

BGES Meeting September 6, 2016 BIC

We had a small, somewhat informal and informative meeting of the BGES this past Tuesday, September 6, with our president, Ann Snyder opening the meeting and welcoming all 14 members present. Ann had name tags for all those who have paid this years' dues. We spoke about to whom we would send emails and the majority felt that notices should go out to the greater list of beekeepers. Minutes will be sent to the Web page and forwards giving news and articles with beekeeping interest will be sent to Facebook. Donna Fauber will post notices on FB.

Phil Harris, treasurer, reported that we have \$ 1477.00 with 41 paid members.

An Information Sheet was passed out with the contact names and numbers of the Guild and Ann reminded us that the Swarm List is on the web site. Next year, we will try to get this information to first responders, 911, fire companies, etc. in our efforts to save the bees.

Tara Southhard presented her plans for Outreach under New Business. Tara is already lining up opportunities for our club to publically inform about Beekeeping. September 20 at the Accomac Senior Village Tara and Carol Z. will visit and speak to the residents. They will offer small jars of honey for sale. Tara is looking for a presenter for the Rotary Club of Cape Charles on any interesting Beekeeper topic. Please contact her or Stanley Plowden if you are willing to give a talk. Thirdly, the Birding Festival at Kiptopeake Park is Friday, October 6-9. Tara is going to give more details and we will send out a request for folks to be present at the BGES Display. Lastly Tara has plans to set up 2 programs about Beekeeping for the grammar schools. One will be directed at the lower

grades and the other for older children. Lisa Laufer and Estelle Spachmann will work together with Tara to begin this effort.

Our presenter Paul Kist, gave us an overview of the Yearly Eastern Apicultural Society Conference that was held in Stockton, New Jersey the last week in August. Paul said the classes ranged from basic beginner material to master beekeeper information with open hive demonstrations and international presenters with the latest bee research. Of course he spoke about Monsanto and Bayer and Neonics, and the effect to the pollinator population. Paul mentioned the Honey Queen and how Pennsylvania and other states benefit from this public figure. How about a Honey Queen for Virginia? Paul gave us an insight into beekeeping in Canada saying that only 18% die off in the harsh winters. Most of Canadian beekeeping is commercial and chemically maintained. The EAS rep for Virginia is Karla Eisen at director.va@easternapiculture.org Pam Fisher was installed as new vice-president of the EAS. Paul is so comfortable and knowledgeable when it comes to discussing bee issues and we enjoyed having him with us.

Finally, we spoke among ourselves about “Taking Honey in the Fall.” It was noted that each hive is its own ecosystem and how hard rules often don’t fit the circumstances of each colony. Often it is appropriate to take fall honey. In beekeeping there are pros and cons for every situation.

We enjoyed getting together and savoring a nice table of treats. The gathering closed at 8:15 pm.

Carol Zuccarino, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Zuccarino.

Secretary