



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

**Held At Sawgrass Nature Center in Coral Springs
300 Sportsplex Drive at 3:30 p.m. – 10/13/2013**

Officers present at the meeting:	President	-	Dr. Leo Gosser
	Vice Present	-	John Herring
	Treasurer	-	Dan Novack
	Secretary	-	Novelette Reid

Dr. Gosser commenced the meeting with an announcement that bees were on a branch in Miami for removal. Anyone interested was to contact him for further information. He encouraged members to get involved in swarm capture as a means of increasing their hives and also to save the bees from being destroyed. He advised, however, that it is best to work with an experienced bee keeper first and get hands on training on bee removal before removing bees for the first time.

TREASURY'S REPORT

Currently BBA's checking account balance is \$2,695.65. Dan advised there have been 4 new members added. Also Coral Springs now has a Green Market, open 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Dan stated that it would be great to have a presence once a month at the Green Market. He asked anyone who wishes to volunteer to set up the BBA booth and maintain it once per month to contact him.

RECENT EVENTS

Dr. Gosser noted that the BBA has been getting a lot of press. He also made mention of a piece in the Sun-Sentinel which featured Johnny Brown, who works in Dania Beach as a beekeeper. There will also be a feature article in a community newspaper, New Times which will be published soon. Fox News has also interviewed Dr. Gosser and John Herring while they were engaged in bee removal in Hollywood – this will be featured on Fox channel throughout the day on Monday. The Forum magazine also interviewed Dr. Gosser.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fundraiser: Sawgrass Nature Center is hosting a fundraiser event. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the BBA Basket must bring their contribution to Dr. Gosser no later than Wednesday 10/16/2013. The basket will be auctioned off at the fundraiser.

Convention: State Beekeepers Convention is coming up, October 31 through November 2, 2013. Members interested were asked to view the Florida State Beekeepers Association website.

Banquet: This year's BBA banquet will be 12/8/2013, 3:30 p.m. at the Golden Coral, corner of 441 and Sample Road. Dan will arrange for delivery of the tickets and tickets can also be purchased at the door. Extra tickets will be available for family members who wish to attend with a BBA member.

Webpage: BBA webpage is still under revision. There will be a section on the website for members only to be able to get in touch with each other. The website could be ready by the end of the month.

GUEST SPEAKER - CAITLIN FAWCETT - LOCAL BEE INSPECTOR

After introducing herself and advising that she worked exclusively with AFB with youths in Paraguay, Caitlin gave her website and telephone number.

Caitlin.Fawcett@freshfromflorida.com - 772-201-2282.

Caitlin advised members to make use of all the resources they can get their hands on with regard to bees and beekeeping. She emphasized that education on this matter is important.

As an inspector her role is to ensure that beekeepers are adhering to State requirements and BMP of beekeeping. She opined that it is the law to be registered as a beekeeper and advised members to inscribe their registration number on the hive body box. This serves a precaution if hives are stolen. She does inspection once per year and her inspection spans from Stuart to Key West.

One of the main things that she looks for in a hive on inspection is American fowl brood disease. One could lose a hive from this disease. For anyone who has backyard hives, it is the law that the hive be 15 feet away from the property.

Caitlin also suggest that any beekeeper engaging in bee removal could have the homeowner sign a waiver - that they take all responsibility and hold the bee removal harmless if they get stung by a bee. Dr. Gosser reiterated that the best thing to do is follow the BMP.

She opined also that it is a good idea to keep EpiPen available on hand if you think you may be allergic or if one has backyard hives, just in case visitors may be allergic, one never knows.

Anyone interested in the Rules and Regulation of beekeeping can check the Florida Department of Agriculture Consumer Services (FDACS). Caitlin concluded by asking anyone who wishes to register to see her after meeting. She is willing to meet with members to take them through the registration process. Also BMP is in the process of being revised.

OPEN FORUM

Roger asked a question on bee houses – stated he would do some more research on this. Dr. Gosser stated that it sounds like a good idea and something Roger could look into some more. Caitlin advised to make sure that the deeps are completely filled out with honey before putting on new boxes so as not to put the bees under undue stress.

A visitor interested in becoming a member would like to shadow an experienced beekeeper before getting involved fully into backyard beekeeping. Dr. Gosser advised that BBA has a mentor program where individuals can be matched with a beekeeper and be mentored. One must be a BBA member, however to benefit from this program.

Someone wanted to know whether as a new beekeeper they should purchase package bees or nucs. John advised it's best for a first time beekeeper to purchase an established hive.

Discussion ensued on AFB and how to protect hives. Dr. Gosser stated that healthy hives can take care of themselves. Dr. Gosser concluded and asked that members could use the extra time for discussion and liaising with Caitlin until 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

