

BGES Meeting February 7, 2017 BIC- Machipongo

The first meeting of the New Year was called to order by the president, Ann Snyder at 6:35, followed by a big Welcome to all and greetings to Theresa McCready from far away Chincoteague, Licho Berrouette returning from Florida and a visitor, Paul Lewis.

Carol Zuccarino gave a brief recall of the last meeting, of November 1, 2016.

Phil Harris, **Treasurer**, reported the total of \$ 1,477 with 60 paid members.

Committee Reports:

Program: Mary Walker has spoken with George Waldenmeier who has a company Bee Busters. He removes not swarms nor honeybees but nests of any other kind of stinging insect. He tells us he will refer his calls for swarm removal and we in turn offer to refer our calls of wasps, hornets and yellow jackets to him.

Mary also is in contact with Matt Cormons who is a known expert on collecting honey. If anyone else has suggestions, please contact Mary. She has a request for help with a hive using Langstrom frames, and Phil Harris offered to step in. Mary also mentioned that Angela Barnes has contact information for pesticide inspection. Please get in touch with Angela Barnes for this area of bee keeping.

Outreach: Tara Southard reported on the Ducks Unlimited event and said a very successful day was spent at the Nature Conservancy Brownsville grounds. Many children and parents enjoyed the bee table where a demonstration hive captivated kids and adults alike. We sold honey and gave away wildflower seeds for spring planting.

The next Outreach Event is the Heritage Festival at the ESCommunity College on Saturday, February 25 from 10 – 3 pm. Tara has wild flower seeds, plenty of handouts for bee keeping and honey will be sold. Any volunteers who would like to help out for an hour or two contact Tara: tarajoe@netzero.net

The Lemon Tree gallery in Cape Charles is featuring a month of Bees and asks for a speaker. Russell Vreeland volunteers and Mary Walker will help coordinate this opportunity to inform the public about beekeeping.

Old Business:

The New Beekeeper Class is scheduled for Saturday, March 4 and March 11. Ann is filling the spots for presenters for the program. The cost is \$ 25. Melinda Blanchard did a spectacular

flyer and all are encouraged to take copies and hand them out. Linda Goldstein has a registration form on the web page. John Long helped with a great number of contacts

Russell Vreeland reminds those who are interested to purchase queens from California to please send him an email. Price will go down when enough orders are made.

New Business:

Ann Snyder presents a petition for donations to the Accomac Library. A discussion followed where members felt this was a positive place to make a contribution. Melinda Blanchard suggests we donate \$100, Leilani seconds the motion and it is carried 100%.

Russell spent several minutes speaking about having an Advanced Class in September where he would present technical and scientific information. He might bring in another presenter and there would be hands on work. Marianne and Yohannas will work with Russel to define better the program and present it at the next meeting. 16 were in favor of having this class.

PRESENTERS: George Brown and Leilani Russell: **Bee Colony Removal**

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the power point presentation of the adventure of George and Leilani last September working in Temperanceville at a colony extraction in a cornice of a three story brick chateau. This was their first experience and they documented it beautifully to share with us. The hive netted 5 boxes of "captured" bees. George demonstrated his bee vac. They never saw the queen. They put cone into empty frames and were exhausted after beginning at 10 and completing around 6. George said the next time they may take more hive boxes and it would have been easier if they stood on scaffolding instead of a single ladder. The presentation was so well done, we asked them to show it to the beginner class

Leilani passed around Bee Wrap a wax impregnated linen wrapping paper to use in the refrigerator to cover foods and bowls.

Ann lastly closed the formal part of the meeting. As always the Refreshments were delicious and plentiful and the BGES group enjoyed conversation until after 9 o'clock.

Respectively submitted,

Carol Zuccarino, BGES Secretary

Just a reminder that the next BGES meeting is at the Ag Station, in Painter on Saturday, April 1 at 10:00 am. We will hear a report of a UVA student who spent last summer doing Bee Research here on the Shore. Plan to join us, for an interesting presentation.