



CCBA Meeting Minutes FEB 10, 2020

* Phone numbers of Executive Steering Committee: Dave Sieruta PRES: 904-282-2193/ Dorie Kline V-PRES & Face Book Organizer: Clay County Beekeepers Association (FL): 904-616-2723/ Sue Gianino Secretary: 904-276-5921/ Ray Vickerman TREAS & Mentor Trainer: 904-284-5317/ Susan Welch, MEMBERSHIP Coordinator and DUES Collector: 727-204-6626/ Cassidy Dossin, AG Rep: 904-284-6300/ Frank Gianino, WEB Organizer: <http://claybees.com>, 904-276-5921, Dave Sieruta: Education/Speakers: 904-282-2193/ Christine Nicolodi: Refreshment Coordinator/ Louie Ivey: Apiary Super/ Ralph White: 4H Club, 352-514-9927.

DATES TO KNOW:

- Annual Dues \$15 per voting mbr, pay Sue Welch
- *--FEB 22, Spring Beginner Beekeeper Short Course 8-3PM Clay County Extension Office to book your seat: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-2020-beginner-beekeepers-short-course-tickets..>
- MAR 1, Orange Park Farmers Market 10-3PM, anyone can come to help
- *--MAR 6 & 7: UF Spring Bee College 8:30-4:30, Gainesville, FL Campus
- MAR 9, CCBA Business Meeting 7 PM
- MAR 14, CCBA Mentor Meeting 10-12
- MAR 21, Honey House Clean up 10AM; come see the changes!
- MAR 28, Bottling Honey for the CCF 9AM, always looking for volunteers!
- *--APR 2-11, Clay County Fair (CCF) contact Dave/Dorie for sign up to volunteer!
- *--MAY 16, 2nd Annual N.E. Honeybee Symposium 8-4:30 UF/IFAS Extension Clay Offices. Registration required.
- Jim Altmiller is hosting Bee Fest for 3 days, Bee Master.com/beefest2020

NOTICE:

Dave is going to GA to pay for the 3# package of bees, payment \$95 needed by FEB 10, cash or check. Pick up date approx MAR 18. There is a waiting list if you would like to sign up in case someone drops out, let Dave know: ADDRESS, 2686 Henley Rd, GCS 32043.

OLD Business:

- CCBA Caps are \$15, We are working on our new LOGO for our Polo shirts, price TBD, Tee-shirts S-L \$10/ 1X-3X \$12 all are sold at our Business meetings Monday night.
- Mentors are available: members requesting a mentor, call Ray Vickerman 904-284-5317. Mentors are Huey Forquet, Rick and Dorie Kline, John Riley, Dave Sieruta, Ray Vickerman and Ralph White.
- Sue Welch is collecting Pop tops for charity if you can help.
- Don't forget to Register your hives with the County and be sure to Register with the Mosquito Control Board to keep them from spraying your areas. <https://www.firstcoastnews.com/article/news/loc/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 hive location(s). Aerial spraying is not currently done in Clay County.
- Mentor Meeting Summary with 29 members present;
 - Bees are going crazy with many Drones present, no queen cells yet.
 - We waited for the temp to get over 60 degrees before inspecting the hives; if too cold watch the hive if bees bringing pollen in there is a laying queen inside. If you have a screen bottom you can tip the hive on its side to see if queen cells are on the bottom of the frames without opening the hive. *Alvin Moore is making single Observation Hives for sale (904) 716-3167. If using bird bath water for your bees add 1 Tsp Clorox and tsp Salt. Buy your frames by the 100s for much reduced price. **Mike Leach, Bee Friends Farm, puts on the Jacksonville Honey Fair; he will start selling bee supplies on SAT from 9-6, he is at PO Box 37463, Jacksonville, FL 32236, (904) 219-3895, info@beefriendsfarm.com. If you are feeding package bees use a 2:1 Sugar water to help build up their wax.

7:15 Meeting opened with approx 60 members. Dave welcomed 4 guests and 2 new members Tabitha and Sherry.

- Secretary emailed minutes approved without corrections.
- Presidents Report: Dave passed a signup sheet for the Honey House at the Clay County Fair (CCF) for volunteers from APR 2-12 varying times. Dave and Louie will be there all week as well as the Exec Committee Mbrs. Volunteers are encouraged to come and talk Honeybees. We will also be allowed to have 2 Raffles this year and Hives and More will furnish a complete hive set up with frames, reducer and stand. There will also be a Basket of Bee Fun Stuff. These 2 raffles and our honey sales are the primary money maker for the Association. Susan will procure our badges and passes for the Fair; if working 4+ days there is a badge and parking pass, if under 4 days there are entry tickets for you. REMEMBER we are in OLD FLORIDA section.
- Dave thanked Dorie, Christine, Louie, Ken Harper for their help at the Yesterday Festival in Keystone Hts. \$309 honey sales. Also Thanked Sue and Christine for their help at the Orange Park Farmers Mkt.
- For the folks who signed up for Packaged Bees see Dave with check or cash no later than FEB 11. Pick up tentative for MAR 18 weather dependant.
- Keep feeding your bees as needed, check for Mites--there is still time to treat Mites before your honey supers go on.
- Be ready for swarms, there are Drones in many of the apiary hives.
- Treasurers Report \$11,051.67 Approved. See attached sheet for updated budget for 2020.
- Mentor Report There were 29 members on Sat.
- Membership Coordinator thanked all for dues paid up, membership approx 137 at this writing.
- Beginner Bee Course set for FEB 22, it filled up and Cassidy opened up 10 more seats. We will have to divide the Apiary visit during Lunch. So there are more seats if you could not sign up last week. Call the Ag Center or event bright listed on the web site with direct connect button.

7:30 Rob Horsburgh, DPI Inspector Specialist from Extension Office. He recommends you register your hives (1-10) with the County for \$10. His job as inspector is to look for American Foul Brood infection which will kill many hives if not stopped. Inspectors also offer many tips and tricks to help with your bees. He has kept bees since he was 11 y/o.

Making splits is a very inexpensive way to increase our hives. Since 2006 almost all beekeepers report 30-40% losses over the winter. A split is dividing a colony of bees into 2 and creating an artificial swarm. In FL swarms can occur 2-3 times a year. FEB 15 is the better time for a split even though it has been warm this winter. Waiting one more week is better. This also ensures there are enough Drones to mate with the new Queens. When the hive is split if there must be enough bees to ensure the hive is warm if there is a sudden cold front. You will need 4-6 frames of brood in your original Colony. Place your NUC next to the old hive for a 50/50 split. Ideally find the queen to move her to the NUC. The old hive will requeen. You can do 3 frames of brood and bees with frames of pollen and honey, if you have extra bees, shake them in for more warmth and to get the hive up and running sooner. In 24 hours the bees in the original hive will start queen cells, fill in the empty spaces with new frames. both Hive and NUC need eggs and brood to succeed. With this there is no extra cost, mites are decreased because they live on larva and that is reduced when you split. You do not need to buy a queen esp. if you have queen cells.

A Mated Queen is \$30-35 if bought and she will come in the mail unless you have a local source. However you then have a choice of what type of queen you want to buy, she will be ready to lay immediately.

Other Splits: Artificial Splits as above remove the NUC as far as possible from the original hive to ensure the foraging bees will not return to the original hive. Ideally 1-2 miles. Or move the original hive and put the NUC in the old spot so foragers will return to the NUC.

Take the parent colony and move the NUC 3-4 ft from parent colony and split the foragers between the 2 hives.

Walk Away Split: 2 brood boxes stacked on each other with eggs and larva in both. Take the top box off and move it and put on a cover, cover the original hive, the hive one without the queen will requeen.

Splits can go into FEB and Mid May to allow for Summer dearth. No further splits till AUG/SEPT when fall foliage is blooming. Feed the splits. After you split the hives DON'T go into the hives for 30 days or smoke the hive to avoid upsetting or killing the new the new queen. If the bees are bringing in pollen you have a laying queen.

QUESTIONS:

- 1 This year is warmer Swarms can come early, try splits means you are taking control of the hive.
2. Walk away splits can still swarm when the old queen is but they will be smaller swarm and they will still have a new queen in the old hive.

3. If you use a queen excluder shake all bees in the bottom of the old hive, place the queen excluder on the hive with the queen in the bottom the nurse bees will be in the upper box in 24 hrs.
4. Sugar H₂O 2:1 esp. for winter when is honey production is low.
5. If you can't move the NUC 1 mile away after the split it really doesn't work as well.
6. Registered hives have tripled in FL but inspectors have decreased. It can be 1-5 years between inspections now but if you have issues call your inspectors for help.
7. Let your inspectors know how many hives you have and NUCS count as a hive because it has a queen.
8. To move hives use a bed sheet so you can wrap it in the sheet to avoid bees escaping into the car etc.

8:10 Ray discussed the new budget amounts..... see attached sheet for new numbers. Because we are non-profit we must watch our surplus money. Ideally we will take in as much as we donate.

--Noted that Dave can approve a \$50 cost for the Association but over \$50 it must go to the group for approval.

--Refreshments costs for Gary and Christine, the group approved a gift card for \$150.

--The Ex Committee Voted to send 3 members to the Bee College, 1 this spring and two in the fall. There will be a drawing at the JUN dinner for 2 members to go to the fall College.

-- Huey noted that Jim Altmiller is hosting Bee Fest for 3 days, Bee Master.com/beefest2020. March 20-22 in Taylor FL it is FREE. see Web site for sign up and info. 904-304-5800. There will be camping/trailers and day trips for the event.

8:45 Raffle held

8:50 Meeting Adjourned