

BE A HOBBY BEEKEEPER SHORT COURSE **Saturday, November 14, 2009**

Clay County Extension Center, Green Cove
Springs
A University of Florida Hands-on Community
Program



Pre-registration is requested by November 9, 2009. There is a \$15.00 registration fee (\$20.00 per couple) for this course to cover the purchase of materials. It will be a hands-on short course, where participants will be involved with working with an active hive on Extension Center property. At the end of the course we will demonstrate how honey is "robbed from the bees" and all participants will be able to take home a jar of local honey. This course will allow the participants to receive a complete perspective of the process/expense involved with keeping honey bees as a hobby. It should allow the participant to decide if this is something they want to do. For others, it offers an excellent opportunity to learn about this very interesting/useful, often misunderstood insect so important to our food supply. For more info you can reach us at (904)284-6355, (904)269-6355, or (352)473-3711.

Purpose of Course: Over the last decade, local honey bee colonies have had a major problem with two introduced honeybee pests (the Varroa Mite, and Small Hive Beetle). Currently there are few wild colonies in existence in Clay County and the only honey bees around are those being kept by a beekeeper. This has led to serious pollination problems and the need to introduce more managed hives to our county.

You can become part of the solution to our sparse pollination problem by becoming a hobby beekeeper. In addition, with the imminent arrival of the Africanized Honey Bee to our area, there is a need to inform more people of the importance of having "managed" honeybee colonies to counter feral AHB colonies.

Note: As this activity involves direct contact with a stinging insect, no children will be admitted to the Open Hive Portion of the Program.

Schedule of Program:

8:45 - 9:00 AM **REGISTRATION**

9:00 - 9:30 AM Go on line to visit NE Florida Honey Bee Associations Website, Florida State Beekeepers Website and talk about other sources for help for the beginner

9:30 - 10:30 AM *View 60 minute Film on the Life Cycle of Honeybees*

10:30- 11:15 AM *View 30 minute film on Bee Equipment and how to set up a hive - followed by 15 minute Q&R led by panel of local beekeepers*

11:15- 12:00 PM *View 30 minute Film on Installing Bees and how to get them off to a good start - followed by 15 minute Q&R led by panel of local beekeepers*

12:00- 12:30 PM **Lunch - drinks provided but bring your own food & we'll eat together! There will not be time to go out to buy food so be sure to bring your lunch with you - refrigerator available to place it in until lunchtime. Samples of 12**

different honey types will be provided for participants to taste. Local Representatives of the Northeast Florida Honey Bee Association will be present at lunch.

- 12:30- 1:30 PM *View two 20 minute films on Honeybee Pests followed by short discussion about using IPM in their control* - Discussion led by panel of local beekeepers
- 1:30 - 2:30 PM *Open Hive Experience (if weather permits)* - led by local beekeepers
- 2:30 - 3:30 PM *View two 30 minute films on Honey Collection/Extraction Techniques* - followed by discussion of how it is done - each family/or individual who paid registration fee will receive one bottle of local honey as part of registration.
- 3:30 - 4:30 PM *View 30 minute film on dealing with Africanized Honeybees followed by discussion lead by Raymond Zerba, UF/IFAS Extension*
- 4:30 - 4:45 PM *Wrap- up, Evaluation, and Discussion*

To register, send back the registration form attached before November 9, 2009.

Raymond H. Zerba Jr.
Extension Agent IV, Horticulture
Clay County Extension/University of Florida

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Registration Form: to be returned to:

Beginning Bee Short Course
Clay County Extension
Post Office Box 278
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043-0278

Note: Make Check out to Clay County 4-H Youth Foundation/BeeSC in the amount of \$15.00 (\$20.00 per couple) and return no later than Monday, November 9, 2009 along with the top portion of this page.

Name(s): _____

_ Daytime Phone: _____

Number of adults attending: _____

Cut along line above

