

MINUTES
Tampa Bay Beekeepers Association
May 13, 2010
www.tampabaybeekeepers.com

The Tampa Bay Beekeepers Association monthly meeting came to order on Thursday, May 13, 2010, 7:30 pm at the Hillsborough County Extension Office old meeting hall. David Smith presided as president, Robert Messineo as vice president, Joyce Lang as treasurer and Renee Hartmann as secretary, librarian David Kennedy. We had 6 guests and approximately 73 people attended the meeting. Refreshments were provided by Dwight and Nell Aman and drinks by Jim Johnson.

Thank you very much.

Speaker:

Rebecca Conroy demonstrated how to make lotion from bees wax. The Basis Cream recipe follows.

1 cup oil, almond or grape seed or vegetable oil

3/4 ounce beeswax (22 grams or about 3 tablespoons)

1 cup water (lukewarm) could use rosewater or other hydrosol

Optional 30-50 drops essential oil

Add shaved beeswax to the oil in a Pyrex measuring cup. Set the Pyrex cup in a small saucepan of simmering water that reaches halfway up the side of the measuring cup. Next, heat just until the beeswax melts, and remove the measuring cup from the pan. Cool just until you can put your finger in the oil without discomfort and a small film of hardened beeswax forms at the edge of the cup. Meanwhile, put your cup of water into the warm water saucepan to warm the water slightly, once it is warm to the touch remove. If using a blender, put the water into the blender and put on the lid with the middle insert removed. If using a stick blender put the water into a large enough container to hold 3 cups. Turn the blender on high speed and slowly pour in the warm oil/beeswax mixture in a steady thin stream. The mixture will turn white and thicken, once about 3/4 of the oil has been added stop and stir slightly with chopstick, then add the rest of the oil slowly. If there is any water separated at the top carefully wick it away with a paper towel or pour it off. If you choose to add essential oil do so now, turning on the blender just enough to incorporate the essential oil, do not over blend the mixture.

This recipe can be altered to make a thinner lotion (reduce oil to 3/4 cup and beeswax to 1/2 ounce) and different oils will create a different final product. This does not have any preservatives so has about a 3 month shelf life; it can be stored in the refrigerator to help it last longer.

When adding essential oils try less and add as you get the scent you like. For example Tea tree is very strong and takes less to achieve a good scent.

Apiary Report: We pulled 2 barrels. . The hives are back at the park. Some of the hives need queens. The hives are hit hard with winter and beetles. After the seminar David will be working the hives for about an hour. Some of the hives are very stressed. So he will be making sure they are strengthened up.

Break 8:15 PM

New Business

Treasurer report. Beginning Balance of \$6959.63 Deposit 815.00 Expenses \$593.34 and outstanding checks \$ 238.99 are Balance \$7181.29 The report was excepted as read.

General discussion about the plants blooming now.

Palmetto is blooming now and Gall berry. Cabbage palm is inferior honey.

There appears to be a honey shortage.

The association has 50 plus hives on Upper Tampa Bay Park. The park rangers really like the bees out on the park property. We trade honey for the space at the park.

Old Business Meeting:

Seminar Date May 15, 2010.

Amy Walker our chairwoman updated us on the seminar. The door prizes and speakers, food is under control. Queen rearing, seeing inside the hive, wax working. And extracting honey are just a few of the subjects to be covered at the seminar.

Cookbook: The 2010 cookbook will include the recipes from the prior cookbook and adding new recipes from people in 2010. **To submit recipes contact:** ray@landolakesfishers.com
After Rebecca's demonstration there was suggestion to include a section of the cookbook for by products of the honey bee.

Door prize provided by Bert Kelley.

Thank you to Nell and Dwight Aman for the great food and Jim Johnson for the drinks.

The next meeting is June 10. 7:30PM. Meeting adjourned approximately 9:00 PM