

BE A HOBBY BEEKEEPER SHORT COURSE

Saturday, September 19, 2009



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

Pre-registration is requested by September 16, 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). Until 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 county, 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 on Reverse □

8:45 - 9:00 AM REGISTRATION

9:00 - 9:30 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 AM 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- 12:15 PM Discuss Honeybee Pests and using IPM in their control - Discussion led by panel of local beekeepers

12:15- 1:00 PM Lunch - drinks provided but bring your own food & we'll eat together! 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.

1:00 - 2:30 PM Open Hive Experience (if weather permits) - led by local beekeepers

2:30 - 3:15 PM View 30 minute Film 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 Orange Blossom and one bottle of local Gallberry honey as part of registration fee.

3:15 - 4:15 PM Discussion of the Africanized Hybrid Honeybees and what it means to the person keeping Honeybees

4:15 - 4:30 PM Wrap- up, Evaluation, and Discussion

To register, call (904)269-6355,(904)284-6355 or (352)473-3711 before March 26, 2009.

Raymond H. Zerba Jr.

Extension Agent IV, Horticulture

Clay County Extension/University of Florida

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 Wednesday, September 16, 2009 along with the top portion of this page.

Name(s): _____ Daytime

Phone: _____ Number of adults attending: _____

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along line above

