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Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia



President: Dave Robinson; **Vice President:** Vacant; **Treasurer:** Kathy Robinson; **Recording Secretary:** Tracy Shonts; **Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:** Dave Robinson | **Deadline for the newsletter is the 20th of each month.**

Words from the President

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Fellow Beekeepers,

Bill Gregory has decided to resign as our President. He was very successful during his short term; most notably the success of Virginia Honey Bee Festival as well as his coordination of the many other events we supported during his tenure. We wish him well and success with his apiary, he will be missed.

As per the BGSV By-Laws, I am assuming the duties of the president. I look forward to serving in this capacity and will strive to achieve the same success as our predecessors in this position. I take comfort knowing that strength of the guild is through you, the members; your hard work and contributions to the guild ensures our success. This does leave an opening in the vice president position and the guild is now accepting nominations for that position. There will be a special election to fill that position in the near term. There are also several appointed and committee vacancies that require filling.

We do have some big events on the horizon that we need to start planning and mark our calendars for. Volunteering for a couple of hours at these events is not only beneficial to the public, it may introduce people into becoming a beekeeper. It is also an excellent opportunity to continue to learn new things on beekeeping from the other volunteers. We are appreciative of our member's hard work and support for the guild.

The weather is beginning to transition to fall and we should be expecting a fall nectar flow. This is also the time to ensure your hives are ready for winter, especially winter stores.

Happy Beekeeping

Dave

October Monthly Meeting



Meeting: Monday, October 8, 2018 at 7:00 PM

Location: Towne Hall, left wing of Towne Bank located at 137 Mt. Pleasant Rd., Chesapeake, VA 23322

Program: Beekeeping Jeopardy

Moderator: Rick Fisher



Early Registration for Virginia State Beekeepers Association Fall Meeting ends October 9, 2018

October Apiary Notes for Coastal Virginia

Your hives should be almost ready for winter:

Confirm that each colony has sufficient winter stores of approximately 60 pounds of honey. You can estimate honey reserves by lifting a back edge of the hive, it should feel as if it's full of lead. If not, feed sugar syrup in a 2:1 ratio or 5 lbs. sugar to 2.5 lbs. (5 cups) water until each colony is heavy with stores.

Treat drawn comb to be stored off the bees with Xentari, an organic wax moth preventative. Store dry honey supers in a bright, cool ventilated area.

Ventilation is a primary concern during cool weather as dripping condensation inside the hive can dampen and kill bees. Make sure that the telescoping outer cover is propped open slightly to allow moisture vapor to escape the colony.

Install an entrance reducer or mouse guard on the hive entrance after checking that you have not trapped any mice inside. The reducer cleat should be placed with



the entrance up rather than down to prevent blockage by dead bees or debris during the winter.

It is no longer recommended to treat with Fumigilin as a *Nosema* preventative. Treating healthy colonies only selects for resistant strains of fungi.

Remove queen excluders between the bees and any honey stores. Bees may move up into the honey over the winter leaving the queen trapped below the excluder. Honey stores should be located above the bees and all undrawn foundation removed before cold weather.

Place orders for nucs, queens and equipment now to avoid being disappointed by sold-out suppliers in the spring. Remember local is best, avoid ordering from Sunbelt states that are known to have AHB. You don't want to be the one to import Africanized bees into our area!



Feliciano Martin's family living in Tuiboch Village, Guatemala received honeybees from Heifer. The gift of honeybees has changed their lives forever.

Photo courtesy of Heifer International.

Guild members typically double the amount of money raised for hives through Heifer International at the Virginia Honey Bee Festival™. This year, guild members were incredibly generous and decided to not only double the donation, but give an additional hive to this worthy cause!

[Heifer International](#) is inspired by the philosophy of "teach a man to fish" and works with worldwide communities to increase income, improve child nutrition, care for the Earth, and ultimately end world hunger and poverty.

The beehives will supplement income for struggling families and may perhaps grow into a family's main livelihood. The pollination by the bees will benefit entire villages where they are kept by boosting crop yields.

Heifer International beneficiaries practice "Passing on the Gift": once the recipients of our donated hives have learned beekeeping and established their hives, they will help others in their area begin beekeeping by providing splits or swarms from the hives they received. Thus the seven

hives we donated will help an ever-expanding number of people to become self-sufficient.

How do Honey Bees Help Families?

Honey

Families in many parts of the world use honey to treat allergies and respiratory illnesses. Honey is antibacterial and antimicrobial, which makes storage easier since it doesn't require refrigeration.

Larger Crop Yields

Beehives take up little space and when hives are placed in crops, farmers see their harvests of some fruits and vegetables double or even triple.

Motivation

The gift of bees has provided families the motivation to become entrepreneurs. After collecting and processing honey, farmers sell it locally. Farmers also rent out their hives to other farmers who need the bees to help pollinate their crops.

Second Annual Jeopardy Night

Back by popular demand, this months training will be a game night featuring the popular game show Jeopardy. Be sure to include some study time before this months meeting . In addition to the many books you may have at home, the Beekeeper [Study Guide](#) located on the BGSV web site would be a great place to start. We look forward to your participation to this fun event.



Chesapeake's Autumnfest 2018, October 13th

Chesapeake's Autumnfest is a small fun festival that the Guild has been invited to participate. The event will be held at the Chesapeake Arboretum Homestead Grounds picnic area in the Pecan Grove located at 624 Oak Grove Road, Chesapeake, VA 23320. The activities run from 11 AM to 5 PM. We are seeking volunteers in helping out with the Guild's participation to this small, short festival to engage the public in bee-friendly gardening practices and the honey bee's contribution to the environment.

The Beekeeper's Garden in October

The weather should be cooling down soon, the days are getting shorter and the strong scent of aster nectar in beehives heralds the beginning of autumn. Blooming this month in our area: Abelia, Aster, Bachelor's Buttons (Centaurea cyanus), Beggarticks (Bidens), Begonia, Blanket Flower (Gaillardia), Bluebeard (Caryopteris), Boneset (Eupatorium perfoliatum), Borage, Butterfly Bush (Buddleia), Butterfly Weed (Asclepias tuberosa), Candle Bush (Cassia alata), Canna, Cape Leadwort (Plumbago auriculata), Catnip (Nepeta cataria), Celosia, Chrysanthemum (Dendranthema hybrids), Cleome, Co-leus, Coneflower (Echanacea), Crepe Myrtle (Lagerstroemia), Egg-plant, Escallonia, Fan Flower (Scaevola aemula), False Holly (Osmanthus), Goldenrod (Solidago), Hardy Ageratum (Eupatorium coelestinum), Honeysuckle



Mexican petunia (Ruellia) is available in pink, white, or blue-lavender, tall or short varieties and tolerates bog-like conditions to dry sites. It flowers with the beginning of hot weather and keeps on blooming up to a hard frost.

(Lonicera), Hyssop (Agastache), Ironweed (Vernonia), Joe Pye Weed (Eutrochium purpureum), Knap-weed (Centaurea), Knotweed or Smart-weed (Polygonum persicaria), Lantana, Lavender, Lilyturf (Liriope spicata), Mari-gold, Marjoram, Mexican Petunia (Ruellia). Mexican Sage (Salvia leucantha), all the Mints, Okra, Oregano, Partridge-Pea (Chamaecrista fasciculata), Petunia, Pumpkin, Rose (Rosa), Rosemary, Russian Sage (Perovskia atriplicifolia), Se-dum, Sunflower (Helianthus), Thyme, Tick-seed (Coreopsis), Toad Lily (Tricyrtis hirta), Verbena, Zinnia

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Stonecrop (Sedum) comes in all sizes from miniature creeping ground covers to plants several feet high. With its drought-tolerant succulent foliage and autumn flowers beloved by bees, this easy perennial should have a spot in every beekeeper's garden.

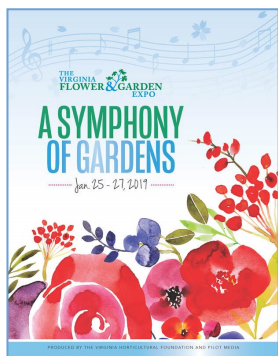


As the weather cools, fewer plants are flowering. But berries, the result of spring blossoms, take center stage in the fall landscape.



THE VIRGINIA FLOWER & GARDEN EXPO

January 26-28, 2019



Mark your calendars early for the Virginia Flower and Garden Expo from January 26th through the 28th at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. The Flower & Garden Expo is a special treat in

the cold of winter - landscape companies build actual gardens inside the convention hall. Nothing is more welcome than being in a lush, warm garden when it's freezing outside! Speakers, demonstrations, vendors and exhibitors round out the list of gardening attractions all in one location.

Our guild normally exhibits a showcasing of the mutually beneficial relationship between bees and plants. Members may

sell honey and hive products but our primary mission is education.

The Expo is the guild's first huge undertaking for 2019 covering three full days. It takes a lot of volunteers to build our display and keep it staffed the entire time. We will be inside the show on the main floor so anybody assisting with the event during show hours will be able to enjoy all the Expo has to offer. If you can give just a few hours of your time, you'll be rewarded with free admission to the show and a little shot of spring to brighten your day!

A sign-up is posted in the members section of our web site; please select a time slot to help out. Any time that you can give us is most appreciated!

More details of the event will be posted when available. Some additional information can be found at vafgs.org.

Fall VSBA Meeting ~November 3, 2018



This year's Fall meeting is hosted by the Shenandoah Valley Beekeepers Association and will be held at Blue Ridge Community College in Weyers Cave, VA

The following presentations will be offered:

Dr. Meghan Milbrath will present "Small Scale Queen Rearing" and "Overwintering."

Ed Karle will share a "Case Study of 4 hives in 1 apiary followed over 3 years."

We'll also have a very brief review of EAS 2018, the State Apiarist's report, and an update on the Master Beekeeper Program.

Online registration is open through October 23, 2018 with a discount for early registrations through October 9, 2018. Early registration can be completed at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3609546>

More details will be posted at <https://www.virginiabeekeepers.org/2-uncategorised/125-vsba-fall-meeting> when available.

Hurricane Brings Out Honey Bee Awareness

By Dave Robinson

Having a possible hurricane will not only bring on worry for our own safety; but also, the safety of our hives. Fortunately, Hurricane Florence deviated from her projected path and stayed south and spared our area. Our prayers and thoughts go out to those families that were effected by Hurricane Florence south of us. It did however, bring to light a couple of stories that featured saving some honey bees that were in harms way due to Florence.

The first was on 17 September near Richmond Virginia. A series of tornados from Florence caused heavy destruction in the Richmond area. This included a large tree located near the University of Richmond. During the investigation for damage and removal, it was discovered that it was housing for a large honey bee colony. These bees were now out in the open, unprotected from any additional rain. The staff contacted Kirstin Ber-



ben, the laboratories manager in the biology department who is also one of two beekeepers that oversee the University's beekeeping program. The bees and comb were recovered, transferred into a new hive and are safe at Kirstin's home. More details of this article can be found at [Honey Bees Saved From Fallen Tree](#).

The second was a swarm in Chesapeake that was discovered a few days prior to the hurricane's projected landfall just south of Virginia Beach. This swarm actually created a free-standing bee hive that was hanging off a pear tree.



Although the hurricane did not hold true to the predictions and stayed south, the hive was still in danger of strong winds and rain. The lawn cutter that discovered the hive knew of someone to call through a friend on Facebook. The owners understood the significance of saving these bees and contacted the person and the honey bees have a new, well protected home. More details of this story can be found at [Finding a New Home for Swarm](#).

These two stories bring to light the importance of getting public awareness of the honey bee's role in crop production through pollination. This awareness translates to an effort to save the bees during such events as a hurricane. Education and awareness through the guild's representation at even the smallest event can eventually save a hive and best yet, discover a new beekeeper. In both of these stories, the individuals discovering these bees have had the knowledge on the importance of the honey bee shared with them; it made a difference.

Hospitality Assistance



We all enjoy the snacks at monthly meetings and the fellowship they foster but they don't just happen. Gracious guild members kindly take their time to make or purchase refreshments to share with others. Often it's the same people month after month supplying us all with tasty treats.

If each member brought snacks just once a year, we could all enjoy refreshments at every meeting with very little effort.

If you can help by bringing snacks or beverages to share, we are most grateful. Homemade or store-bought, we appreciate it all!

Guild Position Openings

"Teamwork divides the task and multiplies the success."

--Author unknown

In addition to volunteering during guild events, becoming part of the guild organization through officer roles, appointment roles or becoming part of a committee are also available. This is an excellent opportunity to have an active influence on the success during the planning and organization of various guild endeavors. The following positions are available: (descriptions taken from the guild's by-laws):

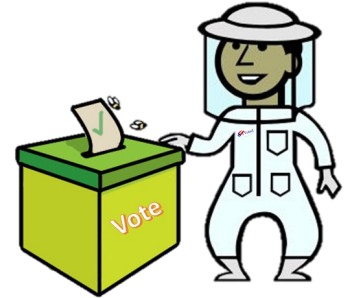
*** Vice President:** Electable office. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in his/her absence or upon the President's request. The Vice President shall be responsible for the Guild educational programs and will serve as the Chair of the Education committee.

*** Recording Secretary.** Electable office. The Recording Secretary shall record the minutes and proceedings of the Guild at each meeting and event and file and preserve all its documents. Additionally, the Recording Secretary shall provide paper ballots for officer elections in the case of a contested office and maintain cast ballots after the completion of the election for a period of two years.

Education Committee. Volunteer position. The Education Committee shall be a standing committee consisting of a minimum of three Guild members, including the Vice President who shall be the Chairperson. The committee shall be responsible for establishing educational programs including those offered at monthly membership meetings and workshops, subject to Board approval.

Scholarship Chairperson. Volunteer position. The Scholarship Chairperson shall ensure that the scholarship guidelines, associated requirements and application form are

current and in agreement with Board of Directors guidance.



Scholarship

Committee. Volunteer position. The Scholarship Committee shall be a standing committee of a minimum of three Guild members, including the Chairperson. The committee shall be responsible for awarding the annual scholarship. The committee shall develop and manage its processes subject to Board of Directors approval.

* Please note that Traci Shonts is currently serving as Recording Secretary; however, she has been nominated for the Vice President position. If she is voted in as Vice President, the guild will have the Recording Secretary as a vacant position. This does not close the Vice President position for nominations, if you are interested in any of these positions, please make it known to one of the Board members.

We would like to hold the special election during our 12 November meeting pending nominations.

Qualifications for nominations to elected positions can be found in the [Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia Bylaws, Article IV, Section I.](#)

Newsletter Contributions



I would like to invite and encourage fellow guild members to contribute to the Guild's Bee Line newsletter. It can be a small article, a story from your hive, a lesson you learned, a captured bee related photo you would like to share, or you can summarize an article you recently read (please include references). Thank you in advance for anything you provide. Email me at dkdrobinson@verizon.net with any suggestions or submissions.

October 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Dates to Remember

- October 1 - Chesapeake 4-H Beekeeping Meeting
- October 4 - Board meeting, members welcome
- October 8 - Monthly Guild Meeting
- October 9 - Early registration for fall VSBA meeting ends
- October 16 Virginia Beach 4-H Beekeeping Meeting
- October 23 - Deadline to pre-register for fall VSBA meeting
- October 31 - Happy Halloween!
- November 3 - Fall VSBA Meeting