

Featured Speaker

Jerry Hayes



“I started out in life as a high school teacher. After about a year, I decided that was not as fun and rewarding as I had hoped. I worked in private industry for a while. I worked with a person who had been a beekeeper in Wisconsin with his brother. Like most people I always knew about honey bees on the periphery of life but didn’t think that there were actually people who did this.

Short story is I turned into the typical new beekeeper and read and learned as much as I could and put a couple of colonies in my backyard. I have a very patient wife and I went back to school . Ohio State Univ. had an Apiculture Program under Dr. Jim Tew at the time. I did that and then went to work at the USDA Bee Breeding and Stock Lab in Baton Rouge, and then on to Dadant for a lot of years.

I moved to Florida about 8 years ago to become the Chief of the Apiary Inspection Section. I have 12 full time inspectors and a Lab and Research projects. I have written, with many writers help, the “Classroom” in the ABJ for 20 plus years. I am on several science advisory boards for CCD and Research funding projects.

Honey bees are amazing and they still are to me every day. That’s why I do it.”