

Minutes BGES September 5, 2017 BIC Machipongo, VA

At 6:35 pm, George Brown, our BGES President, called the meeting to order welcoming the more than 20 members present.

Carol Zuccarino gave a summary of the June 3 minutes as all receive the minutes by email and they are on the web page.

Phil Harris reported that we have \$1,344.50 in the treasury and 43 members have paid their dues for this year. We urge all members who are not paid up, to please remit the dues to Phil Harris, 20496 Seaside Rd. Cape Charles, VA., 23310. The dues are \$20 for BGES and \$10 for the Virginia State Beekeeping Association.

We missed Tara Southard giving us notices of pending activities. We know that on Sept. 19 the 3 rd. graders at Accomack request beekeepers to give short talks and on October 22 the Greenwig Event at Brownsville Reserve counts on our support with honey and live bees.

Henning Peterson asked if someone would be interested in talking about bees to the literacy guild. Leilani Russell will investigate this request.

Old Business: We had a lovely gathering at Little Italy in July for the BGES summer event. Thirty four BGES and families attended and we enjoyed each other's company, pizza, salad, sodas and desserts.

Program Overview for the coming BGES year stresses how we are hoping to learn how to be self- sustaining in our beekeeping. We will not have to purchase bees or queens and will have a series of speakers helping us to achieve this end. Starting next month, Mel Disselkoen, from Michigan, who is an author, a Master Beekeeper and has become an authority on On The Spot Queen Rearing, will come to the Shore to give us a morning seminar on this specialty. In November, WT Nottingham will present "splitting hives" and in January we will hear about Queen Rearing while February brings us into making nucs. So "stay tuned" and come to the meetings!

September 9 -16 is the national Mite-A-Thon and Carol will send again the flyer with information how we can participate to all.

New Business: Continuing with October's meeting George has reserved Little Italy that seats 150 people. BGES members will not pay, while guests are asked for \$ 20 for the morning sessions including a pizza lunch. George asks for full participation and support of BGES and please help advise any other bee club friends to come to the lecture.

We welcome 2 guests this evening Mildred Rowe and Jane Turner who are neighbors of Mary Walker and interested in keeping bees.

Everyone had a turn to give a short summary of how their bees were doing and it is always interesting to hear these reports. Several people spoke of having more than one queen while others had lost hives over the summer. Most members are encouraged and continue with optimism.

Guest Speaker: Russell Vreeland spoke on the Eastern Apicultural Society meeting held in Newark, Delaware in August. Russell elaborated on the interesting and bountiful vendor activity... He suggests that next year the vendors advertise that they give discounts to their products and the attendees can order early and pick up the product while at the weekend event.

Russell gave an overview of some of the subjects that were presented and class he attended: computerization monitoring of hives as to temperature, weight, off gases fermentation, etc. Tom Seeley spoke about Darwinism beekeeping by observing native bees. His last book is *Following the Wild Bees*. Clarence Collison who writes for Bee Culture, presented Genetics and Physiology of Bees. Jennifer Berry, a long time bee expert spoke about raising superior queens and not trying to stop swarms. She reasons a queen who has swarmed is stronger and bees swarming can knock off mites! She also noted when a hives has less than 20% of drones, its survival rate decreases. And finally Dr. James Tew from Alabama and Ohio State Universities is an expert on Bee Pollination and is a frequent speaker on beekeeping techniques.

Russell also had the opportunity to meet the first US dog to be trained to find fowl breed in hives by sniffing the area.

Next year the EAS will meet in Hampton Roads Convention center from Aug 13-17. Many of us plan to attend.

Adjournment at 8:30 for Refreshments and Social Gathering.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Zuccarino,

Secretary