



President: Bill Gregory; Vice President: Dave Robinson; Treasurer: Kathy Robinson; Recording Secretary: Tracy Shonts; Newsletter Editor: Dave Robinson; Webmaster: Pam Fisher | Deadline for the newsletter is the 25th of each month.

Words from our President, Bill Gregory

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president. I will strive to be worthy of the honor. I look forward to serving alongside my fellow elected officers, the appointed board members and each of you. Our bylaws state:

“The objectives of this nonprofit organization shall be:

- To provide a forum or the exchange of information, ideas, and views of mutual interest to beekeepers;
- To provide education on the practical aspects of beekeeping and elevate the standards of beekeeping;
- To foster cooperation between members of the Guild;
- To promote education, understanding and cooperation between the Guild and the community with regard to beekeeping;
- To promote the interests of the Guild membership which relate to bees and beekeeping;
- To promote sustainable beekeeping utilizing chemical free methods;
- To promote the mentoring program and provide assistance as needed;
- To promote the use of honey, honey products, and other hive products.”

How can we best achieve these objectives? If you have ideas on how we can make our Guild better, please share them with me or with any board member.

As surely as the bees fly in the morning I need to ask for your help. The 8th annual Virginia Honey Bee Festival will be celebrated on Saturday, August 18th at the Norfolk Botanical Garden. This is arguably our biggest public facing event of the year. It's only one day, but it's a big one. We need all the volunteers we can get. If you haven't yet signed up with the Sign Up Genius, please contact me, Dave, Kathy or Tracy and I'll make sure you're on the list. Every year, the Festival gets bigger and better. It's a great place to sell your hive products, help others learn about bees and beekeeping, and to learn more yourself.

How are your hives doing? There's not much forage right now. Do you need to feed your bees? This is the time of year to be really vigilant about varroa mites and small hive beetles. If you're new to the hobby, ask your mentor to help assess your colonies. Be ready to treat if necessary. The health of the colony now has an impact on its ability to prepare for and survive the coming winter.

I look forward to an enjoyable year of learning more about beekeeping with you.

Bill

August Monthly Meeting

Meeting: Monday, August 13, 2018 at 7:00 PM

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

Program: Bee Forage for Hot & Cold Weather

Speaker: Mike Andruczyk, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent

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Virginia
Honey Bee
Festival

10 AM to 4 PM

Saturday,
August 18th

August Apiary Notes for Coastal Virginia

There are still a few nectar and pollen sources such as vegetables and landscape ornamentals. However, the bees sense that the primary nectar flow has ended so you should begin to see less brood production and more defensive behavior during hive inspections.

If you are fortunate enough to live in an area with cotton fields, they should be in bloom now. Otherwise, if you have not already done so, August is a good time to remove any *surplus* honey that is on the hive. Don't take it all or you may find yourself feeding bees this fall.

When pulling honey or returning wet supers to the bees, keep an eye out for robbing activity and install entrance reducers as needed.

This is the time of year when small hive beetles become a problem in weak hives and nucleus colonies. Your best defense is strong colonies in full-day sun.

Monitor your hives for Varroa mites and treat if you have high levels of infestation. VIRGINIA HAS UPDATED THE TREATMENT THRESHOLD TO 40 mites in a 24-hour period using a sticky board or 3 to 4 mites per 100 bees for a sugar roll, which is considered the more accurate of the two monitoring methods.

Mite treatments should be completed in August to pro-



duce healthy winter bees. If using the powdered sugar method, use 1 cup per deep brood box or 2/3 cup per medium brood box, *applied weekly for four consecutive weeks*. Remember, most treatments only target phoretic mites (those outside the capped cells).

Please think hard before using synthetic chemical treatments in your hive; you are, after all, applying an insecticide in a box of insects. Mite load should be above the threshold before you consider this option or you will select for more virulent mites. Be aware that most treatments have deleterious effects on bees.

If treating, all honey for human consumption should be removed before treatment begins with the exception of Mite Away Quick Strips or powdered sugar. All treatments should be applied in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions - the label is the law!

If your bees are from swarms or the queen is over two years old, consider requeening in the fall so that the new queen is ready for spring work.

Make sure your bees have an adequate water supply. They need water to drink and to cool the hive.

Beginning Beekeeping Course



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 13th from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. We will cover Honey Bee Biology, Beekeeping Equipment and Seasonal Colony Management.

Cost: \$50 (\$65 for not-yet-Botanical Garden members)

Register at: [Beginning Beekeeping](#) or by calling the registrar at: 757-441-5830 extension 338 between 10 AM and 2 PM Monday-Friday.

"Education is the movement from darkness to light"

--Alan Bloom

Butterfly Festival Review



The annual Botanical Garden's Bee Festival was held on 14 July. The guild was took part with an educational stand. A steady stream of visitors passed by our table and we shared information with those interested in learning about bees and beekeeping. We were visited by several young butterflies (kids) eager to learn of bees. Special thanks to those folks

that helped make this event a success; Will Walker, Shonts' family, Connie Pozniak, Suzanne Luna, and Dave and Kathy Robinson.



The Beekeeper's Garden in August

Landscapes, bees and mosquitoes are all enjoying the extra moisture that came in late July.

Blooming this month are: Anise Hyssop, (Agastache foeniculum), Aster, Bee Balm (Monarda), Bee Bee Tree (Tetradium danielli), Begonia, Black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia), Blanket Flower (Gaillardia), Bluebeard (Caryopteris), Borage, Bowman's Root (Gillenia trifoliata), Butterfly Bush (Buddleia), Butterfly Weed (Asclepias tuberosa), Calendula, Camellia, Catnip, (Nepeta), Chaste Tree (Vitex), Clerodendrum,



Hibiscus are available in both hardy and tropical varieties, native plants and introductions. They can be herbaceous perennials or deciduous shrubs. No matter which type you grow, they bloom in the hottest months of the year and are favorites of bees.

Clover, Coneflower (Echinacea), Coreopsis, Cotton, Crepe Myrtle, Cucumber, Dandelion, (Taraxacum), Dusty Miller (Senecio cineraria), Eggplant, English Ivy (Hedera helix), Escallonia, Fan Flower (Scaevola), Ginger (Hedychium), Honeysuckle (Lonicera), Horehound (Marrubium vulgare), Horse-

mint (Monarda), Hibiscus, Lamb's Ears (Stachys byzantina), Lavender, Lemon Balm (Melissa officinalis), Marigold (Tagetes), Marjoram, Melons, Mints, Onion, Oregano, Petunia, Plumbago, Queen Anne's Lace (Daucus carota), Rose, Rose Campion (Lychnis coronaria), Rosemary, Rose of Sharon (Althea), Russian Sage (Perovskia atriplicifolia), Salvia, Seven Sons Tree (Heptacodium miconioides), Speedwell (Veronica), Squash, Sunflower (Helianthus), Thistle, Thyme, Tomato, Trumpet Vine, Verbena, Yarrow.

Sunflowers (Helianthus) have composite flowers that are actually made up of two types of flowers, the shony ray florets, commonly known as petals, surround the disk florets in the center. The disk florets are the fertile florets that produce the seeds. Sunflowers produce 30 - 100 pounds of honey and 200 - 250 pounds of pollen per acre.



English Ivy (Hedera helix) is an invasive plant which does not bloom when grown horizontally in its juvenile vining form. When grown vertically, it matures with woody stems, ovate leaves and a sputnik-shaped inflorescence followed by fruit. Don't be surprised if you get a swarm call for a tree filled with flowering ivy; the hum of foraging bees is surprisingly loud!



Honey Bee Festival



VIRGINIA Honey Bee Festival @NBG



It's time to recognize the hardworking honey bee once again at the Virginia Honey Bee Festival™, an annual event we celebrate with our partner, Norfolk Botanical Garden. Thanks to a staff of gardeners keeping 7000 species of plants in bloom, Norfolk Botanical Garden is the ultimate 155 acres of bee forage in Hampton Roads AND the perfect venue to celebrate National Honey Bee Day!

We'll start the festivities at Baker Visitors Center with an assortment of local honeys to sample and purchase. Learn how to raise bees and purchase "bee" plants to create a bee friendly yard. Take a look inside a "live" bee hive and participate in great activities for the entire family! Kids that come dressed as a bee get a free honey stick!

Food Vendors include:

- The Honey Pot: Grilled Cheese and more
- Just Cupcakes
- Over the Moon Pizza

Shoppers can peruse the vendor area stocked with bee-themed ceramic creations, wearable insects of glittering glass, handcrafted beads, photographs and unique steampunk jewelry. Our guild will also offer bee friendly fall-blooming plants for sale. Vendors include:

- Merchandise Vendors include:
- Barbara Bloom Pottery
- Bill Core (Studio 107 Jewelry)

- Blue Heron Pottery
- Ellie Beads
- P.B. Connections
- Neighborhood Harvest Natural Products

Other Vendors include:

- Butterfly Society of Virginia
- Pollination Station with NBG and ODU
- Candle Rolling, Face Painting, Coloring, lots of activities for the kids!
- Bee Guild Plant Sale
- Norfolk Master Gardeners
- Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast
- Visit Norfolk
- Buy Fresh Buy Local Hampton Roads

Children's activities will include the perennial favorite, the Busy Bee Beanbag Toss with honey stick prizes and a beeswax candle rolling station. More activities for children will take place in the WOW garden.

A honey bee festival would not be complete without other hive products such as beeswax candles, handcrafted soaps, lotions, lip balm and propolis. We'll be demonstrating how to extract honey from the comb adjacent to the honey sales area!

To be successful, the festival requires many guild volunteers. Please help if you can; shifts are short - only four hours. All volunteers receive free admission to the Norfolk Botanical Garden for the day. If you can give a few hours of your time, please sign up at the next Guild meeting or in the members section of our website.

Any assistance that you offer is most appreciated!

"Everybody can be great because everybody can serve... You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love."

--Martin Luther King



**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE AND
CONSUMER SERVICES**

VDACS Beehive Distribution Program

Effective July 1, 2018, the Beehive Distribution Program replaced the Beehive Grant Program (see [Chapter 192 of Acts of Assembly](#)). The Beehive Distribution Program provides beehive equipment directly to eligible beekeepers. Residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia who are 18 years of age or older at the time an application is submitted are eligible to receive up to three beehive units per year. Individuals who submit an application for a beehive unit through the Program will be registered as a beekeeper with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Department).

Applications will be reviewed in the order in which each completed eligible application is received by the Department. In the event funds have been exhausted and all beehive units distributed for the fiscal year (July 1 thru June 30), the Department will cease accepting applications and notify applicants. Applications from beekeepers who do not receive beehive units will not be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

A bee hive unit consist of: Hive box or boxes of:

- Two deep Langstroth boxes, or
- Three medium Langstroth boxes, or
- One Top Bar Box
- Frames for the hive box(es)
- Foundation or similar guide for drawing comb for frames for the hive box(es)
- Bottom board
- Inner cover for a Langstroth hive unit
- Outer cover

The following styles may be applied for:

- Eight frame Langstroth medium brood box hive
- Eight frame Langstroth deep brood box hive
- Ten frame Langstroth medium brood box hive
- Ten frame Langstroth deep brood box hive
- Top bar hive

Starting July 1, 2018, the Beehive Grant Fund will be used solely for the Beehive Distribution Program and will not provide funding for reimbursement to beekeepers who submitted an application and are awaiting approval of their grant under the Beehive Grant Program.

If interested, more information can be obtained in the [Program Guidelines](#).

Extractaganza 2018 Review

We had great success with Extractaganza last month when we gathered with over 80 of our closest friends and family to enjoy comradeship, education and good food. It was amazing to see the number of people who turned out for the event, both from the guild and the public. Thank you to everyone who came early to set up, those who stayed afterwards to clean up, and everyone who worked so hard during the event to make it enjoyable and educational for all.

During lunch, we raffled off three gift certificates to bee suppliers, a pair of BeefFest tickets and some beekeeping tools among our guild's public service volunteers. Congratulations to those who won!

We opened the doors to the public at 1 PM and showed them the sticky secrets of our craft. Most were amazed at how the honey gets from the wooden box to the bottle.

Weather precluded us to be able to set up a solar wax melter as we have done in past Extractaganza events.

At 3:00, we wrapped up the event and began to clean up. Thanks to those dedicated volunteers who stayed behind to help.

I believe this event is so successful each year because we all pull together and make it so. You definitely do not want to miss the Extractaganza festivities next year!



Dues Are Overdue

All guild memberships run from July 1st to June 30th of each year. If you are unsure what **year** your membership expires, contact guild treasurer, Kathy Robinson, at BGSV.treasurer@gmail.com or 757-641-1778.

Dues are \$20.00 per voting membership, family or individual; \$20.00 entitles you to one vote. For \$10.00 more, just \$30.00 total, you get Guild membership plus membership in the Virginia State Beekeepers Association (VSBA).

Your membership entitles you to participation in our

nucleus colony and mentor programs, use of guild property, such as our refractometer and extractors, and discounts on group purchases.

You may pay by using the PayPal button on the right-hand side of our web site (includes a small PayPal fee which will equate to \$21 or \$32 total depending on the membership option desired) or send your check made payable to BGSV to Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia, P.O. Box 16516, Chesapeake Virginia 23328

EAS 2018 by Pam Fisher, EAS President

Mark your calendars for August 13-17, 2018 and enjoy a full week of honey bee education during EAS 2018 at the Hampton Roads Convention Center. For those of you who have never attended EAS, it is five full days and nights of all things honey bee, affectionately referred to as Bee Camp.

EAS starts out with two days of the Short Course which includes six concurrent tracks: Beginner, Intermediate, Bees as Business, Queen Rearing, and Excellence in Honey and Hive Products. There is also instruction in the apiary so don't forget your veil. You are welcome to attend any class in any track no matter what your experience level. The Wednesday through Friday conference is filled with keynote speakers and award-winning researchers in the morning general sessions and a number of concurrent workshops in the afternoon. Evening social events such as a movie screening and auction are planned along with a Beekeeper Beach Bash and Awards Banquet. Field trips to Jamestown and St. George's Brewery, with its onsite apiary, are in the works.

And don't forget the Honey Show – you've got to be in it to win it! Classes include: honey, beeswax, mead, gadgets, photography, cookery, gift baskets and crafts. There is also a tradeshow with dozens of vendors, and a honey exchange where you can exchange up to three jars of your own honey for honey from another part of the globe.

Information regarding the conference is posted on the Eastern Apicultural Society's website at www.easternapiculture.org as it becomes available. Should you wish to volunteer with the conference, we welcome your assistance. To volunteer, contact Pam Fisher at EAS2018Virginia@gmail.com. Please join us and be a part of *Where it All Began*.



Fall Gardening Festival ~ Sept. 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 *Gardening in Cool Seasons* featuring three garden talks that provide a bounty of information for preparing your gardens in fall & winter.

Les Parks from Norfolk Botanical Gardens will speak about getting the most color in the fall garden.

Meg Haas French of Virginia Society of Landscape Designers will talk about creating fall and winter habitat for beneficial wildlife.

Cristina Fletcher of Visionscapes Land Design will

show you now to make the most of your garden through winter and get it prepared for spring.

Dana Lusher, a permitted wildlife rehabilitator, will be bringing some special guests - her owls - to the festival, and will give a talk under the large tent outdoors.

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 in the members section of our web site.

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



August 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	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Dates to Remember

- August 2- Board Meeting - Members welcome!
- August 6- Chesapeake 4-H Beekeeping Club Meeting
- August 13- Guild Meeting
- August 18 - Virginia Honey Bee Festival™
- August 21 - Virginia Beach 4-H Beekeeping Club Meeting
- August 30 - 1st Class of Beginning Beekeeping Course at Norfolk Botanical Garden
- September 6 - Board meeting, members welcome
- September 6 - 2nd Class of Beginning Beekeeping Course at NBG