

October 2012

To whom it may concern;

On behalf of my fellow Caribbean Bee College (CBC) Committee Members, I would like to extend to you a personal invitation to join us for the University of Florida's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Caribbean Bee College (3-5 January 2013). The original UF Bee College is a successful and popular honey bee extension event in Florida, USA. Our efforts through this event have helped increase the number of registered beekeepers in Florida, provided training and instruction for new beekeepers, and helped seasoned beekeepers refine their beekeeping skills and make their beekeeping operations more sustainable. Our combined extension programs have impacted over 7 million people in the United States and in the Caribbean.

In 2013, we will partner with the East Caribbean Bee Research and Extension Center at St. Georges University in Grenada, the Association of Caribbean Beekeepers' Organizations, and the Grenada Association of Beekeepers to offer this program in the Caribbean for the first time. Collectively, we are preparing to offer a 3-day honey bee extension event that will serve as a learning experience for beekeepers, farmers, those in various bee-related industries and others interacting with honey bees and beekeeping at any level. Our primary goal is to partner with beekeepers and other groups in the Caribbean in an effort to share information, tools, and resources that we hope will improve the sustainability of beekeeping among the islands.

The 3-day event will consist of a half day technical tour where participants will have the chance to visit the SGU apiary as well as tour local apiaries on the island (transportation is provided). The following two days will consist of morning lectures and afternoon workshops on a variety of topics from getting started in beekeeping to producing queen honey bees. The CBC will feature beginner and experienced tracks that encompass the range in beekeeping experience. Live honey bee colonies will be on site to facilitate a hands-on learning experience. Refreshments will be offered during the day as well as access to the SGU food court for lunch. There also will be a 13-class CBC Honey Show in which you can enter your honey or hive products for judging and possible awards.

Our team will take time during the CBC to have a group discussion on the state of honey bee research, extension, and instruction efforts in the Caribbean. We will use the information gathered at the discussion to develop additional honey bee-related programs for the Caribbean islands.

We have worked hard to keep registration and lodging costs low for the event. We truly hope that all parties interested in attending the CBC will be able to identify funding sources for their participation. We encourage bee clubs or governments on every island to consider sending a representative from their respective island to the CBC. We hope to register attendees from every island to make this a truly international event and facilitate our discussion on developing sustainable honey bee programs in the Caribbean.

Registration, lodging and other CBC details will be posted on [www.ufhoneybee.com](http://www.ufhoneybee.com). Please contact Ms. Jeanette Klopchin (jklopchin@ufl.edu) with any questions you have regarding the CBC. I truly hope that you will be a part of this effort. Thank you for considering my invitation. I hope to see you in Grenada in January!

Sincerely,



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