

BEEKEEPERS GUILD OF THE EASTERN SHORE - BGES

MINUTES JUNE 29^H, 2024

Meeting was held at the home of George Brown for our annual picnic

Meeting was called to order at 12:15pm by President Tara Southard. There were 38 people in attendance and 2 members showed after the meeting was over.

List of officers

Tara Southard - President
Chris Kutyla - Vice President
Tia Bell - Secretary
Sandra Scher - Treasure
Art Vancil - Social Media
George Brown – Webmaster
Mentorship Program Managers – Suzane Omrod
and David Schmidt

List of officers – 2024-25 year

Niall Finnegan – President
Kevin Willis – Vice President
Tia Bell – Secretary
Sandra Scher – Treasurer
Art Vancil – Social Media
George Brown – Webmaster
Mentorship Program Managers – Suzanne Omrod
and David Schmidt

Tara opened the meeting with:

- WELCOME!! Please go around & state your name, position if any and hive
- Tara told her story about a hive and laying worker
- Tara turned it over to Chris, Chris thanked everyone for his role as the VP. Reminder how important our goal to help the new beekeepers to the club and to provide them a mentor and assistance. He stressed that when he spoke to the new beekeepers, they said that “having help” is most important.
- Tara asked if anyone had some cut honey comb to give to Ted from the Tasley FH who would like it to share with a friend, George said he had some to share.
- Camp Occohannock on the Bay. Niall spoke on this community outreach opportunity and his experience with his time at the camp. He has help from Nancy who is willing to go solo. We still need 3 dates covered, July 3/10/24.
- End of the year, please see Sandra Scher to pay your new yearly dues of \$30
- Bee Class will be in January 2025
- Reminder – Vote on the honey for the honey contest
- Plant and Stuff give away – one T-Shirt left for sale (Sold)
- Bill Bannon needs some help with his Orchid greenhouses
- Email Suzanne Omrod if you are willing to be a mentor or just help out and where you can help if a new beekeeper needs assistance. Somrods@gmail.com

- Paul Mulhy brought up the new Bike Trail. This would be a great opportunity for the club to start a pollinator area along the trail. If not, VDOT is just going to spray weedkiller therefore hurting the environment as well as the pollinators. The milkweed that is along the road is a huge food source for pollinators. We need to lobby Ron Wolfe. There is 62ft wide of area. We can plant Native plants, The CBBT has a 1 mile area, we can reach out to the Nature Conservancy, Master Naturalist. **Maria Kutyla stepped up and is will to take the lead on this.

- Reminder, the upcoming VA State Beekeepers Association hive give away is coming up. Make sure you apply for the program

Winners of the Honey contest

Congrats to first place – NIALL FINNEGAN!!

Second and Third place – Tie between TARA SOUTHARD & CHRIS KUTYLA

Update since the picnic:

- Camp Occohannock on the Bay. We have all dates covered now between Niall, Nancy and Ann W. – they no longer need anyone for July 3rd or the 17th, Ann W. will cover the 24th and Nancy will do the 10 and the 31st.
- REMINDER - Just a reminder to call/email me both if you need a mentor OR if you are available to mentor (by phone or in person). Make sure I know your location. A special thanks to our longtime beekeepers for providing such great guidance for all of us newbies! It is greatly appreciated...

Suzanne Omrod BGES Mentorship Committee 302-423-2468 somrods@gmail.com

- **Help with Bill Bannon** – both Nancy and new member Artemis Ezikovitch are willing to reach out and help. **Update: Arte and her sister went to Mr. Bannon's house and greenhouses. She said it's a 40 min drive, 2X a week which is more than she can handle. So once again, we are looking for someone to help out.

- **Bike Trail Pollinator idea** – Chris spoke with Rob Bloxom, they briefly discussed the bees. **Rob said he would come to one of our meetings. Chris is looking for feedback on this.**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 and the food consumption began. BIG THANK YOU to George Brown for setting up and allowing our club to continue to have our wonderful picnics at your home. Another BIG THANK YOU to those that planned the picnic (Tara, Sandy, Ann, Denise). And to ALL.. thank you for bringing all the yummy food!!

If you want to pay your dues via mail: Please use this link, print out the form (if you can) and mail check to Sandra Scher BGES Treasurer 1 Jefferson Street Onancock VA 23417

[BGESMembershipApplication2024.pdf \(bgesva.org\)](#)

If you want to be a member of the VA State Beekeepers Association, please send a \$10 check to:

VSBA
201 Bluebird Lane
Charlotte Court House, VA 23923