

BGES

Minutes from March Meeting
March 11, 2014\Barrier Island Center, Machipongo

The meeting was postponed from March 4 due to inclement weather.

Called to order by President Kist at 6:30 PM

Laura from the Barrier Island Center gave a quick overview of the newly renovated Alms House where the meeting was held. It is a wonderful facility.

All BGES officers were present. A total of 32 people participated.

President Kist introduced our guest speaker, Bill Gregory, who gave an in-depth and most interesting account of bee anatomy and the kinds and role pheromones play in the life of the hive. He recommended visiting several web sites for additional information : <http://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/special-programs/beekeeping/about-honey-bees.aspx> ; <http://www.honeybee.drawwing.org> and <http://www.keeping-honey-bees.com/honey-bee-pheromones.html> During his presentation on pheromones (a chemical signal that is excreted that produces a response in another animal of the same species), he discussed two types:

Primer: Produces long term responses

Releaser: Produces instant but often short term response

Pheromones can be passed from bee to bee or through the air

Some of the main pheromones include “Alarm”, “Queen Retinue” and “Nasonov” (orienting bees to home). Others include: “Egg Marking” “Drone Pheromone” (attracting other drones to where they congregate), “Brood Recognition” (generated by larvae), “Footprint” (marks area frequented by bees of this hive).

Bill’s presentation was abundantly illustrated. See the cited web sites for additional information. His PowerPoint slide show will be distributed with these minutes.

Following the presentation, other items included:

- BGES recognized John Long’s wonderful displays at the Chamber and at the Harvest Festival
- The need to finalize our “Swarm List” being managed by Russell Vreeland. If you are interested in helping catch swarms or remove honeybees from structures, let Russell know ASAP at 442-7029 or rsvreeland@gmail.com

- Once you have hives, let John Chubb (BGES Secretary, jchubb@verizon.net) know their location in lat/long format. He will provide detailed instructions soon. This helps the aerial sprayers of insecticides know where our hives are.
- New members were reminded that our “Open Hive Day” is scheduled for 1 PM on April 12 (one location in each county). Directions to follow.
- The Treasurer, David Fluhart, reported a BGES balance of \$875.75
- Donna Fauber discussed organizing both the supply of and need for nucs this spring/summer. She agreed to be a clearinghouse to match needs with suppliers. She passed around a sign-up list for both. Anyone wishing to provide or who is in need of nucs who did not sign up at the meeting should let Donna know (dfauber@verizon.net). Prices were discussed but not set. Nucs usually run about \$100 each.
- - New members were advised that the big supply houses have our list of new members and that they should be ordering their initial supplies (with free shipping) soon.
- The next regular BGES meeting will be Saturday, April 5th at 10:00 AM at the Chamber of Commerce, Rt13, Melfa. That’s a week before open hive day.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM