



CCBA Meeting Minutes APR 15, 2024

Present 49, Zoom inoperable, Mentor Mtg

* Numbers of Executive Steering Committee: Corrected

*Dave Sieruta **PRES:** **Apiary, Education/Speakers** 904-282-2193, dtussie@aol.com

*Ken Harp **VICE PRES:** (904) 703-5317, radarharp@mail.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:

-- Annual Dues \$15 per voting mbr*: (pay Sue Welch). **2024 DUES** OCT – APR. Renewal sheet on Website to send by mail.

-- APR 20; CCBA Mentor Meeting, 10am (meeting moved due to CCF dates)

-- MAY 3, Orange Paark Market 10-3pm

-- MAY 11, A Mentor Meeting, 10am

-- MAY 13, CCBA Meeting, 7pm

-- **JUN 10, Semiannual Dinner** 7Pm, bring your favorite side, salad, desert we furnish meat/drink

-- JUN 15; Master Gardeners Plant Sale, 7:30 -12 at UF/IAFS Extension Clay County

Old Business: -- Our CCBA Association Caps are \$15 available at check in. 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 silk screen logo: S-LG \$11, XL \$16, XXXL \$18 and Tee shirts S-L \$9, XL \$12, XXL \$14.

-- **Mentors** are available, call Ray Vickerman & Dave Sieruta. (20) Mentors currently: Huey Fourquet (Orange Park & Baker County), Libby/Mike McCalley (Orange Park & Fleming Island), John Riley & Dave Sieruta (Lake Asbury & Orange Park), Joe Dobransky (Orange Park), John Riley (OP/Lakeside), Ray Vickerman (Green Cove Springs), Lani Rouw (GCS), Susan/ Bob Welch (GCS), Joe Geisel (ST Augustine), Ken Harp & Barbara Perkins (Key Stone), Jurgen & Sylvia May (Polk City), Rick/Dorie Kline (Middleburg), Amy/Jeff Campbell (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 Re-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 CORRECTED PHONE NUMBER LISTED

-- 7:00 Wi-Fi not on at the Ag Center so we could not Zoom tonight.

--7:10 Dave opened the meeting, and we awarded our 3 CCF Raffle winners: Toni Ponce winner of a basket, Maria Braya a Basket and Kasey Van Zant the Beehive.

7:15 Secretary E-Minutes accepted and approved.

--Treasurer: \$15, 094.99.

-- Presidents Report: Dave thanked all who helped bottle honey x2 during the fair. Those who cleaned the Honey House and those who helped for the 10 days of the CCF. We sold \$14995 in honey and our Raffle generated \$1174. Our profit this year was \$8992.83. this year was our first year using a Credit Card Reader. We bought 26—5 Gal of honey.

--There was the AG Venture for the 2nd Graders on Tuesday where we saw 800 children thanks to Dave, Sue, Ken and Ric.

7:30 --Hive management; it is the season for Mites and SHB to infest and grow, make splits.

-- Get your Swarm Traps out now if you haven't, swarms already in progress. Don Comer has captured 14 Swarms so far!

-- Apiary Report: we have 2 Langstroth hives, 15 NUCS and 1 Top Bar hive.

-- What's Blooming; Ligustrums and everything is blooming.

7:33 Mentor Report; next Mentor Meeting.

--Membership: we have over 250 mbrs now.

-- Prices for Honey, Bottles and Caps and Sugar all went up this year and will probably increase honey sales for the 2025 Clay County Fair, the first price hike in over 7 years

-- Frank Noted that we have had 11 hits on our website daily. The Web owner has gone back to the old web management allowing us to see the use. Frank updated the front page to condense the Sellers of their honey and for Swarm Collection to a speed button for faster use and if anyone wants to buy, sell or trade equipment send Frank your notice and he will start a Swap Site/

7:40 Dave is our speaker with his 3rd lecture in the series of Sustainable Apiaries. Tonight is Rearing Queens. Queens can run \$30-45 each. So, making your Queens can save you money along with using Swarm Traps and Splits.

--Steps: Establish a starter Colony, establish a Cell Builder Colony to make Queens. When you are splitting hives, it is best to put 2 mature Queens per hive. When the average daily temp is 69 or better. Be sure there are plenty of Drones to mate with your queens.

--Swarm Cell Method is when the Bees make their own Queen cells.

--On the Spot Method (OTS) is when you set the eggs for the bees to use as queens. By pushing down the edge of the cell with the egg it will cause the bees to make that egg a queen.

-- Or put the Queen Frame in a Queen Cell Cage to isolate them for safety but the bees can still tend to them. OTS creates a Brood Brake and can reduce the chance of swarming. It helps develop the genetics of the hive and increases the colonies with more options.

--Strip Method Isolate the Queen Frame with pulled wax for 24 ours then cut strips with eggs and mount to the top bar of a frame without foundation, eggs pointing down and squeeze it onto the frame then put it into a NUC with 2-week-old Nurse bees for make wax and they will pull Queen cells at 10 days.

Dave plans to demonstrate at the Mentor Meeting Sat.

8:40 Raffle

8:50 Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Gianino

Secretary