



CCBA Meeting Minutes FEB 13, 2025

Present 50, Zoom 5, Mentor Mtg 31

\* 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.

-- **Beginner Bee Class MAR 1, 9-3:30 PM at Ag Center, Volunteers welcome to assist**

-- MAR 2, Orange Park Market, 10-3PM

-- MAR 8, CCBA Mentor Meeting 10- 12

-- MAR 10, CCBA Meeting 7PM

-- MAR 21-22, **UF Bee Collage**, Gainesville FL

-- **MAR 22, Honey Bottling at AG Ctr 12-5 PM at the AG Ctr Volunteers welcome**

-- **MAR 29, Cleaning the Honey House 10AM Volunteers welcome**

-- **APR 3-13 Clay County Fair; Susan Welch asking for volunteers at the Honey House.**

**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 a new member.

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

-- Treasurer Report \$18,082.81. We will order 35 Gal of honey for the CCF this year and increase our price for the first time in 20 years for 16 oz \$15 and 24 oz \$20

--Presidents Report

--Don Comer is still making Swarm Traps and will take orders tonnite.

--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.

--Keep feeding your bees

--Get your hives ready for spring now, repair equipment, paint etc.

--Get your swarm traps out now and bait them.

--APIARY we have 4 Langstroth hives, 22 NUCS and 1 Top Bar hive without bees.

--What’s blooming: Red Maple, Peaches, Plums, all flowers starting to bloom.

--Membership Report: 246 members to date.

--Mentor Report; last meeting was 36.

-- Dave noted packages of bees will be ready in March. 50 have been ordered and they are all claimed. Dave has requested to get more bees if needed—please sign his sheet tonight to get on the new list. Cost \$104 with \$1 for gas. The list is for new members without bees and if any left it will go on a raffle.

-- Don Comer taking orders for Swarm Traps

--Ron Snow is selling his inventory to make room for retirement.

--John Boeckstiegel has information on a honey bucket sensor to prevent over filling your bucket. See John, it ranges from \$49-175 depending on the complexity of the system you are looking for. John gave a nice summary of his visit to Louisville, KY to the Be Expo.6

--Josh Cox the Pres of the Jacksonville Bee Assoc announced they are offering 2 mentor meetings /month, and their Beginner Bee Course will be \$45.

**SEE OUR WEBSITE; CLAYBEES.COM FOR THE VIDEO.**

--7:40 Our Speaker tonight is Dave Sieruta on Making Splits to Prevent Swarming, using it as a Brood Break and to increase your hives numbers. He notes that Jamie Ellis from UF has several U-Tube videos on this subject and Frank noted that we have many on our web site under the Library/Videos.

Be sure you have plenty of Nurse bees when you transfer your old Queen and young brood to your NUC to split your original hive. This maneuver is used as a Brood Break to decrease SHB. Check your hive for more than one Queen, she will be the daughter of your old Queen. If the hive starts a new queen, she will take approx. 30 days from egg to laying.

8:15 Sue Welch explained the CCF to all and asked for volunteers to work the dates APR 3-13. She passed a sign-up sheet. Also noting we will clean the Honey House MAR 22 at 10AM, Honey Bottling MAR30 at 12PM, there will be a FAIR Luncheon for volunteers MAR 25 at 11AM at the Cattlemen's Arena.

**OLD Business:** None

**8:25 NEW Business:**

--Dave thanked all who helped at the Yesterday Festival JAN 25.

--8:25 Raffle: **Winners of Beginner Bee Class:** Kelly Masteller and Stephanie Hamilton.

--8:45 Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Gianino

Secretary