



\*CCBA Meeting Minutes JAN 12, 2026

Present 55, Zoom 0, Mentor Mtg 26

\* 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 1 Orange Park Farmers Market 10-3

--JAN 31, Gold Head State Park, Yesterday Fest 9-5 **VOLUNTEERS** needed, let Barb Perkins know, 904-437-9712

--FEB 9, CCBA Meeting 7PM

--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 New & Guests tonight.

--7:10 Secretary" E" approved

-- Treasurer Report: \$21,827.52 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 and treat your hives when you have 3% Mites after a mite check.

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

Get Swarm Traps out.

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, 15 NUCS with Castles. Plan to do splits next year between Apiary #1 & Apiary #2 will do splits and sell them, dissolving Apiary 2. 1 Top Bar not in use.

-- What's Blooming: Red Maples

-- Mentor Report: Ray reports we had 26 Mentors last Sat with Q&A.

-- Membership Coor: Susan Repots thank you to all paid members. ALSO: a Sympathy card is being passed for the family of Yvonne Bbrunswick and their donation of her beekeeping supplies to the CCBA and the 4-H Club.

7:40 Dave delivered the 2026 Budget Review. See Website for breakdown:

--2025 Budget Income \$25,044, Budget was \$22,090. Expenses \$25,198 with deficit \$84.76

--2026 Budget set \$24,220.

7:53 Dave was our speaker tonight and he spoke on getting the Pros and Cons of NUCs and Packages.

--A NUC is a Nuclear Hive with a working Queen and worker bees. They sell for approx. \$175-225 and range from 4-5 frames. Hives and More is taking orders for their NUCS now. Dave recommends that you also get a NUC Castle at the same time because they build up very quickly and will need a hive or a castle to expand. Advantages: it is a functioning colony, they do not need time to establish, can produce honey the first year, it is a great beginning for a Beekeeper. Disadvantages: They can come with some SHB or Mites, possibly an older queen and old frames. Ask the seller about treatments for SHB and Mites.

--A Package is a 3# box of honeybees with a mated Queen added on the day they are picked up. To install a pkg watch the video from UF Jamie Ellis U-Tube or in our Library. There will be a Demo in our Apiary this Spring when we get our Pkgs. Advantages: Price is less (\$90-\$140) with 10,000 bees. Queenless packages are cheaper still \$20-30. Most packages are Italian Bees. Disadvantages: The producer needs 6-8 months to get the bees; packages will need a lot of attention and feeding initially. Again, Dave recommends 2 packages or NUCS to start your Apiary.

8:15 OLD Business: No Old Business

8:17 NEW Business:

--Ex Officers remain the same.

--Winners of the UF Bee College tonight: Christine Nicolodi and Patti Blaylock

-- FEB 28 is the next Beginner Bee Class; Winner is Polly Durning.

8:27 Raffle

8:45 Adjourned; Mentors available for questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Gianino

Secretary