

Tri-County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes

31 January 2017



Opening

The regular meeting of the Tri-County Beekeepers Association was called to order at 6:40 pm on 31 January 2017 at the Crestview Extension Office by President, Bill Hagan.

Officers Present

Other officers present were Vice-President Mike Garrett, Treasurer Joel Ring and Secretary Margaret Stewart

Attendance

36 members and prospective members were present

Treasurer's report

Balance is approximately \$2800. No hard copy was provided.

Item #1 Life Membership

Discussion of what would constitute the awarding of a life membership. The suggestion that life membership would be awarded after the donation of 5 gallons of honey resulted in the question being raised as to how that would be calculated. Mention was made that as of 1 February, the State association would no longer have this level of membership available. Due to the disparity of ideas and no agreement the matter has been tabled until further notice.

Item #2 Nominating Committee

According to our By-Laws, a nominating committee must be in place in order to provide a slate of candidates for elections in November, 2017. All officer positions are up for election this year. No volunteers were forth coming and the matter was tabled pending further action.

Action Item #1: The membership is encouraged to volunteer for this committee. A minimum of three members in good standing are necessary. Interested parties may submit their names to the Secretary to be recorded.

Item #3 Supporting projects

Discussion was held and resulted in no specific projects being brought up. The question was raised as to getting the instruction hive into the schools. The principal at the school must give permission and with 2 to 3 days of notice the activity can be set up. *Note: Most schools have started requiring pre-registration of volunteers who enter their facilities. Check with the school in question as to whether you have to submit paperwork prior to giving a demonstration.*

No specific action taken.

Item #4 On-line dues payments

To facilitate dues being paid, the suggestion was made to offer the option of electronic payments via PayPal through our web site. Discussion revolved around utilizing the phone app which would not work with our current set-up as we do not have a dedicated phone for the association.

The matter has been tabled.

Education and Announcements

- Danny was present to represent Escarosa bee association to encourage folks to sign-up and participate in the upcoming workshop.
- Discussion was primarily on feeding and preparation for spring.

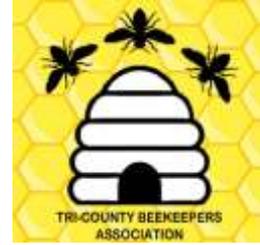
Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by President, Bill Hagan. The next general meeting will be at 6:30 pm on February 28, 2016, in Crestview Extension auditorium.

Minutes submitted by: Margaret Stewart, Secretary

Tri-County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes
28 March 2017



Opening

The regular meeting of the Tri-County Beekeepers Association was called to order at 6:40 pm on 28 March 2017 at the Crestview Extension Office by President, Bill Hagan.

Attendance

Officers present were President Bill Hagan, Treasurer Joel Ring and Secretary Margaret Stewart. 28 members, prospective members and guests also attended.

Approval of Minutes

Previous month's minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer's report

Balance as of 28 March 2017 is \$3,107.97.

Item #1 Mosquito Control

Mosquito spraying will be beginning. Those registered beekeepers should have been contacted as to whether they wish the spraying to stop before/after their property. If you haven't been contacted or have other concerns you may email them at mosqinfo@co.okaloosa.fl.us. The address is Okaloosa County Mosquito Control District, 84 Ready Avenue, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548 Phone: (850) 651-7394 or (850) 689-5774. You may also visit their web site at <http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/pw/environmental/mosquito-control>

Item #2 Web Site and Facebook

Facebook page is average 2004 views per month. The web site has received 2083 views. We have had a lot of questions/emails regarding swarms.

Action Item #1 - The Extension Office needs an updated swarm collector list.

Item #3 Open Hive Day

Due to the previous event being rained out, discussion was held on a new date. It was decided that April 29th from 10am until ? will be the Open Hive Day. Further discussion resulted in a cookout will be held after the demonstrations are done. Expenditures have been approved for providing the food for the cookout.

Action Item #2 - Send out the reminder of the open hive date.

Item #4 Guest

We were fortunate to have a guest present who lives in and is a beekeeper in Australia. There was a question and answer period regarding their methods and challenges they face in that country as opposed to here. Very informative.

Pending Action Items

- Compile an updated list of Association loaner equipment and education items.

Education and Updates

- Bill Hagan gave a presentation on making splits and the various ways that may be accomplished.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Upcoming:

April 25th: General Membership Meeting: 6:30 pm at the Extension Office. Guest speakers Darryl Williams, NRCS and Don Buchanan, FWC.

April 29th: Open Hive Demonstration/Cookout: 10:00am at Bill Hagan's apiary (email will be sent out with directions etc.)

Minutes submitted by: Margaret Stewart, Secretary

Tri-County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes
25 April 2017



Opening

The regular meeting of the Tri-County Beekeepers Association was called to order at 6:33 pm on 25 April 2017 at the Crestview Extension Office by President, Bill Hagan.

Attendance

Officers present were President Bill Hagan, Vice-president Mike Garrett, Treasurer Joel Ring and Secretary Margaret Stewart. 39 members, prospective members and guests also attended.

Approval of Minutes

There were no additions nor corrections to the previous minutes. Minutes are entered into the record as written.

Treasurer's report

There were no changes to the bank balance as of 25 April 2017 is \$3,107.97. Joel also distributed a copy of the member roster to attendees.

Item #1 Guest Speakers

Guest speakers Don Buchanan, Wildlife Biologist for NRCS and Darryl Williams, District Conservationist for NRCS presented information on the various programs available through their departments and NRCS. They answered questions and remained until the end of the meeting to speak with interested members and non-members who had additional questions. Both individuals were presented with Certificates of Appreciation from the organization.

Item #2 Open Hive and Cookout

Bill reminded everyone of the open hive and cookout this Saturday. A reminder email will be sent out with the pertinent information. Along with the demonstration and cookout, all the loaner equipment will be on display for members to examine. Please note: you **must** be a member in good standing in order to borrow the equipment. Equipment will be signed out on a first come, first serve basis and must be returned within a reasonable amount of time and in clean, working condition.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Upcoming:

April 29th: Open Hive Demonstration/Cookout: 10:00am at Bill Hagan's apiary

May 30th: General Membership meeting 6:30pm @ Crestview Extension Office, 3098 Airport Road, Crestview.

Minutes submitted by: Margaret Stewart, Secretary

Tri-County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes
30 May 2017



Opening

The regular meeting of the Tri-County Beekeepers Association was called to order at 6:40 pm on 30 May 2017 at the Crestview Extension Office by President, Bill Hagan.

Attendance

Officers present were President Bill Hagan, Vice President Mike Garrett and Secretary Margaret Stewart. 30 members, prospective members and guests total were present.

Approval of Minutes

Previous month's minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer's report

Bill Hagan presented the treasurer's report and reported a balance as of 30 May 2017 is \$3,177.37.

Item #1 Labeling of your product

The labeling requirements for selling your honey were covered. You may download the pdf version of the cottage labeling law by going to:

<https://www.freshfromflorida.com/.../CottageFoodAdvisoryWithFormNumber.pdf>

The full statute may be viewed here

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/STATUTES/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0500-0599/0500/Sections/0500.80.html

Item #2 Pollen and nectar plants

To respond to many questions previously about what nectar/pollen plants are available in our area, Bill covered a fairly comprehensive list. You may also find more information on nectar/pollen plants at <http://tinyurl.com/ya4hmfah> Please remember that some plants, while providing abundant nectar for bees may be an invasive species (Chinese tallow or popcorn tree is one). It is illegal to buy, sell or otherwise propagate some of these invasive plants.

Item #3 Harvesting honey

Topics covered:

- 24 hours prior to harvest, loosen up the supers to break the comb that bees may have created between the frames. This will help keep the mess to a minimum when you move the supers the next day.
- To remove the bees from the super you may try (1) brushing (2) an escape board (3) a fume board or (4) a blower. It was noted that a blower may well result in very angry bees and perhaps upsetting your neighbors as well. When using the fume board method be sure to remove the queen excluder. Two products mentioned were BeeGo (stinky) and BeeQuick (almond smelling)
- Several accounts of where NOT to sling your honey were shared. It's not a good idea to sling in a greenhouse where the bees have access nor on an unscreened porch.
- Be sure to pay attention to your shoes and protect the surrounding area when slinging your honey. It tends to get everywhere.
- Once you've harvested, do not store wet supers. Allow the bees to clean them off. This time of year, you may put the supers back on the hives. Any supers stored (once cleaned) should be stored with moth crystals (NOT moth balls).
- If possible, you can freeze a super for 24 to 48 hours. This will destroy small hive beetle eggs and larvae. Please note that it will not kill wax moth eggs. Also, never put a frozen super on the hive. Make sure it has thawed before returning.
- You can tell honey is ready because it is capped and when shaken slightly it doesn't drip out. You can also use a refractometer to determine moisture content. Honey too high in moisture can cause serious issues when it comes to storage and bottling.

Item #4 Loaner equipment

A list of Association equipment and associated documentation is almost completed and will be available/active by next meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Upcoming:

June 10 - Alachua County Beekeeping Class Honey Extraction & Hive Management, Gainesville. For more information <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/alachua-county-2017-beekeeping-classes-tickets-31257006548?aff=erelexpmlt>

June 27 - General Membership meeting @ Crestview Extension Office, 3098 Airport Road, Crestview 6:30pm

August 11th & 12th - South Florida Bee College and Honey Show. For more information <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-south-florida-bee-college-tickets-34422921886>

Minutes submitted by: Margaret Stewart, Secretary

Tri-County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes
27 June 2017



Opening

The regular meeting of the Tri-County Beekeepers Association was called to order at 6:33 pm on 27 June 2017 at the Crestview Extension Office by President, Bill Hagan.

Officers Present

Other officers present were Vice-President Mike Garrett, Treasurer Joel Ring and Secretary Margaret Stewart

Attendance

There were 26 attendees

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections nor additions to the previous meeting's minutes. May's minutes were entered into the record as written.

Treasurer's report

Balance as of 26 June 2017 is \$3,317.12.

Item #1 Name tags

We are still in the process of getting prices for name tags. Consensus is that the name tag will have the person's name and date of entry into the group.

Action item: Continue trying to locate prices from local vendors.

Item #2 Bee Lab donation

Attached to the agenda was the request from Tony Hogg, Florida State Beekeepers Association regarding the immediate need to raise funds to build a Field Training Annex at the same time construction of the core lab facility begins. Discussion followed. Joel moved to send \$350 to support the field training annex. Mike seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Action item: Joel will cut a check for \$350 and have it sent to the appropriate address as soon as possible.

Item #3 Shirts

Part of the bee lab discussion entailed the potential for people to purchase shirts. These shirts have been seen which indicate that the wearer supports the bee lab.

Action Item: Marg will try and find out information regarding the shirts.

Item #4 Equipment for Sale

Members were reminded that Randy has equipment for sale. A flyer was attached to the agenda. Interested parties should contact Randy directly.

Item #5 Life Membership

Joel reintroduced the previously tabled item of life membership. Mike moved that a lifetime membership be given to anyone who donates five (5) gallons of honey in one year with a limit of two (2) individuals each year. Andy seconded. Motion passed.

Action Item: By-laws need to be changed to reflect the addition of lifetime membership.

Education and Updates

- Bill provided the US Average pricing for honey. Currently at \$18.00 per quart; \$7.00 per pound; \$10.49 per two pounds; and \$45.00 per gallon. US average for pollinating service is \$94.13.
- Varroa mites are at their peak. Consider treating appropriately. Note: Oxalic acid should not be used by those individuals with breathing problems!
- Greg Liljestrom presented on Nicot queen rearing.
 - More information through the book: Nicot Queen Rearing: The Non-Grafting method for Raising Local Queens by Grant Gillard ISBN 9781494277390
 - Available through bee catalogs.
 - Mann Lake Queen Rearing Kit
 - nicot.homestead.com/easynicot.html

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm.

Next meeting: July 25th @ Okaloosa County Extension Office, 3098 Airport Road, Crestview, 6:30pm.

Minutes submitted by: Margaret Stewart, Secretary

Tri-County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes

25 July 2017



Opening

The regular meeting of the Tri-County Beekeepers Association was called to order at 6:33 pm on 25 July 2017 at the Crestview Extension Office by President, Bill Hagan.

Officers Present

Other officers present were Treasurer Joel Ring and Secretary Margaret Stewart

Attendance

There were 18 attendees

Approval of Minutes

Previous minutes were not completed in time for dissemination to membership. June's minutes will be attached to these minutes for review and be offered into the record in August.

Treasurer's report

Balance as of 25 July 2017 is \$2,987.12. Treasurer sent \$350 to the bee lab in support of the field training area.

Item #1 Name tags

No new information is available on name tags.

Action Item #1: Bill Hagan will check with place in Niceville. Marg will check with place in Crestview.

Item #2 Top bar hive

Member with top bar hive requested anyone with more information to assist. Ted Futterer volunteered.

Education and Updates

- Greg and Bill updated on Nicot queen rearing experiment. Another update will be held next month and there will be photos shown on the big screen.
- Bill presented that AFB (American Foul Brood) was found on hive beetles in Tennessee. Of concern is that the owner has a pollinator service. Members are reminded that we are located along a major throughway for the trucks carrying bees. If you were wondering about treating for AFB--don't wonder--just do it. If

you aren't sure about treatment procedures you may contact Bill or stop in at Bundrick's. All will be happy to help you.

- There is a video on queen breeding located on the Brushy Mountain web site.
- Member brought in his Flo-hive and provided information and demonstration on the hive's use. Also provided information on pros and cons that he has found in the first year as well as several tips for operating the hive in the most effective manner.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.

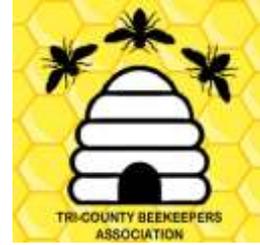
Next meeting: August 29th @ Okaloosa County Extension Office, 3098 Airport Road, Crestview, 6:30pm.

Minutes submitted by: Margaret Stewart, Secretary

Tri-County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes

29 August 2017



Opening

The regular meeting of the Tri-County Beekeepers Association was called to order at 6:33 pm on 29 August 2017 at the Crestview Extension Office by President, Bill Hagan.

Attendance

Officers present were President Bill Hagan, Treasurer Joel Ring and Secretary Margaret Stewart. 24 members, prospective members and guests total were present.

Approval of Minutes

July's minutes were corrected to read the Al Silvari has presented the Flo-Hive demonstration. There being no other corrections, the minutes were entered into the record as corrected.

Treasurer's report

Joel Ring reported that the bank balance as of 29 August 2017 is \$3007.12. His report is attached.

Item #1 Name tags

Bill will check on the price at the Niceville location.

Education - Feeding your bees for winter

Topics covered:

- Hive populations begin to drop off, on average the queen will stop laying around Thanksgiving.
- On average, a healthy hive requires 21 pounds of honey to make it through our winter period.
- Different types of feeders were demonstrated:
 - Front end feeders - encourages robbing; try to put inside of the hive; alternate the sides when hives are next to each other.
 - Frame type feeders - replaces a frame; tends to drown bees
 - Top feeders - board that replaces lid with a quart jar in the center - advantage is that you can see the syrup level without opening the hive
- Check the hive - if you have a full super with some in the brood box, you shouldn't have to feed

- Make sure that there is a water source available. You can use a regular quail waterer, put pebbles or sand in the trough to prevent drowning
- Don't do communal feeding. This encourages bees to arrive from all over and bring problems to your bee yard
- You won't feed in the dead of winter. Feed now and get them built up.
- Syrup is in a 2:1 ratio (sugar to water). You will need up to 3 gallons per hive.
- As long as the bees are consuming the syrup continue to replenish the syrup
- Next time you'll feed will be the beginning of January.

Other topics

- Varroa mites have no eyes. They operate by smell and vibration.
- American Foul Brood has been identified in Tennessee and in Gainesville. Be alert. Hive beetles have been found to carry the spores.
- You can find a lot of information by visiting the UF/IFAS Honey Bee Research & Extension Lab at <http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/honey-bee/>

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Upcoming:

September 26th @ 6:30pm - General Membership meeting at UF/IFAS Extension Building, 3098 Airport Road, Crestview, FL.

Minutes submitted by: Margaret Stewart, Secretary

Tri-County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes
26 September 2017



Opening

The regular meeting of the Tri-County Beekeepers Association was called to order at 6:32 pm on 26 September 2017 at the Crestview Extension Office by President, Bill Hagan.

Attendance

Officers present were President Bill Hagan, Vice-President Mike Garrett, Treasurer Joel Ring and Secretary Margaret Stewart. 25 members, prospective members and guests total were present.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or additions to the previous month's minutes. The minutes were entered into the record as written.

Treasurer's report

Joel Ring reported that the bank balance as of 25 September 2017 is \$3007.12. His report is attached.

Item #1 Life Membership

It being noted that a motion was necessary to approve amending our by-laws to include the life membership previously approved. Ted moved to amend the by-laws and Hal seconded. There was no discussion and the motion was passed.

Action item #1: The secretary will add the appropriate language to the by-laws and get new copies signed by the officers.

Item #2 October meeting change

Since our regular meeting for October would fall on Halloween and also to allow for preparation time for Baker Block, the regular membership meeting for October will be held on the 24th.

Item #3 Baker Block

It being noted that there are supplies that are needed for the Baker Block event. Jars, labels and honey sticks. Estimated cost would be about \$156. Mike moved that we

approve expenditure of necessary supplies, not to exceed \$200. Lynn seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed. It was noted that Pam and Dale were donating products to sell at the event.

Item #4 Elections

Members were reminded that nominations for officers would be held at October's meeting.

Item #5 Class being held

Greg Lijestrom will be hosting/presenting a beginning bee keeping class on Saturday, October 28th with a field presentation on October 29th. All questions should be addressed to Greg. See attached flyer for more information.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Upcoming:

1. October 24th @ 6:30pm - General Membership meeting
2. November 4th @ 7am - 2pm - Baker Block Heritage Days
3. January 9-13, 2018 - American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow, Grand Sierra Resort, Reno, NV

Minutes submitted by: Margaret Stewart, Secretary

Beginning Beekeeper Course

Saturday, October 28, 2017

Classroom Lectures

By: Greg Liljestrom

8am-4pm

3098 Airport Road, Crestview, FL

University of Florida IFAS

Okaloosa County Extension

3098 Airport Road

Crestview, FL 32539

Topics for this course:

- Understanding the Bees
- The Hive
- Establishing and Examining the Hives
- Hive Management
- Benefits from Healthy Hives
- Learning More

Cost

\$25 per person

Fee will cover course materials, refreshments, and a meal.

Deadline to register is October 23rd.

Sunday, October 29, 2017

Optional Field Day

10am - 2pm

Greg and Lynn's Apiary

5471 Ponderosa Lane

Crestview FL 32539



To register, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/y769cnz4> or fill out the form below and submit it with payment to Okaloosa County Extension, 3098 Airport Road, Crestview, FL, 32539.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Email address _____

Tri-County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes
24 October 2017



Opening

The regular meeting of the Tri-County Beekeepers Association was called to order at 6:37 pm on 24 October 2017 at the Crestview Extension Office by President, Bill Hagan.

Attendance

Officers present were President Bill Hagan, Vice-President Mike Garrett, Treasurer Joel Ring and Secretary Margaret Stewart. 12 members, prospective members and guests total were present.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes had not been sent out. Both September and October's minutes would be sent out for approval at November's meeting.

Treasurer's report

Joel Ring reported that the bank balance as of 10 October 2017 is \$2901.22. His report is attached.

Item #1 Nominations

The nominating committee had forwarded their information to the Secretary to present at meeting.

- President - nominee Bill Hagan. Bill accepted the nomination. There were no additional nominations from the floor.
- Vice-President - nominee Mike Garrett. Mike accepted the nomination. There were no additional nominations from the floor.
- Treasurer - nominee Joel Ring. Joel declined the nomination. Nomination from the floor: Ed Crosby (accepted).
- Secretary - nominee Marg Stewart. Mar accepted the nomination. There were no additional nominations from the floor.

The slate will be presented in November along with any other nominations from the floor. Voting will be held at the November meeting.

Item #2 Baker Block

Bill would be arriving at the event location at 6:30am. Volunteers are needed to help man the booth, set up and tear down. The event runs from 7am to 2pm.

Item #3 Special Announcement

Bill Hagan has been nominated for the position of vice-president of the Florida State Beekeepers Association.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned early so that bottling could commence.

Upcoming:

1. October 28th & 29th - Beginning Beekeeping @ Extension Office
2. November 4th @ 7am - 2pm - Baker Block Heritage Days
3. November 28th @ 6:30pm - General Membership meeting
4. January 9-13, 2018 - American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow, Grand Sierra Resort, Reno, NV

Minutes submitted by: Margaret Stewart, Secretary

Tri-County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes
28 November 2017



Opening

The regular meeting of the Tri-County Beekeepers Association was called to order at 6:37 pm on 28 November 2017 at the Crestview Extension Office by President, Bill Hagan.

Attendance

Officers present were President Bill Hagan, Treasurer Joel Ring and Secretary Margaret Stewart. 17 members, prospective members and guests total were present.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for both September and October were sent out. The only correction was to October's minutes under the opening where the date was listed incorrectly. The minutes are hereby entered into the record as corrected.

Treasurer's report

Joel Ring reported that the bank balance as of 27 November 2017 is \$3,321.16. His report is attached.

Item #1 Elections

There were no other nominations from the floor. Elections were held by a show of hands in favor of the nominees. Board members for 2018/2019 term are:

- President - Bill Hagan
- Vice-President - Mike Garrett
- Treasurer - Ed Crosby
- Secretary - Marg Stewart

Item #2 Baker Block

The event at Baker Block Museum on 4 November 2017 netted the Association \$615.15 from the sale of honey and donated items (candles etc.) Bill Hagan thanked all who participated and made special mention of Pam Garrett and her wonderful salesmanship abilities. It was a good turn-out with a lot of contact made with the general public and enhancing their understanding and appreciation of honeybees, beekeeping, and our Association.

Item #3 Pioneer Day

Members who attended the Pioneer Day celebration, Joel Ring, Bill Hagan, and Ed Crosby, stayed busy. This is a non-selling event at this time. The Association had the viewing hive available, equipment, and other items to educate the public. Reports from the event were that lines formed to speak with our members and to get a close up view of all that was displayed. Many thanks to those members who worked at this event. Both events were so successful that we are out of business cards. More will be ordered.

Action Item #1: Marg Stewart will handle getting more business cards made.

Item #4 February Pot-Luck

This item was tabled until January.

Item #5 Membership Dues

A reminder that annual dues must be submitted no later than January 30, 2018 in accordance with our by-laws. If you will be unable to attend the meeting, please notify Marg Stewart and arrangements will be made to collect your dues in another manner. Only members in good standing reserve the right to vote on matters that come before the membership. A reminder email will be sent out prior to the January 30th meeting.

Item #6 Life Membership

This items was tabled until January.

Item #7 Other Business

Neil Hoskins will be taking orders for mated, Italian queens. Queens will be sold for \$15.75. If interested, you need to contact Neil and place your order BEFORE December 30th. Please contact Neil at 850-678-5479.

Joel Ring let membership know that Wal-Mart still has 25# bags of sugar on sale for \$8.87.

Recent member, Lorenzo New passed away last week.

Members are reminded that this was the last meeting of the year. There will not be a meeting in December. Our next meeting will be on January 30, 2018.

Education Notes:

- November Honey Prices
 - In Florida
 - 1# - \$7.00
 - 2# - \$10.49
 - 3# (quart) - \$18.00
 - Gallon - \$45.00
 - US National Average
 - 1# - \$9.00
 - 3# (quart) - \$25.00
- It used to be that beet sugar was to be avoided when making feed for your bees. That was due to chemicals in the beet sugar. This issue was resolved some time ago and it is a personal preference to utilize cane sugar or beet sugar.
- Temperature impacts bees. At 42° F. they can't fly. They may leave the hive but they won't get far. At 40° F. if they are alone, they will die.
- The biggest enemy of a closed up hive is CO₂. If you have a screened bottom board this won't be a problem. If you have a solid bottom board, be sure to have an air vent at the top of the hive.
- On average our bees need 21# of honey to survive winter. Pick up the back of the hive, if it feels light, FEED! A frame will hold about 4 1/2# of honey.
- If you're going to feed your bees make sure that you don't have a super in place. Use a 75/25 mixture of sugar/water this time of year. If using quart jars, refill as needed. When they don't take any food from the jar(s) in two (2) days you know that they've had enough.
- Daylight hours are shorter and the queen is laying less. This ends up reducing the population so less food is required to keep the hive going through winter.
- Watch out for robbing behavior this time of year. One way to help avoid this is to make sure your hive entrances aren't right next to each other.
- If you are leaving a super on the hive through winter, make sure you remove the queen excluder. Cold weather will cause the bees to move up in a ball and the queen won't be able to pass through the excluder.
- Try to avoid having wind blowing directly into the hive.
- The lack of rain is severely limiting the amount of nectar that may still be available.
- The first week of January, seriously consider feeding the bees 1" to 1 1/2" of a pollen patty. You'll also want to introduce a 50/50 sugar/water to stimulate the hive. By the end of January there will be an increase in population.
- Moldy comb - According to Dr. Ellis comb that has molded doesn't have to be thrown away. The bees will clean it up with no ill effects.

- This is the time of year to get your equipment ready.
 - Put cleaned supers away with moth crystals sandwiched in between newspaper. You will have to re-apply if the weather stays warm. **DO NOT USE MOTH BALLS!**
 - Do all your painting, repair work, frame building etc.
 - Check your extraction gear (if you have it) and make any repairs.
 - Clean out your smoker, sharpen hive tools.
 - Take the time NOW and get everything ready for spring.
- Soybeans have the highest protein pollen.
- If the temperature is less than 60° F. you should not open the hive.
- Recent testing of honeycomb indicated that there was extensive pesticide residue found. Recommended that when it comes to comb honey, don't swallow the comb.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.

Upcoming:

1. January 9-13, 2018 - American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow, Grand Sierra Resort, Reno, NV
2. January 30, 2018 - General Membership Meeting @ 6:30pm Crestview Extension Offices, 3098 Airport Rd., Crestview

Minutes submitted by: Margaret Stewart, Secretary