



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

## Words from the President

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Sign up for the  
**BEEKEEPERS  
HOLIDAY  
SOCIAL**  
in lieu of  
December  
Meeting

Details on page 8

Greeting fellow beekeepers,

The Fall is upon us as the weather has been cooling off significantly. It appears, from what I have seen with my hives, that we had a fairly good nectar flow so far this fall which will help your hives prepare for the winter. It is not too late to get the last bit of feeding to boost their stores for the cold days ahead.

I want to send out a special "Thank You" to Tom, Harold, Lisa and Charity who volunteered their time at Farm Days at Triple R Ranch. More details of this successful event are in this newsletter. Your help was greatly appreciated!

Now that the beekeeping season begins to wind down a bit, it is a great time to begin to think of next year's activities. We would like to hear from you on any ideas or suggestions that may benefit the guild in achieving our goals of instructing and mentoring new beekeepers, continuing our own growth in beekeeping and educating the public in the importance of honey bees as pollinators and the dangers of pesticides.

Our November meeting will include a very important agenda item; we will be voting in a new Vice President. The current nominee is Charity Mack.

Please keep in mind that we will have a Holiday Social the Black Pelican, Chesapeake, on December 10<sup>th</sup> in lieu of the general membership meeting. Be sure to sign up online or at the November meeting to reserve your spot at the party.

See you soon,

**Dave**

## November Monthly Meeting

**Meeting:** Monday, November 12, 2018 at 7:00 PM

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

**Program:** Preparing Hives for Winter

**Moderators:** Dennis Heidenthal

# November Apiary Notes for Coastal Virginia

Your hives should be heavy with stores - at least 60 pounds of honey. If not, continue to feed any light hives with sugar syrup. For fall and winter feeding, an easy rule of thumb for small batches of syrup is 1 cup of water for 1 pound of sugar. Remember, if there's too much water, the bees will have to work hard to evaporate it to the proper consistency. That's why we make it thick at this time of the year.

Moisture, not cold, causes more problems in hives over the winter. Do not allow moisture to condense on the hive top and drip onto the cluster of bees below. Be sure to leave the screened bottom board open to improve ventilation; a hive stand works nicely as a skirt to block winds from blowing into the hive bottom. Allow



for moist air to escape at the top of the hive by propping up the telescoping top, but anchor the top with a brick or other heavy object to keep it in place during winter storms. A mouse guard or entrance reducer should also be installed.

If you do not have a subscription to one of the bee magazines, consider subscribing. As a Guild member, you are entitled to an association discount. Use the winter off-season to read and be ready to implement your new knowledge in the spring.

Order, assemble and paint any woodenware you will require for the 2019 season. It will have time to air out and in just a few short months you will be busy with a new beekeeping year!



## New Guild Volunteers

When Dave Robinson assumed the office of Guild President, it left the Vice President's position open. At the October membership meeting, Dave asked for volunteers willing to serve as Vice President. Duties include chairing the education committee, programming the monthly educational speakers and filling in for the president when necessary. Charity Mack was kind enough to volunteer. We will vote to formalize her role as Vice President at the November meeting. Thanks Charity; we

are looking forward to next year's educational programs!

Next, President Robinson tackled the scholarship committee, whose chairman, Gene Richley, recently retired from the committee. Chris Pering volunteered to chair the committee and Rodney Parker volunteered to assist as needed. Nick Delphia said that he will be happy to continue with the committee. Thank you to all of the scholarship committee volunteers!

**"The quality of your life will be determined by the quality of your contribution. When you work to improve the lives of others, your life improves automatically."**  
- Kurek Ashley

## Hospitality Assistance

November 12th is the last membership meeting of the year for which we will need refreshments. If you can assist Debbie Caldwell by providing some refreshments for our group, she would welcome your help. Sweet or savory, homemade or store-bought, we enjoy it all and always appreciate your thoughtfulness!



# VSBA Fall Conference Review



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

Speaker **Dr. Meghan Milbrath** began working bees with her father as a child over 20 years ago, and now owns and manages The Sand Hill Apiary in Munith, Michigan. She is an academic specialist at MSU, where she does honey bee and pollinator research and extension and is the coordinator of the Michigan Pollinator Initiative.

Dr. Milbrath started the day with "The Amazing Anatomical Adaptations of the Honey Bee" detailing how bees are perfectly built to serve as the pollination engines for our planet. Her second presentation, "Towards treatment-free", explained how impossible it is to breed for a better bee in an area where bees are constantly imported, a great en-

dorsement for a local nuc program. Her final presentation, "Small Scale Queen Rearing" demystified queen rearing for backyard beekeepers and explained several no-graft methods to raise queens with minimal specialized equipment.

The second speaker, EAS Master Beekeeper, **Ed Karle**, started beekeeping 14 years ago and has since worked as an apiary inspector and currently teaches beekeeping at Bristol Community College in Massachusetts.

Ed shared a "Case Study of 4 hives in 1 apiary followed over 3 years" explaining how beekeeping often starts off well but becomes more challenging as the colony ages. His second presentation "Hive Adjustments for Health, Population or to encourage Honey" was a compilation of tips he's gleaned over his years of beekeeping and mentoring.

**Next VSBA Meeting:**  
 May 31 - June 1, 2019,  
 Fredericksburg  
 Hospitality House Hotel,  
 Fredericksburg, VA

# The Beekeeper's Garden in November

Although colorful foliage and berries are the stars of November, there are still many plants blooming in our area this month for bees collecting the last nectar of the year. Abelia, Aster, Autumn Flowering Cherry (*Prunus 'autumnalis'*) Camellia sasanqua,



Cape Leadwort (*Plumbago auriculata*), Chrysanthemum (*Dendranthema hybrids*), Encore® Azaleas, Confederate Rose (*Hibiscus mutabilis*), Cyclamen, Dandelion, Eleagnus, Eupatorium, Fall Crocus, False Holly (*Mahonia*), *Fatsia japonica*, Fragrant Tea Olive (*Osmanthus*), Ginger Lily (*Hedychium*), Goldenrod (*Solidago*), Hardy Ageratum (*Eupatorium coelestinum*), Heartsease or Smartweed (*Polygonum*), Heather (*Erica carnea*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera*), Joe Pye

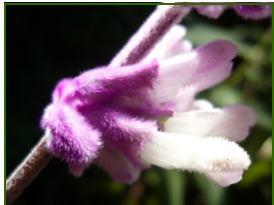
Weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*), Knapweed (*Centaurea*), Lantana, Leopard Plant or Ligularia (*Farfugium*), Loquat (*Eriobotrya japonica*), Marigold (*Tagetes*), Mexican Sage (*Salvia leucantha*), Morning Glory, Pansy, Pincushion Flower (*Scabiosa*), *Plectranthus*, Rose (*Rosa*), Rosemary, Salvia, Sedum, Strawberry Bush (*Arbutus unedo*), Sunflower, Tea Camellia (*Camellia senensis*), Toad Lily (*Tricyrtis hirta*), Violas, White Clover, Witch hazel (*Hamamelis*), Zinnia.

Confederate Rose (*Hibiscus mutabilis*) is not a rose at all but rather a member of the hibiscus family. Growing to over eight feet tall in one season, the single or double flowers start out white in the morning, become pink by noon and are a deep red by evening. This sun lover needs a long growing season to begin blooming before the first frost.

Mexican or Velvet Sage (*Salvia leucantha*) sports fuzzy flower stalks like chenille wands. These beautiful fall flowering herbaceous plants benefit from judicious pruning to encourage branching. Pinch one inch from stem ends regularly through July to encourage bushier plants with more flowers. These impressive perennials grow up to 5 feet high and bloom from September until a hard frost.



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# A Year of Educational Beekeeping Conferences



## 2019 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow

EXPERIENCE the future of Beekeeping at the 2019 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow, **January 8-12**, at the Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Hotel in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

BEE INNOVATIVE is the theme this year and we are partnering with exhibitor and speakers to bring you the latest in beekeeping technology, care and progress.

DON'T MISS one of the largest, action-packed beekeeping conferences in the world! With 800+ beekeepers under one roof, you are sure to network and learn from industry experts, researchers, scientists and peers. The conference includes:

- 80+ Tradeshow exhibitors
- Education for all skill levels
- Nationally recognized presenters such as Dr. Marla Spivak, Dr. Dennis van Engelsdorp and Dr. Reed Johnson
- Leading industry service providers
- 2019 American Honey Show
- Kids and Bees program
- Fun for the whole family at WonderWorks!
- And so much more!

For more information, visit:  
[www.abfconference.com](http://www.abfconference.com)



## 2019 Eastern Apicultural Society Short Course and Conference

The 2019 Eastern Apicultural Society's Short Course and Conference will be held **July 15-19** in Greenville, South Carolina. The theme for 2019 is HONEY BEE HEALTH.

SPEAKERS include: Jennifer Barry, Dr. Dewey Caron, Dr. Jay Evans, Dr. Meghan Milbrath, Dr. Kirsten Traynor, Dr. Dennis vanEnglesdorp, and Dr. Geoff Williams and MANY more.

THE SHORT COURSE is held on Monday, Tuesday and overlaps the Main course on Wednesday. The Short Course includes several one or two day mini-courses appropriate for beginner/hobbyist, intermediate Side-liner and for Advanced beekeeper interest.

THE CONFERENCE begins on Wednesday, with Short Course participants included, extending through Friday afternoon. There will be keynote presentations to begin the daily programs followed by multiple tracks of presentations continuing throughout the afternoon.

SOCIAL EVENTS: There are special evening tour/events open to you and your guests.

VENDOR HALL: Space for over 40 vendors/exhibitors

For more information, visit:  
[www.easternapiculture.org](http://www.easternapiculture.org)



## 46<sup>th</sup> Apimondia International Apicultural Congress

Highlights at the Congress to be held **September 8-12** in Montréal, Canada, will include: Advances in Honey Bee Genomics, the Impact of Pesticides on Bees, Breeding for Mite and Disease Resistance, the Detection and Prevention of Honey Fraud, Technical Innovations in Beekeeping, Honey Bee Nutrition, the Status and Conservation of Pollinators, Treatment-Free Beekeeping as well as Citizen Science and Bees. The Montréal Congress will also host two symposia sponsored by the OIE, the World Organization for Animal Health, on topics related to bee diseases, pests and the world-wide movement of bee stock.

In addition to symposia, the Congress will also have formally-organized round tables which address emerging matters of interest. Round tables will permit the interchange of ideas between audience members and selected panelists. Examples include: the Social Impact of Bees, Beekeeping with Stingless Bees and Honey Adulteration.

Workshops are also being planned to provide practical tools, skills and ideas to participants. Currently-planned workshops include such diverse themes as: Honey Tasting, Urban Beekeeping and New Apitherapy Products and Practices.

For more information, visit:  
[www.apimondia2019.com](http://www.apimondia2019.com)

## *Fungus is Antiviral Medicine for Honey Bees*

*Republished from Science Daily, 4 October 2018.*

A mushroom extract fed to honey bees greatly reduces virus levels, according to a new paper from Washington State University scientists, the USDA and colleagues at Fungi Perfecti, a business based in Olympia, Washington

In field trials, colonies fed mycelium extract from amadou and reishi fungi showed a 79-fold reduction in deformed wing virus and a 45,000-fold reduction in Lake Sinai virus compared to control colonies.

Though it's in the early stages of development, the researchers see great potential in this research.

"Our greatest hope is that these extracts have such an impact on viruses that they may help varroa mites become an annoyance for bees, rather than causing huge devastation," said Steve Sheppard, a WSU entomology professor and one of the paper's authors. "We're excited to see where this research leads us. Time is running out for bee populations and the safety and security of the world's food supply hinges on our ability to find means to improve pollinator health."

The research was published in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

The hope is that the results of this research will help dwindling honey bee colonies fight viruses, that are known to play a role in colony collapse disorder.

"One of the major ways varroa mites hurt bees is by spreading and amplifying viruses," Sheppard said. "Mites really put stress on the bees' immune systems, making them more susceptible to viruses that shorten worker bee lifespans."

This is the first research paper to come out of a partnership between

Sheppard's lab and Fungi Perfecti. Their co-owner and founder Paul Stamets is a co-author on the paper.

"Paul previously worked on a project that demonstrated the antiviral properties of mycelial extracts on human cells," Sheppard said. "He read about viruses hurting bees and called us to explore the use of the extracts on honey bees. After two years, we demonstrated that those anti-viral properties extend to honey bees."

"This is a great example of connecting the dots between two fields of biological science," Stamets said. "I am excited about new discoveries and opportunities. For me, the best of science is when it is used for practical solutions. Our team is honored to work with WSU researchers and look forward to continuing collaboration."

Right now, the mycelium extract isn't currently available in levels for beekeepers to purchase for their hives.

"We are ramping up production of the extracts as rapidly as is feasible, given the hurdles we must overcome to deploy this on a wide scale," Stamets added. "Those who are interested in being kept up to date, can sign up for more information at <http://www.fungi.com>."

Sheppard said he and his colleagues plan to do more work to refine their now-published results. That way beekeepers will have the best information when supplies are more available.

"We aren't sure if the mycelium is boosting the bees' immune system or actually fighting the viruses," Sheppard said. "We're working to figure that out, along with testing larger groups of colonies to develop best management practices and determine how much extract should be used and when to have the best impact."



Steve Sheppard and his team provide the mushroom extract to a bee colony as part of their experiment.

*Credit: Scott Weybright, Washington State Univ.*

Over the last decade, beekeepers have seen a disastrous decline in the health of honey bee colonies, often averaging over 30 percent loss annually. Varroa mites, and the viruses they proliferate, play a major role in those losses. Deformed wing virus, which causes shriveled wings on bees, greatly reduces the lifespan of worker bees.

Lake Sinai virus is also associated with varroa mites and is widespread in bee colonies around the United States. While the virus has no obvious or overt symptoms, it's an important virus to fight because it was found at higher levels in bees from collapsing colonies. It is closely related to chronic bee paralysis virus and it likely makes bees sick and weak, according to WSU assistant research professor Brandon Hopkins.

The treated bee colonies in this experiment were fed an oral treatment of mycelial extracts in dozens of small WSU bee colonies infested with varroa mites.

There is currently no timeline for when the extract would be available at a scale large enough for beekeepers.

A portion of this project was funded by USDA-NIFA project WNP00604.



# BeefFest 2018 Review



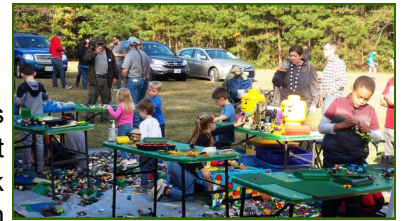
The Beekeepers Guild has a unique relationship with the Deep Creek Ruritans. Every year, the Guild celebrates its anniversary with Extractaganza, a honey extracting party and potluck lunch held at the Deep Creek Ruritan Clubhouse. The Ruritans do not charge us for the use of their clubhouse and in return, we participate as a Bronze Sponsor in the Ruritan's BeefFest in September. BeefFest is one of two fundraisers the Deep Creek Ruritans stage annually and every dollar raised goes back into the community.

This year's BeefFest was postponed to Sunday, October 28th due to Hurricane Florence. The festival features a live band, community groups, local businesses and

children's activities at the Izaak Walton Park in Deep Creek. From 1 to 5 PM, attendees enjoyed all they could eat of freshly cooked beef barbecue and hotdogs plus all they cared to drink from the bar and beer truck.

Nick Delphia set up the Guild's display and then assumed his Ruritan duties in the kitchen cooking barbecue. Rick & Pam Fisher staffed the booth, talking about bees and promoting the 2019 Beginning Beekeeping Course.

Thanks to the three of you for representing the Guild at BeefFest this year!



# 2018 Chesapeake Farm Days Review



We work with the people who work the land.

Members of the Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia attended Virginia Dare Soil and Water Conservation District's 2018 Farm Days at Triple R ranch on October 9<sup>th</sup> and October 10<sup>th</sup>. Over 800 children attended the event during the two days. Farm Days featured ten different stations for the children to experience various aspects of farm life including poultry, dairy, forestry, crops, livestock, beekeeping, a pumpkin patch, and hay rides.

We provided the children with information concerning how bees pollinate different types of fruits, vegetables and other crops. We discussed the importance of the pollination that bees provide along with the honey they produce. Honey sticks were provided in the children's goody bags for them to experience the sweet treat first-

hand. Fruits and vegetables were shown as examples of some produce that we wouldn't have if bee pollinators didn't exist. Using pictures, we explained the difference between a queen, a worker, and a drone. The most excitement came from the observation hive as the children got a close look at these pollinating wonders.

Thank you to Harold Delphia, Lisa Luker, Charity Mack, and Tom Poole for volunteering!



Welcome to the world!  
A bee emerges in the observation hive

## Shopping to Support the Guild

Did you know that you can support the Guild every time you shop on Amazon.com? And with the holidays coming up, it's a good time to consider signing up with AmazonSmile, a program that supports nonprofit organizations like the Guild.

### What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the Guild every time you shop on Amazon, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com/ch/27-0740535](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-0740535), you'll find the exact same prices, selection and convenient shopping as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the Guild.

### How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to [smile.amazon.com/ch/27-0740535](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-0740535) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device.

### Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will

see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.

### Can I use my existing account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

### How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com/ch/27-0740535](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-0740535)), you need to designate the Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at AmazonSmile will result in a donation to the Guild.

### Can I change my charity?

Yes, you can change your charity any time.



## Beekeepers Introductory Course

The Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia presents a three-day Short Course for Beginning Beekeepers with an emphasis on sustainable, chemical-free practices. The course will be held on three consecutive Saturday mornings, February 9, 16 & 23, 2019 at the Law Enforcement Training Academy (LETA) in Virginia Beach, Virginia. An optional fourth Saturday open hive demonstration in the bee yard with an equipment assembly demonstration is included.

### Topics include:

- Honey Bee Biology
- Beekeeping Equipment
- Seasonal Hive Management





- Guild Mentor Program
- Guild Nucleus Colony (Nuc) Program
- Beekeeping Best Management Practices
- Honey Bee Pests and Diseases
- Honey Production and Other Hive Products

Tuition: \$55 includes MAAREC Beekeeping Basics, additional beekeeping publications, refreshments each day and a FREE Guild membership from February 23, 2019 to June 30, 2019. \$25 tuition available for **additional students in the same household** (one set of reference materials per household). Seating is limited; please register early at <https://bpt.me/3855457>.





# November 2018

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

## Dates to Remember

- November 3 - VSBA meeting, Weyers Cave, VA
- November 4 - Daylight Savings Time Ends
- November 6 - Election Day
- November 8 - Board meeting - Chesapeake Pizza - members welcome
- November 11 - Veteran's Day
- November 12 - Monthly Guild Meeting
- November 13 - Virginia Beach 4-H Beekeeping Meeting
- November 22 - Happy Thanksgiving!
- December 10 - Holiday Social in lieu of Monthly Guild meeting

## Beekeepers Holiday Social ~ December 10, 2018



Guild members, their families and friends are invited to celebrate the season together on Monday, December 10, 2018. Reservations have been made for 6:30 PM at Black Pelican. The restaurant is located at 1625 Ring Road, Chesapeake, VA 23320, on the road surrounding Greenbrier Mall. Partygoers may order from our special menu and alcohol is available. In the spirit of the season, the guild is picking up the first \$10 of each member's check as a thank you for your continuing support.

The Beekeeper of the Year will be announced after dinner. Plus, we will again award two \$50 gift certificates as a Thank You to our volunteers. Each member in attendance will receive a chance at a certificate for every 10 hours of public outreach volunteered at guild events over the past six months. So don't forget to sign in this month with your hours of community outreach - the more you've volunteered, the greater your chances of winning!

In addition, we'll have our traditional gift exchange better known as "Cut-Throat Pollyanna" or "Dirty Santa". To participate, bring a wrapped gift valued at approximately \$20. The gift exchange is the highlight of the evening as participants pick and steal the

best gifts. Just when you think the prize is yours, someone good-naturedly snatches it away from you!

Please make your Holiday Social reservations by signing up on Signup Genius or at the November membership meeting.

Great food, the camaraderie of friends and a fun gift exchange - what a pleasant way to celebrate the holidays! Be sure to mark this date on your calendar; it promises to be a lovely evening.

Sign up at:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0549AFA92AA1FE3-20188>

