



# The Florida State Beekeepers Association

**Dedicated to keeping Florida apiculture strong and healthy in the new millennium**

**<http://floridabeekeepers.org>**

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Local associations affiliated with the Florida State Beekeepers Association: Apalachee, Ridge, Tampa Bay, Tupelo, Escarosa, Tri-County, Central Florida, Northeast Florida, Palm Beach, North Escambia

The Florida State Beekeepers Association was organized at Gainesville on October 6, 1920. A report of the organizational meeting states that a group of 100 enthusiastic beekeepers from all over the state were in attendance. It followed the organization of several strong local associations. The Association has been responsible for several important initiatives over the years, including:

1. An act of the Florida State Legislature, July 1, 1957, which provided to beekeepers compensation for bees and equipment destroyed by the state because of American foulbrood. This has resulted in an extremely low infestation of this important disease.
2. A 1962 program by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to certify the specialty honey varieties tupelo and citrus. This provides the possibility of getting a superior price for Florida beekeepers.
3. Hiring extension professionals in apiculture from the 1940s onward by the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS). See the most recent publications dedicated to beekeepers at <http://afbee.ifas.ufl.edu/> and [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TOPIC\\_Beekeeping](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TOPIC_Beekeeping)>. Also see <http://apis.ifas.ufl.edu>. Contact Dr. J. Ellis: ph: 352-392-1901.
4. Providing over \$20,000 in research funding for projects at the University of Florida and elsewhere.

Florida has approximately 1,000 hobbyists, managing five or fewer honey bee colonies, and 500 full time or side liner beekeepers.

The value of honey bee pollination to Florida growers is estimated to be \$26.4 million annually . Nationwide this is thought to exceed \$14 billion.

All beekeepers in Florida must be registered by law, and no colonies can be sold or purchased without a health certificate issued by the Apiary Bureau, Division of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services <<http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/plantinsp/apiary/apiary.html>>. Contact Jerry Hayes: ph 352-372-3505 ext. 114.

Florida beekeepers also participate in two important committees: 1) Honey Bee Technical Council sponsored by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), and 2) Apiary Advisory Committee sponsored by the Florida Farm Bureau Federation <<http://floridafarmbureau.org>>. Contact Frankie Hall: ph 352-378-8100.

**Florida State Beekeepers Association**  
**P.O. Box 110620**  
**Gainesville, FL 32611-0620**  
**352-336-9744**

**Membership Application**

Membership open to anyone interested in beekeeping activities in Florida. Benefits include:

1. Discount subscriptions to *American Bee Journal*, *Bee Culture*, *The Speedy Bee*
2. Representation in the legislative arena in Tallahassee and at U.S. national beekeeping meetings
3. Increased support for research and education about honey bees and beekeeping
4. Regularly published newsletter, *The Florida Beekeeper*, and web site: <<http://floridabeekeepers.org>>
5. Annual convention held in different locations around the state (October - November)

Name _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Address _____
Phone Number _____ E-mail address: <b>Important</b> - Much business is done by electronic mail
Local Association Affiliation: _____
1. Regular Membership (\$15.00) [ <input type="checkbox"/> ]      Voluntary Contribution to Beekeeping Research: \$ _____
2. Life Membership (One ten-frame colony of honey bees w/30 frames or \$250.00) [ <input type="checkbox"/> ]
Send form and payment (checks payable to F.S.B.A.) to: Bert Kelley, Treasurer, 115 Patten Heights Street, Lakeland, FL 33803-2248, phone/fax (863) 644-6944, E-mail < <a href="mailto:KelleysApiaries@aol.com">KelleysApiaries@aol.com</a> >.