

Beekeepers Guild of the Eastern Shore

THE SHORE SWARM

January/February 2022

Hello, 2022!

President's Message

Hello Fellow BGES Members,



At our recent meeting in Chincoteague, I announced my resignation as BGES president effective the end of our current fiscal year, 30 June 2022. I've been president now for 6 years and it is time for some new blood. We have many members who would provide very capable leadership should they decide to take it on. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as President and I want to thank all of those who have assisted me during that time. We have a very experienced and friendly group of beekeepers and we must make every effort to carry on with our meetings in the future.

I also reminded everyone that Thor (VP), Nancy (Treasurer) and Teresa (Secretary) have also expressed an interest in resigning their respective positions. Leilani and I are willing to take the lead in putting together the New Beekeepers class in November and of course I will support whoever steps up to become the next president. We are also happy to host the annual picnic in June at our house this year.

Per the BGES bylaws, a nominating committee should be formed, as soon as possible, to identify members to fill all four open positions before voting on candidates at our June picnic meeting. Please let me know if you wish to be on the nominating committee. Contrary to popular belief, being on the committee does not imply you will be running for office yourself. It is simply a committee to identify candidates, nothing more.

SUMMARY OF OUR JANUARY MEETING

Even though our attendance was small, we had a good BGES meeting Saturday, January 8th at the Refuge Inn on Chincoteague. Angela Barnes was there and we had a great Q&A with her. For those who do not

know her, Angela is our agricultural inspector from the Virginia Department of Agriculture. She is also an experienced beekeeper and part of her job is to inspect apiaries.

TREASURER'S REPORT



We currently have \$1254.63 in the BGES account per our Treasurer, Nancy Gormley, with 25 paid members. We added a new member at the meeting, Sandra Scher, who lives in Onancock.

APIARY INSPECTIONS

If a beekeeper wants to sell honey bees (packages, nucs or queens) or used equipment in Virginia, then the apiary must be inspected. A certificate of Health must accompany each sale. On the shore (i.e. Accomack and Northampton Counties), Angela Barnes (VDACS, Agricultural Inspector, 757-387-7416, angela.barnes@vdacs.virginia.gov) would be the inspector for this. Inspections are good for one year from the date of inspection so long as no honey bees from other locations have been brought into the inspected and certified apiary. For example, if you capture a swarm and you bring it into your apiary, then your prior inspection and Certificate of Health becomes null and void and your apiary must be re-inspected. It is also recommended that all swarms be quarantined from your apiary until you are able to determine that there is no disease associated with that swarm as it could have been an abscond due to disease. Please also note, if a beekeeper suspects disease in their own, or someone else's apiary, they must immediately contact the VA State Apiarist.

For more information on the VA Bee Law, please see the following link.

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title3.2/chapter44/>

Bee Search

There are 16 bee-related words hidden in the word search. Can you find them all?

in the



N W F X C R B U T O M K G X S Z I
 P Y Z K T O K D C K B B L R G H I
 E W C X D Z L J R C H B C V M E V
 H O A U W R D O V F F S F A C Q I
 O R P F A F P D N O H M Q Z W V C
 N K I C B T Y D D Y E H I V E Z ;
 E E C V E Z Z Y L J S P F R M Z I
 Y R U S A G L N M L V J W D I E)
 B R L Y R J G B U B N L I G O Z I
 P C T B D Q U E E N Y Q K J G D I
 Z O U Y I B L L S H C E B D U Y I
 B M R Z N E S A L S P H V R J Y !
 W B E U G E L L C A O R N Q O B I
 L I O V B K Q L U P H T O O G O C
 V W H L C J V R W I M N F P Q P I
 V S K H T A G I I A S T I O O D Y

HYGIENIC BEHAVIOR OF COLONIES

Tara Southard has come across a very interesting article regarding hygienic honey bee colony behavior put together by Dr. Kaira Wagoner at UNC. This trait is useful in the fight against the Varroa Destructor. When making splits, the methods discussed in this article can help you select hygienic behavior. You can find the article here:

<https://academic.oup.com/jinsectscience/article/21/6/4/6414651?login=true>

THE LOWER EASTERN SHORE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



(<https://lowereasternshorebeekeepers.org/>) of Maryland has a lot going on and they have invited our members to join them whenever we can. I'd suggest visiting their web site periodically to see what they have to offer.

SELLING HONEY IN VIRGINIA



If a beekeeper wants to sell honey in Virginia, they must have their kitchen/honey extraction area inspected by VDACS Food Safety Program if they are selling more than 250 gallons of honey per year. They would also need to be inspected if they are infusing their honey. If one sells less than 250

gallons of honey extracted from one's hives and processed in one's own private home, one does not need to be inspected. **Currently, there are no restrictions on where you may sell your honey in VA or to whom.**

For those who were in attendance at the meeting, Angela wanted to point out that part of what she said was incorrect as the regulations have changed. This is good news for those of us wanting to sell in locations other than our homes or the farmers' market! Please see the link below for more information.

<https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pdf/kitchenbillfaq.pdf>

REGISTERING YOUR APIARY

A voluntary apiary online registration can be performed here <https://va.beecheck.org/> and this site can also be used to view other apiaries on the shore and throughout Virginia. Beekeepers are strongly encouraged to register their hives. Currently, there are only 5 apiaries registered but we have a lot more than that! Bee Check was developed to facilitate communication between beekeepers, agricultural producers, and pesticide applicators as a means to protect pollinators.

For more information, please see the link below.

<https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pdf/BeeCheck-Fact-Sheet.pdf>



BEE INFORMED PARTNERSHIP (BIP)

We touched briefly on BIP at the meeting. If you are unfamiliar with the Bee Informed Partnership, this organization was mentioned at the meeting. We encourage you to look at their website and utilize this resource.

<https://beeinformed.org/>

“Bee Informed Partnership Inc (BIP) is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization using science-based, data-driven approaches to improve the health and long-term sustainability of honey bees (*Apis mellifera*), other plant pollinators and the ecosystems upon which they depend.”



NATIONAL BEEHIVE SURVEY

Angela also mentioned participating in the National Survey of Honey Bee Pests and Diseases. If you are ever contacted to be a possible participant in this survey, the following link will explain in more detail why this survey has been conducted in the past and why it continues to be conducted annually. You can also find data and results from the past surveys along with other informative information. Please see the link below for more information.

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/honey-bees/survey>

Most, if not all of the above-mentioned topics can be found on the VDACS website. If you have not explored the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services website before, I strongly encourage you to do so. There is a vast amount of information relating to not only beekeeping, but also other agricultural topics you may be interested in learning about.

CRIMSON CLOVER AND EDGEWORTHIA



Several of us have planted Crimson Clover seed and it has germinated and is doing well. We are all looking forward to Spring to see the results. Watch for pictures on Facebook.

Leilani also presented flowers from a shrub called Edgeworthia. This shrub blooms right about now with lovely scented white and yellow flowers and the honeybees love it! Beekeeper Bill McCarter has a bunch growing at his home in Onancock and has offered to allow anyone to take some cuttings which can be rooted directly in moist soil. The plant has lovely

foliage in the Spring, Summer and Fall and then blooms in the Winter after its leaves fall off. It grows about 5 to 7 feet high with a similar spread.



2022 Future Meetings

Saturday 12 March - BIC - 10 AM - Thor will run this meeting in my absence. Mickey Palmer will give her review of the beekeeping event she attended in the Fall. She has put together a nice presentation which will be valuable for all to see.

Saturday 9 April - Tasley Firehall - 10 AM - we will review classroom presentations that the BGES will use to educate both children and adults about bees and beekeeping. We plan to put together separate presentations for young children (e.g. scouts, elementary school and homeschool), older children (e.g.

high school/homeschool) and adults. Bettina, George and Leilani are taking the lead on developing these presentations, but we welcome anyone who would like to help or review the presentations.

Tuesday 10 May - BIC - 6:30 PM

June - BGES picnic at the Brown's house. Date TBD because we want to work with Angela Barnes' schedule so she can do an official apiary inspection for all to witness.

July/August no meetings.

Tuesday 13 September - BIC- 6:30 PM

Saturday 15 October - Tasley Firehall - 10 AM

Saturday, 5 and 12 November - Beginning Beekeeping Class at an Onancock Church event hall.

December no meeting.