

David Westervelt

I've worked for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services ever since first as a Bee Inspector and then as an Environmental Specialist I and Researcher, Chief Apiarist for FDACS, and Retired after 28 years with FDACS. I've graduated from Florida State University as a Certified Public Manager. I have worked on numerous research projects with United States Department Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, State Universities, and other Countries; Germany, England, Canada, Africa, and Australia on *Varroa* mites, Tracheal mites, American Foulbrood disease, Small Hive beetles, Nosema, and more recently, Colony Collapse Disorder. I have received several awards for research work on honey bees from the United State Department Agriculture, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Apiary Inspectors of America, Florida State Beekeepers Association, National Honey Producers, American Beekeeper Association, and more recently the Davis Productivity award.

My love for nature goes further than just bees. I believe that it is very important for us to learn as much about the bee's needs and not just what we want them to do for us. Most of the knowledge I share on nature comes from my parents teaching me about the importance of maintaining a balance with Nature and that change is inevitable. It is not the strong that survive but the ones that are willing to expect change and move with it that will endure. This is true in today's beekeeping.

Now that I've retired, I've taken on some new roles, VP of Bees Beyond Borders, Co-Chair of American Beekeepers Federation Research Committee, and the Education Committee. I'm on The Foundation for The Preservation of Honey Bees. I'm the Chair of Education and Outreach for the Florida State Beekeepers Association. And I'm enjoying traveling, teaching, and learning about bees!

After 50+ years of beekeeping I still look forward to going in to each bee hive with an open mind, eager to learn something new about bees, and hoping to continue for 40 additional years.

“My Mentor”
The Beekeeper that loves to talk
Takes time to teach
And
Remembers
He is not the keeper of the bees
But
Is willing to give a helping hand
To
Mother Nature
And
All her living things



Thanks for this wonderful opportunity