

Minutes of BGES November 18, 2017 Chincoteague

We had a good turnout for the “first-time-ever” BGES meeting in Chincoteague. Our president, George Brown, welcomed 22 members last Saturday morning. We thank Uli Hollingsworth, Michele Birch, Theresa McCready and Bettina Dembeck for their work in organizing the venue and refreshments. Three “old time” members came and it was lovely to chat with them.

George Brown spoke briefly about our last meeting where we had Mel Disselkoen come to talk about on the Spot Queen Raising. George has purchased two of the books Mel recommended and they are: A Year’s Work in an Out Apiary by GM Doolittle and 50 Years Among the Bees by CC Miller.

Carol Zuccarino gave a summary of the Minutes from the September 5 meeting where Russel Freeland related his experience at the EAS in Newark, Delaware in August. We were reminded that here at the Hampton Roads Convention Center on Aug. 13-17 the yearly meeting is scheduled. We will continue to bring up-dates as we meet in the New Year.

Philip Harris gave a Treasurer summary stating that we have \$ 492.62 in the bank.

Then Tara Southard reported on the Fall Outreach activities: Ducks unlimited at Brownsville Nature Conservancy hosted a large crowd as did the Northampton Agricultural county Fair where Ann Snyder was present at an information booth. Ann also spoke about native plants with a slide show at a meeting of the DAR and was well received. Jim Crunk presided at Kiptopeake Wildlife Reserve twice, giving a presentation on Bees and on Pollinators. Our faithful BGES members are interested and generous in giving their time to teaching about apiculture.

Tara told us of the coming events: Heritage Festival is scheduled for the end of February at the ESCC where there is a large attendance and we have an opportunity to advertise for our Beginners Class.

Leilani Russell told us of an Outreach for the Literacy council giving 1 hour once a month just outside Parksley. Please send her an email if you are interested.

Bettina has been offered a spot during the Farmers Market for a short presentation in 2018.

Mary Walker then listed the Presenters and Programs for the months of January, February and March.

Leilani Russell passed along a Sign-Up Sheet for help with the Beginning Bee Class. How fortunate that many members added their names to help with this activity.

Then we had a go around where everyone had a few minutes to give their Hive Updates! Lots of interesting experiences; some stellar and some not encouraging. A lively exchange took place.

Our Speaker, WT Wilkins finally took the floor and told us about how he splits hives and makes queens. He reported success in catching 3 swarms, he made 31 nucs out of 8 hives and he told us that “all queens work differently”, one cannot predict their performance. The group listened attentively and then the question and answer session had everyone captivated. We learned from each other’s experiences and WT guided with his many years of practice.

Refreshments were enjoyed for the second time in the morning.

Adjournment at 1 pm.