



CCBA Meeting Minutes FEB 14, 2022

47 Present//3 on Zoom// Mentor mtg 22 mbrs

*** 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, smgianino@bellsouth.net

*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: **Refreshment Coordinator.**

ZOOM meeting tonight.

DATES to KNOW: BUSY, BUSY MONTH AHEAD!

-- Annual Dues \$15 per voting mbr*: (pay Sue Welch). **2022 DUES** OCT – APR. Renewal sheet on Website and attached to these minutes to send by mail.

-- **FEB 26 Beginner Bee Course 8:30-3:30**

-- MAR 6 Orange Park Mkt 10-3

-- **MAR 11-12 Bee College** at UF Gainesville

--CCBA mentor Mar 12,10-12

--CCBA Member Meeting MAR 14, 7P, "Installing Packages" by Rick Kline

-- **Bee Fest 2022 MAR 18-20.** Contact Jim Matheson: **23523 North County Road 175, Sanderson, FL.** <https://beemaster.com/forum/index.php?topic=54731.msg498829#msg498829>

-- **MAR19 Honey House Clean-Up 10-1PM at CC Fairgrounds**

-- **MAR 26 Honey Bottling for Clay County Fair 10AM at Susan Welch House, 1926 SR 16W**

-- **MAR 31- APR 19 Clay County Fair** Times to be posted, to volunteer contact Susan Welch.

-- **NEW for 2022 Spring:** Farm Bureau Farmers Market at Farm Bureau on Henley Rd 8-12Pm \$5 per table Honey/Wax/etc. can be sold here. You can purchase your own table. The CCBA will have an Information table set up. This is a new venue for any member. Cross Middleton, with the Farm Bureau, #904 657 6704 for questions. It will be the 3rd Sat each month.

Old Business:-- Our CCBA Association Caps are \$15 see Ray. 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 logo: S-LG \$11, XL \$16, XXXL \$18 and Tee shirts S-L \$9, XL \$12, XXL \$14.

-- Our CCBA Honey for sale to members \$5 / small 16 oz jar.

-- **Mentors** are available, call Ray Vickerman or Dave Sieruta. Mentors currently are Huey Forquet (Orange Park and Baker County), Rick and Dorie Kline and Ralph White (Middleburg), 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).

--Rick Kline noted a lot of the tools and displays in the Honey House are missing over the years

ANYONE wishing to donate old equipment, hive tools, information, pictures bring it in.

--**Swarm collection; let Frank Gianino know to put your name and phone on the Website.** Currently we have Dave Sieruta 904-466-3613, John Boeckstiegel 904-673-8480 & Cross Middleton 904-657-6704, Ralph White 352-514-9927, Dorie and Rick Kline 904-571-3070, Bob McKenney 904-891-5758

*******Register your hives with Mosquito Control Board** (904) 417-5884 or Check out Clay County Mosquito Control in the News at <https://www.firstcoastnews.com/article/news/local/clay-county-uses-aggressive-effort-on-mosquito-problem-after-finding-west-nile-virus/77-577095009> **OR Call Jessie(904)284-6335 to give her your location and your hives location. Aerial spraying is not currently done in Clay County.**

****Frank has posted the Mosquito Control and Beekeepers info on the Web site.**

7:05 PM Dave opened the meeting we had 1 new member, Matt Lynch from Orange Park and 1 guest tonight.

-- Secretary: Minutes for JAN approved.

-- Treasurers Report \$14,627.06. Donation to the Bee Lab, Report accepted and Approved.

-- Presidents Report: We will be buying 14, 5 Gallon buckets of honey for this Clay County Fair so our Treasury will be depleted some. We have 5 tickets to the Beginner Bee Course in the raffle tonight thanks to the Alvin Moore Memorial Fund,

We have expanded and windows added to the Apiary FEB 8 with the help of the Association and at the Mentor Meeting the hives stands were relocated, with some of the hives painted. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO GAVE THEIR TIME.

--Hive Management: Keep monitoring for Small Hive Beetles (SHB), if you see them now they will expand exponentially when we warm up again---treat now. If you are using the Pollen Patties to feed your bees be sure you use only 2x2inch patties or you will draw SHB. Keep up your Mite counts and treat before the honey flow starts.

-- In April Cameron Jack from UF will be presenting updates on his study & treatment of Mites.

--The amount of nectar and pollen supplies will dictate how much the Queen will lay.

-- Apiary Report: 5 (10) Frame Hives and 15 NUCS all doing fine feeding sugar water 1:1. Next Mentor Meeting we will start doing splits and getting NUCS ready for those new Beekeepers who want them. The price for a NUC has gone up to \$60 this year to account for the cost of sugar. Drone Cells are starting to emerge, watch for Swarm signs. All due to a very mild winter with early blooming on Citrus trees and plants esp Red Maples, Mexican Sun Flowers, Spanish Needle, Bottle Brushes... Splits are usually done FEB 14 schedule but with Drones and hives building up now be sure you have queens before you split your hives. The Drone cycle takes 24 days, Queens need 16 days to hatch, Workers take 21. Check your hives for Drone cells.

--Mann Lake charging \$205 for a NUC and Packages are \$172 for 3# if you pick up, if they ship \$220. We use Roberts Bees in GA, they pkgs are \$101 and Dave charges \$2 ea for gas. All 40 pkgs that we ordered are sold but if you want a pkg, Dave will talk to Julian Bao in Palatka the price TBD. Dadant will charge \$175 for a NUC, John Boeckstiegel will charge \$145/NUC.

-- Bee Fest: Matt Pence explained this is a FREE event, dates MAR 18-20, a 3 day camping exercise to meet, learn about bees, caring for them in a very relaxed setting at the Beemaster Farm, 23523 N. County Rd 175 in Sanderson, FL. Please RSVP to let them plan for food on their website.

7:35-- Membership Coordinator and Honey House Superintendent: Susan Welch; 2022 dues from now till APR, forms here tonight and on the web site. For the folks who signed up to assist at the Honey House at the CCF you can check the schedule tonight that Susan has put together. There are 4 days that are long from 10-8PM Those days are broken into shifts. It is a fun event and if you would still like to volunteer please let Susan know.

7:40 Dave will purchase our Bottlebrush tree for Alvin Moore's Memorial to be placed on the other side of the Apiary. Huey Forquet presented Dave the plaque for the site to be placed at that site

--If you enjoyed Dorie's presentation on "Inside the Hive" she will be presenting at the Nassau Bee Club 2/28.

7:45 Dave presented tonight on Swarm Traps and Splits. Frank now has a recorded Presentation site on our Website, Claybees.com under "Library" you will see "Video Library."

Note: U-Tube has 4 videos on swarm Traps from Duck River. He demonstrated the swarm trap that Don Comer makes for our raffle and for the Apiary and Honey House. Dave uses Lemon Grass Oil and Swarm Commander both work. Use NUCS with solid bottoms for a Swarm Trap. Its best to use old frames for the smell of pollen and honey. If fresh wood was used smear on the inside of your trap plus Swarm Commander or Lemmon Grass. Remember too much Swarm Commander will drive bees away. Leave the Lemon Grass Q-tip inside the trap after smearing the entrance and frames with it. These work about 1 month and you will need to re-treat. Lemon Grass oil at Walmart is about

\$2 for 2 oz bottle that will last a LONG time. Also available at Piping Rock web site. Place your traps in the shade facing South or SE. Closed bottom Traps are best because the bees are looking for a DARK space for their Swarm like the inside of a tree. Make sure you have water nearby. If you get a swarm in your trap leave them there a month or so to establish their hive. Then transfer to a hive.

8:10 Splits; Before you plan a split be sure you have Drones a plenty. The Queen does not mate with her Drones and flies beyond her area to meet many Drones. If you see Drone cells plan ahead for a split but do not do this until you see Queen Cells in the hive. Splits let the Hive think they have already swarmed and it will calm down and you will be raising another queen. Put your Queen from the parent hive into the NUC in the center along with new brood and capped cells. Then use a frame of pollen and honey next to that with a frame of capped brood. Then a frame of honey and pollen. The final frames on the outside of the NUC are empty, partly for insulation. Shake a LOT of Nurse Bees into the hive to keep all brood and Queen warm. Be sure you are feeding the NUC 1;1 sugar water.

A walk away split is to move the new hive ½ mile away from the original. These are very inexpensive because you are using your bees to make more hives. And NUCS with Castles help the bees expand rapidly to make more hives and REPEAT! If you are new to Beekeeping you should have 2 hives an 1 or 2 NUCS to add or borrow bees/queens as needed.

8:25 Raffle

8:45 Old Business...see announcements and dates.

8:42 Adjourned.