



CCBA Meeting Minutes APR 14, 2025

Present 51, 4, Mentor Mtg 30

* Numbers of Executive Steering Committee

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

*Barbara Perkins **VICE PRES:** (904) 437-9712, bperkins123@gmail.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: BUSY MONTH UPCOMING

-- Annual Dues \$15 per voting mbr*: (pay Sue Welch). **2025 DUES** OCT – APR. Renewal sheet on Website to send by mail.

-- MAY 4, Orange Park Mkt 10-3

-- MAY 10, CCBA mentor Meeting 10 AM

-- MAY 12, CCBA meeting 7 PM Guest Speaker, Myron Beachy; Queen Rearing

--**MAY 31, American Farmstead Convention; requesting volunteers for a full day of lectures/ Demos on Sustainable Community. Dave and I will be there from 8:30 -5:30 at the Cattleman's Arena at the CC Fairgrounds. We will have our Observation Hive with literature. Please let Sue or Dave know if you can help out.**

--JUN 1, Orange Park Mkt 10-3

--JUN 7, Master Gardeners Plant Sale

--**JUN 9, CCBA meeting 7PM Semiannual Pot Luck Dinner.**

--JUN 14, CCBA mentor Meeting 9AM-12

Old Business: -- Our CCBA Association Caps are \$15 available at check-in. Our logo embroidered on your Polo shirt \$13 Price increase (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 \$14, XL \$16, XXXL \$18 and Tee shirts S-L \$9, XL \$11, XXL \$14.

-- **Mentors** are available, call Ray Vickerman & Dave Sieruta. (19) Mentors currently: Huey Fourquet (Orange Park & Baker County), Libby & Mike McCalley (Orange Park & Fleming Island), Dave Sieruta (Lake Asbury & Orange Park), Joe Dobransky (Orange Park), Ray Vickerman, Lani Rouw, Susa & Bob Welch (Green Cove Springs), Ken Harp & Barbara Perkins (Key Stone), Jurgen & Sylvia May (Polk City), Rick & Dorie Kline (Middleburg), Amy & Jeff Campbell (Middleburg). Eric Villeneuve, (Middleburg/Clay Hill).

--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 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.

-- 7:10 Dave opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed 2 new members & guests.

It was an Exciting Time at the Clay County Fair this year, **all our Raffle Winners are here tonight:** Penny won our big Blue Basket, our own Eric Bush won our handy Yellow Basket and all the way from Valdosta GA, Doug and his family won our Hive.

-- 7:18 Secretary” E” minutes **approved.**

-- Treasurer Report \$7823.04. **approved.** Our Raffle and Honey sales gave us a \$9831 profit this year and we have quite a bit of honey left. It is available to our members for \$10/16oz bottle vs \$15.

--Presidents Report **** Thanks to all who helped at our Fair this year with the long day of bottling the honey (30/5 GAL buckets), cleaning the Honey House and volunteering at the Fair, it was another success.** The honey profits were \$8,290 and the Raffle was \$154: Total \$9831.00. Last year we made \$8,000 roughly.

--Remember to keep control of Small Hive Beetles (SHB) and treat with Beetle Grease (recipe on web site) also monitor for Mites and plan to treat 4X/year.

--Get your swarm traps ready, bees are swarming. (John Boeckstiegel will be making Swarm Traps for those who may want one (904-673-8480). (\$35)

We caught a swarm in our trap by the Apiary and Tonya caught one on Fair Grounds behind the Baxter House during the Fair. Thanks Dave, Sue and Ric for helping with Adventure Days.

-- For your Swarms and NUCS feed them.

-- Make your splits if your hives are full to prevent Swarming check every 10 days

-- Dave brought 70 NUCs this year from GA and sold every one.

--APIARY we have 2 Langstroth hives, 31 NUCS and 1 Top Bar hive without bees. There are 19 NUCS with Castles that are ready in for members who attended the Beginner Bee Class, have no bees and asked for a Mentor. Saturday bring your new NUC/Hive with 5 lean frames, price \$80.

--What's blooming: Ligustrums and Palms.

--Membership Report: over 260 members.

--Mentor Report: 35 attended last meeting.

SEE OUR WEBSITE; CLAYBEES.COM FOR THE VIDEO.

--7:35 Our Speaker tonight is Dave Sieruta sharing the U-Tube Videos from UF and Dr Ellis on Hive Inspections. We have Ray Vickerman's handouts in the back and on our website.

There is no need to inspect your hives daily during this season. Every week is fine, watch that the bees are bringing in pollen and are busy knowing that the hive is functioning well, when you do remove the frames put them back in the order you took them out to avoid disrupting the queen. If you have a Virgin Queen, the hive will be noisy until she is mated and laying eggs. Swarms generally happen between 10 and 3pm so you have an idea when to look for them. You can also tilt your hive and observe any Queen cells from the bottom of the hive without disturbing the bees. Bees are somewhat active at 55 degrees but prefer 60 or better before opening the hive. This time of year there should be 6-8 frames of brood and capped brood. A good queen can fill 90% of a deep frame in one day. There are 5 colors to paint the queen: red, blue, green, yellow and white each year the color changes to note the age of the queen. This year it is blue.

For mites take ½ cup of bees in a mason jar add powder sugar or alcohol, shake the jar and pour the contents out through a screen onto a white plate to note the red/brown mites. If you have over 3 Mites, you should treat your hive now before they get out of control. Test each month.

**You can go to U-Tube and search for Beekeeping Academy at UF Florida. Frank will put a separate site on the Links page because there are too many to put in the library.

Old Business:

Sue Welch still has a few members who have not paid their dues for 2025.

8:25 NEW Business: None

--8:41 Raffle:

--8:55 Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Gianino

Secretary