



CCBA Meeting Minutes August 14, 2017

*. Numbers of Executive Steering Committee: Tom Glisson PRES: 904-329-0062, Ralph White VP: 352-514-9927, Sue Gianino SEC: 904-276-5921, Ray Vickerman TREAS: 904-284-5317, Luke Harlow AG Rep: 904-284-6355. Ray Zerba (meeting speakers). Note we are on Face Book [at Clay County Beekeepers Association, Ralph W. Organizer](#) and website <http://claybees.com> (final name) [Frank Gianino, WEB Organizer](#).

NOTE: If you wish to join the FL State Beekeepers and donate toward the building and furnishing of the new Honey Bee Lab in Gainesville, FL you can go [to UF Honey Bee Lab www/UF Honeybee.com or Beekeeper Lab.org.](#)

--7 PM Meeting opened by Tom Glisson, who greeted new members and visitors

**--7:03 Luke Harlow introduced Rachel Strickland, Media Specialist, from the Extension Office who is looking to get aquatinted with Honey Bee Groups for the National Honey Month of September. This could encourage tourism to Farmers Markets like the "Ag Ctrs Farm to Table" videos. If you are interested assisting her with her video and project contact her: [Rachel Strickland: Digital and Social Media Specialist, office ph 904-529-4711 or rachel.strickland@claycountygov.com](#)

**Dave Sieruta: [Phone 904-282-2193 to volunteer for Apiary duty or donations.](#)

-Ralph White and Dori Kline are here to introduce you to their Top Bar Hives. They recommend, David Toht's "Backyard Home Steading" for self-sufficiency and guidance on Top Bar Hives. Top Bars can be vertical (Ware Hives) and like the Longstroth they can use frames without foundation. The bees build their comb from the top down but unlike the Langstroth hive the frames are all horizontal eliminating building a tower of supers. A horizontal frame hive is found in Kenya and Tanzania and stack up in the hive.

-Dori noted that the Top Bar hive can be as long as you need it to be, it can house 2 hives in one structure when you block the center with a follower board between the 2 hives. She noted that you can add a super to the Top Bar if you wish for extra honey. When the bees build our the top bar each frame has honey on top, next pollen and brood at the bottom of the frame, they then build frames of pure honey (honey strip) and the queen will not cross that frame eliminating the use of a queen excluder. When you examine your hive you only disturb one or two frames at a time keeping the bees calm and busy in the hive vs the Langstroth where you expose the whole hive to sun and wind etc. Since there is no super there is no heavy lifting. The bottom of the Top Bar can be screened in just like Langstroth to check for mites and can be closed for the winter if needed.

-Bee space is important in the Top Bar Hive and make sure the bees do not cross comb and get out of alignment.

Pro Top Bar:

cheap and easy to build
a knife is the only tool you need
no heavy lifting
you can produce comb honey
lot of wax to work with
easy to cut drone comb

Con Top Bar:

cross combing
broken comb
not always a universal size
hard to move because of size and shape
cannot use honey extractors; frames have no structure
must use package or swarm to fill with bees

NOTE: to extract honey from a Top Bar use paint strainer over a bucket and smash the comb to drain the honey into the bucket or you can keep the comb intact with honey in jar for extra goodness.

- Some of the contributors to this lecture Phil Chandler, Les Crowder, Sam Comfort, Michael Bush.

-- NEW Business>

--Ray Zerba will be in and out of town for the next year he is going to be visiting his daughter in NY.

--Dave Sieruta Phone 904-282-2193 will be going to GA for Queens selling for \$16, they are hybrids of Buckfest and Corolians. Hives and More 904-910-6662 also can get queens also generally Italian bees.

--Luke noted that Dr Jamie Ellis and the Bee Lab are looking for 8,000 Akers for 90 hives to study hive beetles if anyone knows someone that would like to participate.

8:30PM-- Meeting closed. Our next meeting will be SEP 11 at 7 PM with our next Mentor Class SEP 9 at 10 AM.

Orange Park Farmers Market closed for the season.

--Treasurer Report: \$6736.10. No meeting minutes for JUL.

--Next Presenter: SEP 11 will be Gary Van Cleef on Rules for Beekeepers in FL

--From Luke the next Beginner Bee Class is SEPT 30 for \$15 pp or \$25 per couple.

+++Dave Westerfelt, Bee Inspector, is getting antibiotics for those who need them to help eliminate the long procedure required for FL beekeepers. Go to Fresh From FL to find the link for Registered Beekeepers, to get your prescription for your Veterinarian and your antibiotics.

Old Business: Our CCBA Association Caps are on sale for \$15, and you can get our logo on a shirt of your choice for \$10 or re-label an old NEFLHBA shirt for \$6. See Ray for your cap and Sue for your Shirts.

-- Mentor List is available for anyone who would like to Mentor a new member and members requesting a Mentor, call Ralph or Vanessa 352-514-9927. +++Mentor Booklets given to Ralph Vickerman our new Mentor Trainer with date and time to be announced for the Mentor Training.

Submitted for approval,

Sue Gianino,

Secretary

Honey bees, otherwise known as the Angels of Agriculture, are the strongest link in the chain between food producers