

Fifth annual UF Bee College event returns March 9-10

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GAINESVILLE, Fla. --- The state's biggest educational event for honey bee hobbyists, professionals and anyone interested in honey bees-- Bee College -- is back for a fifth year, University of Florida officials announced this week.

UF's Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory has organized and hosted the event since 2008. This year's event will be held at the UF Whitney Marine Laboratory in Marineland, Fla., March 9-10.

The two-day event offers classes for beekeepers of all ages and experience levels, gardeners, naturalists, county agents and anyone else who might be interested in the topic. The course lineup has been refreshed and may appeal to those who've attended in the past, organizers said. More speakers have also been added, including international- and national-caliber experts.

The Junior Bee College event also returns, and will be held March 10. Children ages 6 through 16, teachers and parents are encouraged to register and attend.

Some of the new Bee College courses include: Integrated Pest Management, swarm control, Mead making, gourmet honey cookery, building observation hives and beeswax encaustic panting.

Coupled with the event is the annual honey show, the state's largest competition of its kind. A best of show winner will be chosen from 13 show classes.

Registration begins this month, and information can be found at <http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/honeybee/index.shtml> or in this month's issue of Melitto Files. The cost is \$115 per person to attend for one day or \$175 for both days. Family and discount rates are offered.