BEEKEEPERS GUILD OF THE EASTERN SHORE (BGES) MINUTES

Saturday, October 10th, 2026 at 1:00pm

The meeting was held at the Barrier Island Center in Machipongo, VA and was called to order at approximately 1:07p.m. by BGES President Niall Finnegan.

List of officers – 2026-27 year
Niall Finnegan – President
Tara Southard – Vice President
Tia Bell – Secretary
Denise Lynn – Treasurer
George Brown – Webmaster
Art Vancil – Social Media

In attendance: Niall, Tara, Art, Denise, and 9 BGES members/guests + 4 ZOOM attendees.

Welcome new BGES member: Patricia Saunders!

OPEN (President Niall Finnegan)

Niall opened the meeting with a welcome to all and:

- Requested two volunteers to help at the farm tour event at Machipongo Middle School on Wednesday, October 14 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tara Southard and Jinny Coyne offered to help.
- Announced that we will be sunsetting the BGES website in the coming year and will be putting more effort into our public and private Facebook pages. He asked for volunteers to join a newly formed Communications Committee; duties largely involve monitoring our Facebook pages and either posting new content or responding to others' posts. This is to help us build a more vibrant Facebook community of beekeepers and those interested in becoming beekeepers. Toward this end, Denise encouraged members to actively post and comment on our Facebook pages.
  - Denise offered to chair the committee. New member, Patricia Saunders, raised her hand to help.
  - Others interested can reach Denise at dlynn.working@gmail.com.

TREASURER REPORT (Treasurer, Denise Lynn)

- We took in $1,515 at the BGES picnic. Expenses this quarter totaled $1,391.91 (including the picnic raffle gift, member swag, Narroa purchase, Paraquat post cards and stamps, and guest speaker fee.
- After deposits and expenses, our Atlantic Union checking account balance = $3,716.25

PARAQUAT EFFORT UPDATE (Denise Lynn)

- As of today's meeting, we now have 155 signed post cards supporting passage of HB1375 to ban use of Paraquat in Virginia.
- For those wanting to know more about the highly toxic herbicide, a Paraquat facts brief can be found on our private Facebook page.
- Several members offered to take post cards to their places of work to obtain signatures.

GUEST SPEAKER (Vice President, Tara Southard)

- Tara introduced Michael Bush (of Bush Farms) to speak about treatment-free beekeeping basics. Mr. Bush is a leading proponent of natural beekeeping and has been raising bees since the mid-1970's. His presentation was quite interesting and prompted several questions from the audience.

- If you'd like to see his presentation, a recording of the ZOOM meeting can be obtained

  https://zoom.us/rec/share/ZhOz4oSUp_2LH8HUT1W3cLNxKxjAotQgVSHaOPvDQZBGOV3UBuqN5MfiLEvxss_-.NBQ4zL0itbTyc9p9

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  Meeting adjourned @ 3:00pm

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

➔ Thursday, November 12th, 2026 at the Eastern Shore Regional Library, Parksley VA 6:00pm
Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/94553555589?pwd=7Bf6Xu2KjVC0hKMEwrUiWZ0cMb8KFy.1

Meeting ID: 945 5355 5589
Passcode: 796082

One tap mobile
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+17193594580,,94553555589#,,,,*796082# US

➔ Saturdays, Beginner Beekeeping Course: January 16, 23 and 30th, 2027

➔ Saturday, February 20th, 2027 at the Barrier Island Center, Machipongo VA 10:00am
Zoom:

https://zoom.us/j/93242077186?pwd=pdUwtFjpKDdCwlOaiSCafHHF7TuHvU.1

Meeting ID: 932 4207 7186
Passcode: 567074
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+13126266799,,93242077186#,,,,*567074# US (Chicago)

➔ Thursday, March 18th, 2027 at the Eastern Shore Regional Library, Parksley VA 6:00pm
Zoom:

➔ Saturday, April 17th 2027 at the Barrier Island Center, Machipongo VA 10:00am
Zoom:

➔ Thursday, May 20th, 2027 at the Eastern Shore Regional Library, Parksley VA 6:00pm
Zoom: