

BGES



Minutes from June Meeting June 7, 2014\Chamber of Commerce, Melfa

Called to order by President Kist at 10:02 AM

President Kist, Treasurer Fluhart, Secretary Chubb, Education Director Walker and Editor Snyder were present. A total of 30 people participated.

President Kist introduced our special presenter, Keith Tignor, State Apiarist, VDACS, who gave an excellent talk, complete with slides, about the history of beekeeping in Virginia, its value to society, and how to deal with some common pests. He pointed out that shortly after Jamestown was settled, in 1622 Europeans imported the first bees; this variety of bees spread throughout North America. Colonists also used the practice of “tinning” to alert neighbors they were following a bee swarm they intended to capture. Beekeeping remained mostly unchanged until 1851 when Langstroth invented removable frames, followed in 1857 by the introduction of comb foundation. Thereafter, the extractor was introduced in 1865 and the smoker in 1875. Since 1900 only incremental improvements have been made, mostly with standardized sizes, breeding techniques, and transportation of hives. Most bees kept today are used primarily for pollination, with honey and wax as spin offs. Today Virginia hosts 40 beekeeper groups like BGES. Average annual hive losses run about 30%, with survival driven mostly by rainfall during honey flow periods (good rain brings abundant food). He also recommend the use of “Scotch Bright” cleaning sheets placed in hives to help trap hive beetles (not Chlorox wipes). Mr. Tignor remained for the rest of the meeting answering individual question during breaks. BGES presented him with a basket of Eastern Shore goodies as a thank you.

Business session:

- **Dues are due on July 1** for the next fiscal year. BGES dues are \$20 for the first family member and \$10 for any additional members who want to belong. Dues for the Virginia State Beekeepers Association (VSBA) are also due on July 1st. They are \$10. **Payments can be combined** when submitted to our Treasurer who will forward the VSBA funds. **Attached is a form** that should be submitted with your payment (made to BGES) and where to send it. Please provide your most current contact info (mail, phone and email addresses).
- There will be **no BGES meeting in July**. Our newsletter, The Shore Swarm, will be published; look for updated info then.
- Our **next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 5th** at the Barrier Island Center at 6:30 PM. Mark your calendar.
- In September BGES will gather at Mary Walker's home on Saturday, **September 6th for demonstrations and a picnic**. You don't want to miss this!
- BGES may have an exhibit at the Agriculture on the Shore festivities at Ker Place in Onancock in Mid-August. Watch for the July Swarm for details.
- Now that the Virginia Pollinator license plates have been authorized, they should be available from DMV beginning about November.
- BGES renewed its membership with the Chamber. We also sold at least a dozen raffle tickets for a fund raiser by the Chamber. BGES members are eligible to attend the CoC Annual Dinner on June 24th. If interested, contact the Chamber (757-787-2460).
- Mary Walker presented the slate of officers for the next year. No additional nominations were made and the following were elected by acclamation:
 - President Emeritus: Paul Kist
 - President: John Chubb
 - Secretary: Carol Zuccarino
 - Treasurer: Chris Merritt
 - Director of Education*: Mary Walker
 - Newsletter Editor/Program Coordinator*: Ann Snyder

*Appointed by the President

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 12:01 PM.