



September 2018  
Volume 10, Issue 9  
[www.BeeKeepersGuild.org](http://www.BeeKeepersGuild.org)

## Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia



**President:** Bill Gregory; **Vice President:** Dave Robinson; **Treasurer:** Kathy Robinson; **Recording Secretary:** Tracy Shonts; **Newsletter Editor:** Pam Fisher; **Webmaster:** Dave Robinson | **Deadline for the newsletter is the 20th of each month.**

### *Words from the President*

#### Inside this issue:

<i>Bee Yard Notes</i>	2
<i>EAS 2018 Review</i>	2
<i>Fall Garden Festival</i>	3
<i>Beekeeper's Garden</i>	3
<i>Gene Richley Profile</i>	4
<i>Hospitality Assistance</i>	4
<i>I Killed Some Bees</i>	5
<i>Open Honey Competition</i>	6
<i>Memberships Expired</i>	6
<i>Honey Bee Festival</i>	7
<i>Abuzz for Honey Bees</i>	8
<i>Notes from the Property Manager</i>	8
<i>Dates to Remember</i>	9
<i>Beginning Beekeeping Course</i>	9

First and foremost, thank you! You made this year's Virginia Honey Bee Festival the biggest and best ever. You helped inform over 3,100 attendees about our favorite pollinator, put over 500 hundred pounds of raw honey and dozens of candles and other hive products into the hands of eager consumers, and appeared to have a good time doing so. Each year this is a huge event for us, requiring many people and many hours of effort. It cannot succeed without you, and each year you make it better. Be sure to record the public facing service hours you gave to the Festival. As a service focused nonprofit organization, we track our service time. Your recorded hours can benefit you as well, by advancing your name on the nucleus colony, "nuc," list and increasing your chances of winning one of our twice annual drawings for beekeeping equipment or related items.

Our next public facing event is the Virginia Beach Master Gardeners Fall Festival, on September 15. Be on the lookout for a SignUp Genius invitation to participate.

Fall is coming. I see goldenrod in bloom already. Soon the asters will join in the autumn blush of flowers. With that, honey production will become smelly. Some liken it to a dirty socks smell. No worries, though. Let the bees cure the honey and it will be clean and sweet. With fall also come the hive's preparation for winter. Expect the brood nest to shrink, drones to disappear and, invisibly to us, winter bees to be produced. In short, the hive will begin getting ready to settle in for winter and prepare itself for next spring. Ah, I wish I was smart enough to do likewise.

Happy beekeeping,

*Bill Gregory*



**September  
is  
National  
Honey  
Month**

### *September Monthly Meeting*

**Meeting:** Monday, September 10, 2018 at 7:00 PM

**Location:** Towne Hall, left wing of Towne Bank located at 137 Mt. Pleasant Rd., Chesapeake, VA 23322

**Program:** The Physiology of Winter Bees

**Speaker:** Cheryl Brown

## September Apiary Notes for Coastal Virginia

Hive populations will begin to drop this month as the queen's egg laying slows and the drone numbers begin to decline.



pleasantly fragrant; taking it too early will result in foul-smelling honey. Remember to leave 60 lbs. of honey for the bees to overwinter.

Since drone numbers are decreasing, Varroa mites will begin to reproduce in worker brood at higher rates. Varroa infestations prevent proper development of winter bees, which impacts the likelihood of colony survival. Treat as needed after removing all honey for human consumption.

You have probably seen an increase in Small Hive Beetles inside the hive. They survive the winter as adults within the bees' winter cluster. Traps are available commercially to reduce SHB numbers but keeping hives in full sun and crowding bees on the frames is the best SHB preventative.

The 'sour' smell of aster nectar being evaporated into honey may be apparent near hives and is not cause for alarm. Aster nectar is pungent - best described as a combination of locker room and goat!

Harvest your spring/summer honey if you haven't done so already and return wet supers to the hives at dusk to allow the bees time to clean the combs overnight and prevent robbing. If you are contemplating harvesting fall honey, wait until aster nectar is fully cured and

Remove queen excluders between the colony and its winter stores once you are done producing honey for human consumption.

Feed sugar syrup **inside the hive** if needed in a 2:1 ratio (5 lbs. sugar to 5 cups water) to ensure hives have adequate winter stores. Each gallon of syrup fed to the bees increases their reserves by about seven pounds. Do **NOT** use entrance feeders or you will encourage robbing.

Colony inspections should be quick and purposeful at this time of year. Keeping hives open for extended periods invites robbing. Robbing is difficult to stop once started and can be fatal to weak colonies.

Only strong colonies should be overwintered. If you are going to combine weak colonies with strong colonies, do it **now** to allow time for the bees to arrange their brood nest and honey stores before winter.

Install a mouse guard/entrance reducer on the hive entrance before cold weather to prevent mouse damage over the winter.



### EAS 2018 Review

If you missed the Eastern Apicultural Society's annual Short Course and Conference in Hampton Virginia, you missed the finest educational opportunity for beekeepers to be held in Virginia in the past 22 years. Over 70 speakers presented lectures, workshops, and apiary demonstrations to the almost 800 beekeepers in attendance.

The Short Course, offered on Monday and Tuesday, featured a beginning and intermediate track plus advanced topics such as Queen Rearing, Bees as Business, and Excellence in Honey and Hive Products. All presentations were open to all attendees despite one's experience

or skill level.

The conference began each day with a plenary session featuring keynote speakers and award-winning researchers presenting information not seen elsewhere, much of it unpublished. The afternoons of the conference were filled with more lectures, workshops and apiary sessions by speakers from around the globe.

As the day's education ended, the social events began - a time for attendees and speakers to enjoy the evenings together. Monday night was a field trip to St. George's Brewing Company, Hampton Roads' oldest microbrewery which also features and onsite apiary. Tuesday night was a Harbor Cruise. Wednesday night

was one's choice of a Beach Bash and Barbecue or a screening of *Queen of the Sun*. Thursday night is always a fundraising night featuring both silent and live auctions after an awards banquet honoring the Honey Show winners. Friday's banquet featured Dr. Sammy Ramsey as entertainment. Many attended an all-day field trip to Jamestown, entry point for honey bees into North America.

EAS is an all-volunteer organization whose mission is education through conferences, research grants and the certification of Master Beekeeper experts.

Next year's EAS meeting will be July 15-19, 2019 in Greenville, SC. Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

# Fall Gardening Festival ~ September 15, 2018

The Fall Garden Festival is held annually on the grounds of the Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center located at 1444 Diamond Springs Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23455. Admission and parking are free. The event features horticultural speakers, tours of the display gardens and arboretum, a plant and bake sale as well as a silent auction. Last year, over 2000 people attended the festival!

The theme this year is *Growing Solutions: Planting with a Purpose* featuring three garden talks that provide a bounty of information about making your landscape work for you. Officer David Nieves of the Virginia Beach Police Department will cover *Landscaping for Safety & Crime Prevention*; Trista Imrich of Lynnhaven River Now will present *Landscaping Techniques for Stormwater Management*; and Ruth Burch, Virginia Beach Master Gardener will talk about *Bees, Butterflies, and Other Amazing Pollinators* and how to attract them to your garden.

There's also a full schedule of children's activities throughout the day, demonstrations, make-and-takes, and garden tours.

Festival hours are 10 AM to 3 PM. Guild members are invited to participate at our booth by educating the public about the importance of honey bees. Members may sell properly labeled honey and hive products. Shifts are short, less than 4 hours each. You can help by signing up at [www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0549AFA92AA1FE3-20187](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0549AFA92AA1FE3-20187)

If we get enough volunteers, we can all take a little time for ourselves to enjoy the shopping and lectures at the festival!



## The Beekeeper's Garden in September

Coastal Virginia's meadows and roadsides are lush going into fall thanks to regular rain but that seems to be coming to an end. Hopefully we'll have a good nectar flow for bees and a fall honey harvest for beekeepers. In addition to the major nectar sources of Asters and Goldenrod, the following plants are blooming this month:



*Sweet Autumn Clematis (Clematis terniflora) is an invasive introduction from Asia. It forms a thick blanket over other vegetation but remains inconspicuous until autumn when the vines are enveloped in small fragrant white flowers that are very attractive to bees.*

Bachelor's Buttons (Centaurea cyanus), Beggarticks (Bidens), Begonia, Blanket Flower (Gaillardia), Borage, Butterfly Bush (Buddleia), Butterfly Weed (Asclepias tuberosa), Candle Bush (Cassia alata), Canna, Cape Leadwort (Plumbago auriculata), Catnip (Nepeta cataria), Celosia, Chrysanthemum (Dendranthema hybrids), Cleome, Coleus, Crepe Myrtle (Lagerstroemia), Egg-

plant, Escallonia, Fan Flower (Scaevola aemula), Ginger Lily (Hedychium), Gordonia (Gordonia lasianthus), Glossy Abelia, Hardy Ageratum (Eupatorium coelestinum), Honeysuckle (Lonicera), Hyssop (Agastache), Ironweed (Vernonia), Joe Pye Weed (Eutrochium purpureum), Lavender, Lilyturf (Liriope), Marigold, Marjoram, Mexican Sage (Salvia leucantha), all the Mints, Oregano, Oxeye daisy (Heliopsis helianthoides), Petunia, Pumpkin, Purple & White Coneflower (Echinacea), Rose (Rosa), Rosemary, Russian Sage (Perovskia atriplicifolia), Sumac (Rhus), Sunflower (Helianthus), Thyme, Tickseed (Coreopsis), Sedum, Verbena.

*Select single rather than double-flowering chrysanthemums and your bees will thank you. In double-flowering varieties, the pollen-bearing stamens have been converted to extra petals.*



*Goldenrod (Solidago) is a very important fall nectar source for bees, producing from 20 to 50 pounds of honey per acre. Goldenrod honey, which granulates quickly, is dark amber and strongly flavored.*



Gene and Lynn Richley

## Gene Richley, Founding Member Profile

by Pam Fisher

When the Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia was founded in 2009 by 28 beekeepers, Gene Richley was among them. Most of you know Gene as our Nuc Coordinator, a position he recently relinquished to enjoy more time at home with wife, Lynn. But what some of you may not realize is that Gene has contributed far more over his years with the Guild.

Starting a new club required drafting a constitution and bylaws, a committee for which Gene volunteered. From that point on, questions regarding guild bylaws were often referred to Gene, with the preface, "for your attention, Mr. Bylaws".

When we lost one of our founding members, Mr. Kerry Bass, within our first 12 months, guild members decided to create a scholarship in Kerry's honor. Gene stepped forward once again to chair that endeavor and has served on the committee faithfully ever since. Each year, Gene sends out the scholarship announcements to schools; collects the applications, helps score the applicants, awards the scholarship, and follows up with an article for the

guild newsletter.

Gene is probably the guild's most popular member for his service as Nuc Coordinator, the man responsible for pairing up newbees with their first bees. If you wanted bees, you contacted Gene. If you had bees to sell, you contacted Gene. He was our matchmaker.

Gene's many other contributions include volunteering for almost every event in which the guild has ever participated. From the Honey Bee Festival, to Autumn Fest, to Farm Days, the Virginia Flower & Garden, Expo, Waterways Heritage Festival, and many, many more, Gene's presence was a given. With dry, often self-deprecating humor, Gene could educate the most reluctant student, young or old, about bees, honey, or pollination.

Gene is spending more time at home with his family these days but his amazing contributions continue to positively influence our guild. Thank you, Gene, for all you've done for us!

**"Sometimes the most ordinary things could be made extraordinary, simply by doing them with the right people."  
-Elizabeth Green**



## Hospitality Assistance

The guild's hospitality coordinator, Debbie Caldwell would love some help with the monthly meeting's refreshments. If you can assist Debbie by bringing a snack, either sweet or savory, to the September guild meeting, please contact Debbie at [dscald94@gmail.com](mailto:dscald94@gmail.com) or 757-749-7718

**If everybody brought refreshments**

**just once during the year, we would have more than enough for each meeting.**

Thank you to everybody who has helped with refreshments; we all appreciate it!



**"This place certainly reeks of hospitality and good cheer, or maybe it's this cheese."  
-Jean Harlow**

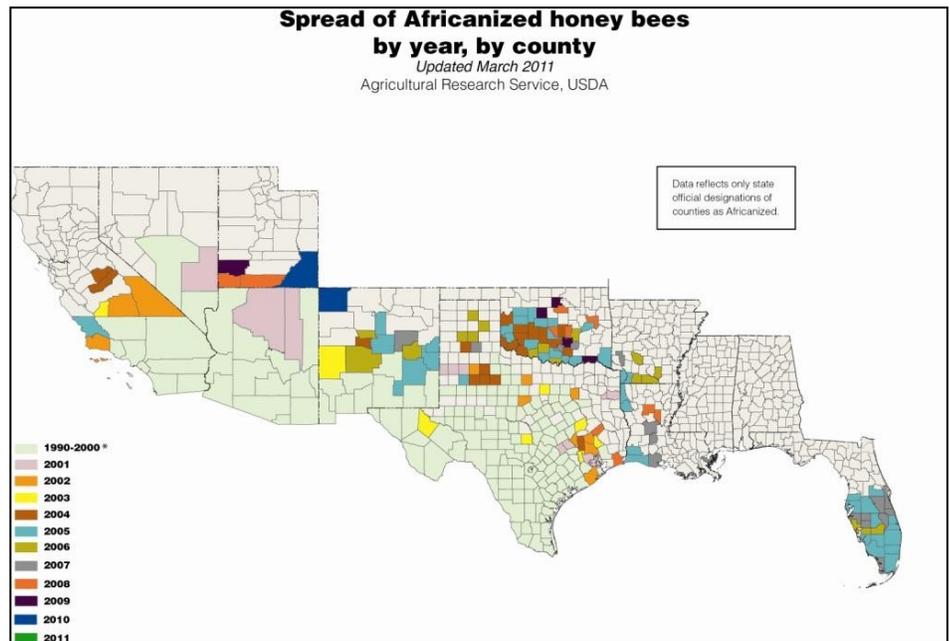
## *I Killed Some Bees* by Dave Kvello

I killed some bees. I have done this from time to time by mistake, clumsiness, and inattention, but this time it was deliberate. Moreover, it was an entire colony. With a state inspector watching. Was that enough of a hook to keep you reading?

A couple in the Thoroughgood neighborhood who were beekeepers in the past had some stored equipment that a swarm had moved into in the spring. Very nasty bees. Neither they, nor their neighbors could use their backyards; people were complaining about being stung. Brian Krause got the original call and all the headache and stings to go with it. Brian, being the nice guy that he is, went and took a look. And got stung for his trouble. A lot. He closed them up as best he could due to the state of the equipment. He walked two blocks away in an attempt to un-suit. He ending up going home in his bee suit. The next morning he and homeowner loaded them up in Brian's truck. Stings again.

Brian and I discussed finding the queen to re-queen and cool down the hive temperament but no way was he keeping them at his house and I was not going to try it at mine; I actually like my neighbors. One of the issues facing both the bees and the beekeepers was there were no frames in the top (deep) 8-frame box, so they had attached eight nice straight combs to the inner cover just as pretty as you please. This would mean we would have to cut out the comb and reattach it to frames while trying to find the queen and being attacked by the entire hive. It is also late in the season to re-queen, and reattach all the comb.

I called both the local bee inspector, Mohamed Abdalla, and the State Apiarist, Keith Tignor, to consult. Collectively, we decided the best



course of action was to sample the hive for Africanized traits and then destroy them. We cannot have hot bees like that spreading in our neighborhoods. It would be the end of backyard beekeeping. Other options would have been to attempt to find the queen, remove her, and then re-queen. It is getting late in the season to make a new queen, and we did not want those genetics at all. Plus, we would still have the really hot bee issue for a couple of months. We also did not want the drones out spreading their message of love.

Keith gave us a couple of safe ways to kill them so Brian covered up the closed up hive, which had a solid bottom board, with a sheet and drove the hive out to a rural out yard I use. Mohamed met us there to collect a small sample for testing and we opened up the hive. The heat had done the trick, the bees were dead and the comb had collapsed. We were prepared with sprayers of soapy water just in case. Soapy water clogs up the spiracles, which are the bees breathing tubes. We did not

enjoy this process as we are all beekeepers but sometimes the needs of the many outweigh the needs of a few (I think I just ripped off a Star Trek line; sorry Trekkies). Even two days later Brian was still being stung in his driveway from bees that were left behind.



*Africanized (left) and European (right) honey bees cannot be identified by appearance. Measurements of minute differences in the length of particular wing veins or exoskeletal plates, or a test of DNA, are needed to determine if a particular colony of bees is Africanized.*

*Photo credit: Scott Bauer, USDA)*

**STATE FAIR**  
OF VIRGINIA AT THE MEADOW



*"Competition is very good... as long as its healthy. It's what makes one strive to be better."*  
- Christine Lahti



*"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team."*  
-Phil Jackson

*Is Your Honey the Best in Virginia?*

Plan now to be a part of one of Virginia's greatest annual traditions since 1854 by entering the Open Honey Competition. **Applications are due by Friday, September 7, 2018.** Winners take home a ribbon and prize money as well as bragging rights for the year! Awards range from \$15 for 1<sup>st</sup> place to \$4 for 6<sup>th</sup> place. All entries are charged \$1.00 per class and mail-in entries must be accompanied by a check or money order. Faxed entries are no longer accepted. Entry tags will be mailed to you; other identifying labels on entries are forbidden.

Classes include:

- Light extracted honey
- Light amber extracted honey
- Amber extracted honey
- Dark extracted honey
- Frame of honey for extracting
- Light or light amber cut-comb honey
- Amber or dark cut-comb honey

- Light or light amber chunk honey
- Amber or dark chunk honey
- Comb honey - round section or cassette
- Creamed honey
- Beeswax mold
- Beeswax candles
- Fancy beeswax molds
- Observation hive
- Gadgets



More information as well as the competition handbook and entry form can be found at the State Fair web site: <http://www.statefairva.org/>

Color photos of the different honey classes are available in the competition guide on the web site to help exhibitors enter the proper class.

Entries must be delivered to Meadow Event Park, 13111 Dawn Blvd, Doswell, VA 23047, Meadow Pavilion, between 9:00 am and noon on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> for the judging and picked up when the fair closes.

*Memberships Expired!*



All Guild memberships were due July 1<sup>st</sup> and the grace period ends at the membership meeting on September 10, 2018.

If you are uncertain about the expiration year of your membership, please contact Guild Treasurer, Kathy Robinson, at [BGSV.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:BGSV.treasurer@gmail.com) or 757-641-1778 or check the sign-in sheet at the next meeting.

Membership in the Beekeepers Guild is \$20 per individual or family and an additional \$10 for an optional Virginia State Beekeepers Association membership.

Checks should be made payable to BGSV and mailed to Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia, P.O. Box 16516, Chesapeake, VA 23328 or given to Kathy at the meeting.

Electronic renewal via PayPal is also available on the guild's web site in the bottom right-hand corner of our front page.

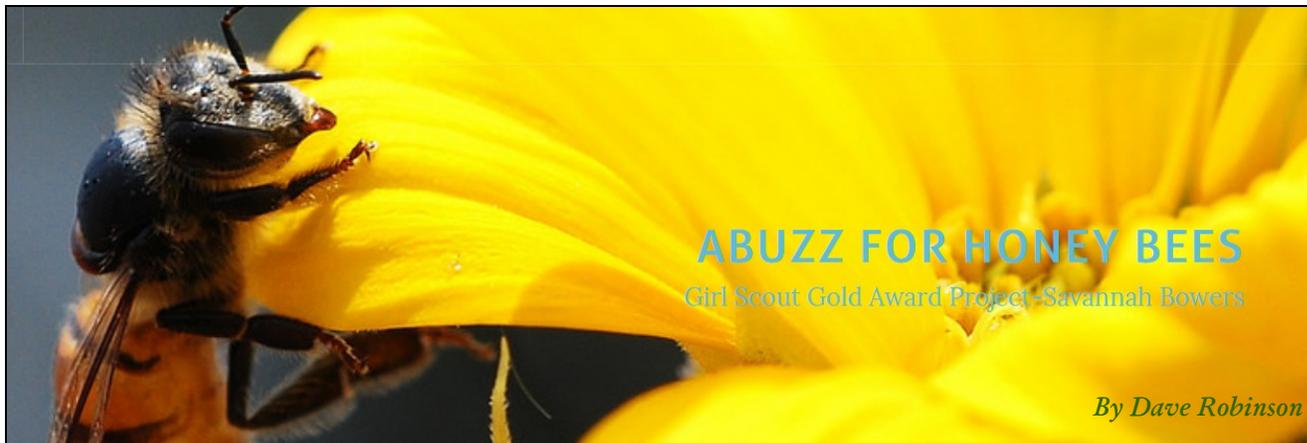
# Virginia Honey Bee Festival™

Hosted by the Norfolk Botanical Garden and the Guild, the 8<sup>th</sup> Virginia Honey Bee Festival™ was the biggest and best yet. This signature event for the Beekeepers Guild showcases all things honey bee, and gives more than passing acknowledgement to other pollinators and pollinator friendly plants.

Guild members sold honey, candles, soap and other hive related products. Our “Queen Bee” was photographed with tiny bees, little bees and middle sized bees – all children that dressed for the occasion. Our two observation hives, the teaching hive, extractor demonstration and other displays were surrounded by guests eager to learn about bees and beekeeping. Even the weather cooperated - the afternoon thundershower didn't arrive until the event was over. All in all, a great day for bees and for the Guild.

Sharing in the celebration were over 3,100 guests, dozens of Guild members, Norfolk Botanical Garden staff and volunteers, the Butterfly Society, Virginia Beach Master Gardeners, Girl Scouts, Buy Fresh Buy Local, Recycling Perks, food trucks and others.





If you were unable to attend the August BGSV meeting, you missed a great 20-minute presentation from Savannah Bowers on a honey bee educational program for elementary school children.

Savannah Bowers designed and created the *Abuzz for Honey Bees* educational program with the emphasis of educating elementary school aged children. She has created two separate lessons that are two hours each covering the importance of honey bee conservation and the role of the honey bee as a pollinator. Her presentation to the guild was a walk through of her teaching the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders at Norfolk Christian School. Her curriculum design not

only teaches these young minds about honey bees, but keeps them engaged with activities that simulate honey bee life.

Savannah is a girl scout in Troop 889 and is working to achieve her Girl Scout Gold Award through the development of this educational program. Her goal is to have her lesson materials shared among bee-keeping organizations within the area to complement their free community presentations with her educational program designed towards young children.

You can learn more of her program *Abuzz for Honey Bees* at her website: <https://abuzzforhoneybees.weebly.com>

## Notes from the Property Manager

by Jean Carideo

As a “newbie” at both being the property manager for the guild and as a beekeeper, I thought I’d share some conversations and observations I’ve had so far. First, as a new beekeeper:

I needed some medium frames; Casey and Steve (HandsOnBeekeepers) were kind enough to let me pick them up in Deep Creek.... Steve said to look for the trailer in the driveway. So, as I turn the corner to their street, I see not only the trailer, but also a parked pickup truck with hundreds (seemed more like thousands) of bee darting in and out of the open windows and the back gate. Because I’m

new, I had thought that bees only liked boxes? The truck has the trailer beat by a mile as a landmark! What a clever idea to turn a truck into a hive! They must not need the truck! Wow! I’ve never known anyone that had an extra truck before! When I finally found the courage to walk past it, I complimented them on their extreme cleverness. To their credit, they patiently explained to me that there was a swarm in the truck that Steve had collected, but just hadn’t moved yet.

And this is what I like about this guild - kind people who share their knowledge and who pretend that I’m not crazy.

***“The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.”***  
-Phil Jackson

# September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 	11 	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

## Dates to Remember

- September 3 - Labor Day
- September 6 - 2nd Class of Beginning Beekeeping Course
- September 7 - State Fair of Virginia Open Honey Competition Applications Due
- September 10 - Monthly Guild Meeting
- September 11 - Foragers 4-H Beekeeping Club Meeting
- September 13 - 3rd Class of Beginning Beekeeping Course
- September 15 - Fall Gardening Festival at HRAREC
- September 27 - Open Honey Competition Entries Due.
- September 28 to October 7 - State Fair of Virginia

## Beginning Beekeeping Class



In partnership with the Norfolk Botanical Garden, the Beekeepers Guild will be presenting a beginning beekeeping course to celebrate National Honey Bee Day and the Virginia Honey Bee Festival™.

The three-evening course will be held on Thursdays, August 30th, September 6th and September 13th from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. We will cover Beekeeping Equipment, Honey Bee Biology, and Seasonal Colony Management in that order. Thanks to a very successful Honey Bee Festival, the class is sold out.

Guild members are encouraged to attend and support the new students. If you plan to attend the class, please wear your guild shirt and inform the guard at the gate to the Norfolk Botanical Garden that you are there to attend the Beginning Beekeeping Course.

This is a great opportunity to receive a little refresher training while supporting the Guild at the same time. It's also a nice way to welcome new people into the exciting hobby of beekeeping; we all remember how daunting it can be to not know anyone in the room and how welcoming a friendly face can be!

**"The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery"**

**-Mark Van Doren**

