

The Bee Line

Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia

FEBRUARY – MARCH 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

Welcome New Members! Our Beginner Beekeeping class is now in full swing. Although we have a smaller student population this year, as compared to years past, we are excited for this next group of eager beekeepers to join the Guild. If you see a new face, please take a minute to extend a welcome to our Guild!

These “new-bees” are excited to begin their new hobby of beekeeping. For those of you who have been keeping bees for a while, or simply beginning your second year of beekeeping, please sign up to share your knowledge and become a mentor. Who doesn’t need an extra set of hands in the bee-yard? We have a new Mentor Coordinator, Sean Gable, and he will work with Dennis Heidenthal for a seamless transition. Please reach out to them if you are able to be a mentor.

Hopefully your bees are doing well. The weather has been abnormally warm this year, and it looks to be an early swarm season. Are you prepared for a swarm? Do you have your swarm bucket ready? If not, we will show you how to make one, and even help you assemble it (see article on page 6). Also, at our February meeting, we will be discussing swarms. Be sure to come out to our meetings, and if you cannot make it in person, we still conduct hybrid meetings via Zoom.

Telling the Bees

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of one of our guild members, Mrs. Beverly Hathaway.

Beverly is survived by her husband, John A. Hathaway, son Michael A. Hathaway, and daughter Meredith L. Hathaway of Virginia Beach. She is also survived by her sisters Shannon Knight and Terry Burton of Virginia Beach; brothers Wayne Middleton, John Middleton, and Barry Knight of Virginia Beach.

Beverly loved the beach both in Sandbridge, VA and Nags Head, North Carolina, shell collecting, gardening, beekeeping, and was an avid reader. She enjoyed going for long daily walks with close friend Donna Brehm and was loved by all she encountered.

Beverly also, selflessly, donated blood regularly to the American Red Cross. Following suit, she chose to donate her body to medical science in contribution to the study and cure of cancer.

She was a perennial volunteer for the Guild and she will sincerely be missed. A donation has been made to the American Cancer Society in her honor.

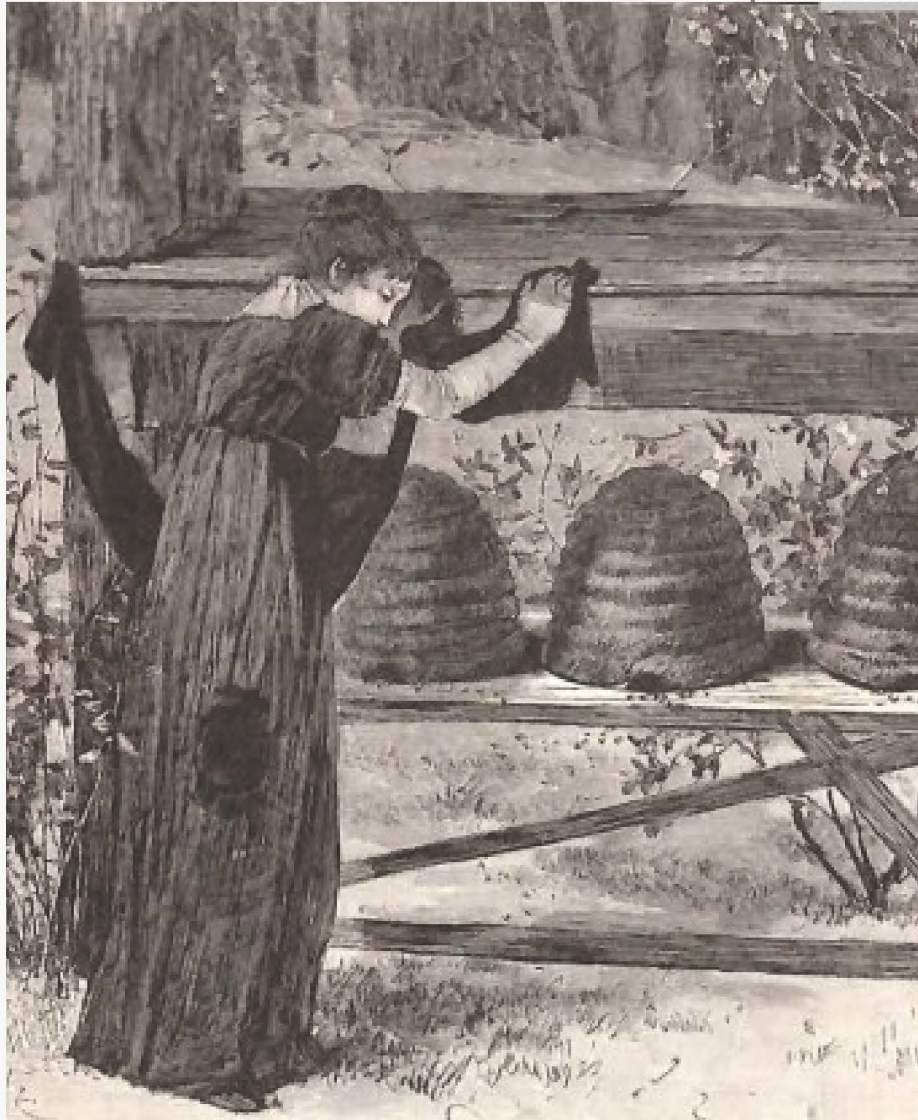


Telling the Bees

For centuries, European beekeepers have kept a tradition of “Telling the Bees” important life events, such as marriages, births, and deaths. After gently knocking on each hive, the beekeeper would quietly tell them of the news and often hives would be decorated to mark the occasion. When the hive’s beekeeper would pass away, the new beekeeper would formally introduce themselves and ask for the hive’s acceptance.

It was believed that if the bees were not informed, they would be more likely to abscond the hive, stop producing honey, or the hive would fail.

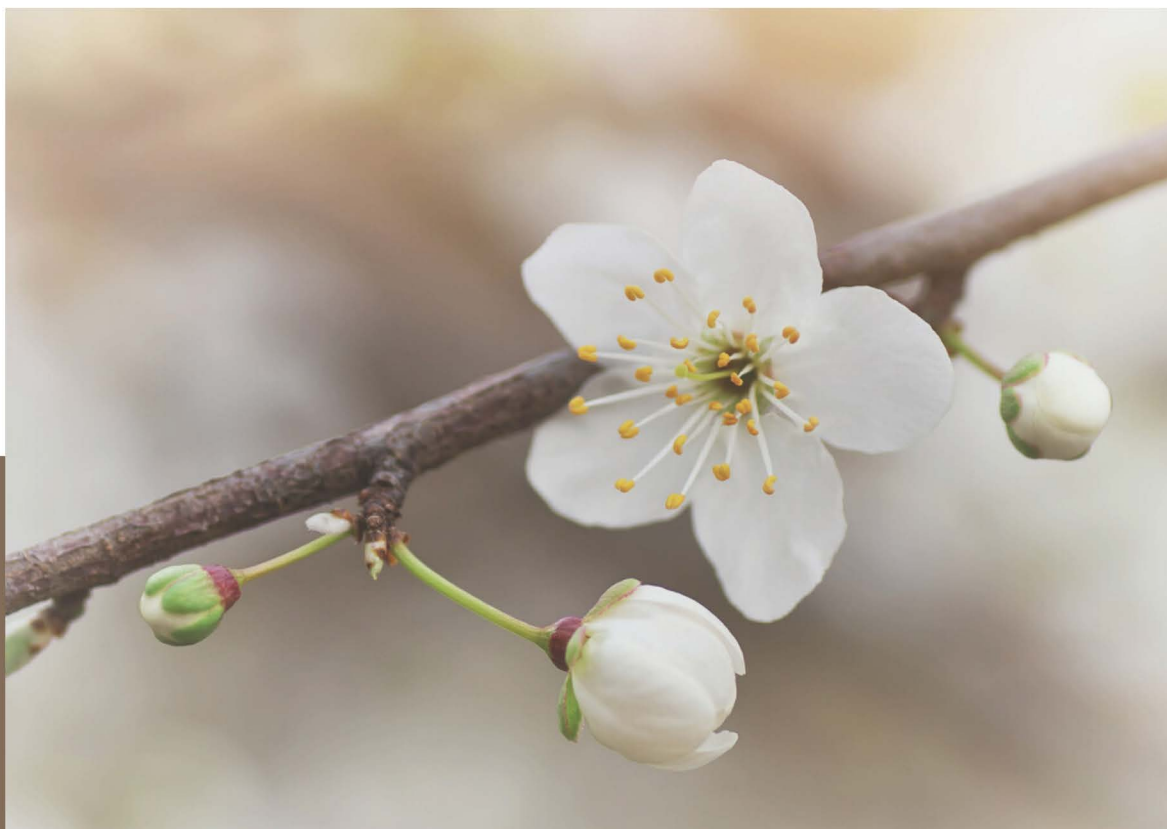
With the passing of Queen Elizabeth II this past fall, the Royal Beekeeper was observed to “Tell the Bees” of their new master, King Charles, taking the throne. The hives at Buckingham Palace and Clarence House were then draped with black ribbons in respect.



Fellow Beekeepers of our Wonderful Guild,

The Hathaway family would like to extend a very heartfelt Thank you to the Guild during a difficult time. Thank you for the Prayers, Cards, Flowers and generous gift to the American Cancer society in memory of Beverly. We are looking forward to our 3rd season of beekeeping but, we will miss our Bee girl, statistician, and all around keep us straight gal. My son Michael and I would provide her a seat in the shade as she would document the data from each colony as we shouted results from each frame. We will be fine as our daughter Meredith joins us this year. I am sure Beverly's jacket will fit just fine. Once again Thank you!!

The Hathaway's,
John, Michael and Meredith.



Swarm Bucket Workshop

This year's swarm season promises to be an early one with the warm winter we've had so far. Be ready to catch the first swarm with the Guild's FREE Swarm Bucket Workshop on Saturday morning, March 4, 2023! Just bring a five-gallon bucket and lid; the guild will supply the other materials.

Examples of swarm vacuums will be demonstrated if you'd like to build one for yourself at home. We'll also show you how a simple modification to your swarm bucket will enable you to retrieve those swarms beyond the reach of a ladder.

Please RSVP by Friday, March 3, 2023 at noon.

[Sign Up Here](#)



AFB Honey Bee Vaccine

article by Jennifer Bell

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved the first-ever honey bee vaccine. The vaccine, Paenibacillus Larvae Bacterin, protects hives against the devastating bacterial disease, American foulbrood (AFB).

While it only attacks larvae, AFB leads to colony collapse and death in only three weeks. AFB is most commonly transmitted through spores of the bacteria, which can be dormant in the colonies or used equipment for 70 or more years. Currently there is no cure for AFB, so the development of this new vaccine is a huge step forward in protecting colonies.

The vaccine will be available in a liquid solution, which is to be mixed with queen candy and then fed to the Queen and her attendants for 8 days, prior to releasing the Queen into the hive. The vaccine is then transferred to her ovaries, where it will come in contact with her developing eggs and provide immunity to her future offspring.

The vaccine is on track to be available for purchasing in the US in 2023.

References:

[Dalan Animal Health](#)

[Honey Bee Diseases: American Foulbrood \(psu.edu\)](#)

[USDA approves first-ever vaccine for honeybees |](#)

[CNN](#)



INTRO TO BEEKEEPING SHORT COURSE

This year, we had a total of 35 students (7 virtual, 28 in-person) sign up for the Short Course. Thanks to all who helped publicize the course, brought refreshments to the classes, and volunteered their time. It would not have been possible without you!

VIRGINIA HONEY BEE FESTIVAL

The Norfolk Botanical Garden has broken ground on "The Garden of Tomorrow".

With the construction overtaking the garden, the NBG will not be able to host any large events this year, including the annual Virginia Honey Bee Festival. The guild's partnership with Norfolk Botanical Garden continues with our Fall Beginning Beekeeping Course at NBG.

You can follow the Garden's progress at:

<https://gardenoftomorrow.org/construction-updates/>





FUTURE MEETING DATES

February 13th

March 13th

Guild meetings are being offered both
virtually via Zoom and in-person at
Towne Bank. Meetings start at 7:00 pm.
