



CCBA Meeting Minutes OCT 8, 2018

*. Numbers of Executive Steering Committee: Dave Sieruta **PRES** : 904-282-2193, Dorie Kline **V-Pres**: 904-616-2723, Sue Gianino **SEC**: 904-276-5921, Ray Vickerman **TREAS & MENTOR Trainer/Coordinator**: 904-284-5317, Luke Harlow **AG Rep**: 904-284-6355. Ralph White: **4H & Face Book Organizer: Clay County Beekeepers Association and 4- H Club**, 904-514-9927 and, Frank Gianino, **WEB Organizer**: <http://claybees.com>, 904-276-5921. Dave Sieruta: **Education/Speakers** Phone 904-282-2193

DATES to KNOW: 2019 DUES ARE DUE NOW

- Oct 12-13 UF Bee College UF Gainesville at New Bee Lab
- Oct 20-21 Orange Park Fall Festival, volunteers welcome
- Nov 4 Orange Park Farmers Mkt, volunteers welcome

Old Business:

- Our CCBA Association Caps are \$15 see Ray. Our logo on your Polo shirt \$10, T-shirts with logo S-XL \$10 / 1X-3X \$12 sign list. See Sue for Shirts.
- Mentor List is available: members requesting a Mentor, call Ray Vickerman 904-284-5317 or Dave Sieruta 904-282-2193.
- **Fran Fowler is collecting Pop tops from cans to go to K9 Vets program.
- 7:10 PM Meeting Opened by Dave Sieruta. Vice Pres, Treasurer, 4H and Ag Center absent tonight. Welcomed new members, new 4H members & visitors.
- We had 30 people at the Beginner Bee Class and 3 signed as new members. There were very good comments from the meeting and the Apiary visit.
- 7:15 Secretary Minutes were sent out and read with no corrections and accepted.
- Executive Secretary Report from Ex Committee: summarized by Dave. Jean noted Membership Coordinator will be new position but needs job description.

-Dave also noted that the EX Com met to look at our ability to become a Non-Profit Organization. To do this we had to rewrite our Constitution and Bylaws to accommodate the rules. **NOTED**: As a Nonprofit grp we cannot lobby for any organization; we also need a non-member to act as contact and who knows the Ex Committee mbrs. Dori designed an Association email address so the EX Com can receive and answer any questions versus using our personal email address: ClayCountyBees@gmail.com

-Fran Fowler brought in 8 Queen Excluders for sale: bought by John Boeckstieck and Randy Mc Millon, money went to her bee club.

7:23 Cameron Jack, our Guest Speaker was introduced. He commended our Association saying that our grants have done more for his research than any other club.

Cameron just got selected as an Associate Professor with UF. He is the Apiculture Lecturer with 130 students and he is the Distance Education Lecturer. A side note that Honeybees are now at the Bee Lab in Gainesville. His goal is to create a Beekeeper Certificates for 1. Practical Beekeeping and 2. Advanced Beekeeping topics; Commercial Beekeeping and Beekeeping as a Business around the world and in the Caribbean. His goal is to get this on line soon. He started in beekeeping with his Grandfather who also holds a PhD in Beekeeping.

His research is on Oxalic Acid: The Varrora (Destructor) Mite is considered to be the worst pest currently in the beekeeping world. In the US over 30 years ago it was thought that the Mite preyed on the blood of the honeybee. Now it is thought they feed on the fat of the larva. Research may change to examine this issue. The Female Varrora Mite (called the Foundress) enters the hive and lays 1 male and the rest of her eggs being female. The male mates with all the females, the eggs hatch in 15 days for each cycle. They can pass viruses onto the bees if not treated. The treatment must be used before the bees have been capped to contact the mites. The chemical treatments works on the mites but not the viruses, manual controls (sugar, Brood Interruption and medications) and Hygienic bees all work but the best method may be multiple approaches, during the year to avoid the mites becoming desensitized. Beekeepers began using the same chemical treatments and the Bees build up a resistance to all the methods. Oxalic Acid has been used in Europe at a much larger dose than is legally

used in the US. It is a natural plant derivative but the directions must be followed completely or it can be lethal to man and bees. A protective mask and gloves must be used. So far there have been no reports of mite resistance. It can be used as a vapor or with the trickle method. The Chemical structure is similar to Borax the thinking is it dries out the mite. Our legal limit is 1GM per Brood Chamber. Europe uses the Brood Interruption methods by caging the queen and preventing her laying eggs for a period of time there by breaking the mite cycle with medication applied having a greater effect. The US found that caging the queen was too harsh on the hive.

Dr Jack's study of Amitraz treatments used 10 hives per sample and they found that all colonies survived with it. They found that there was not much change from the control colony for Mite reduction. With Oxalic Acid, the plan is to increase the dose of Oxalic Acid up to the doses used in Europe to find the ideal dose for best mite destruction. They treated all of the Colonies 1X/week for 3 weeks. All Colonies survived with the Control hive having 7.5 Mites/100 vs 3/100 in the treated Colonies. 2GMs /Colony averaged 3.5 Mites/100 and 4 GMs per Colony averaged 2.5 Mites/100. The Brood decreased tremendously and it was thought that the study was done in the Fall and the colony would naturally be reduced so the loss may not be accurate. Honey production generally stayed consistent. The study did decide that at 1GM Oxalic Acid is ineffective and needs to be increased. With further study they will contact the EPA to possibly set new standards for dosing.

Questions: The 1GM dribble method seems to work fairly well but the time to dose many hives is detrimental. Dave asked if they had tried our Beetle Grease and the answer was not yet. He suggested we could help the research by studying that with our Apiary and giving him our results. Starting with an accurate Mite count, apply the Beetle Grease and recount in another month. We can test here and we can also test in another locations. If you want to contact Professor Cameron: cjack@ufl.edu.

8:20 Presidents Report: Continue to feed your bees even with this nectar flow and keep checking for Mites and Hive Beetles.

--The Beginner Bee Class had 30 students with 3 new members.

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--Dave checked with the other N. FL Bee Organizations and they all want to have a general gathering the 3rd Sat in Feb. speakers are forthcoming and we will plan for 75 to 100 Bee Club Members joining us as the Host location.

--Treasurer report \$733329 given by Dave for Ray was accepted. We spent \$100 towards the Beginner Bee lunch and \$83.90 for Speakers.

- Apiary Report: 4 strong hives and 2 strong NUCS, after treatment with beetle grease.

- UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Vice-Pres is still working with our Nonprofit paperwork.

A Membership Coordinator's job description: will collect annual dues and keep the roster. Secretary will add it to the Bylaws and reprint the Bylaws.

--December is our Semi-annual Dinner and Dave is asking for 2 members to decorate and set up for the event. The Association will buy the meat and as usual the membership will bring a dish. It is also our election of officers, please submit any names for the ballot: Pres, VP, Treas, Sec, Membership Coordinator and Web Master.

--There is a sheet being passed if you wish to order any T-shirts.

--A Note: Ray Zerba, a member for at least 15 yrs, left our Assoc to be with his Daughter and new Grand-daughter in NY. Secretary sent his Certificate of Appreciation.

--The 4-H Club sent thank you cards to the Assoc for donating the honey for their sale.

--Secretary is asking for anyone giving talks or setting up booths at fairs etc to let us know what you are doing and include pictures to help us get credit. Also if you need any of the pamphlets, booklets etc to enhance your talk pls let us know.

8:30 If you cannot use your ticket for the Bee College Sue Welsh would like it. The Raffle took in \$88 tonight, thank you Hattice for collecting the \$94 T-shirt money.

8:50 Motion to adjourn was seconded and carried.

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