

 *Beekeepers Guild of the Eastern Shore* 

*The Shore Swarm
Newsletter*

October 2017

BGES Leadership

George Brown --president.

Ann Snyder-vice-president.

Carol Zuccarino -secretary

Phil Harris -treasurer

Tara Southard- Outreach Coordinator

Estelle Spachmann- Newsletter Editor



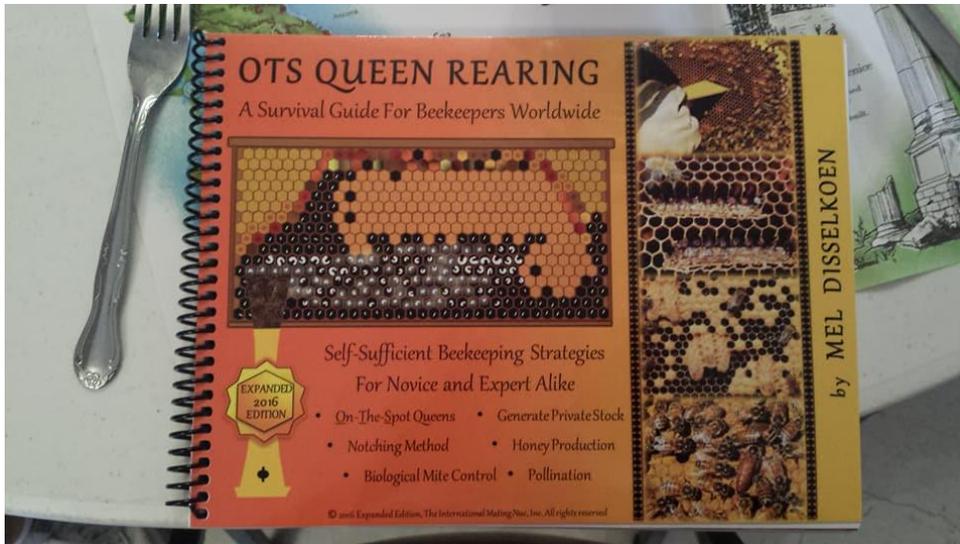
A Message from Our President

Greetings Fellow Beekeepers!

Well, our first meeting of the year was a huge success! We were blessed to have Mel Disselkoen drive 14+ hours to present his on the spot queen rearing method, as well as other interesting bee topics. I spoke with many folks afterwards who are so enthusiastic about trying Mel's methods, the only regret being we must wait until swarm season in the Spring to get going. We had 25 beekeepers outside the BGES join us from as far away as Maryland's eastern shore and across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. We also had Pam Fisher brought us up to date on the upcoming Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS) events. Pam wanted me to mention that the EAS is always looking for volunteers and if you volunteer for an event, it typically comes with free admission so keep that in mind. If you want to contact Pam, reach out to me or go to the EAS web site.

We are now well on our way to becoming self-sufficient beekeepers here on the shore. As Mel mentioned in his thank you card, we are an isolated peninsula so we do have a chance to breed our own bees here that perhaps would adapt better to our unique climate. We should at a minimum be able to avoid bringing in packages and nucs from off the shore. Our next meeting in November will feature a talk by W. T. Wilkins. W. T. will explain to us how he rears queens and maintains his number of colonies. We will also conduct our normal business activities during this meeting. We are hoping to be more inclusive for our members who live in northern Accomack County and on Chincoteague.

Therefore, I look forward to seeing everyone on Saturday, 18 November 2017 beginning at 10:30 AM in the activities building behind the Union Baptist Church, 6365 Church Street, Chincoteague Island, VA 23336.



BGES has purchased Mel's book and it can be checked out through Ann Snyder



Thanks to Melinda Blanchard for these photos

Mel Disselkoen addressing On the Spot Queen Rearing

Note from Mel

10-9-17

George T. Brown, Jr. of BGES

Thanks for the card, flowers, Peanuts, and maps of the eastern shore. We had a great time and safe trip.

Enjoyed all the beekeepers and there great concern for survival bees.

Thanks for the time to share my research and a different way to manage bees

I think your area could support your own type of bee if you can reduce package bees mailed in.

forgot to mention that the July supersedera queen will also out breed the mite in the fall. So if you have 2 mites per 100 you should end up with 1 mite per 100 going into winter.

Member Jim Crunk's response to Mel's presentation:

I've been experimenting for several years with swarm cells in my queen castle, with limited success. But, Whoa! What a lot of valuable information. We needed a week course to go through it and I have a lot of additional questions, which I'm sure are in the book. I look forward to reading the book and never buying another bee!

BGES has purchased the book written by Mel Disselkoen, **OTS Queen Rearing: A Survival Guide for Beekeepers Worldwide** for our informal traveling library. We encourage our members to borrow it to reinforce all the information we were given at our October meeting at Little Italy. Contact Ann at bleakhouse14@gmail.com if you want to borrow it; otherwise, it will be at our November meeting in Chincoteague.



Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Visitor's Center

November 4 10AM -12

Looking to touch up on your beekeeping and pollinator knowledge? Our refuge visitor center is hosting a beekeeping presentation by **Jim Crunk** from the Eastern Shore Beekeepers Guild on Saturday, November 4, 2017 from 10am to 12pm. The presentation is free of charge, and it's a chance to learn about the health of these important pollinators. More information about bees and their ecological importance can be found here:

<https://www.fws.gov/southeast/wildlife-and-you/bees/>

Saturday November 11 12:30-1:30

Join us at our visitor center for an informative talk and visual tour of Butterflies and Moths found on the Eastern Shore. The purpose of this photo tour is to show the beauty of these amazing insects and to show some details of their life cycle, ecology and host plants. The main families of butterflies found on the Shore are presented along with an assortment of skippers and moths. Dr. Piccardi will use photos and his extensive collection of butterflies and moths to illustrate his talk. After the talk, visitors are welcome to explore our butterfly gardens and our butterfly trail to see these creatures up close!

Dr. Anthony Piccardi is retired from a career in software engineering and market research. As an Eastern Shore Master Naturalist, he guides nature walks on various wildlife refuges and lectures on such topics as butterflies, native plant gardening and the impacts of Global Warming on the Eastern Shore.

This talk is free of charge, and takes place in our refuge visitor center. The visitor center is located at 32205 Seaside Road, Cape Charles, VA 23310.

On **Saturday, October 21st from 10 – 2**, we've been invited to have an informational booth at the **Northampton County Agricultural Fair**, held at Northampton Middle School in Machipongo. Ann Snyder and Valerie Kline will be there and will welcome help from anyone else who can come by for all or any part. Note: this event will charge \$5.00 admission for the general public, and will include many contests, games, and exhibits. Our booth will not be able to offer honey for sale, since other vendors will have been required to pay for their spots and we have not.

On **Sunday, October 22nd**, Tara Southard is heading up our return appearance at the **Ducks Unlimited Greenwing** event, held at Brownsville, in Nassawadox. This fun event runs from 12 – 4. Admission is \$15.00 for youth, adults are free.



Upcoming Meetings:

Saturday, Nov -18th Saturday 1030am. On Chincoteague In the Union Baptist Church activities building which is behind the church located at 6365 Church Street. Turn right at the foot of the bridge. Left on Church Street (intersection is adjacent to Dons Restaurant) Approximately 1/4 mile on left is Union Baptist Church.

W.T. Wilkins will lead a discussion about the method he uses to raise queens and split hives.

December - No meeting

Saturday, January 6th, 2018 Ag Station (Painter) at 10 am. Queen rearing.

Tuesday, February 6th, 2018 Barrier Islands Center at 6:30 pm. Raising Nucs, guest speaker Dave Kvello.

March 10th and 17th, 2018 will be our **Beginning Beekeepers Class** at the Ag Station in Painter. Volunteers are needed to help put this together. Contact me or any other officer if you would like to assist. This is a wonderful event that has allowed us to educate many on the importance of the honey bee and to evangelize beekeeping in general.

Tuesday, April 3rd, 2018 Barrier Islands Center at 6:30 pm. We will review the three methods of making splits (OTS, Walk-away, and Nucs) that were discussed in prior meetings because this is the time of year, depending upon the weather, to begin implementing the split methods before natural swarming occurs. This presentation will review the methods but focus more on the steps required to actually get out and do it!

Saturday, May 5th, 2018 Ag Station at 10 am. Control and removal of unwanted bees. This will focus on yellow jackets, hornets, and other types of bees and wasps not including honey bees.



Our very own **Russell Vreeland**, a frequent contributor to our newsletter and active BGES member always willing share his knowledge and expertise, has a new book out. **Beekeeping - Science to Practice** is now available as an ebook from: Springer Shop <http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319606354> for 29.99. Google Play has it for \$ 31.99. Barnes and Noble for \$ 57.99. Congratulations, Russell!



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.

