

The Shore Swarm

The Newsletter of the Beekeepers Guild of the Eastern Shore

Volume 5, Number 2

www.bgesva.org

March, 2014

From our president:

With the snow, the cold, the rain, and the winter blues, February could have been a slow month for beekeepers on the ES. However, because our club was abuzz with organizing and teaching our sixth beginning beekeeper's class, all who participated had no time for having a case of the blues.

As I was listening to all the presentations, I thought 'WOW!' our club has so many really knowledgeable and proficient beekeepers who are now willing to teach a new group of folks how to have fun with a great hobby. We are blessed to have so many good folks in our club.

I told the people in my workplace about how our bee classes were going and one lady told me our members should be proud of the service we provide to the ES. In a much larger sense, we provide service to Virginia and the world because of the importance of honey bees pollinating about 33% of our human food. Also, the bees pollinate numerous wild seeds, berries and fruits for the wild birds and other animals to subsist on.

I believe all of us can stand up proudly for what each has individually accomplished and for what the club has done collectively.

Three cheers for what we have done to date and there is much more to come in future seasons. I thank everyone for the effort each contributed. I hope to see everyone on March 4 at the BIC for our second Intermediate Level Class. Be there!

March Meeting Change

Tuesday, March 4th, 6:30 pm

Barrier Island Center, Machipongo

In newly restored outbuilding

behind the main building

We became aware that it has been too long since the Southerners in our club have had a meeting nearby. In addition, our guest speaker is coming from across the bay, and this location shortens his after-work travel time by an hour. We are very sorry if this change will make attendance difficult for anyone! We are always striving to make our meetings as accessible for the greatest number of members as possible.

That said, we are very happy to announce that Bill Gregory will be our guest speaker for our March meeting. Bill has come once before and presented a fascinating program on "Bee Biology" (June, 2012). He'll be covering that subject again lightly, but has been doing a lot of research on the subject of "Pheromones," so we can look forward to learning all about these magical bee chemicals that hold the hive together.

New Beekeepers among us!

Mary Walker, our guild's educational director, planned and oversaw this year's Beginning Beekeeping class, which met on 2 consecutive Saturdays in February and was attended by 25 people coming from Virginia Beach, the Eastern Shore, and that other "Eastern Shore" up in Maryland! We are very happy to welcome each of our new members and hope that a new adventure is beginning for each of you, one that will bring you much happiness.

Mary's work began many months ago with planning publicity, refreshments, scheduling, and coaxing many of our shy members to become public speakers. As Paul says, our relatively small guild has some big talent, some essential competence and some generous givers!

At risk of overlooking someone, I will try to list those who were so helpful:

Chris and Linda Goldstine – registration
John Long – very wonderful lobby display
Dawn Goldstine – introduction to bees
Chris Merritt – first year experience
Bob Good – A-V expertise, splits
Dave & Walker Fluhart – equipment
Donna Fauber – nucs
W.T. Wilkins – extractions and bee vacuums
David Boyd – beeswax
Russell Vreeland – mentoring, bee pests
W.T. Nottingham – bees and agriculture
Paul Kist – hive managing
Bob and Janet Messenger - mentoring
John Chubb – state grants, refreshments, M.C.
Carol Zuccarino – refreshments
Charlotte Fitchett – refreshments
Janis Wingfield - refreshments
The Eastern Shore News, the Eastern Shore Public Library, the Eastern Shore Post, the Chamber of Commerce, and WESR.

To our new members, the Saturday classes were only the beginning! You are considered members of the Beekeepers Guild through

June, and we hope you will continue to learn about bees by attending our meetings and visiting hives with experienced beekeepers. You'll be receiving our newsletter for the next few months. We hope that you'll find the help you might need among our members, many of whom are very capable mentors! For those just beginning to learn about beekeeping, bees can seem very overwhelming at first, and classes definitely can overload our minds. But luckily, the bees are well equipped to take care of themselves while we learn their ways.

We were so pleased by the interest and the experiences and the thoughtful questions of the class members, and look forward to the future with them as part of the guild!

Don't forget, your third class session is still ahead! Mid April should bring the right weather conditions for our "Open Hive Day."

Mary has prepared a flyer which is part of this newsletter, with directions to both the Accomack and Northampton sites. Everyone, both old and new, is welcome and encouraged to come. Don't forget your protective garb, and use this opportunity to get close to the hives and learn how to interpret what you see inside the mysterious hives.

Many thanks to Marinos Kalmoutis, W. T. Wilkins, and Russell Vreeland, for offering their apiaries for this experience.

From Dave Fluhart:

Bill Hoffken is a bee keeper near Atlantic off Nocks Landing Road. He says he has two metal hive stands for sale @ \$25 each. The stands are made with 1-inch metal tubing and will hold 6 to 8 hives. His number is 757-824-0224 if anyone is interested.

OPEN HIVE Inspection- BASIC BEEKEEPING CLASS OF 2014

The purpose of Open Hive Day is to provide an opportunity for class members to see experienced beekeepers look into the hive and examine the frames for activity and health. Participants will need to cover up as much as possible if they plan to get close to the hive.

The weather must be warm and dry enough for the bees to be flying- 60 degrees or better.

Saturday, April 12, 1:00 pm

(Rain, cool date-Sunday, April 13. A second rain date would have to be two weeks later on the 26th.)

Northampton County near Eastville: WT Wilkins at his farm, Yeardley. The 911 address is 14184 Yeardley Rd. Enter north entrance to Eastville, take first right (Old Town Neck Rd) for 1.4 mi, then right on Yeardley Rd. to its end. (If you go to the high school, you've gone too far- go back to find Old Town Neck Road.)

Accomack County near Gargatha- Marinos Kalmoutis' home- 911 address is 27276 Berry Road (Bloxom) From south look for the Gargatha General Store on the right hand side of of US 13 and Berry Road is on left on US 13 . Go past houses and look for horse fences.

TBA-- A back-up Hive inspection will be conducted by Russell Vreeland at his home in Craddockville later in April for any who could not make it to the first events. His 911 address is 10460 Teakle Road, Belle Haven, (but GPS will say Painter).

From John Chubb

New beekeepers may place their "shipping free" first order with Dadant, Brushy Mountain or Mann Lake (\$100 minimum).

Dadant has let us know that their package bees will be available for pick-up in Danville on April 28th, or in Appomattox on April 29th, if anyone wishes to order any. The price is \$92.00/package, or \$89.00/package for orders of 10 or more.

Also, Andy Westrich will have queens for sale around May 1st. The price will be \$25.00 each, see contact info below. President Paul Kist may have queens as well; see him at the meeting.

New Beekeeper First Supplies -Suggested List (Two Hives)

Before you begin, there are three important decisions to make:

- Do you want 8 or 10-frame hives
- Do you want hive parts pre-assembled or unassembled
- Do you want plastic or wood foundation frames

Quantity	Unit	Item Number	Description	Price Each	Total Price
2	Ea.		Deep hive body (9 5/8")		
4	Ea.		Medium hive body (6 5/8")		
16or20	Ea.		9 1/8" deep frames ^		
32or40	Ea.		6 1/4" medium frames ^		
16or20*	Ea.		Wax foundations for 9 1/8" frames ^		
32or40*	Ea.		Wax foundation for 6 1/4: frames ^		
1/2	lb.		7D smooth galv. nails		
1/2	lb.		1 1/4 " nails		
1/4	lb.		5/8 " nails or brads		
1	4 oz.+		Wood glue		
2	Ea.		Telescoping top		
2	Ea.		Ventilated (screened) inner cover		
2	Ea.		IPM (screened) bottom board		
2	Ea.		Metal or plastic queen excluder		
2	Ea.		Entrance reducer and mouse guard		
1	Ea.		Smoker		
1 or 2	Ea.		Hive tool		
1	Pr.		Beekeeper's gloves		

1	Ea		Veil or veil & jacket or suit @		
2	Ea.		Entrance feeder		
4	Ea.		Hive beetle traps		

Notes: * Not required if using plastic frames and foundations coated with wax

^ Decide on plastic or wooden frames. If wooden, match type of frame (wedge or grooved top; divided or grooved bottom bar) with type of foundation. Wedge top and divided bottom bar is normal with crimp wire wax foundation. Numbers depend on 8 or 10-frame hives.

@ A Tyvek coverall is suitable with a proper veil, but they are hot in summer.

Sources:

www.brushymountainbeefarm.com

www.dadant.com

www.mannlakeltd.com

[Andy Westrich, Hampton, jandy618@juno.com, 757-513-2467](mailto:jandy618@juno.com)

Community College on Saturday, February 22nd.
Russell Vreeland presented a talk on Beekeeping for this festival, as well. Thanks, John and Russell!



Hope to see everyone
On Tuesday, March 4th
6:30 pm
Barrier Island Center, Machipongo
for our regular meeting
with Bill Gregory, guest speaker.

John Long is our expert at promoting beekeeping through displays. This picture shows the lobby of the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce in Melfa during the entire month. Many people who came to buy E-Z passes enjoyed the display.

John also created the exhibit on display at the Heritage Festival at the Eastern Shore