

The Bee Line

Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia

AUG & SEPT 2022 EDITION

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Article submissions are always welcome! Email the editor, Jennifer Bell, at: jenniferburdock@gmail.com

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Nick Delphia

Happy Summer everyone! It has been so hot lately. If you are working your bees in this heat, be sure to stay well hydrated. For those that attended EXTRACTAGANZA, you know we had a great time, and I want to congratulate you if this was your first honey harvest. Thank you for coming out and spending your day with your fellow beekeepers. I personally enjoyed seeing you all. If you missed out, then perhaps you can attend next year!

WE NEED HELP! Our next big Guild event, the Virginia Honey Bee Festival is rapidly approaching and we need all the help we can get to make this successful. Please consider volunteering for a few hours, or even perhaps spend the entire day with us. There are plenty of spots to fill up. The link to sign-up is included within this newsletter.

See you soon, Nick



Extractaganza



BGSV had a great turnout at Extractaganza 2022. "Newbees" and visitors learned how to uncap and harvest honey using a variety of extracting tools, President Nick Delphia shared a brief history of our guild, a few lucky winners took home door prizes, and everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch. Thanks to all who were able to be a part of the event!





NORFOLK BOTANICAL GARDEN BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL





Thank you, BGSV Volunteers!

We sincerely appreciate the time you set aside to help our guild provide education on beekeeping and pollination. It would not have been a success without you!

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.

To volunteer, please sign-up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0549afa92aa1fe3-20223>

Any assistance that you can give is most appreciated!



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.

Funding for the program for fiscal year 2022-2023 was approved in the state budget. Applications for the program are not yet being accepted, but be on the lookout for the application site to open in the near future at:

Beehive Distribution Program (virginia.gov)



SOMETHING ABUZZ?

by Jennifer Bell*

It's that time of year again; in late summer hornets and wasps expand their nests to accommodate growing colonies. If you've been in the beekeeping business for a while, you may have received a call from your neighbors, asking you about removing a nest.

However, per the Virginia Pesticide Control Act (2VAC5-680-20) beekeepers may not sell, use, or recommend the use of pesticides, in exchange for compensation. In order to exterminate insects on property other than their own, beekeepers must obtain a certified pesticide applicator license.

While you could lend your neighbor your bee suit, there is another alternative.

Venom Collect is a Virginia based company that offers free wasp and hornet removal for Virginia residents in the Tidewater area, Eastern Shore, Richmond, and Roanoke Valley. They use a vacuum to collect the insects, freeze them to preserve the venom, and then send them to an immunotherapy company which uses the venom to produce potentially life-saving medications for those with severe allergies.

So the next time your neighbor inquires about that hornet nest in their back yard, consider referring them to Venom Collect. For more information, you can visit their website at: <https://venomcollect.com>

*I have no affiliations with Venom Collect.



FALL GARDENING FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2022
8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

The Fall Gardening Festival is an annual Virginia Beach Master Gardener event held 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, plant sales, a bake sale, a flea market, silent auctions and children's activities. Last year, 2000 people came to the annual garden party for a fall pick-me-up!

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 from 8:30 AM to Noon and from Noon to 3:30 PM. If we get enough volunteers, we can all enjoy the shopping and presentations at the festival!

To volunteer, please sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0549AFA92AA1FE3-20224>

Beginning Beekeeping Class

Once again, the BGSV will be partnering with the Norfolk Botanical Garden to provide the Fall Beginning Beekeeping Class. The classes will be on Tuesday evenings, 6:30 - 8:30 PM on August 30, September 6 and September 13. The registration cost is \$65 or discounted at \$50 for those who have a NBG membership. Help us spread the word with “newbees” looking to get started! Those interested can **register for the class at:**
<https://norfolkbotanicalgarden.org/events/beginning-beekeeping-3-week-class/>





Autumn Meeting Dates

August 8th

September 12th

October 10th

Guild meetings are currently hybrid (virtual via Zoom + in person at Towne Bank) and start at 7:00 pm. If you wish to attend in-person, please RSVP in advance using the sign-up genius link, as Towne Bank is currently limiting capacity to 30 people.