



CCBA Meeting Minutes JULY 14, 2025

Present 58, Zoom 0, Mentor Mtg 24

FOR OUR SEP MEETING WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ZOOM BUT WE WILL RECORD (Thanks to Tom Keenan) and he will get it to Frank to set on the WEB page under Library and Videos.

\* 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, 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.**

**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.

-- OP Market closed until September

-- AUG 16, Honey Fest Jacksonville Fairgrounds 10-4; **10 Volunteers Found**

-- SEP 7, Orange Park Mkt starts new season 10-3

-- SEP 8, CCBA Meeting 7PM

-- SEP 13, CCBA Mentor Meeting 9-11 **OCT we will start at 10AM**

-- SEP 27, Beginner Bee Class 8 AM-3:30 PM, **Volunteers welcome**

-- OCT 5, Orange Park Mkt 10-3

-- OCT11, **CCBA Mentor Meeting 10-12**

-- OCT 13, CCBA Meeting 7PM

-- OCT 18-19, Orange Park Festival 10-5PM **Volunteers welcome.**

**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 Fouquet (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 Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed 4 New Members and 0 Guests tonight.

--7:10 Secretary” E” minutes approved.

-- Treasurer Report: \$26,781.43 accepted

-- President Report: Bees are still Swarming, check your traps

-- We are in a Dearth now so feed your bees until Fall Foliage starts

-- Keep Monitoring for Small Hive Beetles and Varroa Mites and treat. Mites are at peak levels.

-- Hives will decrease in size now because of decrease in pollen and nectar.

-- If you do your splits now till next Spring, it is best to use Mated Queens the hive making their own queens because the increase in Drone Flies.

-- Apiary Report: 4 Langstroth, 28 NUCS between Apiary #1 & #2, 1 Top Bar not in use.

-- What's Blooming: Crepe Myrtle (pollen, no nectar) Bottle Brush, Sweet Almond, Goldenrod

-- Mentor Report: Ray reports we have 15 Mentors.

-- Membership Coord: Susan Repots we have 4 new members tonight making a total of 195 members.

7:20 Guest speaker tonight, Michael Leach from Bee Friendly Farms and coordinator of Honey Fest at the Jacksonville Fair Grounds 6 years now (Sat AUG 16 from 10-4).

--Speaking on Managing your Bees during the dearth. Generally, this is Mid-late Summer & Dec- Jan.

--There is low pollen and nectar during these months and Bees rely on their stored honey. During the Summer months there is also Heat Stress causing a shorter life cycle.

--Bees can get cranky and aggressive (smoke your suit/clothes and spray with sugar water).

--There is reduced brood production due to lack of nutrients.

--A good idea to reduce the hive entrance to 1 inch to help prevent robbing from other bees, ants and Yellow Jackets.

--Reduce the amount of hive inspections to reduce stress and SHB.

--To avoid opening the hive check the weight of the hive by lifting one end: a hive should weigh 30-40# with honey (deep and med box and 6-8 frames of honey.)

--Brood patterns: Solid brood pattern; eggs & larvae with an active queen. Check for shrinking brood pattern during a Dearth and feed.

--Forager Behavior; calm foragers are OK if idle bee activity you have a shortage food.

--If you have calm bees and plenty of honey there is no need to feed.

OPTIONS Feeding is 1:1 sugar water: 1) In the heat it can ferment so change every 4 -5 days or try adding 1 TBL of Apple Cider Vinegar, Bleach or Lemon to a Quart of sugar water to help prevent fermentation. 2) Switch to 2:2 sugar syrup esp. if hives are light by NOV. 3) Can use Fructose 1:1. NO ORGANIC (BROWN) SUGAR, ONLY WHITE CANE SUGAR.

--With the wetter weather ants (esp. Carpenter Ants) are moving to higher ground, remove any mulch or wood poles. You can use TARO, Grub Killer or Ortho Granulated Bait for treating the area around your hive area NOT under them, it is a bait and will attract the SHB/ANTS to the bait.

--Maintain good membership/communication with local clubs for new ideas and treatments, try to get to state and national seminars. NOTE The North American Bee Exposition will be in JAN this year.

--A great U-Tube resource is UF Beel College with Jamie Willis PhD. "XYZ Encyclopedia of Bees" is a great resource.

--\* AND Virginia Webb will be at JAX Bee Meeting Monday AUG 18 7PM for questions and ideas.

8:15: No Old Business

8:21: No New Business

8:21 RAFFLE: RAFFLE WINNERS FOR BEGINNER BEE: Arlene Owens and Tom Keenan.

--UF Bee College for 2026, we will pay for 6 members to attend. 2 each month Nov, Dec, JAN

\*\*\*Our computer would not let us Zoom tonight but we did record, and it will be posted on the Web site [Claybees.com/ Library/Videos](http://Claybees.com/Library/Videos)

8:25 Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Gianino

Secretary