

BEEKEEPERS GUILD OF THE EASTERN SHORE - BGES

MINUTES OCTOBER 14TH 2023

Meeting was held in the home of Chris Kutyla followed by a visit to his bee yard.

Meeting was called to order at 10:20 am by Vice President Chris Kutyla. There were 16 members in attendance.

List of officers

Tara Southard - President

Chris Kutyla - Vice President

Tia Bell - Secretary

Sandra Scher - Treasure

Art Vancil - Social Media

George Brown – Webmaster

*New – Mentorship Program Managers – Suzane Omrod and David Schmidt

Vice President Chris opened up the meeting with the following:

- Please grab a plate of food and something to drink
- We went around the room and did some introductions and asked about hives
- Chris presented a power point on a wide varitey of topics (attached)
 - Suzanne and David shared their story about getting bees from Chesapeake and how they producer told them to “treat for mites” when it was 80 deg. Outside and their hive began to fail. They did both OAV and Mitey Vap w/ 2 hives
 - Niall talked about his hives from Mike Ledoux and they have VSH queen and exploded
 - Art’s experience was trying to be a hands off beekeeper but he quickly learned he needed to be more involved and active. He drove up to Mann Lake to get his NUC’s.
- Suzanne, David and Niall will be attened the Williamsburg Bee Conference and the club agreed to pay the enterance fees.
- Ag Fair on Oct 7th will be attended by Niall, Ann, Sandy, Sandra and Kevin Willis. Huge Success! Lots of interest and the kids loved the observation hive
- Chris presented a power point on winterizing your hives
- T-Shirt order was a huge success and we still have 4 for sale, sold 2 more. Two remains.
- Off to the bee yard, We looked Chris’s 5 hives with the state of readiness for the winter. Chris shared the way to use top feeders. Chris spoke about the importance of the local to the hives thermometer and mountain mint was give out to take home. Then the rain started.

Beekeeping class is Nov. 4th and 11th at the Naomi Makemie Presbyterian Church Onancock

Our beekeeping class is upcoming and acts as our Nov. meeting. All hands are needed to make this a success! The more members that come and show our support, the better the class will be. It allows time for us to chat about bees/hives/getting involved etc. Please try to attend the class even if just for an hour or so. Books have been ordered and Tia is working on the class folders.

Nov 4th – Set up starts between 7:45am and 8:00am to move table and chairs, set up food and drinks – **Teresa McCready, Sandra Scher, Art, Niall and Tia** will arrive early to get the coffee going and bring breakfast snacks. Tia will be in touch with each of you to make plans for food/drinks.

Nov 11th - Set up starts between 7:45am and 8:00am to move table and chairs, set up food and drinks – **Teresa McCready, Sandra Scher, Niall, Art and Betinna** will arrive early to get the coffee going and bring breakfast snacks. Teresa will be in touch with each of you to make plans for food/drinks.

Nov 4th – Betinna is unavailable

Nov. 11th – Tia, Michele Birch and George are unavailable

TREASURES REPORT: by Tara: Current balance held in the bank account is: \$1823.95 – paid out for books, use of the Church

Upcoming plans for 2023 and 2024:

- Dec - No meeting – Merry Christmas
- Saturday November 4 & 11 @ 8:30 - 1:30 - Beekeeping Class
Location - Naomi Makemie Presbyterian Church Onancock
Sandra will order the books and Tia will make up the folders, Chris will be the lead on Nov 4 and Tara will be the lead on Nov 11.
- Saturday January 13th @ 10am - Location: Tasley Firehouse & ZOOM. Sandra has secured our speaker to be Jane McKinley w/ Master Gardeners.
- Saturday February 17th @ 10am – Speaker
- Location - Barrier Island Center & ZOOM, Chris will work on speaker
- Saturday March 9th @ 10am - General Meeting - how are your bees?? Preparing for Spring Swarm Season! Location - Tasley Firehouse & ZOOM
- April - Open Hive Day
- May - Nothing Yet

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50

Sandra sent email to the Treasure of VSBA to get a little more current info in regards to becoming a member with them. Clarify annual dues; what specific info they may need to send (email/phone/member of BGES, etc); and finally where to send the check and info (assuming at the Bluebird Lane address).

For now:

If you want to be a member of the VA State Beekeepers Association, please send a \$10 check to:

VSBA
201 Bluebird Lane
Charlotte Court House, VA 23923