



CCBA Meeting Minutes APR 10, 2023

Present 34 , Mentor Meeting 36 , Zoom 1

*** Numbers of Executive Steering Committee:**

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

*Dorie Kline **V-Pres & Face Book Organizer: Clay County Beekeepers Association** 904-616-2723.
rickdori@aol.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 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.**

ZOOM meeting is functioning. Router at the AG Center still not functioning.

DATES to KNOW:

-- Annual Dues \$15 per voting mbr*: (pay Sue Welch). **2023 DUES** OCT – APR. Renewal sheet on Website to send by mail.

-- APR 15 ,CCBA Mentor Meeting 10 AM: **MENTOR TRAINING after meeting**

-- APR 15, GCS Gardeners Plant Sale

-- MAY 7, Orange Park Farmer's Market 10-3pm

-- MAY 8, CCBA Business meeting Q & A with speaker TBA

-- MAY 13, CCBA Mentor Meeting NOW AT **9AM for THE SUMMER**

-- JUNE 12, CCBA MEETING is our Semi Annual Pot Luck Dinner

-- SEP 16 NE FL Honeybee Symposium 8AM

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 or Dave Sieruta. Mentors currently are Huey Forquet (Orange Park and Baker County), Rick and Dorie Kline (Middleburg), Libby and Mike McCalley (Orange Park and Fleming Island), John Riley & Dave Sieruta (Lake Asbury & Orange Park), Ray Vickerman (Green Cove Springs) Bob McKenney (Orange Park), Joe Geisel (ST Augustine) and Ken Harp (Keystone Heights), Barbara Perkins (Melrose).

--Swarm collection; let Frank Gianino know to put your name and phone 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. We sold out of our honey at the CC Fair this year.

*****Beekeepers MUST Re-Register your hives with Mosquito Control Board (904) 284-6957, 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 2022k. *****

--7:00 Dave opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed New members and guest, Rick Hopkins from Jax. Our Raffle Winners were presented their baskets: Brianna Toney won our large basket and Sara Herndon won the special smaller basket.

7:09 Secretary Minutes for FEB were approved as emailed

Treasurer Report submitted by Dave \$17,563.09 after Honey purchase for the Clay County Fair

--President's Report: MAR 14 Honey House Cleaning at 10AM, MAR 25 will be Honey Bottling at 9AM

-- Hive Management: Continue to monitor for SHB and Mites. Do your Mite treatments now.

--Don't forget to feed your colonies. And prepare to make your slits to avoid swarming if you have queen cells present. Bees are Swarming so put out your Swarm Traps now.

--Apiary Report: Saturday we did 8 splits, we have 1 full Langstroth Hive and 16 NUCS with 11 Castles and our Top Bar has no bees at present.

--What's Blooming: all citrus, Bottle Brush Pear and BlackBerry.

-- Mentor Report: Ray is our Mentor Coordinator please see him if you would like a mentor

--Membership Chair: 165 Paid now and 6-8 joined tonight!.

7:07 Our Guest Speaker: Devan Rawn our Field Rep from UF Bee College, speaking on Queen Management. There are 3 types of ways the bees replace queens in the colonies.

- 1) Swarming: a natural reproductive plan for the hive, producing high quality queens.
 - 2) Supersedure queen cells are done as the queen declines or is injured.
 - 3) Emergency queen cells are done with the sudden loss of the queen and is not the very best choices for a queen and they may not be the best to carry on the colony.
- The bees will take to a new queen quickly if their queen has been missing for a time.

- Virgin Queens very fast and not as developed as fertile queens and they can fly. They are a little smaller but head and thorax are developed. They have an erratic behavior and lay eggs randomly. Their mating flights can last 14-30 minutes.
- If the queen is failing the egg laying depends on the time of year, resources and worker population. Pheromone production depends on her genetics and health, damage or disease.
- The Virgin queen emerges from her cell and mates in 10-14 days and realistically will begin laying eggs on day 23-28. Making the Colony 4 weeks behind without a laying queen. With a mature Queen cell she emerges 10-16 days and reduces the time the Colony is without a queen. The BEST scenario is getting a mated queen for your queenless hive, she will start laying immediately.
- The best time to introduce a mated queen cage is 0-1 day near the young brood. Let the bees release her from her cage. Marked Queens are Will You Raise Good Bees: White (years 1,6), Yellow (2,7), Red (3, 8), Green (4, 9) and Blue (5,0).

Q&A --He suggests you destroy all the left swarm cells after the queen emerges

***AMY VU is looking for Beekeepers who want to make beekeeping a business, she has applications and they are going through a selective screening/learning process.

--Queens can be heat stressed easily and this is critical to their health.

--It is much better to get your queens from local Apiaries.

8:20 Our next Beginner Bee Class will be Sept 23, NE FL Symposium SEPT 16.

Secretary: Emailed Minutes Accepted

Treasurer: \$10,981.45 after the Fair; profit \$5269.00.

President Report:

--THANK YOU to all who came out to help with the Fair set up, honey bottling, working Special Thanks to Sue G and Christine for coming every day. Fair honey sales \$3749 (sold out this year), Raffle sales \$1520 for total profit \$5269. We donated \$210 to the Baxley and Padgett houses for their supplying food during the Fair. We bottled 769 bottles of honey.

--Hive Management: Keep checking for Small Hive Beetles and Varrora Mites and treat. Make splits as needed and feed your new NUCS. Put our Swarm traps now.

--Apiary 1 Longstroth hive, 16 NUCS no Top Bar at this time.

MENTORING, Ray; looking for new Mentors for our growing Association. There will be a Mentoring Class after the Mentor Meeting Sat. You need approx. 2 years' experience to qualify with the class lasting approx. 1 hour.

--MEMBERSHIP, Susan: Almost everyone from last year has paid their dues for this year. A lot of folks from the CCF have asked about our organization. The 4-H had entered their NUCS at the CCF and won 1st and 2nd medals for their decoration.

8:05 OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

--Dave MOTION and requested a \$90 Observation Hive that is only 2 frames and MUCH easier to transport vs our 6 frame. **VOTE: ACCEPTED and APPROVED**

--We had a lot of sales using Susan's VNMO this year and Frank will look into some sort of electronic credit card application for the CCF next year.

8:45 Raffle:

8:50 Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Gianino

Secretary