

Minutes BGES April 1, 2017 Agricultural Station, Belle Haven

Ann Snyder, the BGES president, welcomed our 30 members, old and new, to the April meeting. Ann said that she had done an estimate of how many hives survived the winter among our beekeepers and roughly the average was 39%. This is considering many folks did not respond to the survey. Our calculated average is a little higher than the state average which is 32%.

Our guest speaker, Jessie Thuma was introduced by Donna Fauber as Jessie did her research project in Oyster at the VIMS center. As part of her senior year research project, Jessie studied native bees of the Eastern Shore and how they may be threatened by sea rise and climate change. She chose 5 sites in marshes, farm fields and old fields. At each site she placed each site put sweetly scented, pet safe propylene glycol traps. Allowing 5 weeks for the traps to collect insects, she totaled 60 bags of insects to categorize and study. All together she identified 6,233 bees. In the marshes she found 1,420, in the farm fields she gathered 2,532 and in the old fields there were 2,281. A note of interest was that *Bombus Pennsylvanicus*, an American Bumble bee, which is declining in numbers, showed up 47 times, which seems to suggest they are thriving on the Shore. The most abundant bee was a ground nesting bee found in the marsh. Parasites were found in 56% of the bees. That Pollinators were prevalent in currently farmed fields was a surprising result. We had a nice question and answer period and everyone agreed that this was an interesting and well-presented topic.

Thank you, Jessie.

Refreshments followed allowing a few minutes to chat and catch up. Our members always present us with a delicious array of goodies, from fresh fruit to baklava!

Resuming the Business portion of the meeting, Ann introduced a new member, Jim Crunk, from northern Virginia who is coming with his 40 hives to

Carol Zuccarino presented a brief summary of our February meeting, advising of a Bee Event on April 9 in Cheriton at The Local. Check out Cape Charles Happenings. She also gave a message from Licho reminding us he has queens for sale.

Phil Harris, treasurer told that we have \$ 1384 in our treasury.

Tara Southard, our Outreach Coordinator, asked for volunteers to help with presentations. On April 22 there is an activity at Wallops Island for Earth Day. Those members living near-by might contact Tara if you can help: [tarajoe@netzero.net](mailto:tarajoe@netzero.net)

Licho will host A Farm Day of Beekeeping on May 25. More on this at next meeting.

The National Wildlife Refuge at Kiptopeake always welcomes a BGES presentation anytime this summer between May and August, when they have many visitors.

On April 29 at the Lemon Tree in Cape Charles our Russell Vreeland will speak on Bees.

On June 16-17 is the State Beekeepers Meeting at Ferrum College, South of Roanoke. Our BGES will give a stipend to anyone who is interested in attending. Speak with Ann Snyder if you are interested.

Then from July 31 to August 4 at the University of Delaware the Eastern Apicultural Society is having a full powered event with top notch speakers and field trips. If anyone cares to attend, again there is a stipend available. Please speak with Ann Snyder.

We have a list of BGES who have volunteered to be mentors for our new Beekeepers. Carol will forward this list to the newbies. We thank everyone who volunteered generously with their time.

WT Wilkins will host the first Open Hive Day on April 8 at 10:00 AM at his home in Eastville. Other events will be announced as the weather improves. Russel has hives to split and Tara and George will also offer their expertise.

Then Dave Fluhart shared his antique treasure. While excavating an area in Chincoteague, he found a glass bottle from around 1920. O'Dell drinks owned by O'Dell F. Burch Company bottled a honey drink (not known what kind of a drink it was) and the bottle has a bee emblem on it.

Before we closed Ulli Hollingsworth relayed a case in Chincoteague where a beekeeper was stung and went to take Benadryl. He returned to help his wife close the hive and still didn't feel well. He went back to the house and luckily his wife followed, when he collapsed and she gave him CPR and called 911. All were reminded the need to have an epi pen available at all times around the hive, and a partner or phone nearby.

Our meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Zuccarino