in Coral Springs
3000 Sportsplex Drive at 3:30PM – 6/09/2013**

Present at the Meeting:	President	- Dr. Leo Gosser
	Vice President	-
	Treasurer	- John Herring
	Secretary	- Novelette Reid

On arrival at the meeting, Dr. Gosser had the floor and was giving a brief description of his trip to Russia.

Our Treasurer, John Herring stated that we were to have a special guest today featuring plants that attract bees, but he seemed to have been delayed. In the meantime, one of our member, Mr. Rochester who has experience in plants volunteered to fill in until our guest speaker arrived.

Mr. Rochester led the meeting into an interesting discussion first on the importance of removing a plant from its pot as soon as possible to protect its roots, (roots will get twisted if kept too long in pots), size of the hole to place the plant in, type of earthworms that are beneficial for plants, mulch and how much water a potted plant will need. A discussion of the Moringa plant revealed that it has many useful properties.

Guest Speaker

Our Guest Speaker, Mr. Bryan Tozzie of Alexander Landscaping & Plant Farm arrived. He stated briefly that his company has been growing in south Florida for over 30 years, specializing in native plants, creating natural habitats for birds, butterflies, wild life, bees and humans. Bryan took along a few plants from his nursery that attracted bees and shared them with BBA.

Some of the plants that attracted bees were sea grape tree, palms – e.g. Saw Palmetto and Alexander palms. The plants that Bryan took along and shared with the group included:-

- Weeping Melaleuca – a non-invasive plant native to Australia.
- Aloysia Sweet Almond Bush
- Bloodberry – this plant also attracts mocking birds because of the little red berries.
- Hamelia Patens or Fire Bush
- Wild Coffee (Psychotria) – this is a multi-stamina plant which also attracts butterflies.
- Ylang-Ylang plant - this plant was shown because of its fragrance, unfortunately, this one does not attract bees but it does attract moths.
- Scarlet Milkweed
- Starry Rosin – looks like a small sun-flower plant
- Lady of the Night plant – this is another plant that would not attract bees.
- Green Shrimp plant was also discussed.
- Butterfly Bush – attracts bees and butterflies.

This was an informative and educational bit of information for bee keepers who farm bees on their own property. Bryan concluded his discussion advising BBA to go online and Google non-invasive plants to educate ourselves. He also handed out flyers with his website and nursery location.

Open forum

The floor was opened up for question and answer discussion. There were a few concerns from the floor. Swarming seemed to be a very hot topic as we are in the season. One member inquired how to identify when bees were going to swarm – John Herring answered. Another member inquired whether the swarmed bees could be put back with the original hive. John advised that the bees would not go back to the hive. Discussions ensued on how long to feed the bees syrup – just for a couple of weeks/days depending and then let them fend for themselves. How often to check hives – check the entrance often, enter hive approximately once per month. Checking the bees too often was not a good idea.

One member lost her hive of bees – John thinks it might be from pesticides (maybe mosquito spraying). She reported that her bees seemed to be doing fine and then one day, a lot of dead bees, she cleaned out the hive and then in the next couple of days she lost them all. She inquired what to do next, John advised her to use bleach and water to clean the box and use a torch to burn the wood to decontaminate it.

Meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.