



CCBA Meeting Minutes SEP 9, 2019

* Numbers of Executive Steering Committee: Dave Sieruta **PRES:** 904-282-2193, Dorie Kline **V-Pres & Face Book Organize, Clay County Beekeepers Association:** 904-616-2723, and **Claycountybees@gmail.com**, Sue Gianino **SEC:** 904-276-5921, Ray Vickerman **TREAS & MENTOR Trainer:** 904-284-5317, Susan Welch, **MEMBERSHIP Coordinator & DUES Collector** 727-204-6626; Frank Gianino, **WEB Organizer:** <http://claybees.com>, 904-276-5921, Dave Sieruta: **Education/Speakers** Phone 904-282-2193, **AG Rep:** Cassidy Dossin, 904-284-6355, and Ralph White: **4H Club:** 352-514-9927. *Christine Nicolodi is our refreshment coordinator.

DATES to KNOW:

- Annual Dues \$15 per voting mbr* (new for 2020): (pay Sue Welch).
- SEP 14, Mentor Meeting: **LAST MEETING AT 9AM-11AM** (OCT 12 go back to 10-12)
- SEP 21, Master Gardeners Plant sale with Honey sale rescheduled: **7:30-3P**, volunteers welcome
- SEP 28; Beginner Bee Class at Ag Center 8AM-4PM, Volunteers welcome
- OCT 6, Orange Park Farmers Mkt 10-3Pm
- OCT 12, Mentor Meeting at Regular Time **10AM** -12N (Fall Times)
- Oct 14, Business Meeting 7Pm
- OCT 19-20 Orange Park Fall Festival joining with the 4H Club, 10-5PM **volunteers welcome**

NOTICE:

- Hatice Iaconangelo (904-755-8195) is selling NUCS: 3- 5 frame NUCS with Hawaiian Queens from Skip \$130 ea. She is located in Mandarin by Clark's Fish Camp
- Ginny Sipliki (sp) requests bee removal from a tree: 904-294-7795 in Lake Asbury

Old Business:

- Our CCBA Association Caps are \$15 see Ray or Susan. Our logo on your Polo shirt \$10 see Sue G., T-shirts with logo S-L \$10 / 1X-3X \$12. See Sue or Dorie for Shirts.
- Frank has the **FL State Beekeepers** web site on our web site or **flstatebeekeepers.com**. You can register every year for free if you do not wish to join. Your registration will help them with any lobbying done on behalf of Backyard Beekeepers

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-- Mentors are available: members requesting a Mentor, call Ray Vickerman 904-284-5317 or Dave Sieruta 904-282-2193. Mentors currently are Huey Forquet, Rick and Dorie Kline, John Riley, Dave Sieruta, Ray Vickerman and Ralph White.

--Sue Welch is collecting Pop tops from cans to go to Ronald McDonald House, Orlando.

-- ****If you want to be called to collect swarms let Frank Gianino know to put your name and phone on the Website.** Currently we have Dave Sieruta and Louie Ivey.

7:10 PM Dave Sieruta opened the meeting, there were 4 guests tonight.

7:15 Minutes for AUG accepted as emailed.

--Presidents Report: Dave thanked Dorie, Christine, Susan W., Sue G. Ralph, Colleen Fletcher and Mike Streebing, Adam & Edna Schaeffer, John & Loretta, Boeckstiegel for their assistance at the Jacksonville Honeybee Festival. Dave and Dorie gave classes at the festival.

--Next year's elections will be held in DEC at the DEC party, nominations will be accepted until DEC elections. Only paid members will have a vote. Send Sue Gianino an email to nominate someone for Pres, V Pres, Sec Treasurer, Membership Coordinator, Web Master:

smgianino@bellsouth.net.

--We are still in a Dearth so manage your feeding, mite & Hive Beetle checks. Spanish Thistle, Golden Rod are in bloom and Swarming is still possible.

7:20 Treasurers Report accepted \$10,995.09, spending on new ball caps, Xeroxing & supplies.

--**Beginner Bee Class for SEPT 28 from 8-4PM.** we have a new AG Center replacement is **Cassidy Dossin**, she is learning about honeybees now and very versed in the 4-H.

--OCT 19-20 is the Orange Park Fall Festival, volunteers welcome. Dave will bring a signup sheet for volunteers next meeting.

--Sue Welch thanked all who renewed dues tonight. Dues due from now till DEC. She is also trying to correct and update the membership list.

7:25 Mike Leach is a Commercial Beekeeper "Bee Friends Farms". He sponsored the Jacksonville Honeybee Festival. He began commercial beekeeping about 5 years ago and comes from a family history of beekeepers from 70-90s. 25 years later he started back in the business. He used to be a member of our N.E. FL. Beekeepers Assoc. and is with Jax Bees . He is in commercial beekeeping for honey production.

A Backyard Beekeeper has 1-25 hives, Sideline Beekeepers have 25-250 hives and a Commercial Beekeepers has over 250 and can go up to 800 hives. His Schedule:

--DEC - JAN he starts pollinating in California Almonds. His bees must be inspected and graded. If they do not grade well, there is no pay.

--MAR he brings the bees back to prep for honey flow. He only uses single to double deeps.

--Because he transports bees they must work after dark using red lights. He noted that when bees are transported they tend to cluster and hang on while the trucks are moving. After sweeping up the dead bees, his loss is less than a gallon bucket for a transport truck.

--If you are considering a commercial business, get to know a great mechanic, for everything, you need some financial knowledge and budgeting, your money comes in waves and has to be planned out. Plan 6 months out for cash. You want some business insurance and there are several levels to choose from esp if you put your bees on others property. Inlet Marine is useful for transporting commodities over roads.

--He makes his splits late Feb or early March as soon as they return. The boxes are full and reducing Mites and Mite treatments are necessary. Don't just treat for Mites but do the Mite counts and alternate your treatment methods; Apigard, Apivar or Oxalic Acid.

--You will find you are constantly renovating and building your business 60% and 40% actually working with the bees. His Honey House can produce 10 barrels/day in 5 hours. He found using sump pumps moves the honey and 114 frames (med supers) equals 330# honey per spin. He still has barrels of wax that needs rendering down but he is looking for a cost effective method for this operation. Honey sales in bulk are 10%, wholesale are 60% and Direct sales are 30% and the biggest dollar for the work. Pricing: 12 oz \$10, 30z \$3 and 6 oz \$5. Consider your pricing for jars, cost of labels and any helpers. Tupelo Honey is coming back,

--Commercial feeding is done with a trailer full of sugar syrup and he adds apple cider vinegar or citric acid to reduce the pH of the syrup to about 4. (50-55 Gal of syrup he also adds 1 Cup of bleach). Sucrose or Fructose work equally well.

--This time of year he is finished splits, checking queens and orders more. The Love Bugs mean that food is coming in. He winters his hives as single brood boxes, during the year he uses deep with med deep.

8:45 **No Old Business.**

New Business: There is a request to have a new Logo for out shirts. Anyone who would like to submit ideas is welcome to do so: one is FL state with Clay County off to the side and a bee. Motion for a new Logo carried for the NOV meeting.

--Sue G mentioned that a Ginny Siplike would like bees removed from a tree (904) 294-7795 she is in Lake Asbury.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

--Raffle Held with 10 items

9:30 Meeting Adjourned

**9/14 the Mentor Meeting we had 17 present with 6 new visitors. We discussed Mite and Beetle Treatments, Bee Bread and Honey Storage.

Submitted for approval,

Sue Gianino,

Secretary

Honey bees, otherwise known as the Angels of Agriculture, are the strongest link in the chain between food producers