



CCBA Meeting Minutes MAR 11, 2024

Present 52, Zoom 5, Mentor Mtg 40

* Numbers of Executive Steering Committee: Corrected

*Dave Sieruta **PRES:** **Apiary, Education/Speakers** 904-282-2193, dtussie@aol.com

*Ken Harp **VICE PRES:** (904) 703-5317, radarharp@mail.com

*Sue Gianino **SEC:** 904-276-5921, s gianino9951@gmail.com

*Ray Vickerman **TREAS & MENTOR Trainer:** 904-284-5317, svickerman4080@gmail.com

*Susan Welch, **MEMBERSHIP Coordinator & DUES Collector, 4H Club** 727-204-6626.

swelch5210@gmail.com

*Cassidy Dossin **AG Rep:** 904-284-6300, cdossin@ufl.edu

*Frank Gianino **WEB site Claybees.com:** 904-276-5921, fwgianino@bellsouth.net

*Christine Nicolodi/ Gary Van Barringer: **Refreshment Coordinators.**

DATES to KNOW:

-- Annual Dues \$15 per voting mbr*: (pay Sue Welch). **2024 DUES** OCT – APR. Renewal sheet on Website to send by mail.

-- MAR 15-16; UF Bee College Gainesville, FL

-- MAR 23; Old Fashion Farm Day, Penny Farms Town Hall, 4100 Clark Ave, Penny Farms 10-3pm

-- **MAR 23; Honey House Cleaning**, Clay Count Fair Grounds Old FL 10AM

-- **MAR 30; Honey Bottling for CCF** at Ag Center 10-2pm

-- **APR 4-14; Clay County Fair times vary for Old Florida**, Honey House

-- APR 6, Jacksonville Bees short Beginner Bee course 8:15 jaxbees.com

-- APR 7; Orange Park Farmers Mkt 10-3

*-- APR 15, CCBA Meeting, 7pm, Making Queens (meeting moved due to CC Fair dates)

*-- APR 20; CCBA Mentor Meeting, 10am (meeting moved due to CCF dates)

-- MAY 11, A Mentor Meeting, 10am

-- MAY 13, CCBA Meeting, 7pm

-- JUN 15; Master Gardeners Plant Sale, 7:30 -12 at UF/IAFS Extension Clay County

Old Business: -- Our CCBA Association Caps are \$15 available at check in. Our logo embroidered on your Polo shirt \$10 (see Sue G. or Stich by Stich in the Orange Park Mall). John Boeckstiegel has ash & yellow color Golf-shirts with silk screen logo: S-LG \$11, XL \$16, XXXL \$18 and Tee shirts S-L \$9, XL \$12, XXL \$14.

-- **Mentors** are available, call Ray Vickerman & Dave Sieruta. (20) Mentors currently: Huey Fourquet (Orange Park & Baker County), Libby/Mike McCalley (Orange Park & Fleming Island), John Riley & Dave Sieruta (Lake Asbury & Orange Park), Joe Dobransky (Orange Park), John Riley (OP/Lakeside), Ray Vickerman (Green Cove Springs), Lani Rouw (GCS), Susan/ Bob Welch (GCS), Joe Geisel (ST Augustine), Ken Harp & Barbara Perkins (Key Stone), Jurgen & Sylvia May (Polk

City), Rick/Dorie Kline (Middleburg), Amy/Jeff Campbell (Middleburg).

--Swarm collection; let Frank Gianino know to put your name and phone number on the Website.

Please check the Web site for Swarm Collection and Cut Out folks.

-- HONEY FOR SALE: let Frank know if you have honey for sale and he will put it on our web site.

*****Beekeepers MUST Re-Register your hives with Mosquito Control Board (904) 284-6357, Check out Clay County Mosquito Control OR Call Lita Hornsby Manager to give her your location and your hives location. **Frank has posted the Mosquito Control and Beekeepers info on the Web site. **Records are incomplete after computer failure in 2022. *****Please Re Register CORRECTED PHONE NUMBER LISTED

--7:10 Dave opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed 7 new Members! We have Ray Zerba (former AG Rep) again on Zoom with us. We are also welcoming UF Student Samantha Conlin on Zoom.

7:15 Secretary E-Minutes accepted and approved.

--Treasurer: \$15, 203.21; \$1500 honey buy for CCF with \$3200 yet to buy Orange Blossom Honey. Plan: is for 300 1.5 # bottles and the rest for 1# bottles for the fair sales.

-- Presidents Report: Dave read a Thank you letter from Bee Friendly Farms, Mike Leach, for our participation in the Honey Bee Festival last year. They presented us with a \$400 check that will go to our Education Fund.

--Hive management; it is the season for Mites and SHB to infest and grow. Our Apiary last Sat showed we had 1-3 SHB in a few of our hives and none noticed in the other hives.

-- Get your Swarm Traps out now if you haven't, swarms already in progress.

-- Apiary Report: we have 2 Langstroth hives, 15 NUCS and 1 top Bar hive.

-- What's Blooming; all fruit trees and Bottle Brush trees. Note that the Carolina Jessamine is also blooming it is a yellow Jasmine that is poisonous to bees but also note there is another Jasmine very similar to the Carolina J. that is not poisonous. This is a terrible year for Carolina Jessamine.

--It is now Nectar Flow Season.

7:30 Mentor Report; Last Sat we had 40 mbrs at our meeting, we split some hives in the Apiary. Our plan for the summer months is to come into the meeting for a few minutes and then go out to the Apiary to work and return to the classroom for discussion to help avoid the heat.

--Membership: we have 250 mbrs now, signing 25 new members in 1 month.

7:31 We have a guest speaker, Mike Yost, the Vice-Pres for Jax Bees, describing Brood minder, the newest in hive tools. He had put some Brood Minders in their Apiary at Jax Bees, and the membership can log in to track the efficiency of their hives. It is a series of sensors that can monitor heat, weight, humidity, Nectar Flow, Swarm pending etc. in the hive and connects a computer or cell phone to store and track data. The cost is approx. \$350 per program strip.

--Also, Brood Minder is a great program that tracks data for your hives and 5 miles around your apiary. The data is downloaded to Beecounted.org. This is free for Brood Minder Bees ap for your phone.

Question: is there a security system built into the Brood Minder strips, ANS: Yes, but must have a password and an email address. BeeScape.org uses your address.

8:05 Speaker Dave Sieruta on Installing Package bees into your hives. Your package comes with a can of sugar water in it with 3# bees and a Queen bee in her cage. First spray the bees with sugar water to calm them and reduce their ability to fly. Remove the top of the package, the sugar water can and the queen. Replace the top of the package. Wear your protective gear.

Plan 1: Have 2 frames with foundation of empty frames on each side of the hive and leave the center empty. Now take the top off the box and tip the box over for the bees to fall into the hive/Nuc. Then place the box at the entrance of the hive/num for the rest of the bees to find their way in. Now add frames back into the hive/NUC. Take the Queen cage and thumb tac it to the frame inside the hive. Let that stay for 1-3 days until the bees eat the candy plug and release the queen.

Plan 2: You can take the pkg of bees and set in the bottom of the hive/NUC and place the queen cage on top let the bees adjust and then replace the frames when you remove the pkg.

--NOTE: WAIT 2 weeks before checking your bees and FEED them 1:1 sugar water.

--NOTE: do not buy foundations from Amazon (it is Chinese made), the bees will not use them.

--NOTE: It is always better to re-wax your frames before use, it helps the bees build them out easier. Hives & More in Switzerland, FL) and Mike Leach (on Edgewood) will sell wax if you need it.

--NOTE: With a NUC put the box into the NUC as before and put a Castle on top of the NUC for the bees to move into the frames of the Castle. Then remove the pkg after the bees have settled.

--NOTE: Besides Beatle Grease you can use GRUBEX granules to sprinkle around your have base to combat SHB.

8:40 Raffle

8:50 Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Gianino

Secretary