



CCBA Meeting Minutes JAN 13. 2025

Present 50, Zoom 4, Mentor Mtg 36

\* 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.

-- JAN 25, **Gold Head Park, Yesterday Festival**, 8-4PM Dave has the volunteer list

-- FEB 2, Orange Park Mkt, 10-3pm

-- CCBA Mentor Mtg FEB 8, 10-12 PM

-- CCBA Meeting FEB 11, 7PM

-- **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.

-- 7:05 Dave opened the meeting and welcomed new members and guests tonight.

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

--Treasurer report \$19,268.73 approved. Dec, Jan, Feb Raffel 4 tickets for Beginner Bee. Raffel 2 tickets tonight, and FEB, There will be 3 tickets tonight for UF Bee College and 3 in FEB

--Presidents Report Review of 2024 budget expenses; Planned for 16,590: We took in \$22,0160 and Spent \$22,049.80 with a loss of \$33.80. Since we are a Non-Profit this is what we wanted.

--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. If treating with Oxalic Acid products they are OK to leave your supers on the hive. All other Mite treatments remove your honey. Mite extended Mite strips will now start to come in 20/pkg vs 90.

--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 5 Langstroth hives, 24 NUCS and 1 Top Bar hive without bees.

--What's blooming: Red Maple, Weeping Willow, and flowers protected from the recent frost.

--Membership Report: 250 members to date. Susan noted some members (esp Dave) have had false messages sent to members requesting money. Do not send money or checks without checking to be sure the sender of the messages is a valid Ex Committee person.

--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. Mann Lake bee packages are \$175-295.

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

--7:45 Our Speaker tonight is Dave Sieruta on Swarm Traps. Being able to catch swarms will keep you with a sustainable Apiary. You can buy or make your own traps. Don Comer is here and will be making traps for anyone, please get with him to order for \$35.

Dave uses old hive bodies or Nucs for his traps. The scent of the old wax and honey is in them and that helps draw the swarms in and helps the queen start laying esp. if the old frame had pulled wax. The trap must have a solid bottom. They do not need to be placed higher than 6 feet and they should have a frame of old wax in the trap. If there are no old frames with wax use bees wax and rub the foundation with it. Use Swarm Commander or Lomon Grass as the bait, rubbing a small amount on one frame, at the entrance and in the back of the trap.

--Bees may scout your trap for a week or more to decide if it is acceptable. If you notice them bringing pollen into the trap you have caught a swarm. Do not disturb the swarm for at least 10 days to allow the hive to settle and let the queen start to lay. Then relocate your trap, add a frame of brood if you have it to make sure the bees will not abandon the hive. Do not wait much longer than 10 days or your swarm will be very difficult to remove from the trap to their new hive.

--To see if there are bees in the area, you can suspend a jar of sugar water in a tree and note if any bees are attracted to it before setting out your trap.

8:20 **OLD Business:** **December new officers** elected in DEC; Dave as Pres, Barbra Perkins as Vice-President, Ray Vickerman as Treasurer, Sue Gianino as Secretary, Susan Welch as Membership Coordinator and CCF Superintendent at the Honey House, Frank Gianino is Webmaster and Gary and Christing as Refreshment Coordinator. CONGRATS.

**8:25 NEW Business:**

--Dave reviewed the 2025 Budget at an increase of \$22,090 to account for increase cost of honey, bottles, secretary spending, refreshments and cost of dinners. We plan to order 30 Gal of honey: 10 Gal each of Orange Blossom, Gall berry and Wildflower. We will also increase the cost of the honey this year at the CCF from \$10 for 16 oz to \$15, and \$15 for 24 oz to \$25. This will help pay for the increase in sugar and any repairs to the Apiary. **APPROVED**

--We have enough volunteers for the Yesterday Festival this year; Thank you.

--Sue G announced that the Ex-Committee requested her to investigate the age of this Association. The Northeast Florida Honeybee Association began in 2004, and the Clay County Beekeepers Assoc was incorporated in 2019...we are 21 years old. We will look into a plaque that we can display.

--8:25 Raffle: **Winners of Bee College:** Dana Lovelace, John Boeckstiegel and Wes Williams.

--Winners of the Beginner Bee Class: Corey Burnette and Bryan Masteller.

--8:45 Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Gianino

Secretary