

October 9, 2015

Pledge of Allegiance

- Good news! November and December meetings will be held on the second Thursday of the month at Coconut Creek Community Center, 1100 Lyons Road, Coconut Creek. We have the meeting room reserved from 6pm – 10pm. The facility provides convenient parking, air conditioning, clean tables and chairs, indoor restrooms and audio/visual aid components. The cost for moving to Coconut Creek is a \$10 increase per month (\$35) versus the Sawgrass Nature Center (\$25).
 - November 12 meeting, Coconut Creek, “Pesticides”
- The State convention is coming up Nov. 20, 21, 22. The location of the meeting is north of Jacksonville. Any members that attend, please bring back information.
- A communication report was given:
 - September 88 calls consisting of removals, membership information and general bee education.
 - An increase in calls have been seen from Miami Dade County and South Palm Beach County
 - If you are a member in need of bees, we have extras
 - We have been requested to man a booth and promote saving bees at the Southwest Ranches Farmers Market & Car Show taking place on November 19th.
- A discussion took place regarding the cost of exterminating versus saving bees. Cost comparisons with the club against a company who publishes their rates follows: \$750-\$800 professional removal compared to member rates: \$200-\$300; water meter \$75; Comcast box \$125. We do not actually quote prices when a request comes in. The project is farmed out to members according to level of experience and who is next on the list. The member then contacts the requestor directly and estimates based on complexity, distance and labor involved.
- We are trying to work with Broward County and Miami Dade County for adequate time notification when mosquito spraying will take place. Last month Miami-Dade provided specific details. Hopefully it will continue.
- Please sign in when you arrive at our meeting so we can know who is in attendance.
- The Board wants to hear from you so we can better meet your needs. To do so, we have a new suggestion box/form that we encourage you to participate in.
- Catalogs were displayed from a variety of manufacturers

- Is it requested that if you are in arrears with this year's due, please submit your payment. Dues have been lowered to \$30 per year. If you would like to purchase a book or t-shirt, they are \$10 each.
- We now have business cards to represent our club. If you would like to share contact information about the club, these are very convenient and represent the group professionally.
- BBA is in talks with influential folk in the county. This may result in remote placement for hives. There is no down side to these conversations. We 2-3 people who are willing to become beekeeper teachers who will become trainers for our organization. No pay at first but there is potential for future revenue.
- A technique was demonstrated (found in the American Bee Journal) on how to get bulk bees into a hive. If you are introducing a swarm or loose bees into a hive it can be challenging to force them. A solution is to keep the hive top closed, tack a pillowcase to the front and tilt down in an incline. Dump the bees directly onto the pillowcase and they will naturally walk up the pillowcase into your hive.
- Lesson learned from member's story: Don't go into a hive with out proper safety precautions. One of our members opened a hive without gear or smoke. After was she stung multiple times and had to run for her life away from the stinging bees, she called another member close up the open hive and reassemble.
- Member tip: A clean and efficient way to get a mite count is to freeze a piece of comb. Once frozen solid you can crack it open and inspect
- Member tip: To melt wax, place wax in strainer, strainer in pot, pot in cooking bag. The bags are designed to retain heat. Place in the sun and it will get hot enough inside the bag to melt the wax.
- The city of Coconut Creek created a 12-minute video that is now posted at BrowardBees.org. The 12 minutes were gleaned from almost 12 hours of footage following us around doing bee removals. Please view it when you have a moment.