

The Bee Line

Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia



JUNE & JULY
2022 EDITION

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**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS:
DUE JUNE 30TH**

Visit the <https://www.beekeepersguild.org/>
homepage to renew today!

Article submissions are
always welcome!
Email the editor at
jenniferburdock@gmail.com

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Nick Delphia

Welcome back! It has been a long time since I last wrote to you, but the good news is that we now have a Newsletter Editor! I'd like to give a warm welcome to Jennifer Bell who has graciously volunteered to be our newsletter editor. Thanks, Jennifer! This is where you come in – If you would like to submit an article, share a story about your experience in the bee yard, or a favorite recipe that uses honey, please send it to Jennifer at: jenniferburdock@gmail.com.

As we get back to a somewhat-new normal while dealing with COVID-19, we are beginning to have more in-person events and meetings. We will continue to conduct a hybrid (in-person and Zoom) monthly meeting as Towne Bank has restricted in-person attendees to 35 people due to COVID. We ask that you please RSVP in advance via the sign-up genius link in the meeting reminder email to ensure we do not exceed Towne Bank's capacity.

The Guild recently participated in the Virginia Beach Craft Show, where we spoke to many potential beekeepers. Our Guild participates in these events like the Craft Show to help educate the public on the importance on honey bees and explain that honey bees don't only provide us pollination and honey, but that many items can be made with products from the hive.

There will be several upcoming opportunities to engage the public (as mentioned later in this newsletter) and we will need your help.

Can you believe it is June already? Hopefully your bees are buzzing with activity, turning that nectar into surplus honey, so you can bring all of supers out to our next big event – Extractaganza! What is Extractaganza? It is an exciting event for everyone, especially the beekeepers who will extract their first honey. If you missed this event last year, you need to come out this year – you will not regret it. There is a great article about it later in this newsletter. Hopefully, you managed your hives well, and they didn't swarm on you. If they did, I hope you were lucky enough to capture the queen and her swarm.

While on the topic of events, our next MAJOR event is the Virginia Honey Bee Festival which we will hold in conjunction with the Norfolk Botanical Garden on August 20th. The day will be full of fun and education for everyone. There will be loads of honey bee related activities, so we will need many Guild members to help the public understand and appreciate these wonderful insects.



BGSV

Extractaganza

will be held Saturday,
July 9th starting at 10AM
at the **Deep Creek**
Ruritan Club,
located at 200 Luray St,
Chesapeake, VA 23323.



What is Extractaganza exactly? It's our annual Guild event that we hold in lieu of the July membership meeting. It's also the 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 will give out some door-prizes.

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 9th, at 200 Luray Street Chesapeake, VA 23323 at 10 AM sharp. All Guild members, families and friends are invited to attend. 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 by July 5th** with how many guests you will be bringing so that we can adequately plan for the day. If you plan on bringing honey to extract, please let us know how many supers (boxes of frames) you will be extracting too! You will also need to bring a 5-gallon paint strainer and food-grade buckets with tight fitting lids for your honey and wax cappings.

After lunch, at 1:00 PM we'll open the doors to the public and continue to extract honey until the last frame of honey is spun.

Please RSVP here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0549AFA92AA1FE3-20221>

We look forward to seeing everyone there!





July 16,
2022

Norfolk Botanical Garden Butterfly Festival

Join NBG and the Butterfly Society of Virginia for the 2022 Butterfly Festival being held on **July 16, 2022 from 10 am to 4 pm!** Enjoy educational booths and demonstrations, as well as lots of activities for butterfly enthusiasts of all ages.

Guest are encouraged to dress up in their best butterfly costume. This event will be held on the grounds of Norfolk Botanical Garden. Norfolk Botanical Garden is located at 6700 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk, VA 23518.

The Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia will be hosting one of the booths featuring honey bee educational displays, information and hive products for sale at the NBG 2022 Butterfly Festival.

Volunteers are needed to help set up the display, staff the booth, take photos, and take down the display at the end of the festival. **All Volunteers will receive free admission, and any assistance is appreciated!** You can sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0549AFA92AA1FE3-20222>

VIRGINIA HONEY BEE

FESTIVAL



The 2022 Virginia Honey Bee Festival™ by Pam Fisher, BGSV Events Coordinator

It's time to recognize the hardworking honey bee once again at the Virginia Honey Bee Festival™, the Guild's signature event which we celebrate with our partner, Norfolk Botanical Garden.

We'll start the festivities at 10 AM on Saturday, August 20, 2022 at Baker Visitors Center with an assortment of educational displays. Children's activities will include the Busy Bee Beanbag Toss with honey stick prizes, a giant bubble area, a beeswax candle rolling station, and a costume parade along with pictures taken with the queen bee.

Shoppers can peruse the vendor area stocked with bee-themed ceramic creations, jewelry, and bee-friendly plants to enhance the 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. We'll even be demonstrating how to extract honey from the comb!

To be successful, the festival requires many Guild volunteers including members willing to bring their bees in observation hives. Please help if you can; shifts are short - only four hours. If you're willing to volunteer, be on the lookout for the Sign-Up Genius link.

Any assistance that you can give is most appreciated!



Volunteer Opportunities



Many things happen “behind the scenes” to help the Guild run smoothly and efficiently. We have several Guild Positions available, and we are soliciting volunteers.

We are currently in need of a Property Manager(s), Recording Secretary, Registrar, Hospitality Coordinator, and various committee members. While some of these positions are yearly appointments, committee memberships are relatively short term (a month or two). We currently need volunteers for the following committees: Audit Committee, Education Committee, Scholarship Committee, and Nominating Committee.

If interested in volunteering for any position or if you have any questions, please contact Nick Delphia at delfi99@cox.net

Vacant Guild Positions

Recording Secretary

Normally an elected position, the guild is looking for someone to fill the vacant Recording Secretary position until elections can be held.

Duties include:

- Record minutes of all Board meetings (1st Thursday of each month)
- Record minutes of all membership meetings (2nd Monday of each month)
- Forward minutes to Guild Webmaster for upload to the website
- Maintain record of treasurer reports
- Maintain record of annual audit findings

Property Manager

We are looking for a guild member in the Chesapeake area who is willing to store some of the Guild's property and make it available for members to check out. This is not a daily or weekly responsibility. The property manager is not expected to bring the equipment to guild events nor pick it up. We are looking for someone with a little space, about 50 square feet, for storage and the ability to be available at reasonable hours, by appointment, for guild members to pick up or drop off equipment. Have a business or storage unit and want a tax credit? As a nonprofit, we can provide one for services in kind.

Duties Include:

- Ensure Guild property is accounted for at all times
- Maintain a checkout process for Guild equipment
- Immediately report if any Guild property becomes lost or damaged
- Collect and refund deposits on Guild extractors
- Maintain Guild publications and report when inventories are low and need replenishing
- Ensure availability of Guild property for Guild sanctioned events
- Coordinate with members to distribute and receive Guild property
- Support the Audit Committee during annual audits

If interested in volunteering for any position or if you have any questions, please contact Nick Delphia at delfi99@cox.net

Vacant Guild Positions

Registrar

The Guild would like to establish a registrar position to relieve some of the recordkeeping duties of the Treasurer. The Registrar collaborates with the Guild Treasurer to update and maintain a record of current membership, public hours served, and guild meeting attendance.

Duties include:

- Provide and update current membership roster
- Email a welcome letter to new members and visitors
- Ensure sign-in sheets are available at each meeting
- Ensure Guild visitors sign-in and provide membership information if needed.
- Ensure new members' contact information is forwarded to Webmaster for email distribution list and access to the website.
- Forward new members' contact information to the Events Coordinator for electronic sign-ups
- Provide a list of members eligible for office after the April meeting

Hospitality Coordinator

The Hospitality Coordinator position can be filled by one guild member or a team that is willing to coordinate refreshments for monthly guild meetings and social events. The hospitality coordinator is responsible for bringing paper products and water to each event. They also assemble the refreshments brought by guild members into a buffet for the break following the educational presentation. Refreshment sign-ups are handled through the guild's electronic signups and any expenditures on behalf of the guild by the refreshment coordinator are reimbursed. If your special talents are organizational and you find coordinating refreshments for social events rewarding, please consider volunteering.

If interested in volunteering for any position or if you have any questions, please contact Nick Delphia at delfi99@cox.net

Mentors Wanted!

Our guild is buzzing with new members in need of mentors to guide them through their first year. Help teach the next generation of beekeepers and share your wealth of knowledge and experience. Contact our mentor coordinator, Dennis Heidenthal, at heidenthal@gmail.com to be partnered up with a "newbee" today!



Virginia Beehive Distribution Program

LOOKING TO EXPAND YOUR APIARY?

Consider applying to the Beehive Distribution Program, through the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The program provides free equipment for assembling new beehives (up to 3 hives per household) to Virginia residents 18 years of age or older. Qualified applicants are selected at random from all eligible applications received during the application period.

Recipients of beehive units must assemble the equipment and occupy it with a colony of honey bees within one year of receiving the equipment. VDACS does not provide bees, equipment for managing the hives such as personal safety equipment, or honey processing equipment.

Be on the lookout for the application site to open at the end of July!
Beehive Distribution Program (virginia.gov)

EAS 2022

by Pam Fisher, EAS President Emeritus



You won't want to miss this year's Eastern Apicultural Society's annual Short Course and Conference, the finest educational opportunity for beekeepers in the US. Every year, the Eastern Apicultural Society conference features dozens of speakers presenting lectures, workshops, and apiary demonstrations to hundreds of beekeepers from all over the world. The conferences take place in one of the EAS member states or provinces. This year's EAS short course and conference will take place August 1-5, 2022, on the campus of Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York.

The Short Course, offered on Monday and Tuesday, features a beginner's track and advanced topics such as Microscopy, Queen Rearing, Bees as Business, and Excellence in Honey and Hive Products. All presentations

are open to all attendees regardless of one's experience or skill level.

The conference, which begins on Wednesday, opens 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 are filled with more lectures, workshops and apiary sessions by expert speakers from around the globe.



As the day's education ends, the social events begin - a time for attendees and speakers to enjoy the evenings together. Events include dining around town with local beekeepers, an evening at a commercial beekeeping operation, a BBQ dinner or an auction to raise funds for beekeeping research.

EAS is an all-volunteer organization whose mission is education through conferences, research grants and the certification of Master Beekeeper experts. To learn more about EAS, including volunteer opportunities to offset conference fees, visit the EAS conference website at:
<https://easternapiculture.org/conference/eas-2022/>



Summer Meeting Dates

June 13th @7pm hybrid meeting (virtual + in person @ Towne Bank) - "Robbing the Bees", speaker Rick Fisher

July 9th - Extractaganza will be held in lieu of the July membership meeting

August 8th @7pm- Topic/Speaker TBD - stay tuned!

