

FLORIDA STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING  
October 27, 2011  
Orange County Extension Service, Orlando, Florida

Attendance:

Michael Richert  
Elmore Herman  
Millie Herman  
Roy Smith (BOM Representative) Escarosa  
Keith Councill  
Melissa Councill  
Joseph Redemson  
Josh Gentry  
David Mendes  
Joyce Smith  
Raymond Vickerman  
Debbie Bohannon  
Tom McConnell  
Barbara McConnell  
Bo Sterk (BOM Representative) St. Johns  
Donald Murray  
Rebecca Wilson  
Ben Parks  
Jim Arnold  
Lisa Fessel  
Kevin Rader  
Rich Yacso  
Leonard Khan (BOM Representative) Palm Beach  
Bebe Kahn  
Al Salopek  
John Gentzel  
Angel Silveira  
Yesemina Silveira  
Jonathan Fisher  
G.M. Jawadis  
Usman Jawadis  
Emilie Christie  
Oscar Brookins  
June Brookins  
Keith Eldridge  
Mike Depianta  
Linda Hackenberg  
Noel Blanchet  
Marie Blanchet  
Johnny Walker

Amy Walker  
Michael Anolfo  
David Smith  
Tom Gillaspie  
Jayma Gillaspie  
Jayla Gillaspie  
Dennis Riggs  
Virginia Riggs  
Raynae Williams  
Beth Fox  
Ernest (Peaches) Peach  
Sherry Hutchinson  
John Hutchinson  
Troy Dere  
Ray Claxton  
Gary VanCleaf  
David Lyman  
Christopher Stalder  
David Webb  
John Adams  
Jeff Curry  
Dexter Honeycutt  
Kevin Lausman  
Lynn Osborn  
Tom Nolan (BOM Representative) Suncoast  
Michael Leach  
Byron Teerlink (BOM Representative) Levy  
Kent Wooldridge (BOM Representative) Jacksonville  
Sue Wooldridge  
Rosemary Van Wandelen  
Wayne "Chappie" McChesney (BOM Representative) Alachua, Alternate for Marion,  
Dixie and Lake County  
Reno Plenge (BOM Representative) Tupelo  
Laurence Cutts  
Holly Jones  
Bert Kelley (BOM Representative) Ridge

Call to Order by President Gary Ranker, 7:50 p.m.

#### Presidents Address -Orlando Convention 2011

Welcome to the 91 Annual FSBA Orlando Convention. I had a very active year as your President.

The first main event was at the FL State Fair working in the Honey Booth, this 10 day selling Honey and promoting beekeeping. Attended the Agriculture Hall of Fame

Banquet along with 8 others, including FL Honey Queen Jayla. I registered FSBA and became a 2010/2011 Hall of Fame member.

Organized a group to travel to Tallahassee for the FL Farm Bureau Legislative Day. We visited several legislatures in their Capital offices to discuss the Beekeeper Protection Bill and visited Commissioner Putnam's office and staff.

Attended 2 HBTC meetings in Gainesville. We developed the Beekeepers Survey from the results of the first meeting. The survey was sent to all registered beekeepers in FL and the result tabulated. We learned what was needed to move forward in the Beekeeper's Protection Bill.

I am a member of the Farm Bureau Apiculture Advisory Committee, which meets 2 times each year to develop policy for the Farm Bureau.

I wrote a letter in support for the Rish Honey House Restoration Project for the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown. A request for this project has gone forward. This original early 1900 Honey House is a gift of the Rish Family. We received a Proclamation from Gov Scott, declaring FL Pollination Week, June 20/26 under the leadership of Past VP Roger Twitchell.

The FL legislature passed new beekeeping law by redefining the term "farmer" to include beekeepers and provide penalties for bee hive theft. Nancy Gentry deserves much credit for this legislature.

The Small Scale Bottlers Committee finally came to an end, after about 5 years of work, when Honey was included in the Cottage food Legislation and now Honey may be bottled and sold lawfully to the ultimate consumer and without the burden of fees and inspections.

I applied to the EPA for a Section 18 for Hopguard and now FL beekeepers have a new "tool" to treat and control varroa mites. Past President Elmore Herman helped in the endeavor.

Concerning the funds held in a FSBA escrow account for the FL Honey Co-Op Contributors start up fund. I contacted the 24 contributors to dissolve this issue. All but 3 who contributed the \$100 amount, have now donated their amount to FSBA General Fund. Checks have been forwarded to the 3 individuals. I wish to thank the 21 beekeepers for their donations.

New permanent name tags for Life Members have been printed and are now being distributed at this convention. This gives special recognition to our Life Member and Extra Milers and will be great to wear when visiting our legislatures, city councils, public meeting and events or anywhere requiring beekeeper identification.

The BOM has met regularly during monthly teleconference calls and in person at the Summer Bee Jubilee summer meeting. A lot of the association activities are addressed and much progress occurs during our usual 1 hour calls. I want to thank the BOM for all their support and help this year to make the FSBA such a great organization to belong to. Thank you all.

No other President has given such a comprehensive report of their activities. The Association owes a debt of thanks to Gary Ranker for keeping the organization on track.

Motion to approve the minutes from last year's meeting as published in the convention brochure by Elmore Herman, seconded by Chappie McChesney. Passed

Executive Secretary's Report: Excerpted from the following e-mail sent to President Ranker concerning specific duties of this position and the compensation involved:

1. Managing the membership database (last year I spent numerous hours on this, entering information from Bert, you and others sending in registration forms). Note that there are now almost 1,000 members; when I took this job over there were 330. Every new member and renewal is sent a confirmation e-mail and an invite to join the Ezine (this is something I have added on my own and might be cut as I get few positive responses from this effort). Membership related duties also include printing and sending out receipt booklets to clubs to help them sign up members, a yearly letter to members whose dues are in arrears (Bert wanted me to do an annual "renewal" letter, which I resisted for a while), a yearly letter to the presidents of each local association, attempting to get a report about their membership status and their officer list. We encourage members to do renew through local clubs, but many are not affiliated with locals and might get missed that way. Updating the web page with relevant information, including updates of local associations (officer changes, events to put up, etc.) The above could all be rolled into duties of "membership management," something a committee might be appointed to oversee in conjunction with website management.
2. Maintaining the FSBA ezine, which includes publishing not only minutes and announcements of the Board of Managers meeting, but also special announcements when necessary. I set up the ezine with the support of Bee Culture; the magazine pays the fee for this in conjunction with its subscription to Ezezone.com. This was my idea as something to be for "members only"; however, perhaps the ezine isn't worth the effort; less than half the members are subscribed after two years struggling to get everyone signed up. We could open it up to be a public ezine, rather than a membership perk, which would eliminate the management issues, but also would mean it no longer is something that we can advertise that is for "members only." Dennis may have some ideas here; one is to eliminate the Ezine and implement what many web sites have, a "members only" area; username and password required, perhaps with an internal "ezine" or members only e-mail service of some kind. A membership directory might be developed and maintained as well via the web site.
3. Entering data on the facebook.com page. This is something new this year; I have already made Dennis Riggs an "admin" ; we both can add information.
4. Writing the minutes to the Board of Managers meetings and general meeting.

5. Writing and publishing the newsletter (4 per yer)
6. Publishing the melitto files inserts (4 per year) - something added that was not in the original job description.
7. Publishing the convention pamphlet (the ad campaign and sending out letters of thanks to advertisers) .

Queen Report: Queen Jayla from the Beekeepers Association of Southwest Florida has attended 20 beekeeping events around Florida, including a major one (viewing of Queen of the Sun and talkback in Gainesville hosted by the Alachua Beekeepers Association, also in conjunction with National Honey Bee Day. She will be going on to Las Vegas in January to compete in the American Beekeeping Federation's selection of the National Honey Queen and Honey Princess. She urged local associations to begin selecting a successor queen. So far, there have been no nominees from any of the twenty-plus local associations that now exist. She thanked everyone on the Association who has helped her during her time as Florida Queen. Queen Committee Chair Beth Fox also reiterated the tremendous contribution of Jayla's parents who have accompanied her during her tenure.

State Fair: Bert Kelley reported that the events at the State Fair in Tampa were the usual success and he is ready to chair the committee for next year's event, February 9-20, 2012 <http://www.floridastatefair.com/state-fair> He asked those in attendance to consider volunteering for next year. He runs two shifts of two people per day, more on weekends.

Treasurer's Report: Bert Kelley reported that the bank account balance is \$58,335.78. Most of the funds provided to begin a Florida honey cooperative several years ago, which didn't get off the ground, were donated back to the Association (\$2,150). Dues of \$9,375 (625 members) were collected in 2011. The apiary reported taking in \$3,170 last year. There are currently over 900 members, but it is difficult to figure out their yearly contribution as dues come in over the entire year and non-renewing members are purged irregularly. The membership report in the Convention brochure and those provided in each newsletter are snapshots only. Thus, in the brochure distributed in Orlando, 926 members were reported included (222) 2010 and (515) 2011 (now up for renewal) and (98) 2012 and later. Also included are (74) life and (17) extra milers. Income producing projects include the State Fair honey sales, the newsletter ad campaign, and association apiary. Income losers are state conventions and other special meetings. Motion to approve the Treasurer's report as presented by Kent Wooldridge, seconded by Byron Teerlink. Passed.

Apiary Report: Vice President Keith Councill said that the association apiary (representing dues of both life members and extra milers as listed in the convention brochure) was in a long-term renovation mode. A new yard of 9 colonies has been established at Mr. Councill's place. Tommy Duggar's yard (approximately 60 hives) provided income of \$3,600. These colonies are in need of supers, some of which have been donated by David Mendes and Jerry Latner (Dadant & Sons, Inc.). These hives also presented two (2) barrels of tupelo honey (around \$3,000) for bottling and selling at the Tampa State Fair. Lee Del Signore's colonies (48) provided an income of \$1,500 and those managed by Elmore Herman (21) resulted in an income of \$479.25.

There was a discussion of the arrangement under which these colonies are managed. It is on a 50/50 share basis. Half to the beekeeper-manager and half to the Association.

Legislative Committee Report: In the absence of Tony Hogg, who has been invaluable in sheparding through the Cottage Food Legislation, Roy Smith provided information on the labelling issue. It calls for a certain language in at least 10 point font size, "Made in a cottage food operation that is not subject to Florida's food safety regulations." Mr. Smith is working with the administrators in an attempt to clarify this label regulation. This information does not easily fit, for example, on a honey bear. Possibilities include some kind of hanging or a label that can be folded in a way to preserve the wording.

More information on the is found at:

<http://www.freshfromflorida.com/fs/CottageFoodAdvisorySeptember2011.pdf>

It is important to bear in mind that cottage food can only be sold to the end user; no middle men, dealers or Internet sales.

Election of Officers: All current officers stated they were willing to serve next year with the exception of Bert Kelley, the Treasurer. The nomination committee brought before the membership the names of Debbie Bohannon and Jonathan Fisher. Nominations from the floor resulted in a third name, Elmore Herman. Debbie Bohannon was elected by paper ballot distributed to those in attendance deemed eligible to vote.

Bylaws Update: Chappie McChesney brought to the convention an updated draft of the bylaws and consitution. An earlier draft was described at the convention last year by Brendhan Horne. Because this project has gone on so long, the Board of Managers voted to bring it to the membership in its entirety for an up or down vote as reported in the minutes of its September 13, 2011 meeting conducted by telephone conference call.

The current consitution states:

## **Article XI**

**This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any annual meeting, or any special meeting called for that purpose, provided 30 days prior written notice of amendments have been presented to each member. When an amendment is ratified, a copy of said amendment will be included in the next available newsletter to all members of the Association.**

However, the bylaws state:

## **Article X**

**These by-laws may be amended by two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose.**

**When amendments are made, a reprint will be made to incorporate the changes and printed in the next newsletter. Copies shall be made available to all interested parties upon request.**

The current business meeting was indeed announced for this purpose in an ezine post and on the Facebook site, and copies of both the old and new constitution were distributed to the membership via the web site, FSBA Ezine and paper copies at the convention. The vote failed via a paper ballot distributed to those deemed to be eligible to vote. There were 38 no votes and 23 yes votes. The Board of Managers will, therefore, have to establish a new strategy if it wants to continue this initiative in the future.

Discussion of Eastern Apicultural Society representative. There was a report by Betsy Roberts who attended the EAS in Rhode Island last summer as a Florida representative in the convention brochure. David Mendes suggested that Florida should make more of an effort to appoint up to four (4) representatives allotted, and perhaps consider hosting a meeting. This could be best facilitated by the FSBA leadership communicating with EAS in terms of nominating delegates and promoting attendance by Florida beekeepers.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Malcolm T. Sanford  
Executive Secretary