BEEKEEPERS GUILD OF THE EASTERN SHORE (BGES) MINUTES

Saturday, April 11th, 2026 at 10:00am

The meeting was held at the Barrier Island Center in Machipongo, VA and was called to order at approximately 10:07am by President Niall Finnegan.

List of officers – 2025-26 year

Niall Finnegan – President

Kevin Willis – Vice President

Tia Bell – Secretary

Denise Lynn – Treasurer

George Brown – Webmaster

Art Vancil – Social Media

Mentorship Program Managers Northampton Cty – Suzanne Omrod and David Schmidt

In attendance: Niall, Art, Denise, and 6 members/guests

Technical difficulties prevented us from also conducting the meeting in Zoom.

I. Niall opened the meeting with:
   A. An explanation of the Frame Quiz to be presented at the meeting
   B. A report of Tia's husband, Trower, recently having been in a car accident on Parksley Road. He is in good condition with a shattered left heel.
   C. A motion to adopt the March meeting minutes. Denise asked that the March minutes be amended to correct an error reported in the "profit" from the 2026 Beginning Beekeeper's class. The correct "profit" is $138 (rounded up), not the $262 recorded in the minutes. All accepted the motion to amend.

II. Treasurer's report:
   A. After deposits of $205 and a payment of $1,116.03 for a reorder of the books used in the Beginning Beekeepers' Class, our Atlantic Union checking account balance is $3,244.16
   B. Niall added that he is storing the books in his barn.

OLD BUSINESS

III. Mentorship program: Niall asked if all have been connected w/mentors. Claire Littlefield said that she has not. Niall will follow up with Suzanne Omrod.
IV. Used equipment available: Niall reminded everyone to check the BGES email from Tia for an inventory of used beekeeping equipment available for sale at modest prices.

NEW BUSINESS

V. Upcoming events: Niall reported a logistics issue with Arbor Day (9a-1p) and Earth Day (1-3pm) events both being on April 25 and the Guild only having one demo hive. Also he asked for volunteers to help man the events.
   A. A suggestion was made to borrow Tara's demo hive for Earth Day.
   B. However, due to lack of people to man the Earth Day event, Niall will decline the invitation to participate in it.

   C. BGES member, Ken Mundell volunteered to help with the Arbor Day event.
   D. Niall explained where the Arbor Day event is held, where to park, and that ANEC provides free bare root trees (typically limited to 3/person).

VI. Meeting presentation: Niall turned the meeting over to Art Vancil who presented the Frame Quiz. The Powerpoint presentation prompted many questions and much discussion:
   A. Narroa use as a Varroa mite prevention measure: Niall fed Narroa to his hive; he placed it on the hive bottom board. Bees consumed the liquid in 2 days.
   B. Mann Lake has good video explaining Narroa and how to use it.
   C. American Foul Brood: It has not been cited on the Eastern Shore to date. If detected, all affected hive equipment must be burned.
   D. Nosema: The parasite symptoms are similar to diarrhea. Infected hives will have bee droppings everywhere. Nosema can be treated with Tetracycline; it comes in powder form to sprinkle in the hive.

VII. Niall announced the next BGES meeting is on Thursday, May 14 at 6pm at the Parksley library.

VIII. NEW MEMBER: Welcome to the Dacyczyn's who joined the Guild! Lisa Dacyczyn is looking for someone to do a site visit and advise her on where to place her three hives. Art volunteered to help.

The meeting ended at 10:49am.

Remainder meetings for 2026

- May 14th 6PM LIBRARY, Parksley VA
- Join Zoom Meeting
  https://zoom.us/j/95756064844?pwd=mrcdzDooeohPwEbKkY5NLlOFDrjiac.1

  Meeting ID: 957 5606 4844
  Passcode: 683648