

Minutes
BGES Monthly Meeting
August 6, 2013

Place: Barrier Island Center, Machipongo

Called to order by President Paul Kist at 6:48 PM

All the Board of Directors were in attendance. A total of 21 persons attended. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$975.73 prior to any dues collected at the meeting or immediate expenses. Membership for the “new” year, beginning July 1st, stands at 32. **If you have been a member but not yet renewed, contact David Fluhart (Box 98, Quinby, 23423); dues are \$20 for BGES and \$10 for the state association if desired.**

The program began with a presentation by Dave Kvello on preparing bees for winter. He said that varroa mite population must be reduced to have the bees transition from their short-lived summer form to their longer-lived winter form. Traditional dusting of hives with powdered sugar (1 cup per deep hive box) is only partially effective. As mites lay more eggs in capped drone cells, using his “reverse split” method makes more mites available for removal by dusting. A more detailed description may soon be provided by Dave but in summary:

- Move the queen, 2 or 3 full frames and some nurse bees to another small hive box or nuc
- In the old hive the bees will begin to make a new queen.
- Between day 21 and day 29 there will be nowhere for the mites to hide in the old hive, so dust two or three times over the next two weeks
- This approach is NOT recommended for newly established hives (like the package bees of this summer) as the mite population probably has not grown large yet

There was a short discussion on feeding bees in the hot summer: DO IT (1:1 mixture). Preferred methods include general feeder (shallow container with pine needles and 1:1 mixture outside where all bees can feed) or inside top feeders.

Several members have suffered wax moth problems. Probably a topic for a future meeting. Key points for now:

- Keep the hive full of healthy bees (too much empty space invites moths)

- Be sure to have screened top and bottom ventilation
- Prepare moth traps to hang nearby but not too close to the hive

Onancock Farmers Market wants some vendors to sell local honey. On August 17 there will be a booth about beekeeping and with some honey for sale. Any member who wants to sell may use the booth. Be sure to label the containers properly. Contact Ann Snyder (442-4118) if you have questions. The going price for raw honey is at least \$8-10/lb.

Also on August 17 the Norfolk Botanical Gardens is hosting the 2013 Honeybee Festival (10AM-4PM). This is a big event with vendors and honeybee information galore.

Members are encouraged to visit our website (www.bgesva.org) to keep up-to-date and to use as an info source when asked about beekeeping or who can handle swarms or infestations, etc. Newsletters and minutes are also available there.

Our next scheduled meetings are:

- September 7 (BGES picnic at David Fluhart's; 2-4PM, BBQ, coleslaw, drinks provided, bring a side dish/dessert) Driving directions soon to follow by separate email.
- Oct 1 (Tuesday): BIC 6:30 PM
- Nov 2 (Saturday): Chamber of Commerce, Melfa 10:30 AM
- Dec: No meeting

Tell your friends there will be a new beekeepers class in the late winter/early spring, dates TBD.

Meeting adjourned: 8:25 PM