



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

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## Words from the President

Happy New Year fellow beekeepers!

I hope everyone has enjoyed their holidays with friends and families. The Holiday Social was a lot of fun and fellowship where we had the honor of recognizing Cheryl Brown as our 2018 Beekeeper of the Year. Her hard work and dedication to the Guild and fellow beekeepers easily earned her selection. If you could not celebrate with us this year, I hope you will join us for 2019.

We have a couple of events on the horizon for which we need help. First, we have the Virginia Flower and Garden Expo later this month. This three-day event is an excellent venue to pass on bee knowledge to the public as well as recruit students for our introductory course. Please consider giving a few hours to help us staff our booth; you can spend time before or after your volunteer hours enjoying the Expo.

Following the Expo, we have our Beekeepers Introductory Course. This is an opportunity to engage our new beekeepers and share our experiences as both beginning and experienced beekeepers. Please consider refreshing your own beekeeping knowledge while volunteering with the course.

In closing 2018, we can reflect on the many events in which the Guild participated and the number of people that we educated on the importance of honey bees and other pollinators in our environment. Thank you all who made that possible. I look forward to seeing you during 2019 events and please remember, volunteering at Guild events has its perks in addition to sharing your knowledge with the public.

Best wishes,

Dave



Dave Robinson, President  
Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia

## January Monthly Meeting

**Meeting:** Monday, January 14, 2019 at 7:00 PM

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

**Program:** Honey Bee Subtypes and Queen Lines

**Speaker:** Jonathan Brooks



**Beekeepers Introductory Course starts in February!**

1st Class: 2/2/2019

2nd Class: 2/9/2019

3rd Class: 2/16/2019

## January Apiary Notes for Coastal Virginia

Periods of mild weather have allowed our bees to make cleansing flights and collect pollen, but they are also consuming their winter stores at a faster rate than if they were in a cold winter cluster.

Check your hives for winter stores. You can open hives in the cold as long as it's not raining and you do not manipulate the frames. Check to see where the winter cluster is located. If the cluster is at the top of the hive, the bees have run out of food and you should begin emergency feeding with sugar, candy or fondant. Bees will not consume syrup when the temperature drops below 50°F.

Another side effect of the warm weather is earlier brood production. Have your honey supers assembled and



ready to install so that populous hives can take advantage of the first nectar flow in early spring. Large populations also mean earlier swarming behavior; research swarm management techniques such as making splits and the Demaree method.

Anticipate the scope of your beekeeping for the coming year and place equipment orders before the spring rush. It's also a good time to review your record keeping and determine if your method is working or could use some improvement.

Finally, if you plan on using Growing Degree Days to begin mapping nectar flow in our area, now is the time to select your data website and begin correlating temperatures with your forage observations.



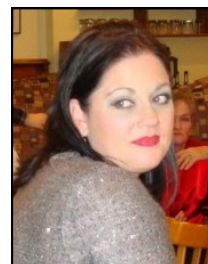
## 2018 Beekeeper of the Year

The Guild's 2018 Beekeeper of the Year is a well-deserving individual who volunteers countless hours and fully supports the mission of the Guild. Her contribution is not only public as an educator but also behind the scenes as an officer to ensure the Guild's smooth operation and successful events. She is always willing to assist and her recognition is long overdue. The Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia is honored to announce **Cheryl Brown** as our 2018 Beekeeper of the Year.

Cheryl's Guild leadership career began back in early 2016 when she agreed to fill the vacant Treasurer's position. She was subsequently elected as Treasurer, served the full term, then was elected as 2017 Recording Secretary. She could not continue as an elected officer in 2018 since her husband was deployed and she could not devote the time she would have liked to the Guild. She did, however, agree to serve as the Nuc Coordinator, a position she currently holds.

In addition to her officer duties, Cheryl also helped develop and lead a local 4-H beekeeping group. She has taught numerous segments of both the spring and fall beginning beekeeping courses as well as presented advanced educational topics to guild members at monthly meetings. When a request for a public speaker cannot be filled, Cheryl often answers the panicked call and takes it on. Speaking of panicked calls, Cheryl drove through a torrential summer storm and flooding to deliver a club order of queens as promised. Cheryl attends just about every Guild event, educating the public and volunteering many, many hours while also assisting with the set-up, take-down, and transporting of Guild property.

Thank you Cheryl for all that you've done and continue to do for us!



*"Selfless giving unto others represents one's true wealth."*

**--Jon M. Huntsman**



## Beekeepers Holiday Social Review

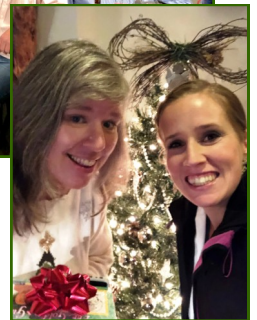
Guild members, along with their families and friends, shared some holiday cheer on December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Black Pelican Restaurant in the Greenbrier section of Chesapeake. Thank you to guild treasurer, Kathy Robinson, for making the arrangements at this award-winning venue.

The food and drink were great accompaniments to the camaraderie of fellow beekeepers. We honored our beekeeper of the year, Cheryl Brown, with a gift certificate to a bee supply company. Guild members who had volunteered at events participated in our appreciation raffle. Each volunteer received one ticket for

every ten hours volunteered at guild events over the past six months. The more volunteer time given, the more tickets received.

As always, the highlight of the evening was our traditional gift exchange better known as "Cut-throat Pollyanna" or "Dirty Santa". Gifts were exchanged, and occasionally stolen, amid much laughter and good-natured joking.

Thank you to all who attended - it was a merry celebration of the holiday season!



## The Beekeeper's Garden in January

We are past the winter solstice and days are getting longer, the first sign that brood rearing will begin shortly within our honey bee colonies. Look for the following blossoming plants in coastal southeast Virginia this month:

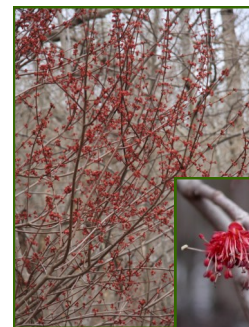
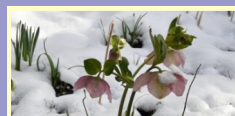


*Laurustinus* (*Viburnum tinus*) is an easy to grow evergreen shrub for full sun to light shade. It blooms with fragrant white flowers in winter to early spring followed by metallic blue berries in summer. This 10-foot beauty tolerates both moist and dry sites.

*Camellia japonica*, *Camellia oleifera*, *Camellia sasanqua*, Crocus, Eleagnus, Flowering Quince (*Chaenomeles speciosa*), Fragrant Wintersweet (*Chimonanthus praecox*), Japanese Flowering Apricot (*Prunus mume*), *Laurustinus* (*Viburnum tinus*), Lenten Rose (*Helleborus*), Oregon Grape Holly (*Mahonia bealei*), Pansy, Paperbush

(*Edgeworthia*), *Pieris japonica*, Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), Rosemary, Snowflake (*Leucojum*), Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus unedo*), Sweet Breath of Spring or Winter Honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima*), Sweetbox (*Sarcococca*), Winter Daphne (*Daphne odora*), Winterhazel (*Corylopsis*), Winter Heather (*Erica carnea*), Winter Jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*), Witchhazel (*Hamamelis*)

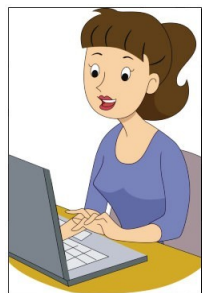
Lenten Roses (*Helleborus*) are a welcome sight during the dreary days of winter and each flower provides 30 days of pollen for foraging bees. Evergreen, deer-resistant foliage provides textural interest in the shade garden. Flowers do not fall when spent, but develop into interesting seed pods.



Red Maple, (*Acer rubrum*), a Virginia native, blooms in January and February with one of the first major pollen sources of the year. When inclement weather does not inhibit foraging, the pollen stimulates brood rearing and spring build up. The nectar is mostly consumed and not stored as surplus honey.



Rose (*Helleborus*), Oregon Grape Holly (*Mahonia bealei*), Pansy, Paperbush



**"No one can do everything, but everyone can do something."**

**--Max Lucado**



The American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) Conference & Tradeshow has never been closer to home! Held January 8-12, 2019 at the Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Hotel, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, the conference theme this year is BEE INNOVATIVE. The conference promises to bring you the most up-to-date information within the beekeeping industry, the latest products and services offered by exhibitors and sponsors and fantastic opportunities for you to network with 900+ fellow beekeepers.

#### **ABF Conference & Tradeshow Features**

- Top-notch general sessions by nationally recognized apiculturists, research and applied scientists and beekeeping experts
- Breakout sessions for beginning beekeepers, serious sideliners, commercial beekeepers and research buffs
- Beekeeping workshops for all skill levels

designed to hone your practical skills

- Shared Interest Group (SIG) meetings for Producers/Packers, Small-Scale/Sideliners, Package Bee and Queen Breeders and Commercial Beekeepers
- Vendor tradeshow showcasing the latest and greatest products and services in the beekeeping industry
- ABF Business Meeting of Members
- American Honey Show showcasing the nation's purest honey, best beeswax and most artistic merit
- Fun for the whole family with the Kids and Bees program
- Various silent and live auctions benefiting the ABF Legislative Fund and the American Honey Queen program

For more information or to register, please visit the ABF website at:

<http://abfconference.com/>

## *Guild Seeks Newsletter Editor*

The Beekeepers Guild is seeking a new editor for this newsletter. For someone who enjoys reading, writing, and basic layout work, this is a great volunteer opportunity. The Bee Line newsletter is our primary source of communication with our members and the editor helps shape those communications. The editor serves as an unelected member of the Guild board so there is no need to run for office. The job involves tasks that can be done at any time from anywhere such as:

- Produce 12 editions per year
- Use intermediate level word processing or desktop publishing

- Perform editing and layout of 6 to 10 pages of text and photos per edition
- Set and meet publication deadlines and encourage others to meet them
- Solicit articles and photographs from guild members
- Attend guild Board of Director's monthly meetings

Current newsletter editor, Pam Fisher, will collaborate with the new editor to transition smoothly. If this sounds like something you would enjoy, please contact Pam at [BeesKneesApiaries@gmail.com](mailto:BeesKneesApiaries@gmail.com) or 757-620-0945.



## First Ever Vaccine for Honey Bees

October 31, 2018

University of Helsinki Press Release

PrimeBEE is the first-ever vaccine for honey bees and other pollinators. It fights severe microbial diseases that can be detrimental to pollinator communities. The invention is the fruit of research carried out by two scientists in the University of Helsinki, Dalial Freitak and Heli Salmela.

The basis of the innovation is quite simple. When the queen bee eats something with pathogens in it, the pathogen signature molecules are bound by vitellogenin. Vitellogenin then carries these signature molecules into the queen's eggs, where they work as inducers for future immune responses.

Before this, no one had thought that insect vaccination could be possible at all. That is because the insect immune system, although rather similar to the mammalian system, lacks one of the central mechanisms for immunological memory – antibodies. "Now we've discovered the mechanism to show that you can actually vaccinate them. You can transfer a signal from one generation to another," researcher Dalial Freitak states.

### From moths to honey bees

Dalial Freitak has been working with insects and the immune system throughout her career. Starting with moths, she noticed that if the parental generation is exposed to certain bacteria via their food, their offspring show elevated immune responses. "So they could actually convey something by eating. I just didn't know what the mechanism was. At the time, as I started my post-doc work in Helsinki, I met with Heli Salmela, who was working on honeybees and a protein called vitellogenin. I heard her talk and I was like: OK, I could make

a bet that it is your protein that takes my signal from one generation to another. We started to collaborate, got funding from the Academy of Finland, and that was actually the beginning of PrimeBEE," Dalial Freitak explains.

### Future plans: vaccinating honey bees against any microbe

PrimeBEE's first aim is to develop a vaccine against American foulbrood, a bacterial disease caused by the spore-forming *Paenibacillus larvae* ssp. *larvae*. American foulbrood is the most widespread and destructive of the bee brood diseases.

"We hope that we can also develop a vaccination against other infections, such as European foulbrood and fungal diseases. We have already started initial tests. The plan is to be able to vaccinate against any microbe".

At the same time as the vaccine's safety is being tested in the laboratory, the project is being accelerated towards launching a business. Sara Kangaspeska, Head of Innovation at Helsinki Innovation Services HIS, has been involved with the project right from the start.

"Commercialization has been a target for the project from the beginning. It all started when Dalial and Heli contacted us. They first filed an invention disclosure to us describing the key findings of the research. They then met with us to discuss the case in detail and since then, the University has proceeded towards filing a patent application that reached the national phase in January 2018."

A big step forward was to apply for dedicated commercialization funding from Business Finland, a process which is coordinated and supported by HIS. HIS assigns a case owner for each innovation or commercialization

project, who guides the project from A to Z and works hands-on with the researcher team.

"HIS core activities are to identify and support commercialization opportunities stemming from the University of Helsinki research. PrimeBEE is a great example of an innovation maturing towards a true commercial seed ready to be spun-out from the University soon. It has been inspiring and rewarding to work together with the researchers towards a common goal," says Sara Kangaspeska.

The latest news is that based on the PrimeBEE invention, a spinout company called Dalan Animal Health will be founded in the very near future.

"We need to help honey bees, absolutely. Even improving their life a little would have a big effect on the global scale. Of course, the honey bees have many other problems as well: pesticides, habitat loss and so on, but diseases come hand in hand with these life-quality problems. If we can help honey bees to be healthier and if we can save even a small part of the bee population with this invention, I think we have done our good deed and saved the world a little bit," Dalial Freitak asserts.

To read more about PrimeBEE and their planned products, including AFB vaccine or vaccinated queen bees, visit their website at: <https://primebee.org/>



Photo courtesy of PrimeBEE

## THE VIRGINIA FLOWER & GARDEN EXPO

~January 25-27, 2019



Mark your calendars for the Virginia Flower and Garden Expo from January 25th through the 27th 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 will assemble an exhibit showcasing the mutually beneficial relationship between bees and plants. Members may sell honey and hive products but our primary mission is education.

The Expo is a huge undertaking for our guild due to the extended hours – 10 AM to 7 PM on Friday and Saturday and 10 AM to 4 PM on Sunday. 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 online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0549AFA92AA1FE3-2019>. Any time that you can give us is most appreciated!



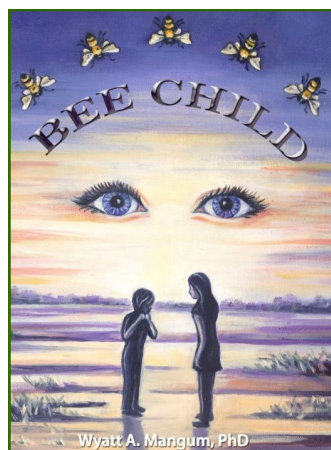
## Request for Meeting Snacks

The holidays are over and our guild meetings are returning to the regular 2nd Monday of the month schedule. In addition to planning for speakers, we'd also like a little assistance in planning for break-time refreshments.

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. Please contact the guild's hospitality coordinator, Debbie Caldwell at 757-749-7718 or [dscald94@gmail.com](mailto:dscald94@gmail.com).

Homemade or store-bought, we appreciate it all!



## Bee Novel by Dr. Wyatt Mangum

In his first novel, honey bee scientist Dr. Wyatt Mangum weaves the intricacies of bee biology into a spellbinding story about the power of love, motherhood, and of course bees.

In the 1840's, during a crucial time in the history of America and the history of bee-keeping, a lonely orphaned boy seeks to understand his place in a cruel world.

Yet this boy Amaron is not alone.

Heroic mothers struggle to free Amaron

from savage abuse.





And all the while looms the promise of a magnificent girl who searches for him.

Amaron learns that he, like the girl, is among those who have a special kinship with bees, and he becomes determined to protect his beloved bees.

For more information or to purchase the book, please visit:

<https://beechildthebook.com/>

# January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	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

## Dates to Remember

- January 1 - New Year's Day
- January 8-12 - American Beekeeping Federation Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC
- January 10- Board Meeting - Members welcome!
- January 14 - Guild Meeting
- January 15 - Virginia Beach 4-H Beekeeping Club Meeting
- January 25-27 - Virginia Flower & Garden Expo at Virginia Beach Convention Center.
- February 2 - 1st class of Beekeepers Introductory Course at LETA

## Beginning Beekeeping Date Change

We've had to reschedule our Beginning Beekeeping Course thanks to an unexpectedly large class of police cadets. What do police cadets have to do with a bee school? Our classes are held at The Virginia Beach Police Department's Law Enforcement Training Academy (LETA) and their needs take precedence over ours. **The new class dates are February 2, 9 & 16, 2019.**

It is important that our information be well received and that the students are given a warm welcome to our guild, things we cannot accomplish without the help of many members. Please consider joining us to welcome students, an-

swer questions and be available at breaks to provide information about beekeeping and our guild. We all remember what it's like to be the new person and how reassuring it is to meet a friendly face!

We'll need a little help too with refreshments. If you can assist, please sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0549AFA92AA1FE3-20191> or on the sign up sheet at our next meeting. Thanks to our many generous members, the snacks at class are always incredible!

Steve Jones, local distributor for both Beeline woodenware and Dadant beekeeping equipment will

be with us on February 9th & 16th. You can preorder equipment for pickup from Steve at [sales@handsonbeekeeper.com](mailto:sales@handsonbeekeeper.com) or [757-408-5201](tel:757-408-5201) or shop his equipment trailer.

And don't forget that while you're assisting us, you are welcome to sit in on any of the classes. It's a great way to get a little refresher training for spring and help out the guild at the same time!

We would be thrilled to have your assistance at all of the class days but will be equally appreciative if you can help out with just one.

Hope to see you there!



Students at Beekeepers Introductory Class



Suiting up for Field Day