

 *Beekeepers Guild of the Eastern* 

*Shore* 

*The Shore Swarm*

*Newsletter*

**December 2016**

**BGES Leadership**

President: Ann Snyder

Vice President: Licho Berrouette

Treasurer - Phil Harris.

Carol Zuccarino will continue as Secretary.

Tara Southard-Outreach Coordinator    George Brown-Web Master

Estelle Spachmann-Newsletter Editor



*A Message from Our President*

Happy December, Beekeepers!

I hope everyone is snug and well during these days of shortening light and increasing cold! And I hope all honey bees are well provisioned for the days to come. The bees in my own yard are seen less and less, but on sunny days they are flying...and there are dandelions and camellias blooming for them.

The guild doesn't meet during December, but we'll have a lively Saturday meeting in January – that's Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Experiment Station in Painter, at 10 am. A student from the University of Virginia who researched bees on the shore last summer may be able to come to present her original research to us. We are looking forward to a program on Removing Bees from Structures, from our own George Brown and Leilani Russell. Hope you can be there.

I'm aware that we have beekeepers in Northern Accomack and Maryland who have a terribly long trip to attend our meetings, and I hope to find a way to include them more actively. If anyone knows of a good place to hold at least one of our monthly meetings "way up the road" please let me know.

At our November meeting there seemed to be universal support for offering the "Beginning Beekeeping" course again this year, and I've been hearing from people who are interested in taking it. This will be our seventh year of offering the class. Even though we're officially taking December off, there will be a short planning meeting Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Northampton Free Library at 6:30 pm, and I hope we can all put our best ideas together for a great class. I hope you will be able to be there; if you can't come, don't hesitate to send suggestions. Like the bees, we can use these seemingly latent, quiet months to prepare for the work of producing new generations in the spring. Keep the dates February 11<sup>th</sup> and February 18<sup>th</sup> in mind.

I'm very thankful for the interesting friendships our guild has brought me, and hope that this season will be filled with joy and peace for you.

Ann



### Membership DUES:

BGES dues \$20      State dues \$10      Membership runs from June 30-July 1. Application is on BGES website. IF you have not yet paid your dues for this year, please mail your check to our treasurer Phil Harris at 20496 Seaside Road      Cape Charles, VA 23310



BGES meetings alternate locations between the Barrier Island Center(BIC) in Machipongo and the Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center,(locally known as the AG Center) located in Painter, VA.

To learn about what happens at the AG Center, visit their website:

<http://www.ares.vaes.vt.edu/eastern-shore/>



## Meeting Schedule:

Location	Day/Date/Time
AG Center Painter	Saturday/January 7 @ 10:00 AM
BIC Machipongo	Tuesday/March 7 @ 6:30 PM
AG Center Painter	Saturday/April 1 @ 10:00 AM
BIC Machipongo	Tuesday/May 2 @ 6:30 PM
AG Center Painter	Saturday/June 3 @ 10:00 AM
BIC Machipongo	Tuesday/July 11 @ 6:30 PM

## Outreach

### Accomack Senior Center

Carol Zuccarino and Tara Southard visited the Accomack Senior Center on September 20 to present an informational program featuring the honeybee, bee safety, and ways to help pollinators. Those in attendance viewed a portion of the NOVA show "Tales of the Hive" as they tasted honey samples and commented on the observation hive.



Tara explaining the ways of the bees at the Senior Center.

### Brownsville Preserve

On October 23 several members participated in a Ducks Unlimited Greenwing Youth Day at the Nature Conservancy's Brownsville Preserve. Carol Zuccarino, Ann Snyder, Tara Southard, Estelle Spachmann, David Boyd, and Janis Wingfield spent a pleasant afternoon talking bees with young and old.

## Brownsville Photos



We are always looking for volunteers to assist with local outreach opportunities to share bee awareness, knowledge, and expertise. Tara Southard is our Outreach Coordinator.



## The Bees' Buzz

A version of this article appears in print on September 6, 2016, on page D2 of the New York edition with the headline: Sciencetake



Researchers from the University of Arizona experimented to find out whether a bee's technique to cull pollen from flowers was learned, or instinctual.

Bees collect pollen. Some flowering plants hide their pollen in structures called anthers, and to get it, bumble bees (and other bees) bite the anthers and then hang on and buzz until the vibration causes the anther to spill out a shower of pollen.

The process is called sonication, or buzz pollination. Avery L. Russell, a doctoral student in entomology at the University of Arizona, Daniel R. Papaj and two other colleagues ran some experiments with flowers that require sonication to release their pollen.

They wanted to find out whether bumble bees must learn how to liberate hidden pollen. The amount of learning needed to get nectar from some flowers makes bees more likely to stick to the same kind of flower, according to one theory, rather than to continually learn new methods for other flowers.

That wasn't the case with sonication. That seems to come naturally to these bumble bees, Mr. Russell said. The bees in the experiment were raised in the laboratory. "They'd never seen a flower before,"

But they knew what to do on the first try: grab on to the anther with mandibles; buzz until doused with pollen; groom pollen off front legs and other parts of body and stick it onto pollen baskets on the rear legs.

So, the bees ought to be able to quickly adapt to new plants in their range if vegetation changes because of climate change. It also means that if bees move into new areas, whether they're accidentally introduced or because of warming trends, they ought to be able to adapt.

That is a mixed blessing, Mr. Russell pointed out. If their environment changes and new plants colonize the areas they inhabit, the bees should be able to adapt quickly. On the other hand, quick adaptability could make these bumble bees successful as invaders of new areas.

For bees already in those areas, competing for pollen-filled anthers may be the last thing they need.





*Fall harvest at Carol Zuchario's.*

### ***Did You Know???***

Thomas's Garden Center in New Church, VA is now offering some beekeeping supplies.

### ***BEE AWARE***

*[KEYSTONE, Colorado, Dec. 1, 2016]*— The Honey Bee Health Coalition released a series of videos today to help beekeepers promote colony health and combat costly and destructive Varroa mite (*Varroa destructor*) infestations. The videos can be found on the Coalition website at [honeybeehealthcoalition.org/Varroa](http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/Varroa) and provide detailed step-by-step instructions on how to monitor hives for varroa and when levels get too high, safely treat. The videos complement the Coalition's wildly popular [Tools for Varroa Management](#) Guide.

*The BGES has a Facebook page. Log on to see some of the latest escapades of fellow BGES.*

*The official website for the BGES is <http://www.bgesva.org/index.html>*

*Any news worthy items-feel free to forward to [emspachmann@gmail.com](mailto:emspachmann@gmail.com) for possible inclusion in future newsletters.*

