

BGES Meeting May 2, 2017 BIC – Machipongo

More than 30 people gathered for this Tuesday BGES meeting as Ann Snyder, our President, welcomed us. We were happy to have Laura Emery from the A&N Cooperative Magazine who was writing an article on beekeeping here on the Shore. In addition, we enjoyed the company of several guests and new beekeepers.

Following the Agenda, Caro I Zuccarino, Secretary, gave a brief summary of last month's meeting and Phil Harris, Treasurer, announced that our treasury held \$1,134.67. The board is planning to discuss purchasing several items for the Club's use, for example a bee-vac.

Committee reports followed:

OUTREACH:

Tara Southard spoke of the successful Earth Day, April 22, held in Exmore where she and David Boyd were present. On April 29, Russell Vreeland spoke at the Lemon Tree Gallery in Cape Charles. Also in Cape Charles, Stanley Plowden and Terry and Karen Kolet were present at the Blessing of the Worms youth garden event on April 30.

Coming up Licho Berrouette will host an Outreach Event at Eastern Shore Apiaries on Thursday, May 25 from 9am to 12pm. You can learn of this event by going to this web site:

<https://www.futureharvestcasa.org/2017-chesapeake-foodshed-feast>

In July, Jim Crunk will be talking about Beekeeping at the National Wildlife Reserve in Kiptopeake Park. More information forthcoming at our June meeting.

PROGRAM:

Mary Walker informed us that on Saturday, June 3, at the Painter Ag Station in Belle Haven, our guest speaker will be George Waldenmeier, who operates "Bee Busters". He removes every kind of stinging insects from homes and yards EXCEPT bees. He will talk about all those other members of hymenoptera family.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

George Brown and his committee are looking for BGES who might be interested in taking a position on the Board. Please contact him, if you might have some volunteer space in your lives.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tara Southard, WT Wilkins, Russell Vreeland all had open hive events for new beekeepers to get up close to bee colonies. Those who participated enjoyed the time spent there.

NEW BUSINESS:

Farmers Markets: Cape Charles has a Farmers market open every Tuesday from 3-6pm. Onancock's market is open on Saturday, if you want to sell honey there, speak to Ann.

Virginia State Beekeepers Association meeting June 16 and 17 at Ferrum, VA (visit the web site: VSBA for more information). The Eastern Apicultural Society meeting is in Dover, Delaware on July 31-Aug. 4. Our Guild offers scholarship money if anyone is interested in attending either of these events.

We have been asked to host a state meeting here on the shore. It would certainly be an honor, and if anyone is interested in making a plan, please see Ann.

We were privileged to welcome Jack Helms, a friend of Steve Mallette who is 99 years old. Jack walked up to the front of the meeting and told us a story about his beekeeping years in Florida where he first helped a friend attend over 200 hives and then reduced the number of his own hives to four claiming too many hives, too much work!

Our Guest Speaker, Matt Cormons, took the floor next. Matt has lived in Accomac over 32 years and is a true naturalist. Matt had three areas that he addressed tonight. The first was Roadside Mowing. A topic close to Matt's heart is the present condition of roadside mowing in both counties on the ESVA. Matt elaborated on his quest to limit the destruction of this prime pollinator area, but to no avail. He has researched and written papers sending them to the local and state authorities. He feels he needs more "clout" and wonders if the BGES might add some additional push to limit some of the mowing areas. Several people volunteered to get together and see what they could provide.

Secondly, Matt told us that the time to take honey is any time it is present. He checks regularly on his hives. Strong hives need to be fed all winter long. He knows that in late winter the queen commences laying eggs. He does not feed with pollen. He has had success and has learned from practice over the years. Keeping the hives strong eliminates the shb, wax moths and mites. The bees protect themselves.

Thirdly, Matt makes splits with queen cells, brood, nurse bees and honey. He does this in May and June. He doesn't take honey the first year from a nuc. Again he helps the hive to remain strong. Beekeeping Matt's way is fun and profitable.

After an enjoyable presentation we adjourned for bee-talk and refreshments.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Zuccarino, Secretary BGES

