



CCBA Meeting Minutes FEB 12, 2024

Present 54, Mentor Mtg 45, Zoom 1(malfunction)

*** Numbers of Executive Steering Committee:**

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

*Ken Harp Vice-Pres: (904) 703-5317, radarharp@gmail.com

*Sue Gianino **SEC:** 904-276-5921, sgianino9951@gmail.com

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

*Susan Welch, **MEMBERSHIP Coordinator & DUES, 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.

-- **FEB 17, Beginner Bee Class 8-4 Volunteers Needed.**

--MAR 3, Orange Park Farmers Mkt 10-3pm

--MAR 9, CCBA Mentor Meeting 10-12pm

--MAR 11, CCBA Monthly Meeting 7 pm

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

--MAR 23, Old Fashion Farm Day, Penny Farms Town Hall, 4100 Clark Ave, 10-4pm

--**MAR 23, Honey House Cleaning at CCF Old Florida section, 10am**

--**MAR 30, Honey Bottling for the CCF, Ag Center 10-2pm.**

--**APR 4-14, Clay County Fair: Volunteers pls contact Susan Welch for days and times.**

--APR 9 & 11, Ag Venture at the CCFair Grounds

--MAY 11, CCBA Mentor Meeting 10-12pm

--MAY13, CCBA Meeting 7pm

--MAY 20, WORLD BEE DAY

--JUN 15, Master Gardner Plant Sale, Ag Center, 7:30-12pm come early for best deals.

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. 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

--7:05 Dave opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dave has a few 3# Bee Packages left, get with him to add your name and number, cost \$106 ready in March.

We are out of Small and Med T-Shirts please sign the list going around with your size and the # of shirts you need. See Sue Gianino if you prefer to purchase a Polo shirt your size and color and she will take to The OP Mall for embordered logo.

--Dave welcomed Gary and Dan guests to the meeting. No new Members.

7:11 Secretary Minutes approved after correction of swarm trap height of 3-20 feet vs 3020.

--Treasurer Report: \$16,354.80 approved. This will drop after CCF honey purchase.

--President Report: Membrs who helped with the Yesterday Festival at Gold Head Park thanked; Ken Harp, Barbara Perkins, Cheryl Parrish, John Rainer, and Chris Fonvie.

--Hive Management:

Control SHB and Mites with treatments if you have #5 hive infestation (3 Mites/100 bees).

Generally, you treat before the honey flow and treat 4X per year now.

Bees will be swarming now, get your swarm traps out.


--What's Blooming: Red Maples, Citrus Trees, Peach, and Plum trees. If you notice Yellow Jasmine is Carolina Jasmine and poisonous to honeybees.

7:23 Apiary Report: 2 Longstroth Hives, 12 NUCS, 1 Top Bar Hive

--Mentor report: 45 folks at our last Mentor meeting.

--Membership Report: Dues being turned in for 2024 membership now 225.

7:25 Tina O'Brien, President of NASSAU Beekeepers here tonight representing the Florida State

Beekeepers Assoc (FSBA) and explaining the FL. HON  EYB License plate vouchers. The vouchers will fund the FL State Beekeepers Assoc grant program, help Bee Clubs/Associations, youth groups, citizen scientists, teachers etc. It will contribute to the Lawrence Cutts Scholarship fund and help fund the FSBA annual conference & meeting. Florida has been trying to get this into production since 2020. If you buy the voucher but the license plates do not get produced the funds will go to any other FL license plate. **If you had purchased a voucher prior to 2021 it is still valid, however many funds for special license plates were stolen and are being investigated. Needed 3000 vouchers to have the special license plate made, to date we have 564. Christine Nicolodi was interviewed for the Clay Today discussing this issue.

7:37 Speaker tonight is Dave Sieruta, Part II; Sustainable Apiary. Splitting hives is a great way to expand your apiary without purchasing bees.

A Walk Away Split is useful for strong hives and if there are Drones flying. Using a NUC take the old Queen or Queen Cell, one frame of capped brood, one frame of eggs & larva, one of honey & pollen and 2 empty frames. Shake in a lot of nurse bees to take care of the hive since they have not done an orientation flight, they are not likely to fly back to the original hive.

Once this hive starts to grow place an empty NUC(Castle) on top of this NUC with a queen excluder and put frames as before without the Queen. The nurse bees will move up to the new NUC and will set up a queen cell. This is why NUcs are so necessary in your apiary.

Feed your Splits and move them 10-20 ft away from the parent hive. Be sure there are enough nurse bees to keep the queen and brood warm and cared for.

Splitting hive to hive works the same way except you add 4-6 frames of foundation from the parent hive with one or two frames of pollen/honey, brood, eggs and feed all 1:1 sugar water.

8:20 Raffle held. Don Williams and Dave Gryga won the last 2 tickets for the Beginner Bee class.

** Please see Susan Welch to volunteer for the Honey House Clean up, bottling honey and for the Clay County Fair.

8:45 Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

Sue Gianino

Secretary