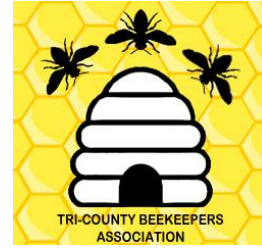


Tri-County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes
26 February 2019



Opening

The regular meeting of the Tri-County Beekeepers Association was called to order at 6:35 pm on 26 February 2019 at the Crestview Extension Office by President, Bill Hagan.

Officers Present

Other officers present were Vice-President Mike Garrett and Secretary Margaret Stewart

Attendance

38 members and prospective members were present

Treasurer's report

Balance is \$4066.58. Hard copy entered into the record.

Item #1 Open Hive Day

There will not be a meeting on March 26th! Our next meeting will be held on March 23rd at Bill Hagan's apiary from 10 am until noon with a luncheon following. The rain date is March 30th. Check your email for updates and possible cancellations. The address is: 1651 Hwy 90 W, Baker, FL. Look for the frogs at the end of the driveway. Google Map link <https://goo.gl/maps/5RQsohBJ7kr>

Item #2 Varomorus Propane Insect Fogger

Greg Lijestrom brought in a Varomorus Propane Insect Fogger which is available through Amazon for \$149.95. It is useful in fogging (oxalic acid) for varroa mites. The Amazon link is <https://tinyurl.com/y63eulx7>

Note, according to current research, Apivar is still as effective as oxalic acid treatment.

Item #3 Honey Prices

- January, 2019
 - 1# \$7.47
 - Pint \$9.71
 - Quart \$17.51
- February, 2019
 - 1# \$7.54
 - Pint \$8.57
 - Quart \$15.20

Tupelo honey is available at Crestview ACE Hardware \$32 - \$35 for two pounds.

Item #4 Door Prize

Norman Coker built and donated a swarm box for tonight's door prize. Johnnie Blaylock won the swarm box.

Education - Mike Garrett presented on how to increase honey production and control swarming

- How do I get started?
 - Research
 - Attend classes
 - Find a mentor
 - Join an organization/club
- Where do you get equipment?
 - Catalogues
 - Local - Bundrick Honey Farms/Treasures and Treats, 398 Walden St., Crestview 850.682.2317
- You are required by Florida law to be registered. Register on-line at Fresh From Florida <https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Business-Services/Bees-APIary/Beekeeper-Registration>
- Florida is a 'right to farm' state. You can't be told you can't keep bees. The exception being in an HOA community that prohibits it.
- General
 - You're going to get stung
 - It's hot
 - It can be expensive
- Increasing Honey Production

- The main factor in producing lots of honey is to have a strong hive. If you have 2 hives with 30,000 bees in each -- you'll produce 40 lbs. If you have 1 hive with 60,000 bees -- you'll produce 120 lbs. Why? More foragers.
- How to keep a strong hive
 - control pests and diseases
 - have a vigorous queen
 - insure proper nutrition, especially in winter
 - attempt to manage pesticide exposure
 - prevent swarming
- Swarming is the way a colony reproduces. "If an organism can reproduce, it really, really, really wants to." Dr. J. Ellis, UF/IFAS
- Three types of swarms
 - Reproductive
 - Congestive - Too crowded/no space to lay
 - Absconding - infected; disease; you disturb them too many times
- Causes
 - Dilution of queen pheromone
 - Lack of space to lay
 - Abundance of resources
 - Genetics - some species are more prone to swarming
 - Environmental conditions
 - Age of queen
 - Diseases/pests
- How many times will a colony swarm? Hopefully just once.
- Swarms are most common in the spring.
- If you see lots of drones it usually indicates swarm potential.
- A swarm will go somewhere and stay until scouts find a new location and swarm agrees on location. Can be anywhere from 2 hours to 2 days. For more detailed information on the decision making process, check out [Honeybee Democracy](#) by Thomas d. Seeley.
- Tropical swarms are Africanized bees and so far are not in our area.
- Preventing Swarming
 - reversing hive bodies
 - introduce young queen in late summer or fall
 - make splits
 - adding supers
 - checkerboarding - two boxes where the brood is alternated with empty frames in each box and reversed top to bottom
 - equalizing
 - cutting out queen cells

- artificial swarm (Demaree method) <https://youtu.be/mQ6CE8nCbHQ>
- Know your cells
 - Worker cells are small and flat
 - Drone cells are larger
 - Queen cells are vertical
- Before you remove queen cells investigate! Make sure you actually have a queen present.
- Queen cells located on bottom of frames indicate swarm cells
- Queen cells clustered in middle are supercedure/emergency queen cells
- Did my hive swarm? Mark your queen.
- How long ago did the hive swarm?
 - Open brood 0-4 days
 - Sealed with no open brood 4-20 days
 - No brood - 21 days
 - Multiple eggs in cells over 28 days and you have a laying worker
- Capturing swarms
 - Swarms are generally calm and not aggressive
 - Questions to ask before you head out
 - Are they honeybees?
 - Where are they located?
 - How big is the swarm?
 - How long have they been there?
 - Have they been disturbed or sprayed?
 - Use bait hives that are 40 liters in size with a 1-2 inch opening and 12 to 15 feet in the air.
 - More information: IFAS Publication
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/IN/IN97000.pdf>
Swarm Essentials by Stephen Repasky
- Increasing Honey
 - Hive location
 - Distance to forage
 - Specific orientation (East or Southeast)
 - Urban vs rural
 - Specific crops
 - Close to water
 - Other considerations
 - Type of foundation
 - Queen excluder
 - Supers - # of frames in each box
 - Wet supering

- Ventilation
- Upper entrance vs bottom
- Florida averages 60 lbs. of honey per hive.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by President, Bill Hagan at 8:15pm. The next general meeting will be at 10 am along with open hive demonstration on March 23rd at Bill Hagan's apiary (see above for address and directions).

CALENDAR

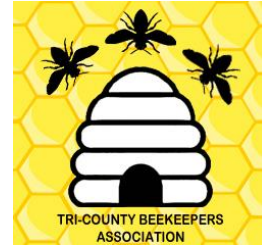
March General Membership meeting is on March 23rd. (see above)

April General Membership meeting is at 6:30pm on April 30th at the Crestview Extension Office.

Minutes submitted by: Margaret Stewart, Secretary

Tri-County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes
30 April 2019



Opening

The regular meeting of the Tri-County Beekeepers Association was called to order at 6:35 pm on 30 April 2019 at the Crestview Extension Office by President, Bill Hagan.

Attendance

Officers present were President Bill Hagan, Vice-president Mike Garrett, Treasurer Ed Crosby and Secretary Margaret Stewart. 40 members, prospective members and guests also attended.

Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes to be approved since previous meeting was the open hive day.

Treasurer's report

Bank balance is \$3893.41. A hard copy of the bank statement summary is entered into the record. We have 82 members--40 are paid. We have 5 life members

Item #1 Honey Prices

	MARCH			APRIL	
	Southeast	National		Southeast	National
1 pound	\$8.00	\$9.50	1 pound	\$10.00	\$12.00
2 pounds	\$13.00	\$17.25	2 pounds	\$13.00	\$18.00
3 pounds	\$14.99	\$22.70	3 pounds	\$16.00	\$19.00
1 gallon	\$52.00	\$71.61	1 gallon	\$60.00	\$85.00

Tupelo honey is \$19.99 at ACE. Florida was #2 last year in honey production

Item #2 Queen Cells

- If you are interested in queen cells please contact Greg Liljestrom.

Item #3 Education

- Bill presented on the various pests of honeybees

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.

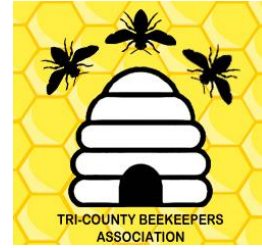
Upcoming:

May 28, 2019: General Membership meeting 6:30pm @ Crestview Extension Office,
3098 Airport Road, Crestview.

Minutes submitted by: Margaret Stewart, Secretary

Tri-County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes
28 May 2019



Opening

The regular meeting of the Tri-County Beekeepers Association was called to order at 6:36 pm on 28 May 2019 at the Crestview Extension Office by President, Bill Hagan.

Attendance

Officers present were President Bill Hagan, Treasurer Ed Crosby, 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

Current balance is \$3891.08. A hard copy is entered into the minutes

Item #1 Notification to members

There are a few members who have not paid for the year. Greg moved that a letter be sent out to those members. Johnny seconded. Motion was carried and Ed Crosby will send out letters to members who have not paid yet.

Item #2 General

With the lack of rain nectar is difficult to find right now. You'll see bees on hummingbird feeders. Bees may be aggressive at this time. Alternate your entrances to avoid robbing. Around 3 p.m. you'll probably see a lot of bees around the entrance--this is new bees orienting on the hive. You'll also see bearding due to lack of room and temperature control. Screened bottom boards and venting along the top will help the bees keep the hive cool.

Greg mentioned that there have been some instances of hives suddenly having no brood, no larva and no queens. There are bees present and honey. Unknown what could be the cause but it could be chemical or CCD.

Joel mentioned that some hives aren't capping off. This could be due to the weather.

Regarding mosquito spraying. You can call and be added to the do not spray list. This is another reason that you MUST register! Registered bee keepers are contacted regarding mosquito spraying. The contact information for Okaloosa County is:

Okaloosa County Mosquito Control District

84 Ready Avenue

Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548

Phone: (850) 651-7394 or (850) 689-5774

Fax: (850) 651-7397

During the spring you can go into the hives every other week. During the summer leave them alone.

Honey prices

	2019	2018
1#	\$7.79	\$7.10
Pint	\$8.16	\$9.95
Quart	\$15.14	\$16.58
1# Wax	\$5.33	\$6.58

Item #3 Education

Bill presented on pollen. There are 352,000 plants that produce nectar and pollen in the world. There are 17,000 in the US alone. 10 native plants in Florida are nectar and pollen producers. Italian honeybees were introduced in 1851. Pollination services began in the US in 1891. There are many industries that rely heavily on pollination services.

You can make your own pollen patties.

<http://beehivejournal.blogspot.com/2010/02/homemade-pollen-substitute-recipe.html>

has a couple of recipes.

Door Prize was a top feeder donated by Bill Hagan.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Upcoming:

June 25 - General Membership meeting @ Crestview Extension Office, 3098 Airport Road, Crestview 6:30pm

August 5th and 6th - Session 1 Bee College, Gainesville

August 8th and 9th - Session 2 Bee College, Gainesville

For more information and to register for bee college visit
<https://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/honey-bee/extension/bee-college/>

Minutes submitted by: Margaret Stewart, Secretary

Tri-County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes
25 June 2019



Opening

The regular meeting of the Tri-County Beekeepers Association was called to order at 6:30 pm on 25 June 2019 at the Crestview Extension Office by President, Bill Hagan.

Attendance

Officers present were President Bill Hagan, Vice-President Mike Garrett, and Treasurer Ed Crosby. A total of 33 members, prospective members and guests were present.

Approval of Minutes

Previous month's minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer's report

Current balance is \$3900.14. A hard copy is entered in the minutes.

Item #1 Notification to members

Ed Crosby sent e-mails to members who have not paid 2019 dues yet. Four members paid dues at the meeting.

Item #2 General

Ted Futterer demonstrated the operation of a de-capping machine. A motion was made that the association purchase the device for use by all members. The motion was seconded. The vote was in favor of the purchase with one descent. The treasurer will send a check in the amount of \$131.67 to each of the three owners, Ted Futterer, Bill Hagan, Norm Coker (Total cost \$395.00).

Item #3 Education

Presentation by Bill was about Queen Bees. Bill started with a brief history. He continued with how queens develop, their physical makeup, and how they function in a beehive. Information about wax production, royal jelly and honey production was also covered.

Door Prize was a smoker donated by Bill Hagan.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Upcoming:

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

August 5th and 6th - Session 1 Bee College, Gainesville

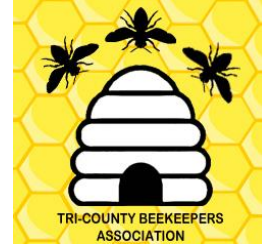
August 8th and 9th - Session 2 Bee College, Gainesville

For more information and to register for bee college visit
<https://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/honey-bee/extension/bee-college/>

Minutes submitted by: Edward Crosby, acting secretary

Tri-County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes
30 July 2019



Opening

The regular meeting of the Tri-County Beekeepers Association was called to order at 6:38 pm on 30 July 2019 at the Crestview Extension Office by President, Bill Hagan.

Officers Present

Other officers present were: Vice President Mike Garrett, Treasurer Ed Crosby and Secretary Margaret Stewart

Attendance

There were 31 attendees

Approval of Minutes

Previous minutes were entered into the record with the only correction being the previous door prize of a smoker was donated by Margaret Stewart.

Treasurer's report

Balance as of 30 July 2019 is \$3,158.11. Treasurer's report is entered into the record.

Item #1 General Discussion

There was discussion on swarms as well as the number of swarms that we've been dealing with lately. Some of the increase has to be attributed to the loss of habitat due to Hurricane Michael.

A reminder that we've already lost 45 minutes of daylight as of this point. Your queens will be slowing down their laying activities from here on.

Education and Updates

- Honey prices in July
 - 1 pound - \$7.92
 - 1 pint - \$9.80
 - 1 quart - \$16.19
- The Education portion was dedicated to varroa mites. You can also go to <https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/> and download a helpful pdf guide for dealing with varroa mites.

- Remember that not treating for mites is not an option. Your hives will infect others if you have mites and you don't treat.
- The least toxic treatments are apistan, apivar, apiguard and checkmite ½. You must alternate treatment types to avoid producing an immune colony of mites.
- You can also treat with oxylic acid (fuming).
- Do your research as to the methods that work best for you. If you have bees you're going to have to treat for mites.

Adjournment

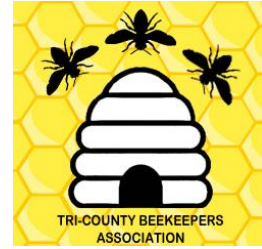
Meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.

Next meeting: August 27th @ Okaloosa County Extension Office, 3098 Airport Road, Crestview, 6:30pm.

Minutes submitted by: Margaret Stewart, Secretary

Tri-County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes
27 August 2019



Opening

The regular meeting of the Tri-County Beekeepers Association was called to order at 6:36 pm on 27 August 2019 at the Crestview Extension Office by President, Bill Hagan.

Officers Present

Other officers present were Treasurer, Ed Crosby; Vice-President Mike Garrett; President, Bill Hagan; and Secretary, Margaret Stewart

Attendance

There were 29 attendees

Approval of Minutes

There being no corrections to the previous minutes, they were accepted into the record as written.

Treasurer's report

Treasurer reported a balance of \$3825.52 with 67 paid members and 5 life members.

Item #1 Education portion

Bill Hagan presented on hive beetles. Discussion on how to handle these pests, their life cycle and various other important aspects.

Item #2 Elections

The nominating committee volunteered to seek members who would be willing to run for Board positions. Elections will be held at November's meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Next meeting: September 24th @ Okaloosa County Extension Office, 3098 Airport Road, Crestview, 6:30pm.

Minutes submitted by: Margaret Stewart, Secretary

Tri-County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes
24 September 2019



Opening

The regular meeting of the Tri-County Beekeepers Association was called to order at 6:34 pm on 24 September 2019 at the Crestview Extension Office by President, Bill Hagan.

Attendance

Officers present were President Bill Hagan, Vice-President Mike Garrett, Treasurer Ed Crosby and Secretary Margaret Stewart. 39 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

Ed Crosby reported that the bank balance is \$3,407.22. We have 72 paid members and added 2 new members.

Item #1 Potential Bee Hive Installation

Ed Crosby is working on a proposal to install a permanent hive in a screened room at the garden located in Valparaiso. The decision still has to be made by the Valparaiso board. Ed would provide the equipment. The matter is tabled until Ed gets back with us with a full proposal, including costs, to have the group sponsor this hive.

Item #2 Elections

All current board members have agreed to be placed on the upcoming ballot. If anyone is interested in running for any of the board positions please contact Steve Baldock. Nominations may also be made from the floor. Elections will be held at the October meeting.

Item #3 Insurance

A question was posed as to the cost of liability insurance for an individual (specifically when one has bee hives.) The example put forth runs less than \$400 a year.

Item #4 Presentation

Bill presented on wax moths. The following are highlights from the presentation.

- In nature, wax moths clean up the remains of a hive when the bees vacate.
- Wax moths arrive about 1894 with the arrival of Langstroth hives.
- There are two types of wax moths: lesser and greater
- An adult female will lay between 250 to 350 eggs.
- Adults don't eat.
- Females lives for 5 days and males for 25 days (males die after mating)
- Eggs are extremely small and can only be seen through magnification.
- The pupal stage is anywhere from 2 weeks to 5 months
- Bats are their biggest predator
- Use entrance reducers and change out old wax.
- Freeze your frames for 48 hours to kill larvae.
- Use ONLY moth crystals (paradicholorbenzene) and NOT mothballs (naphthalene)

Item #4 Presentation

Upcoming events:

- Baker Block – November 2nd. Set up will be between 6:30am and 7:00am. Remember to get there early because parking can be an issue. This is the event where we make 90% of our operating funds. Bottling will be at the October meeting so bring any honey that you wish to donate.
- Pioneer Day @ Rocky Bayou State Park is November 9th from 8:00am to 3:00pm. It would help if there were several 'teams' so that people can be spelled during their time at our table. Please contact Bill Hagan if you are interested in helping out at that event.

Item #5 Reminder

With the lack of rainfall it is important to keep track of your bees. They may need supplemental feeding due to the lack of nectar. Feeding at this time is 2:1 sugar to water (by volume)

Item #6 Peanut Butter

The UF/IFAS Extension is holding their peanut butter drive. These donations are matched by the Peanut Growers Association and all will be donated to local food banks.

Members are encouraged to bring a jar (or two) to the October meeting to help support the Extension program.

Item #6 Honey Prices

	Area	U.S.
1 pound	\$5.69 - \$8.00	\$7.00 to \$16.00
Quart	\$12.99 - \$18.00	\$14.00 - \$21.00
Gallon	\$54.00 - \$60.00	\$45.00 - \$60.00

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:36pm.

Upcoming:

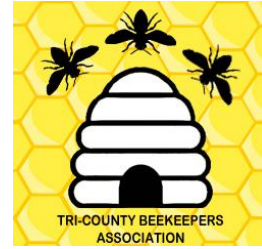
1. November 26th @ 6:30pm - General Membership meeting
2. November 2nd @ 7am - 2pm - Baker Block Heritage Days
3. November 9th - Niceville, Pioneer Days
4. March 6th and 7th, 2020 – Spring Bee College Gainesville

Minutes submitted by: Margaret Stewart, Secretary

Tri-County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes

29 October 2019



Opening

The regular meeting of the Tri-County Beekeepers Association was called to order at 6:35 pm on 29 October 2019 at the Crestview Extension Office by President, Bill Hagan.

Attendance

Officers present were President Bill Hagan, Vice-President Mike Garrett, Treasurer Ed Crosby and Secretary Margaret Stewart. 42 members, prospective members and guests total were present.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved with minor changes and entered into the record as written

Treasurer's report

Ed Crosby reported that the bank balance is \$3148.97. His report is attached.

Item #1 Elections

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 Ed Crosby. Ed accepted the nomination. There were no additional nominations from the floor.
- Secretary - nominee Marg Stewart. Marg accepted the nomination. There were no additional nominations from the floor.

The slate was presented to the membership. Votes were 39 in favor with one dissenting. The officers for the next operational period of two (2) years, according to our by-laws is as presented.

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 Pioneer Day Event @ Rocky Bayou State Park

Please contact Bill Hagan. We need assistance with manning our booth.

Item #4 General Information

- Joel Ring circulated a sympathy card for members to sign.
- Peanut butter donations were collected.
- Information was presented on research on-going regarding the potential of sterilization of drones by the use of chemicals used to combat varroa mites.
- There is some anecdotal evidence that oxyilic acid may kill fungus, etc. as well as treat for mites.
- Jimmy Davis is the new bee inspector and was present. His contact information is James.Davis@FreshFromFlorida.com 352.504.1985

Item #5 Educational presentation

Al Silvani presented on Flow Hives. He covered the various components as well as some of the drawbacks that he found with the hives as well as the pros for using them. More information about flow hives can be found at <https://www.honeyflow.com/about/about-flow/flow-story/p/122>

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned early so that bottling could commence.

Upcoming:

1. November 26th @ 6:30pm - General Membership meeting
2. January 28th @ 6:30pm – General Membership meeting and pot-luck
3. March 6th and 7th, 2020 – Bee College @ Gainesville

Minutes submitted by: Margaret Stewart, Secretary