

Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia Newsletter

In this issue:

- Colony Loss Survey Results
- Hurricane Preparedness
- Honey Pumpkin Cornbread Muffins
- Brooklyn Bees
- Meet a Member
- Pollinator Garden Design

Next Month's Meeting:

July 20th
Starts at 10:00 AM
Extractaganza
Deep Creek Ruritan
200 Luray St
Chesapeake, VA



Words from the President

Greetings Fellow Beekeepers.

First of all, I would like to thank everyone for their support this past year while I had the pleasure of serving you as the Guild's President. Whether it was through your volunteer work at our many events, providing refreshments, working behind the scenes or just words of encouragement; it was greatly appreciated. I especially would like to thank our other officers, Charity Mack, Kathy Robinson, and Tracy Shonts for all of their hard work keeping the guild running smoothly and making my job easy. They deserve a huge thank-you for the work they completed in each capacity. It is time to welcome our newly elected officers, Nick Delphia – President; Steve Jones – Vice President, Kathy Robinson – Treasure and Jean Carideo – Recording Secretary. The reins will be officially turned over during our Extractaganza event. The Extractaganza is a great time of Guild fellowship to share bee stories, share a lunch together and help each other extract honey. I hope to see you there and please see more details on this event in this newsletter. We have several upcoming events that you can volunteer for including the Guild's signature event this August, the Honeybee Festival.



Dave

Bee Informed Partnership Colony Loss Survey Results

"Beekeepers across the United States lost 40.7% of their honey bee colonies from April 2018 to April 2019, according to preliminary results of the latest annual nationwide survey conducted by the University of Maryland-led nonprofit Bee Informed Partnership. Honey bees pollinate \$15 billion worth of food crops in the United States each year.

The survey results show, the annual loss of 40.7% this last year represents a slight increase over the annual average of 38.7%. However winter losses of 37.7%, were the highest winter loss reported since the survey began 13 years ago and 8.9 percentage points higher than the survey average."

<https://beeinformed.org/2019/06/19/latest-loss-survey-results-2018-19/>



Donnie and Richard representing the Guild at the Honey Festival in Virginia Beach on June 22nd. The honey tasting was a big hit!

Hurricane Preparedness

June 1st marked the start of hurricane season. Make sure you not only have a plan for your family, but a plan for your bees! To get your bees ready for a hurricane, take off supers or feeders and strap down your hives. Make sure to account for any potential flooding by keeping your hives off the ground.

See North Carolina State University's article for more information:

<https://entomology.ces.ncsu.edu/2017/09/protective-measures-of-beehives-during-hurricanes-2/>

recipe

Honey Pumpkin Cornbread Muffins

FROM THE KITCHEN OF

www.AmbitiousKitchen.com

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/4 cups yellow cornmeal
- 1 cup whole wheat pastry flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- Pinch of nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup canned pumpkin
- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1 cup unsweetened almond milk
- 1/3 cup honey, 2 tablespoons melted butter

DIRECTIONS

- In a large bowl, stir flour, cornmeal, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, and nutmeg together.
- In a separate bowl, stir together pumpkin, egg, almond milk, honey, and 2 tablespoons melted butter.
- Add dry ingredients to wet ingredients and stir until just combined. Divide batter evenly into muffin tins.
- Bake 15 - 18 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean or with just a few crumbs attached.

Bee Quiz

True/False

1. Nectar has more water than sugars; Honey has more sugars than water.
2. Bees consume just over 8 pounds of honey to produce 1 pound of wax.
3. The honey bee is the most studied insect in the world.
4. Pollen provides honey bees with the essential carbohydrates they need in their diets.
5. Only the queen honey bee has ovaries.
6. Generally, a beekeeper should perform varroa monitoring assessment at least four times during the year.
7. Freezing temperatures kill all stages of wax moth (eggs, larvae, pupae, adults).

Brooklyn Bees

“Christopher Russell, 52, a Manhattan sculptor, is one of 10 artists commissioned by the M.T.A. Arts for Transit and Urban Design program in its latest project to enhance New York subway stations.

Mr. Russell was entrusted with designing bronze gates, 7 feet high and 6 feet wide, at the Ninth Avenue Station in the Sunset Park neighborhood of Brooklyn. The gates depict honeybees crawling on hives, and the posts of adjacent fences will have honeybees resting on 17 finials shaped like flower heads.”

Read more at:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2012/08/02/garden/a-sculptor-creates-a-stop-on-the-bee-train-qa.html>



“The station is like a kiosk, and it reminded me of beehives — of people coming in and out of it, and doing their jobs.” - Christopher Russell

July 2019

Meet a Member

Help fill this spot!!

We'd love to get to know you!
Please send an email to the newsletter editor with a picture and a little about yourself and your bees to be featured in an upcoming newsletter!

Name:

City:

Years in Beekeeping:

Hives:

What's the Buzz?

2019 Butterfly Festival
July 13 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Norfolk Botanical Gardens

Eastern Apicultural Society Meeting
July 15-19
Greenville Convention Center
Greenville, SC

Guild's Next Meeting
August 12 at 7 - 9 PM
Towne Bank Hall

2019 Virginia Honeybee Festival
August 17 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Norfolk Botanical Gardens



Photo by Mike Luker

The Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia will never ask for money, gift cards, etc. via email. Please be aware of this scam.

Pollinator Garden Design

Dr. Youngsteadt and her students at NCSU have developed an online tool for designing pollinator gardens. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/y3a83glk> for more information.

Who to Contact

Mentorship Program: [Dennis Heidentald](#)

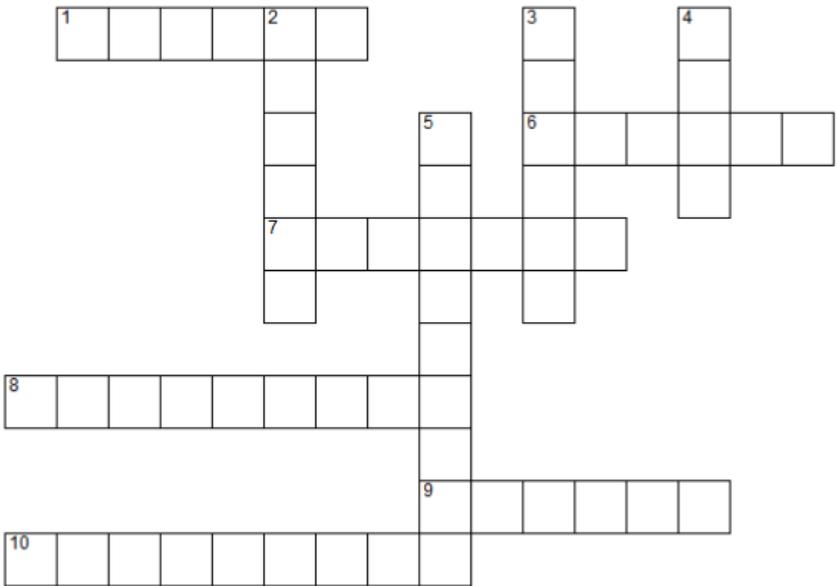
Guild Equipment: [Will Walker](#) (VABCH)

[Jean Carideo](#) (CHES)

Newsletter Contributions: [Avari Merritt](#)

Nematodes: [Chris Pering](#)

July 2019



ACROSS

DOWN

1 a group of bees living together

2 carbohydrates for bees

6 second stage of bee, grub like stage, eats
beebread

3 protein for bees

7 rear section of bee that contains the stinger
and other organs4 a bee's home, where it lives with other bees
and produces honey8 holes in the side of the bees which they
breathe through

5 combined area of tongue and mandibles

9 an animal with an exoskeleton, 3 body
parts, and 6 legs10 plier like jaws that are part of the bee's
mouth

FIND THE QUEEN



July 2019

2019 Extractaganza

What is Extractaganza exactly? It's our annual Guild event that we hold In Lieu of the July membership meeting. It's also the 12th anniversary of our Guild's founding. Harvesting honey can be a hot, sticky and tedious task. Everyone knows that many hands make for light work, so every July, Guild members, with their families and friends, get together and bring in their honey harvest while enjoying an indoor picnic.



During the luncheon, we announce/induct the new officers, and give out (2) \$50.00 gift certificates in a raffle for Public Service hours. New beekeepers who have not extracted honey before get to see how it is done and gain hands-on experience. If you have honey to spin, bring it! If you don't have any, come along anyway and get your hands sticky learning how to uncap and extract honey.



So come join us at the Deep Creek Ruritan Club on July 20th at 200 Luray Street Chesapeake, VA at 10 AM sharp. All Guild members, our families and friends are invited. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM, the Guild will provide the chicken and drinks. Please bring your favorite dessert or side dish to share. We ask that you RSVP with how many guests you will be bringing so that we can adequately plan for the day. And please let us know how many supers (boxes of frames) you will be extracting too! After lunch, at 1:00 we open the doors to the public, and continue to extract

honey until the last frame of honey is spun. Sign-up can be completed at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0549afa92aa1fe3-20197>

2019 Butterfly Festival

The Butterfly Festival to be held on Saturday, July 13, 2019 on the grounds of Norfolk Botanical Garden. Norfolk Botanical Garden is located at 6700 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk, VA 23518. The Beekeeping display will be in the Butterfly Garden and will include promotion of the guild's signature event, The Virginia Honey Bee Festival, happening in August.

Set up begins at 8:30 am and the festival opens at 10 AM. Volunteers are needed to help break down the display at the end of the festival. **All Volunteers will receive free admission to the Norfolk Botanical Garden.** Shifts are short, only 4 hours and any assistance you can give is most appreciated. Please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0549afa92aa1fe3-20198>



Questions about the Butterfly Festival? Please contact festival chairperson, Cheryl Brown.

2019 Virginia Honeybee Festival

Mark your Calendars, it's time to celebrate honey bees once again at the guild's signature event - the Virginia Honey Bee Festival™, held in conjunction with the Norfolk Botanical Garden.

We'll start the festivities Saturday morning, August 17, 2019, 10am to 4 pm, in Baker Visitors Center with an assortment of educational displays, vendors, food purveyors and live music. More activities for children will take place in the WOW garden.



A honey bee festival would not be complete without local honey for sale and guild members will provide it along with beeswax candles and other hive products such as handcrafted soaps, lip balm and propolis.

To be successful, the festival requires many guild volunteers. Volunteers explain the 8-frame observation hive, assist with beeswax candle-rolling, explain Heifer International, sell bee-friendly plants, referee the Busy Bee Beanbag toss, help kids blow giant bubbles and possibly demonstrate how to extract honey from the comb.

Please help if you can; shifts are short - only four hours. The sign-up page will be posted soon.

July 2019

HETERORHABDITIS INDICA

AS WE ALL KNOW honey bees have several natural parasitic predators. Not the least of these is the SMALL HIVE BEETLE (Aethina tumida).

According to Arbico Organics Catalog: "Now more than ever, it is important to protect our bees and other pollinators. Using Beneficial Nematodes to control hive beetles is cost effective and eco-friendly."

FOR THE NEWEST OF APIARISTS AMONG US:WHAT ARE SMALL HIVE BEETLES (SHB)?

According to Wikipedia:

In New South Wales, Australia, infestation of hives by small hive beetle is notifiable as a honey bee pest under the Stock Diseases Act 1923. The maximum penalty for failing to notify is \$11,000.[13]

So the bottom line is-- BE GLAD YOU DO NOT LIVE IN NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA!



[13]. Rankmore, Mick (2007). "NSW Apiaries Act 1985 - a guide to the main sections" (PDF). NSW Department of Primary Industries. Archived from the original (PDF) on 2011-03-22. Retrieved 2010-11-01.

Research from North Carolina showed that the population of the small hive beetles in hives is greatly reduced by the introduction of the nematode species: HETERORHABDITIS INDICA

Q "How do nematodes reduce SHB and Wax Moth populations?"

A. They contain microbes that literally eat the SHB LARVAE FROM THE INSIDE OUT--ugh! Simple, to the point, but very effective!

Q. "Are they harmful to humans, pets or good insects?"

A. NO! Amazingly, they are uniquely "designed" to specifically target SHB and WAX MOTH LARVAE. PERIOD.

Q. "How do apiarists use nematodes to help ward off parasitic SHB and destructive Wax Moths?"

A. THREE SIMPLE STEPS:

STEP 1. Simply, keep the solution cool until you can apply it in the early evening onto the ground area underneath and around in the front of and the sides of the hive. Nematodes do not like sunlight.

STEP 2. Dilute and mix the solution into a watering can with 1-2 gallons of clean tap water. Sprinkle it in front of, underneath, and to the sides of the beehive. Do this up to 1 foot out in each direction, from the front and the sides of the hive box. This is where the small hive beetle larvae drop out of the box and pupate.

STEP 3. Each hive needs its own application or treatment dose. (If your hives sit closer than one foot from another; and you have more than three hives; you may be able to use a dose or two less than a 1:1 ratio i.e. dose: hive.) Possibly you could apply two doses for the three hives, etc.

Article by Chris Pering



Nematodes (a type of roundworm) are only one option for combating small hive beetles. Soil drenches, traps, and chemical treatments inside the hive are some other options. Make sure to do your research before deciding which option is best for you and your bees.

Did this article help you? Do you want to see others like it? Let us know! Do you have an article or photo you'd like to see in the next newsletter? Please send all submissions to the editor at: albemarlebeekeepersnewsletter@gmail.com

1. True
2. True
3. True
4. False

5. False
6. True
7. True

1. COLONY
2. NECTAR
3. POLLEN
4. HIVE
5. PROBOSCIS

6. LARVAE
7. ABDOMEN
8. SPIRACLES
9. INSECT
10. MANDIBLES