



*CCBA Meeting Minutes FEB 9, 2026

Present 64, Zoom 0, Mentor Mtg 29

* 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). 2026 DUES OCT – APR. Renewal sheet on Website to send by mail, can use VENMO or Credit/Debit card.

BUSY TIME OF YEAR:

--FEB 14, CCBA Mentor Meeting, 10-12

--FEB 28 Beginner Bee Short Course 8:30-3:30// Brochure on Claybees.com website

--MAR 9, CCBA Meeting 7PM

--MAR14 CCBA Mentor Meeting 10-12

--MAR 20-21, UF Bee College/UF Bee Lab, Gainesville, FL

--**MAR 21, Cleaning the CCF Honey House 10AM Volunteers needed**

--**MAR 28, Honey Bottling (30/ 5GAL buckets) at Clay Extension Bld, 12-5 ish, Volunteers needed**

--**APR 2-12, Clay County Fair: See Sue Welch for volunteer schedule sign up**

--APR 13, CCBA Meeting 7PM

--APR 18, CCBA Mentor Meeting 10-12

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: 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), Larry & Phillis Gillis (Middleburg).

--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 1 New Member & 2 Guests tonight.

--7:10 Secretary "E" minutes approved

-- Treasurer Report: \$19,509.02 accepted

-- President Report:

Please see Dave if you would like to get on the list for Package Bees: Money due at the FEB 9/14 meetings to Dave; cost (\$106+ \$1 for gas). Packages available around MAR 22.

--Monitor and control Mites and SHB. Varroa populations will begin to grow as the weather warms and treat your hives when you have 3%Mites after a mite check. This is a good time to treat before your honey supers go on. (treat 7 days for 4 treatments per year).

--Feed your hives and NUCS esp. as the weather gets colder.

--Get Swarm Traps out. Swarms are usually between 10-3 pm after that, 3-4 ish is when new workers do their orientation flight. Contact Don Comer (904)496-5869, for a trap.

--NORROA is a new Mite Treatment approved in 20 states and available at MANN Bee Co. A liquid treatment ingested by bees to render the Mite infertile. NOTE: Always get a Mite count before and after treatment to ensure treatment is needed. Don't forget Powder Sugar works well also. VIDEO on U-Tube. Suggested use at beginning of Honey flow and after honey harvest.

-- Apiary Report: 4 Langstroth, 14 NUCS with Castles. Plan to do splits next Mentor mtg. Queens will be laying Drone eggs now, they are the longest developers, then Queens if there will be a swarm.

-- What's Blooming: Red Maples, Pine Pollen is up.

-- Mentor Report: Ray reports we had 17 Mentors last month with Q&A.

-- Membership Coord: Susan Reports thank you to all paid members. **Pls contact Susan Welch to** volunteer for MAR 21, Cleaning the Honey House at the CCF 10 AM. MAR 24, Fair Luncheon. MAR 28, Honey Bottling 12-5pm: Wildflower, Gallberry and Orange Blossom. CCF APR 2-12.

--Member Chair: Dave has 30 pkgs of bees still on order. To be picked up MAR 22 but payment due this month to Dave Sieruta \$107 for your 3# package.

--John Boeckstiecel gave a brief report on his trip to the N. American Bee Festival in Kentucky. Approx 3600 attendees and over 500 vendors over 3 days.

7:40 Dave was our speaker tonight and he spoke on "Catching Swarms" and "Swarm Traps"

--CATCHING SWARMS: Free Bees. Suggested video from Dr Jamie Ellis on U-Tube UF Beekeepers Academy Catching a Swarm. A good practice is to have a frame of brood and a frame of pulled comb in your swarm trap to encourage nurse bees to stay in the trap. There are 79 videos in all. With the bees in the swarm, you can also spray with sugar water to prevent flying.

--Swarm Traps: Dr Ellis calls them Free Bees. Put an attractor into your trap of Swarm Commander or Lemmon Grass oil. Your trap should have 5 frames and closed bottom. You can use NUCs// an empty NUC on the bottom with the 5 frame NUC on top. Reduce the entrance to 1 inch.

Leave the bees in your trap for 1 week to 10 days for easy access and removal. Put the Trap facing South or Southeast. Bate with Swarm Commander or Lemmon Grass oil on a Q-tip, just on drop, too much of the oil will repel the bees. When you see your bees bringing in pollen you know they have accepted their new home and can be moved to a permanent hive.

8:15 OLD Business: No Old Business

8:17 NEW Business: CCF coming soon

--Winners of the MAR UF Bee College tonight: John Boecksticel and Darlene Davis

-- FEB 28 is the next Beginner Bee Class; Winner is James Rowland and Jesica Fields.

8:24 Raffle

8:405 Adjourned; Mentors available for questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Gianino

Secretary