

The Bee Line

Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia

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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

Well, it's officially Spring. You probably thought it came a couple of months ago, the trees sure did! The nectar flow is on, and your supers should be on also. We are in the heart of Swarm Season. Be sure to have your swarm collection tools and beekeeping equipment ready, in case you get a call for a swarm retrieval.

We need MENTORS!!! With the recent increase in students eager in getting started in beekeeping, we need your help. You do not have to be an entomology graduate student to be a mentor. If you had a mentor, remember the peace of mind when something didn't go according as planned, and you reached out to your mentor. Also, nothing prohibits you from reaching out to your mentor when you get asked a question you don't know the answer to. It works out well, because you and your mentee both gain the knowledge. Please consider giving the gift that keeps on giving – knowledge.

We want to hear from you! Jen, our newsletter Editor is looking for your input. Please consider writing a short paragraph or two, sharing what you learned out in the bee-yard (what went well, what went wrong, and what you plan on trying out in the future). Our next meeting will be April 10th, at Towne Bank, at 7:00. I look forward to seeing you there.



CREEDS RURITAN BBQ & CRAFT FAIR

The Beekeepers Guild was very excited to be a part of the Creeds Ruritan's 47th Annual BBQ & Craft Fair. The event was held March 18th on the grounds of the Creeds Ruritan Community Complex in beautiful Pungo, Virginia Beach. The guild's booth featured honey bees in an observation hive, educational material, Logan VanBrunt in his bee jacket demonstrating the extractor, and hive products for sale. Many thanks to John Hathaway and the VanBrunt and Webb families for making this a great educational event!

photo taken by John Hathaway

Beginner Beekeepers Short Course Field Day

Mark your calendars! We will be conducting an Open-hive Demonstration/Field Day at HRAREC on May 6th, 9:00 – 12:00. Please bring your protective equipment (bee suit, gloves) and be prepared to conduct a hive inspection. You can get an up close and personal view on the inside of the hive and try to find the queen! Be on the look-out for an email containing additional information, and how to reserve your spot.



Mentor Program

Our Guild is still in need of mentors for our new beekeepers. We currently have **9 students in Chesapeake seeking mentors and 5 in Virginia Beach.**

Please strongly consider becoming a mentor, even if you are a second-year beekeeper. Most questions start off centered around obtaining the correct equipment, installing a nuc/package and discussing those first-year observations the new beekeepers are seeing as the bees start to expand their hive. You do not need to know all the answers to every question and several of our senior folks are here to support you with any issues that may present a challenge.

This is an extremely rewarding opportunity for both the mentor and mentee. Thank you for your consideration and support of the new beekeepers and the Guild.

If you would like to become a mentor, please email our Mentor Coordinator, Sean Gable at stgable@gmail.com



Extractaganza - NEW LOCATION

What is Extractaganza exactly? It's our annual Guild event that we hold in lieu of the July membership meeting. 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 induct the new officers, and give out (2) \$50.00 gift certificates in a raffle for Public Service hours. 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 anyway and get your hands sticky learning how to uncap and extract honey.



Join us at the [Fraternal Order of Police on July 8th at \(address\) Chesapeake, VA](#) at 10 AM sharp. All Guild members, families, and friends are invited. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM; the Guild will provide the chicken and drinks. Be on the look-out for an email with additional details.

VIRGINIA STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

10-11 JUNE
2023

SPRING MEETING



Dr. Kiara Wagoner
Univ. of North Carolina -
Greensboro



Dr. Jay Evans
USDA Bee Lab Maryland



Dr. Juliana Rangel
Texas A&M Univ.



Dr. Scott McArt
Cornell Univ.
(Virtual Presenter)



JUNE 10, 2023 &
JUNE 11, 2023

SAT 8:30AM - 5:00PM
SUN 8:30AM-2:00PM

SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE
134 CHAPEL DRIVE, SWEET BRIAR, VA 24595

go to virginiabeekeepers.org for more information

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN - [click here](#)

The VSBA upcoming Spring Meeting at Sweet Briar College on June 10 and 11, 2023, will feature renowned speakers Dr. Juliana Rangel, Dr. Scott McArt, Dr. Kiara Wagoner, Dr. Jay Evans and experts Melissa Wright from VDACS and Katie Martin from DWR.

We will also be offering some amazing workshops on honey bee microscopy and honey show prep, in-the-apiary techniques, yoga, and a special garden and greenhouse tour led by campus staff. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to learn from experts in the field and explore the beautiful campus gardens and greenhouse!

Wonderful World of Apitherapy

Charles Mraz Apitherapy Course Conference (CMAAC)
Parsippany, New Jersey



The American Apitherapy Society Inc. has a distinguished list of speakers offering courses from Saturday, May 20th - Sunday, May 21st. There will be a Meet & Greet on Friday, May 19th where you will have the opportunity to talk one on one with a few speakers.

If you've wanted to learn more about honey bees, hive products, and bee venom therapy, this is your opportunity. Learn from leading experts in the field. [Click here](#) for more information.

NEW STATE FLAG

Utah unveiled its new state flag last month, featuring a golden skep. The beehive, a symbol from the early Mormon Church, represents industry and community; white mountains with five peaks represent the state's historic Tribal nations; a blue sky, red base and a five-pointed star complete the new design.



State Sen. Dan McCay unfurls Utah's new flag in Salt Lake City. Photo credit: Rick Bowmer (Associated Press)



SOMETHING ABUZZ?

As the weather starts to get warmer, not only will our honey bee colonies start to grow, but hornets and wasps will also be expanding 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.

Future Meeting Dates

April 10th

May 8th

June 12th

Guild meetings will continue to be offered both virtually via Zoom and in-person at Towne Bank at 7:00 pm.

