



Volume 11 Issue 5

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## Words from the President

Greetings Fellow Beekeepers,

Spring time is among us; Nucleus colonies are making it to our new beekeepers, splits are being made, swarms are being caught or prevented and honey supers are getting heavy. It is a busy time of the year for the beekeeper as well as exciting.

There are many things happening in the hive during this time of year, if you have any question on what you are seeing, be sure to ask.

This is also the guild's busy time of year as we begin to prepare for our Extractaganza event (20 July) and the Virginia Honey Bee Festival™ (17 August). The Extractaganza is an exciting day of fellowship for everyone and especially exciting for the beekeepers who will extract their first honey. The Virginia Honey Bee Festival™ which will be at the Norfolk Botanical Garden is a day of fun and education for everyone. There will be loads of honey bee related activities, so we will need many Guild members to help the public understand and appreciate the honey bee.

Happy Beekeeping

*Dave*



*Dave Robinson,  
President  
Beekeepers Guild of  
Southeast Virginia*

## Pictures?

Want to see yourself in the next newsletter?

We'd love to see you in your hives or at an event! Send some action shots of you or a loved one working in the hive or for your club!

## Questions?

Are you a new beekeeper and you want to ask a question to the guild veteran beekeepers? Send in your questions and we'll post it in the next newsletter.

*"Like our beloved bees, when beekeepers go together, we can accomplish great things." -Kevin Inglin*

## Opinions?

Send your opinions and ideas for the Bee Line to

[vabeekeeperguildnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:vabeekeeperguildnewsletter@gmail.com)

Also, send in any bee articles that you would like included in the BEE LINE..

### This Month's Meeting

June 10

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
Towne Bank  
137 Mt. Pleasant Rd  
Chesapeake, VA

Speaker: Dave Kvello  
and Dennis Heidental

Topic: Honey Extraction  
and Varroa Mite Control



Photo courtesy of USDA

## Thank You!

A big thank you to Ms. Charity Mack for her presentation on educating children on bees and beekeeping.

Charity's presentation was about educating children on bees. Her presentation also touched on volunteering for events. Toni spoke about the different options for interactive activities for children.

Be sure to thank Ms. Charity Mack for her incredible presentation and for volunteering to speak to us.

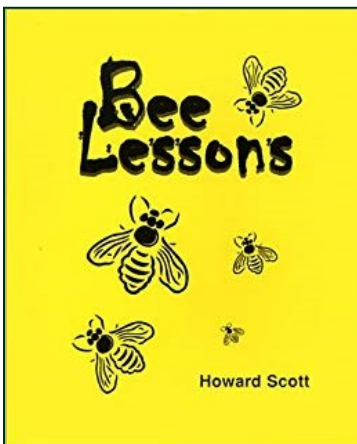
## Home Sweet Hexagon

A bee's home is a hexagon shaped wax cell. Sheets of cells form comb, where thousands of bees live. Bees build these sheet structures from wax they secrete from abdominal glands. In the wild, they fill all available space, allowing just enough room to move around the combs. The sheets hang on branches, occupy cavities in trees, and of course, form on frames supplied by beekeepers. The hexagon cells are all-purpose compartments for food storage, brood-rearing, eating and resting.

**Lesson #3: The perfect living space is a hexagon.**



Bees have deduced that the best, most efficient ways to build comb is in hexagons. It limits the amount of wax needed and maximizes space for brood and honey.



## Trivia Answers

1. A honey bee produces about 1/12 teaspoon of honey in their lifetime.
2. The queen lays approximately 1500 eggs a day.
3. Drones do not have a stinger
4. Sticky resin collected from plants that glue the hive together.
5. The queen mates with about a dozen or more drones.
6. One queen per colony.
7. True! Honey bee's use dances as one way to communicate.
8. False! The honey bee is not the only pollinator.
9. False! Bees do not sleep when it gets too dark outside.
10. True! Pollen provides bees with protein.



Photo by nativewildflowers.net

Here are the answers from last month's Newsletter!

## Meet a Guild Member

By Avari Merritt



Tom Poole  
Matilda Apiary  
Moyock, NC  
6 Years in Beekeeping  
3 hives

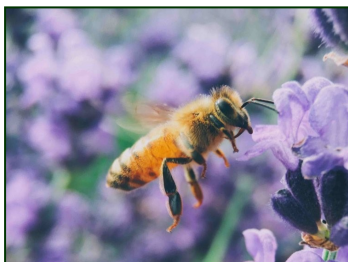
**“You never know  
what you might find,  
good or bad”**

**-Tom Poole**

I grew up in Chesapeake Va., we moved to Moyock NC in 1986. I served in the Army for almost three years and spent a year and a half, serving in Darmstadt and Mannheim Germany. I worked for the government for 36 years and retired as an Industrial Specialist, evaluating cost proposals for multiple weapons systems for the Navy. I enjoy spending time with the family and taking trips to different locations. We especially enjoy visiting Lancaster Pa. This year we plan to visit the Ark Encounter in Kentucky. I also enjoy fishing and small game hunting, when there is time.

Tom Poole, owner of Matilda Apiary, is a very kind and insightful man with a sense of humor. When asked what his favorite thing about bees and beekeeping is, he said “some days, nothing”. In general, though, his favorite thing is that it is always different and you never know what you might find, whether good or bad. He related it to exploring. He says that he continues beekeeping because of a combination of things. His neighbor was actually the one that got him into beekeeping in the first place, although he continues because of the rewards. His hopes for the future of his bees is that they survive the future winters. His least favorite things about beekeeping is the summer-time heat, when the bees are not happy, and when a bee gets into his veil. Although he is retired, he does plan on continuing his work with bees.

## Fun Facts!



- \* During one flight, a honey bee visits 50-100 flowers
- \* The honey bee is Maine’s official insect.
- \* 1/3 of the food we eat is a result of bee pollination.
- \* Scarlett Johansson is a beekeeper
- \* Honey has all the nutrients a human needs to survive.
- \* 2019 Queen color is GREEN!
- \* Honey bee venom is more deadly than cobra venom, but bees don’t inject as much venom.
- \* Darker honey means that there is more antioxidants.

# VDACS

## Beehive Distribution Program



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE AND  
CONSUMER SERVICES

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Effective July 1, 2018, the Beehive Distribution Program replaced the Beehive Grant Program (see Chapter 192 of Acts of Assembly). The Beehive Distribution Program provides beehive equipment directly to eligible beekeepers. Residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia who are 18 years of age or older at the time an application is submitted are eligible to receive up to three beehive units per year. Individuals who submit an application for a beehive unit through the Program will be registered as a beekeeper with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Department).

Applications will be reviewed in the order in which each completed eligible application is received by the Department. In the event funds have been exhausted and all beehive units distributed for the fiscal year (July 1 thru June 30), the Department will cease accepting applications and notify applicants. Applications from beekeepers who do not receive beehive units will not be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

A bee hive unit consist of: Hive box or boxes of:

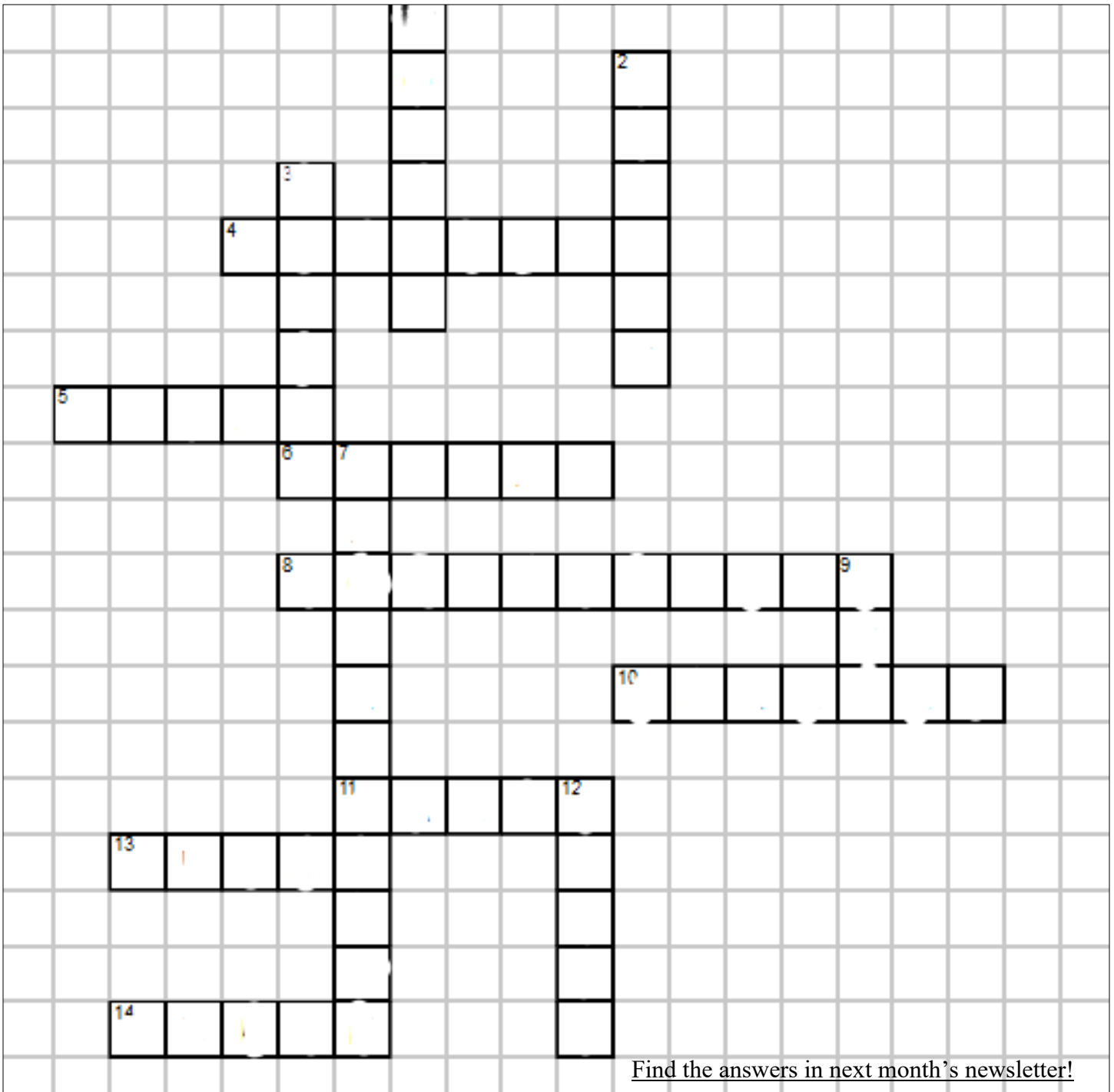
- Two deep Langstroth boxes, or
- Three medium Langstroth boxes, or
- One Top Bar Box
- Frames for the hive box(es)
- Foundation or similar guide for drawing comb for frames for the hive box(es)
- Bottom board
- Inner cover for a Langstroth hive unit
- Outer cover

The following styles may be applied for:

- Eight frame Langstroth medium brood box hive
- Eight frame Langstroth deep brood box hive
- Ten frame Langstroth medium brood box hive
- Ten frame Langstroth deep brood box hive
- Top bar hive

If interested, more information can be obtained in the [Program Guidelines](#).





Find the answers in next month's newsletter!

**Across**

4. The \_\_\_\_ is a popular insect used mainly for their production of 'liquid gold'    5. The male honey bee that is only good for mating.  
 6. Sweet liquid produced by flowers to attract bees.    8. Two large eyes on either side of a bee's head.  
 10. A \_\_\_\_ is a honey bee that leaves the hive to collect resources.    11. Second stage of a bee's life cycle.  
 13. Third stage of a bee's life cycle.    14. There is only one of these in each hive . She lays up to 2,000 eggs a day.

**Down**

1. The \_\_\_\_ bee does most of the work in the hive and is always female.    2. A honey bee is a type of \_\_\_\_.  
 3. A yellow, orange, brown, or even green powdery substance produced by flowers that attracts honey bees.  
 7. The hard 'shell' surrounding the bee that replaces the skeletal system.    9. First stage of a bee's life cycle.  
 12. Last stage of a bee's life cycle.

# Swarm Coordinator

Buddy Hoggard is the new Swarm Coordinator. Professor Tom Seeley from Cornell University states that only 23% of swarms survive their first winter. If you would like to help catch Swarms, or be called when a Swarm is reported, Buddy will need some information from you beforehand.

List of info needed if you'd like to be called for Swarms:

- Your best contact number(s)
- Your address
- Your age and/or if you can drive to the swarm or need to be picked up. (Some school-age young adults have expressed a want to respond to Swarm calls. If you are driving and don't wish to give your age, that'll be fine, but please let Buddy know if you have limitations to climbing ladders or stairs or low upper body strength, heart condition, back condition, afraid of heights, etc.)
- Your work address (if you can leave work to catch a Swarm) and your work number if it is a better contact number than your cell number.
- The hours you are normally at work (Buddy may call you if your work location is close to the Swarm and not call you if you are at home as someone else on the list may be closer to the Swarm if you are not at work and vice versa).
- If you cannot leave work to catch a swarm or have other constraints that will not allow you the free time to rescue a Swarm, please explain when you are available and not available.
- If you'd like to learn how to catch a Swarm, say so. If you would like to assist in catching a Swarm, say so. If you are experienced at catching Swarms in a gentle and non-destructive way and can respond alone, say so.
- What equipment you may have to catch a Swarm, such as:
  - Swarm bucket
  - Swarm bucket with extension pole (with length of pole)
  - Step ladder with height (6ft, 8ft, 10ft, etc.)
  - Regular ladder or extension ladder (regularly 12 to 32ft)



This information should be sent to [buddyhoggard@gmail.com](mailto:buddyhoggard@gmail.com)

Buddy would like nothing more than to see everyone on the list to have ample chances to rescue Swarms.

Over the years he's spent countless hours on the phone after someone has already responded to a Swarm call due to a message. Many times, through the years, folks have gotten mad at Buddy for not waiting for them to respond back before calling someone else. Please forgive us, but we don't have time to leave multiple voicemails and Buddy is passionate about Swarm rescue, which is why he is so "no nonsense" about getting to the girls before predators do. Anyone who has assisted Buddy will tell you that it will be a fun learning time. The rush is to get there, once on site, he will talk about it, go over different approaches to the rescue and then you will do what's needed to capture and hive the only insect on earth that makes food for human consumption.

If you do not answer unknown numbers calling your cell and you want to be called about Swarms, put Buddy down as one of your contacts, [his cell number is \(757\) 439-3834](tel:7574393834).

Here's hoping that every Swarm Call is a Swarm Rescue this season.

## WORD LIST:

B C G H U D W N P V C C G U O  
S O Y A U D F H M Q L U S M H  
P R I S P N H R A U S R Z V E  
E B D F F A E I T R L R B L W  
R I H N W B S Y Q H T T B H K  
M C U P I D V J S A O I J S M  
A U S Q N O J H H T D R R O Z  
T L V R G M P R E N O L A R V  
H A X C N E W X A A O M N X P  
E G S O X N T M M R D X A V N  
C C W A N N E T N A K E P C J  
A B Y P R E G N I T S H R O H  
N K U F D N S N F O C L F A E  
N F A T S G S R A Y N R F Z M  
S K I O Y C I L N M C V T F M

ABDOMEN  
ANTENNA  
CORBICULA  
HEAD  
HONEY STOMACH  
MANDIBLE  
SPERMATHECA  
STINGER  
THORAX  
WING

Find the answers in the next newsletter!

## Next Month

Do you use screened bottom boards? Send an email to [yabeekeeperguildnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:yabeekeeperguildnewsletter@gmail.com) with a short article telling us why you use screened bottom boards.

## Poll

What do you use? [Screened bottom board](#) or [Solid bottom board](#). Click on what you use to send me an email for a poll.

## Walnut Honey - EASY

1. Take a nice little jar
2. Fill it with walnuts
3. Pour in enough honey to cover the walnuts
4. Let the walnuts soak forever

This can be kept going (and live on your counter or shelf) and is wonderful on yogurt, cake, whatever tickles your fancy.



## What's the Buzz?

### Events for June and July



## Extractaganza

ATTENTION 2019 BGSV beekeepers; the Extractaganza is scheduled for 20 July 2019. It will be held at the Deep Creek Ruritan Club, 200 Luray Chesapeake, VA. Beginning at 1 PM. Bring your frames of honey to be extracted as you meet new people and learn about the honey extraction process and the tools that are available. You can even try honey extracting yourself!

**All guild members, friends and families are more than welcome to attend.** The building is air conditioned and the event is free.

### Honey Festival

June 22, 2019  
10am-4pm  
VA Beach Farm Market  
3640 Dam Neck Rd.  
Virginia Beach, VA

### Extractaganza

July 20, 2019  
1pm-3pm  
Deep Creek Ruritan Club  
200 Luray St.  
Chesapeake, VA



## NCSU's Bee Laboratory

### By Avari Merritt

Edward Goodwin, the representative of Chowan Bertie Camden Tyrrell Washington and Perquimans counties, seemed to have many things to say about Bill 334. Bill 334 covers the NCSU's new Bee Lab. Mr. Goodwin seemed to appreciate the impact of bees in our environment. He also told many stories of his childhood that expressed his love of honey. He said that whenever he or his brother had a sore throat, their momma would give them a spoonful of honey each. Goodwin also said that he loves all bees aside from carpenter bees, which bore into all things wood. Goodwin understands the importance of the bees on plants, and, in turn, our food. Goodwin fully supports the bill to fund the NCSU Bee Laboratory; he believes that they need a new lab in order to be successful. The current laboratory was built in WWII and does not meet current building code standards. The roof leaks and sags and the building is not properly insulated. Goodwin seems to strongly support Bill 334 and will continue to fight for the bees.

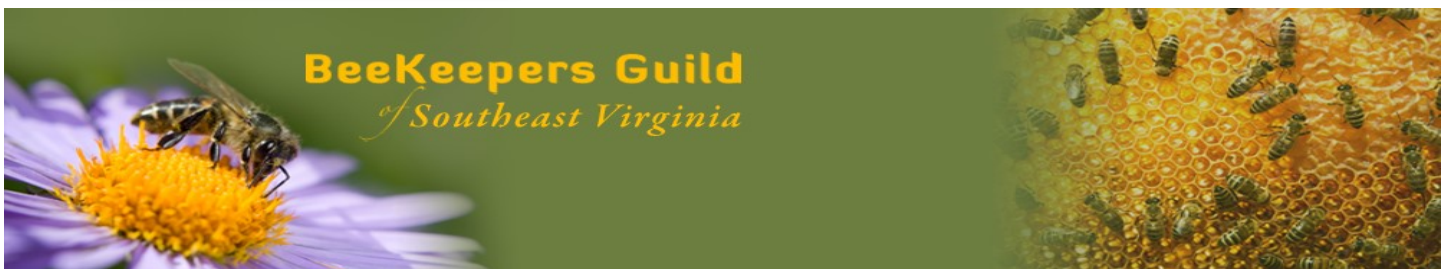


**Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia**

<https://beekeepersguild.org/>

**EMAIL**

Avari Merritt at [vabeekeeperguildnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:vabeekeeperguildnewsletter@gmail.com) to give opinions, ideas, or any feedback. Send any articles to the same email (see above). We are open to discussion on many topics this year. Feel free to contact us at [vabeekeeperguildnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:vabeekeeperguildnewsletter@gmail.com).

**Avari Merritt**

Keeping Bees: 3 years

Hive Count: 1 8-frame

I started beekeeping with my parents and have fallen in love with it ever since. I am thankful that the Guild has asked me to help with the newsletter and look forward to working with them on it.

Here's the queens from last month's newsletter!

