

The Bee Line

Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia

DECEMBER 22–JANUARY 23 EDITION

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

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT



By Nick Delphia

Happy Holidays! I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season. If you missed the Holiday Social, you missed out on a lot of fun. I had the privilege of honoring our Beekeeper of the Year, our very own Newsletter Editor, Jen Bell. Thank you for all of your hard work putting together this wonderful newsletter. We had 30 members present, and it was nice to sit back and have a

delicious meal with you all. For those that have been asking about the meal – it was catered by Todd Frazier of Whats Cookin’ (757-228-9272).

Also, I want to give a HUGE Thank You to Rick and Pam Fisher, not only did they travel the furthest to get here (from South Carolina) but they graciously decorated Towne Hall for our Social. Thank you to each and every member and guest that came out. Hope you had a great time. The gift exchange was the icing on the cake. There were awesome gifts, and a whole lot of stealing. We are on track for our upcoming Short Course (see below for more info). We will be hosting advanced classes for you, but there is a catch. We ask that you spend the morning with us, meeting and greeting our new beekeepers, and then you can stick around for the advanced beekeeping class/topic.

FARM DAYS

Back in October, three members of the Guild were swarmed by over 800 first graders at Triple R Ranch, for their annual Farm Days. This annual event was paused the past few years due to COVID, however, it was back for 2022. The kids were rotated through various table groups, learned about farming, and how food gets to their tables. Surprisingly, when you ask some of these little ones where their food comes from, they immediately reply “Wal-Mart”.

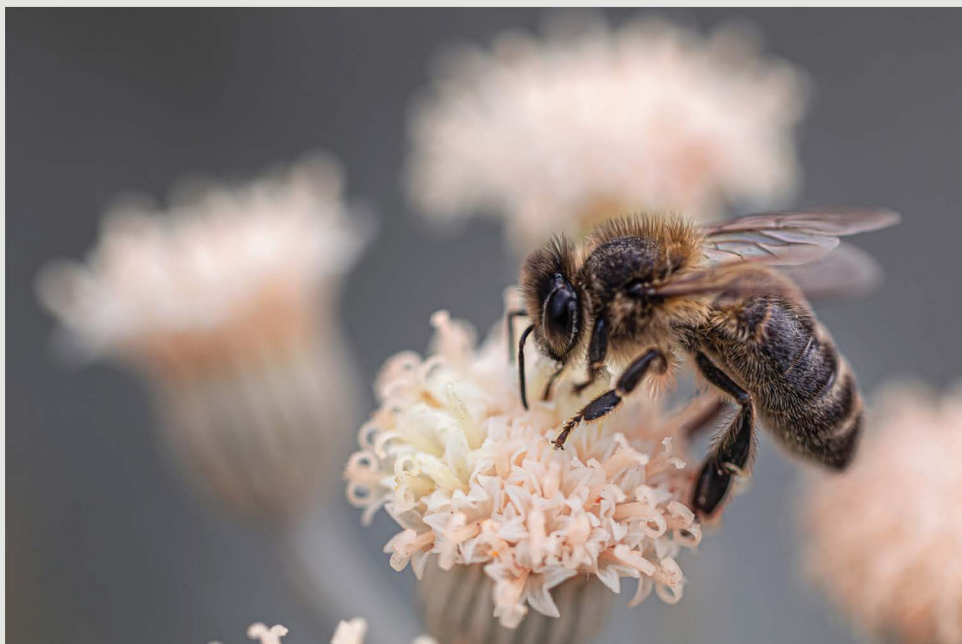
Representing the Guild for Farm Days 2022 was Tom and Suzanne Luna, and Harold Delphia. We had an observation hive, some beekeeping equipment to showcase, and a teaching hive with posters to introduce the first graders to our buzzing hobby. Thank you to Tom, Suzanne, and Harold for spending a couple of days with some future beekeepers.



It's the most wonderful time of the year...

unless you're a beekeeper, then the most wonderful time may be the spring nectar flow! As the cold weather sets in, now is a good time to make use of all that extra beeswax you collected this summer. Beeswax candles, soaps, and lip balms make for excellent Christmas gifts. Or you could consider using your surplus wax to prepare frames for next spring. Winter is the best time to build and repair your equipment for the next season. Swarms start early (even March in warmer years), so it's best to have everything ready in advance.

You may see your bees out foraging on mild days when the temperature is above 50 degrees. On these days, consider briefly lifting the outer and inner covers to inspect the cluster. Be sure not to disturb the cluster, as it is still too cold to do a full inspection and you'll risk harming your bees. If the cluster is at the very top of the box, they have run out of food stores, and you will need to begin emergency feeding. Sugar syrup should not be used for supplemental feeding during winter due to the high moisture content; instead, fondant and candy boards are the preferred feeding methods. Check out the BGSV website for sugar candy recipes (login to the members page and select Education > Beekeeping Basics > Feeding Bees).





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BGSV Holiday Party



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BGSV Holiday Party



PREDICTING MITE INFESTATIONS 2023

research program through Virginia Tech



Varroa is the leading cause of death of honey bee colonies. Despite years of research there is much we still don't know about mites. New findings from the University of Maryland and USDA-ARS suggest an alternative sampling method may allow beekeepers to detect Varroa earlier than current sampling methods, nor does the new method require beekeepers to sacrifice handfuls of worker bees in the process. But we need your help!

Here is your chance to be a scientist! Beekeepers across Virginia are invited to join a citizen science project in 2023. Your participation will provide valuable data. We want to know if our new method works in Virginia, and if it in fact, can predict fall mite infestations months beforehand.

You do not need to provide much to participate. All you need is to sample a few of your own colonies each month, and then submit the results on a monthly questionnaire. Our team at Virginia Tech will provide instruction material, monthly zoom sessions, and QandA support via e-mail. Sign-up here: [VT Program](#)



BEEKEEPERS INTRODUCTORY COURSE 2023

The Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia is excited to offer an unparalleled opportunity to attend an introductory course featuring three renowned beekeeping experts!

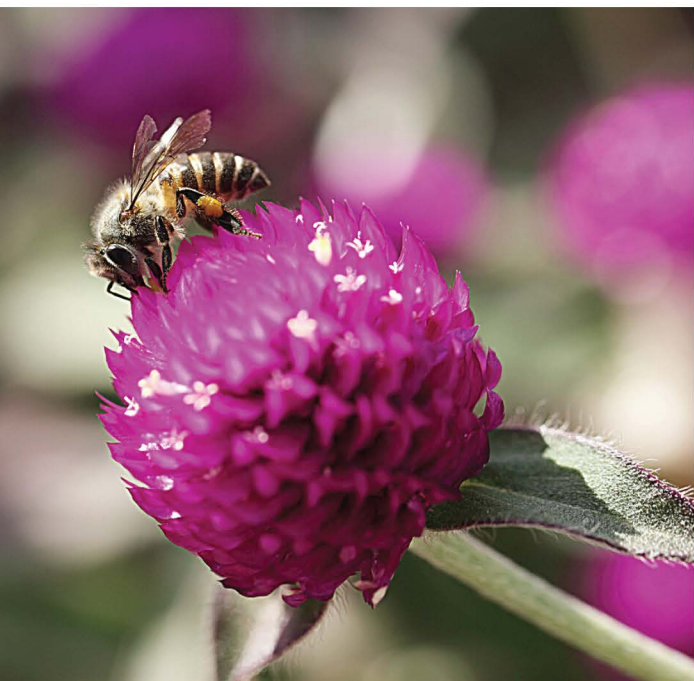


Sign up early for this three-day course offered in-person or via Zoom; space is limited for in-person attendance. Dr. Dewey Caron, Keith Tignor, and Dr. James Wilson along with local beekeepers will share how to get started keeping bees with an emphasis on sustainable beekeeping practices.

The course will be held on three Saturday mornings, January 21, 28, and February 11, 2023, at the Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center (HRAREC), 1444 Diamond Springs Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23455. Classes will start at 8 a.m. and finish at 12:30 p.m. each day. An optional fourth Saturday field day, with an open hive demonstration and equipment assembly workshop, is planned for spring as weather permits.

Topics include:

- Honey Bee Biology
- Beekeeping Equipment
- Seasonal Hive Management
- Guild Mentor Program
- Guild Nucleus Colony (Nuc) Program
- Beekeeping Best Management Practices
- Bee Pests and Diseases/Integrated Pest Management



Class Registration is NOW OPEN at:
<https://www.beekeepersguild.org/>

Volunteers Needed

for hosting the 2023
Beekeepers
Introductory Course

We need help with:

- Registration
- Welcoming students
- Refreshments
- Class set-up and clean-up

Members assisting with the class may sit in on any of the instruction for free, including the advanced training course immediately following the beginner classes

Learn more and [Sign Up Here](#)



Dates

January 21
January 28
February 11

Location:

HRAREC

1444 Diamond Springs Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23455



Upcoming Meeting Dates

January 9th
February 13th

Towne Bank has removed the 30-person limitation, however Guild meetings will continue to be offered both virtually via Zoom and in-person. Meetings start at 7:00 pm.