

BGES



Minutes from May Meeting
May 6, 2014\Barrier Island Center, Machipongo

Called to order by Mary Walker at 6:39 PM

President Kist, Treasurer Fluhart, Secretary Chubb and Education Director Walker were present. A total of 26 people participated.

Russell Vreeland discussed a new effort to study what keeps hives healthy. It may be that micro-organisms that ferment pollen play a roll. He is establishing an observation hive at the VT Experimental Station near Painter. He is seeking volunteers to monitor the hive and collect data. If interested, contact him at rsvreeland@gmail.com. Once established, perhaps BGES can meet at the Station and visit the hive, probably not before fall.

President Kist introduced Dave Kvello, our featured speaker, who gave a most enlightening talk on swarms and how to prevent them. Some of his points:

- Hives prepare to swarm well in advance of the event
- Close monitoring in the spring can alert the beekeeper
- When hives begin to reduce brood and backfill cells with honey, it is a sign they are preparing to swarm
- There must be sufficient nectar flow to support a swarm event
- Pollen is usually in sufficient supply
- Drones must be present or drone cells in evidence
- Queen cells are sure signs of intent. Usually there are more than one so as to have “backup” queens available
- Queens usually stops laying and reduce their weight before flight
- If the hive is building new (white) comb, it is probably NOT planning to swarm soon
- Scout bees usually begin searching for a new home before the swarm appears

How to “manage” swarm intentions:

- As the hive becomes crowded, add some space at the top (another box with frames)
- Remove some honey frames and replace with empties
- Reverse some hive bodies that disrupt hive activity for a few days (not recommended)
- Split the hive by removing frames with brood, honey, pollen and bees to another hive box
- Split the hive by removing the queen and honey, pollen, some brood and bees to another hive box (at some distance away)

The best time to do “splits” is in June after the main nectar flow; then feed the new “hive”.

BGES intends to post Dave’s presentation on our website.

A plan for dividing a standard hive body into smaller sections (mini nucs) was presented by W.T. Nottingham and is attached.

Treasurer Fluhart reported the Guild has a balance of \$815.75

Secretary Chubb reported the results of the Nominating Committee’s work to prepare a slate for the next fiscal year, beginning July 1st. The nominations were:

- President Emeritus: Paul Kist
- President: John Chubb
- Vice President: John Long (Special Events chair)
- Treasurer: Chris Merritt
- Asst. to the Treasurer for Northampton County: Donna Fauber

Formal nominations and voting will take place at the June meeting. Other nominations from the floor will also be entertained.

Bettina Dembeck who lives in Chincoteague needs a queen to re-queen her hive. If you have one to sell or give, or a queen cell, contact her at 202-543-7676.

If you have recently established or moved your hives and not provided their location to our data base, used by the aerial sprayers, then do so. We need Latitude/Longitude coordinates that you can get from any GPS device or from www.GoogleEarth.com. Send to jechubb@verizon.net from now through June.

On June 21, the Cape Charles National Wildlife Refuge, by the CBBT, is holding a special “Pollinators Day”; Russell Vreeland will be presenting and all members are welcome. It runs from 10 AM until 2 PM. Also, the new Pollinator License Plate

design has been approved. Plates will be available later this year. You will be able to order one through DMV.



Plate design as of March, 2014. Design is subject to slight changes and DMV approval.

BGES membership year ends with June. Please renew your membership by June 30. Send payments (\$20/first family member, \$10/additional family member, children 12 and under are free). As a BGES member you are entitled to a reduced membership in the Virginia State Beekeepers Association (VSBA); to join VSBA, also include an additional \$10. It may be combined into one check payable to BGES. Send renewal materials to: Mr. Chris Merritt, 4960 Back Shelltown Rd., Marion Station, MD 21838 or bring it to the June meeting.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, June 7th, at 10:00 AM at the Chamber Office near Melfa. We plan to have the Virginia State Apiarist, Keith Tignor, as featured speaker. You don't want to miss this special event.

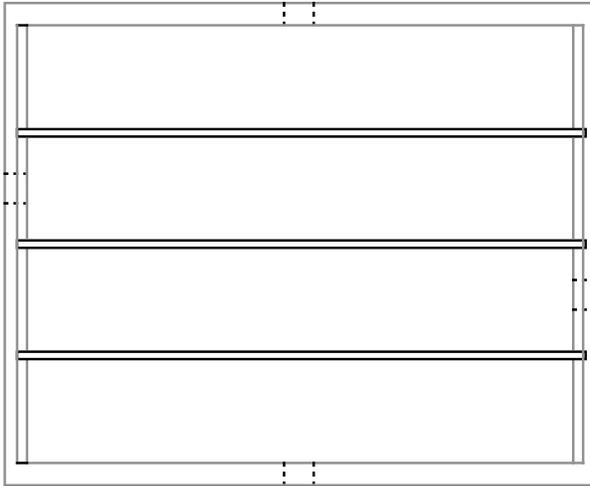
Meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.

scale - 1" = 6"

Hive Body Mating Nuc

Note: standard hive body with modifications shown

Drawn by Gary S. Reuter
University of Minnesota
Dept. of Entomology
12-27-01

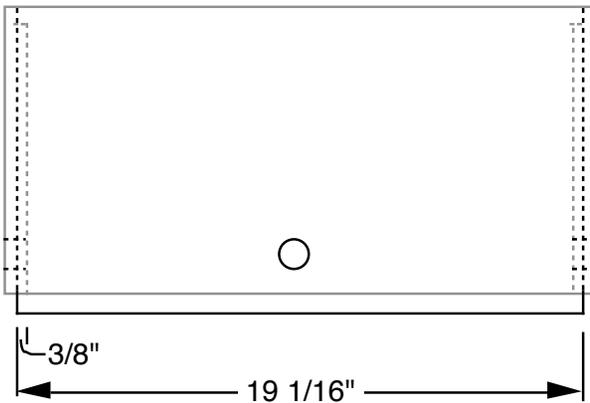


Dividers are 1/4" plywood or masonite.

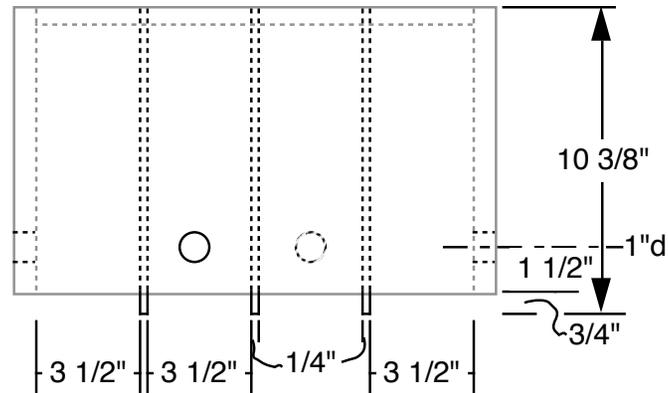
Four inners cover should be made of plastic window shade, 1/8" plywood or masonite, canvas or unbleached muslin etc. One must be able to open only one section at a time.

Material List

plywood or hardboard
1 - 1/4 x 9-1/16 x 10-3/8
standard deep hive body



The bottom board entrance should be sealed with a solid entrance reducer or entrance reducer wrapped in tin foil.



Be sure the dividers go all the way to the bottom board .