



Beekeepers Guild of the Eastern Shore



The Shore Swarm Newsletter

June 2018

BGES Leadership

President-George Brown Thor Gormley-Vice-president. Theresa McCready -Secretary

Phil Harris -Treasurer Tara Southard- Outreach Coordinator Mary Walker-Director of Education

Estelle Spachmann- Newsletter Editor Ann Snyder and Carol Zuccarino- Refreshments

A Message from our President

Hello BGES Members,

I hope everyone's hives are bursting with bees and honey and lacking small hive beetles, wax moths and varroa mites! My lone surviving hive from 2017 has now been turned into three hives and two nucs, one of which I sold to a fellow BGES member. I removed the survivor queen and two frames of brood back on 14 April and started a second hive. The mother hive was full of bees that then had nothing to do but collect nectar and store honey until a new queen was raised and mated which took place sometime around 17 May when I began seeing uncapped brood again. In the meantime, they filled two 10-frame honey supers and started on a third! Looks like I'll be doing some extracting this year. I notched some <36 hour brood and split the hive again making a third hive. Then on 16 June I removed the queen again with 2 frames of brood and made a nuc. I did the same thing with the daughter hive I created back on 14 April. Confused yet? This is why it is very important to keep your journal up to date with detailed information and to identify your hives!

The BGES officers (incoming and outgoing) recently held a planning meeting for our 2018-2019 year. The resultant schedule of events has been posted on the BGES web site (www.bgesva.org) so please have a look. This plan is subject to change but is hopefully pretty close. Our next meeting will be 7 July and our annual picnic will be in September. We are looking to put together a picnic planning committee so if you're interested, please contact Leilani Russell at luv2kayak802@yahoo.com or 787-4760.

I look forward to seeing everyone in July.

Like a Hardboiled Egg



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Apis mellifera, the European honey bees we attempt to manage as beekeepers, are cavity dwellers. They typically set up their home in a hollow tree, drawing wild comb that's fixed to the top and sides of that protected space. They organize the space in a specific way, with the nursery or brood nest in the warm center and the well-stocked larder of pollen and honey within reach right above.

Modern day beekeepers keep their colonies in hives with moveable frames, which makes it harder to visualize the natural structure of the hive. Picture a hardboiled egg, sliced straight through and you get a pretty good sense of a colony's normal structure. The deep yellow yolk is where the bees tend their nursery, raising more bees. That thin skin on the yolk, which is often a little greenish grey represents the arch of pollen, always stored right on the edge of the brood nest. Above the pollen arch the bees pack in nectar that they turn into honey.

Now cram that hardboiled egg into a two-story 8-10-frame hive. Notice that the frames in the center of the top box will have the traditional arch shape with brood in the center bottom, topped with a swath of pollen and honey stored along the edges.

When working a colony, you want to try and maintain this structure.

From an article by Kristin Traynor in American Bee Journal



Queen Excluders: Pros and Cons

Contributed by Jim Crunk

At a recent BGES meeting there was a discussion of Queen Excluders(QE). Here is some follow-up information.

As with any beekeeping topic, there is usually more than one approach, technique, or method. Experience and mentors can guide individual decisions.

All the reasons to use or not to use QE grids are readily available on the web. If they fit your need, use them. If they are not helpful, don't use them.

QE Precautions

With QE:

1. A QE could hamper foragers because they have to squeeze through this barrier which consists of a metal grid that the workers can get through but the extra-large queen cannot.
2. OR foragers could just make an easier deposit of their nectar and pollen in a brood cell thus decreasing the space available for the queen's eggs.
3. When a QE is used in connection with a top entrance, findings show that brood space is increased. (Using top entrances could cause problems with hive beetles, wax moths and robbing if the hive is not strong.)
4. Eggs, larvae and developing brood are kept out of the honey supers. (Brood mixed in with capped honey on a frame that is harvested could increase the moisture content of the honey.)
5. Drones can not enter the supers and consume honey.
6. When honey supers are stored and if the queen has laid eggs there, the protein lining of the brood cells can attract wax moths.
7. A QE needs to be cleaned yearly to remove accumulated propolis and wax.

Without a QE

1. Be careful when pulling frames for harvest that the queen is not lost.

UPCOMING BGES EVENTS:

July 7 (Saturday) Historic Onancock School, 10:00 AM



The Master Naturalists' Program

presented by Ric Reichard, President of the local Master Naturalists Eastern Shore Chapter.

The focus of this program will be informative to local beekeepers. Also, we will be planning for the picnic in September and discussing current bee issues!

August- no meeting (Eastern Apicultural Society 2018 Conference August 13-17 in Hampton Roads)

September 8 (Saturday) Historic Onancock School 11:30 AM



Annual BGES Picnic

Covered Dish lunch



Eastern Apicultural Society Meeting Aug. 13 & 14

Hampton Roads Convention Center

Must join EAS to attend- all information on-line on the EAS web page

SHORT COURSE AND CONFERENCE

Short Course (Aug. 13 & 14) Topics Include: *SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

- Beginners Track
- Intermediate Track
- Apiary Track (Top Bar Hives)
- Electronic Hive Monitoring
- Excellence in Honey & Hive Products
- Queen Rearing with the [Russian Honey Bee Breeders Association](#)

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

A message from Bill Jardine at Quail Cove Farms in Machipongo

We are planning a local Honey Festival on Sat. July 14, 2018. We would like to invite local beekeepers to have a free booth to sell or just talk about their honey and hives. We have just finished our new front to the store.

If interested, please contact Bill directly at 757-650-7860 or 757-678-7783 or email billjardine54@gmail.com

Pollinator Walk

The Eastern Shore Resource Conservation and Development Council will host a pollinator event! For the Bees: **Backyard Pollinator Habitat Walk** is on Thursday June 21 from 10AM till noon at Holly Point Farm. For more information call Hali at 442-5885.

Rain Date: June 22.



Don't miss this!! Bees are on the front page of the current Eastern Shore News!!!



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

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 for possible inclusion in future newsletters.