

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

Greetings and salutations. I am new to being in this position so I will try to make this short. Thanks for putting your faith in me this year. We have many exciting events coming up and I hope to make this a great year for everyone. I still feel like a newbie, looking around at all the experienced beekeepers in this guild. I am still learning as all of you are, so if I stumble, please let me know. I welcome all the new members we have and encourage everyone to participate. Our guild welcomes everyone and we love participation. You don't have to know everything about beekeeping, you just have to be willing to learn. So please volunteer, get involved, it's always a great experience. As a wise man once said "Many hands make light work". That's all from me, I will see you all at our next meeting.

-Brad Webb



Fall Garden Festival





VIRGINIA AQUARIUM & MARINE SCIENCE CENTER PARTNERSHIP

The Beekeepers Guild is very excited to partner with the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center for the exhibit, Amazing Pollinators. The aquarium reached out to us to help educate visitors on the role of honey bees in pollination and we were only too happy to assist. Guild volunteers John Hathaway, Brad Webb, Nick Delphia and Boy Scouts of Troop 462 greeted exhibit visitors and explained the importance of honey bees as pollinators in two of four scheduled events. Guild support of Amazing Pollinators continues through the life of the exhibit. Thank you to all of the volunteers for your assistance; we couldn't do it without you!



VIRGINIA
AQUARIUM
& MARINE SCIENCE CENTER

2023 Maker Fest Portsmouth

Are you a maker at heart? If so, please join the Beekeepers Guild at the Maker Fest on Saturday, October 14, 2023 at the Portsmouth Art & Cultural Center.

From artisanal skills like painting, weaving, and glass blowing to high-tech endeavors like coding and 3D printing, Maker Fest Portsmouth is fun for all ages and skill levels! Come explore “maker culture” with interactive displays, demonstrations, and hands-on activities. Learn from accomplished makers – artisans, technology gurus, and everything in between.

If you can help us pass on our beekeeping knowledge and passion to fellow enthusiasts, please sign up below. Shifts are short, less than 4 hours. [Click here to volunteer.](#)

Hope you'll bee there!

Wax Workshop – Saturday, Oct 28

Spend a morning learning how to clean beeswax for use in cosmetics or candles. Turn old comb and burr comb into a valuable commodity!

Demonstrations will include a solar wax melter, how to clean wax plus making candles, lip balm, and a few other unique beeswax products to sell or gift. Handouts and recipes will be provided. Best of all – the workshop is FREE!

The workshop begins at 9:00 AM in the Chesapeake Agriculture Trailer located at the intersection of Shea Drive & Holt Drive in the Chesapeake Municipal Center not far from our meeting place at Towne Bank.

Click [HERE](#) to RSVP by Wednesday, October 25th.



State Pollinator Petition

The Virginia State Beekeepers Association has initiated an effort to include the Honey Bee as the State Pollinator among the designated official emblems and designations of the Commonwealth.

In 1622, honey bees were reintroduced to North America with the shipment of beehives to the Jamestown Settlement. Since that time the honey bee has traversed the state and continent to provide pollination for agricultural crops as well as plants in forests, meadows, and wetlands.

Over the past 400 years the Western honey bee, *Apis mellifera*, has become a naturalized species whose activities benefit other pollinators, wildlife, plant-life, and people. Your assistance is needed to help achieve this designation goal.

The General Assembly goes back into session on January 10, 2024. Delegate Patrick Hope, from Northern Virginia, will introduce a state pollinator bill at that time. A Committee hearing on the bill will likely occur in late January or early February. There may be opposition to the bill from individuals and legislators who consider the honey bee non-native to America. A honey bee fossil was found in Nevada over a decade ago. Also, opposition may be negated somewhat by the fact that the Chincoteague pony, a non-native, was designated as the official pony of the Commonwealth in the last session.

In January when the state pollinator bill is assigned on the docket we will have the opportunity to sign up to comment. It will be very helpful to have beekeepers and others testify before the Legislature in support of the bill. This can now be done virtually. So, what can we as beekeepers do between now and January?

- Meet with your delegate and senator to get to know him or her personally.
- Write letters, make phone calls and/or send e-mails to your representatives advising them that Delegate Hope plans to introduce a bill to designate the honey bee as the state pollinator and ask them to support this bill.
- Contact members of the General Laws Committee asking them to support this bill.
- Sign the petition, if you have not already done so:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeMubJAc_nJA_0xn3abS8wEOq_eQx0-HhdiuRrHPSUhYRW3zw/viewform.

If you don't know who your legislators are, find them on this link:
<https://viriniageneralassembly.gov/house/members/members.php>
or contact your local registrar for that information.

If you would be willing to testify before the Legislature to support this effort when the bill comes up for vote, email Lannie D. Ballard, Legislative Liaison, at lballard@ntelos.net.

Yellow-Legged Hornet Found in the U.S.

The Georgia Department of Agriculture has announced the finding of a Yellow-Legged Hornet (*Vespa velutina*) in Savannah, GA. The identification has been confirmed by the USDA. This is the first confirmed detection of this species in the United States. It is native to tropical and subtropical areas of Southeast Asia and was previously introduced in Europe and parts of the Middle East.

The yellow-legged hornet (previously known as Asian hornet) is a social wasp species that constructs egg-shaped paper nests above ground, often in trees. Their nests can become large, housing as many as 6,000 workers. Similar in size and appearance to the common European hornet (*Vespa crabro*), yellow-legged hornets are insectivores that prey on honey bees, dragonflies, flies, and other large-bodied insects. This hornet could potentially threaten nearby honey bee populations and native pollinators.

James Wilson, Apiculturist at VA Tech, commented “From a management perspective, I would encourage Virginia Beekeepers to look more closely at the possibility of locally produced nucleus colonies and queens. IF this develops into a larger problem in Georgia, I imagine that it could lead to greater costs and lower quality queens and packages coming out of Georgia. Now is as good a time as any to consider teaming up in your area to work together for healthier bees that are locally sourced.”

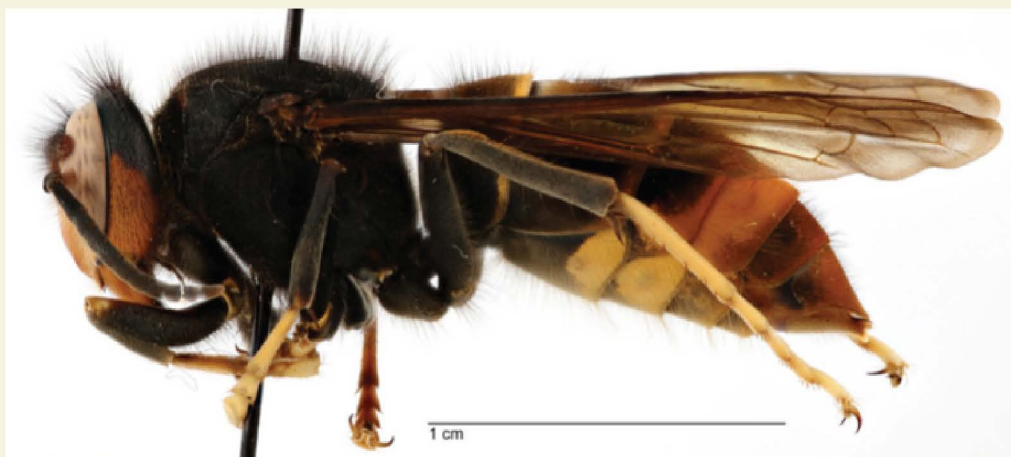
If you see a possible yellow-legged hornet and can SAFELY obtain a photo - yellow-legged hornets can be dangerous and their sting potentially harmful – send photos to reportapest@vdacs.virginia.gov. Many hornets have distinctive markings on the top of their abdomen. Photos including this body feature would be particularly helpful in identifying the species. Include with the email: your name and contact information as well as the location of the sighting.

More information can be found at:

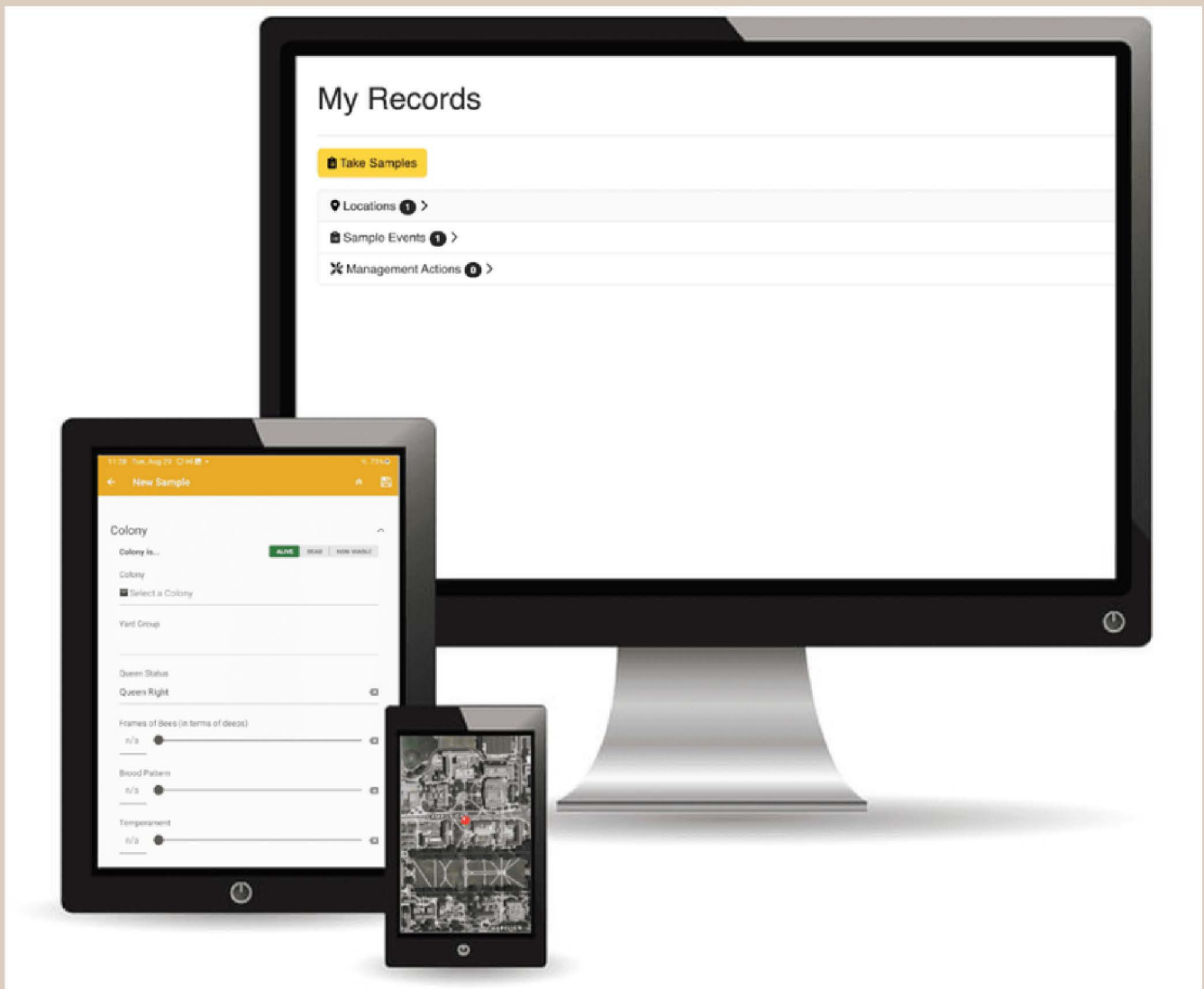
<https://agr.georgia.gov/pr/discovery-yellow-legged-hornet-confirmed-georgia-first-time>

https://idtools.org/hornet_screening/index.cfm?packageID=1099&entityID=2797

https://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/MISC/BEES/Vespa_velutina.html

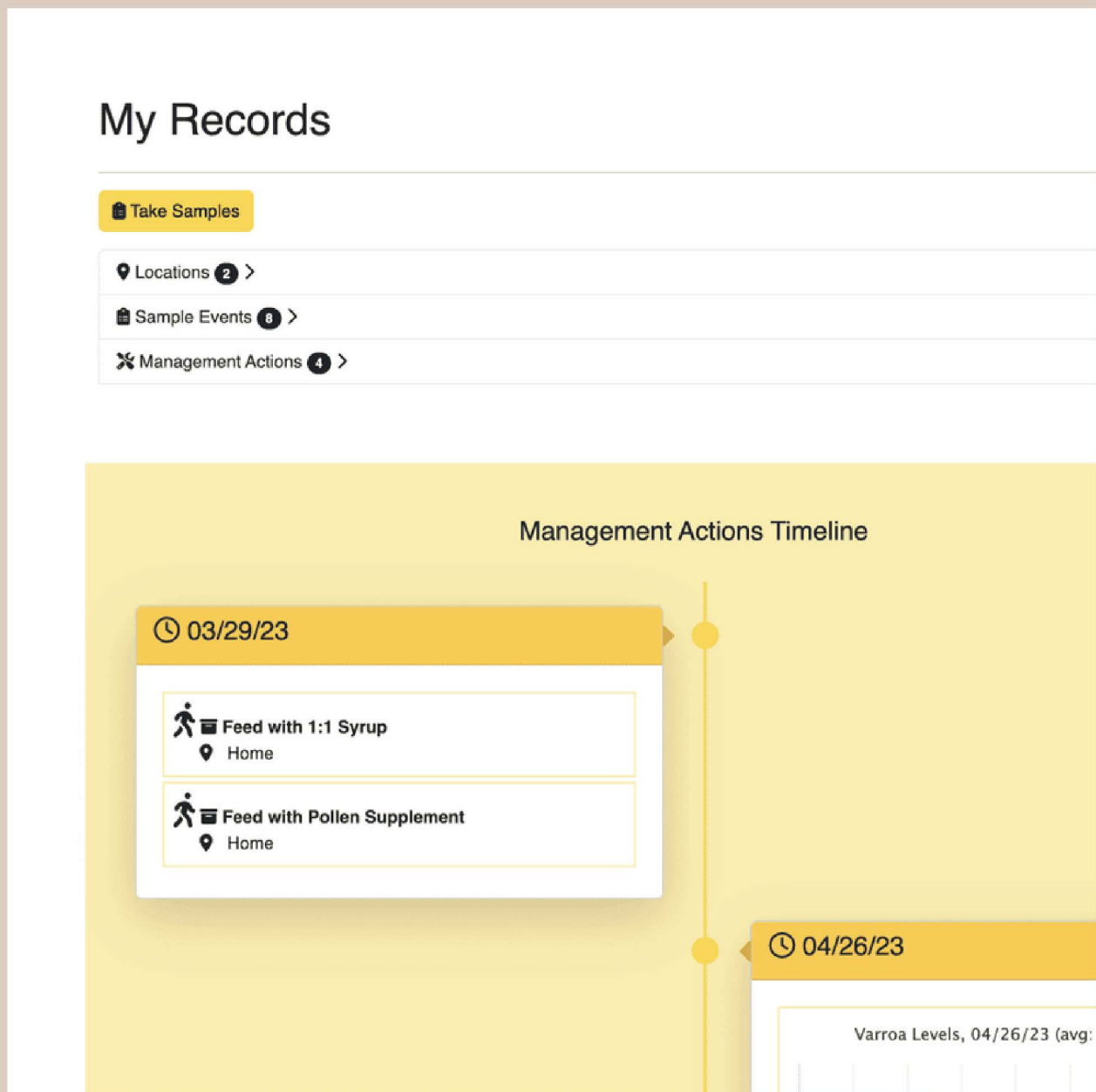


The Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) is pleased to announce the release of a new beekeeper management application which is a free version of its professional honey bee health and management tracking application at research.beeinformed.org!



BIP ArchHive provides a seamless way for beekeepers to record activities and observations in the bee yard, giving insights to improve colony management. The app enables you to:

- Map your bee yards
- Track colonies over time
- Record Varroa levels
- Mark conditions you observe in your colonies
- Curate a continuous history of honey bee health



This new application called BIP ArchHive is based on the database and hive inspection procedures used by BIP Honey Bee Health Specialists in commercial operations since 2011. The application aids the beekeeper in keeping track of colony health and management actions over time. The free version, BIP ArchHive allows individuals to track their own colonies and quickly view a timeline of management actions and varroa levels.

Both a web version and mobile app are available. A portion of BIP ArchHive development was sponsored by a USDA APHIS cooperative agreement and continues the tradition at BIP to enable citizen scientists and aspiring professional beekeepers to utilize technology and practices used by our Honey Bee Health Specialists and Technical Transfer team.





BEEKEEPERS INTRODUCTORY COURSE 2024

DATE: Saturdays, Jan. 20, 27 & Feb. 3,
2024 from 8:00 AM -12:30 PM

LOCATION: Hampton Roads Agricultural
Research and Extension Center
1444 Diamond Springs Rd, Virginia
Beach, VA 23455

TUITION: \$65 - includes reference
materials, refreshments, and a Guild
membership from January 20 - June 30,
2024. A \$20 tuition is available for
additional students in the same
household (one set of reference
materials per household).

Classes will be offered both virtually via
Zoom and in-person.

Sign-up will be available soon at:
www.beekeepersguild.org

Future Meeting Dates

November 13th - Regular Monthly Meeting
December 11th - Holiday Party

Guild meetings will continue to be offered both virtually via Zoom and in-person at Towne Bank 137 Mt. Pleasant Rd., Chesapeake, VA 23322 at 7:00 pm.

