

## Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia Newsletter

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### Next Month's Meeting:

AZ Hives  
August 12th  
7:00—9:00 PM  
Towne Bank Hall  
137 Mt. Pleasant Rd  
Chesapeake, VA



Photo credit: NCSU

### Words from the President

I want to take a minute to thank each and every one of you for all that you have done to make OUR guild the best. Whether volunteering at events, both large and small, to working behind the scenes, this Guild could not do what we do without you. I want to thank Dave Robinson for his work leading the Guild the past year, and also thank Charity Mack for serving as Vice President, Tracy Shonts for serving as Recording Secretary, and Kathy Robinson for serving (and continuing to serve) as Treasurer. Our new officers are looking forward to serving YOU, the members. This is your Guild. Please tell me (and the other Guild officers) what we can do for you. We value your feedback, and let us know what you like to get out of the meetings, what you don't like, and any suggestions for speakers and/or workshops.



This year marks our 10-year anniversary and our list of accomplishments over the years has been amazing. If you missed Extractaganza, you missed out on a good time. Although the date changed at the last minute due to unforeseen circumstances, we still had great member turnout, and had a lot of honey extracted. There is the old saying, "there's no money in honey", however, we have an opportunity for you to make some of the money from the honey. Our next event is on the horizon, and it is our largest event we put on as a Guild – Virginia Honeybee Festival. We need the assistance of every Guild member to help us out. Please consider volunteering a few hours, or spend the entire day with us. Those who volunteer receive free admission to the Botanical Garden. This year, the festival is Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, and there are plenty of opportunities to assist and educate the public on our hobby. Please consider volunteering a few hours.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Nick

### God & Bees by Charity Mack is here!

*"It was a soft buzz, not sharp, and without warning, it stopped. Nine-year-old Lark opened her eyes. A honey bee had landed on her arm. The honey bee cleaned her fuzzy face with her tiny black arms, turned in a slow circle, and then took off toward the hive. First-year beekeeper Lark Oakmyer has been given the rare invitation to join her old friend, W, at his bee yard with thousands of honey bees. But then, through a series of strange occurrences, Lark, her brothers, and their friends find themselves discovering clues to a bigger mystery than the bees. She soon learns that she has friends in high places and that the wonder of honey bees is more than she could have ever asked or imagined. Through their faith in God (and a bit of help from the bees), they make the impossible, possible."*

Available on Amazon or at Barnes and Noble. Check our her website at [www.CharityMack.com](http://www.CharityMack.com) Her book is 266 pages with 26 illustrations and a list of beekeeping terms for those not familiar with beekeeping. Recommended for ages 8+.

Amazon paperback is selling for only \$11.99 or Kindle edition for \$6.99. Let's help support one of our fellow beekeepers!



# recipe

## No Bake Chocolate Peanut Butter Energy Bites

FROM THE KITCHEN OF National Honey Board

### INGREDIENTS

1/2 c peanuts, finely chopped  
 1 1/2 c old fashioned Quaker oats  
 1/3 c flax seeds  
 1/2 c almond flour  
 3 T unsweetened cocoa  
 2 T peanut butter powder  
 2/3 c mini chocolate chips  
 1/2 c peanut butter  
 1/3 c + 1 T honey  
 2 T almond or soy milk

### DIRECTIONS

Line a sheet pan with parchment or wax paper.  
 In a food processor, combine 1 cup of the oats, flax seed, almond flour, cocoa, peanut butter powder, and 1/3 cup of the chocolate chips. Pulse several times until it resembles coarse meal.  
 Add the peanut butter, honey, and milk to the oat mixture and process until the mixture comes together.  
 Transfer the oat mixture to a large bowl and mix in the remaining oats and chocolate chips.  
 Scoop out 1" clusters of the mixture and roll into a ball. Dip into peanuts. Place on pan and chill in refrigerator.  
 Store in airtight container for up to 1 week.

## Bee Quiz

True/False

1. One use of water that the bees have foraged for is to cool the colony.
2. If your bees exhibit "K wing" you can be certain that your bees are suffering from pesticide poisoning.
3. Adult wax moths can quickly destroy combs by chewing and tunneling through comb.
4. Paramoth is the same moth repellent that can be purchased for repelling moths in our clothes closet.
5. Having many hives close together and exposed honey are two factors that might encourage robbing.
6. A colony can rear brood on nectar alone.

## Dearth: How To Fight It

The hot and dry period between Spring and Fall is often referred to as summer nectar dearth. During this time, many bees experience a shortage of nectar and pollen, often compounded by low rainfall and excessive heat.

Surprisingly, summer dearth may be harder on your bees than overwintering. Leading up to winter, bees prepare their hives by increasing stores and limiting population counts. When it's summer, however, bee populations are at their height, and active colonies require a lot of food coming in.

This lack of available nutrition triggers its own series of side effects.

Honey robbing is the most common side effect of summer dearth. Stronger colonies end up preying on the weaker ones, ultimately stripping them of their food supply. Other predators like hornets and yellow jackets often swoop in thereafter, attracted by the scent of open honey.

Another problem is that uninvited guests tend to bring home *other* uninvited guests: **varroa mites**. After robbing, the stronger colony sometimes returns home with varroa from the weaker one, and although they may have been mite-free before, they will soon be overwhelmed. In the fall, their colony population will see a decrease while varroa populations grow.

Balanced nutrition fed regularly is the best solution to help your bees through summer dearth. In recent tests, high-quality nutrition has even shown potential to mitigate the damage caused by varroa infestation.

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## Meet a Member

Help fill this spot!!

We'd love to get to know you!

Please send an email to the newsletter editor with a picture and a little about yourself and your bees to be featured in an up-coming newsletter!

Name:

City:

Years in Beekeeping:

Hives:

## What's the Buzz?

**2019 Virginia Honeybee Festival**  
**August 17th 10:00AM - 4:00PM**  
**Norfolk Botanical Gardens**

**Guild's Next Meeting**  
**September 9th at 7 PM**  
**Towne Bank Hall**



Photo by Lisa Luker

**The Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia will never ask for money, gift cards, etc. via email.**

Bees are dying off in record numbers, but ecologist Noah Wilson-Rich is interested in something else: Where are bees healthy and thriving? To find out, he recruited citizen scientists across the US to set up beehives in their backyards, gardens and rooftops. Learn how these little data factories are changing what we know about the habitats bees need to thrive -- and keep our future food systems stable. Watch the TED Talks presentation at the link here.

[Noah Wilson-Rich - How you can help save the bees, one hive at a time](#)

## Who to Contact

**Mentorship Program:** [Dennis Heidenthal](#)

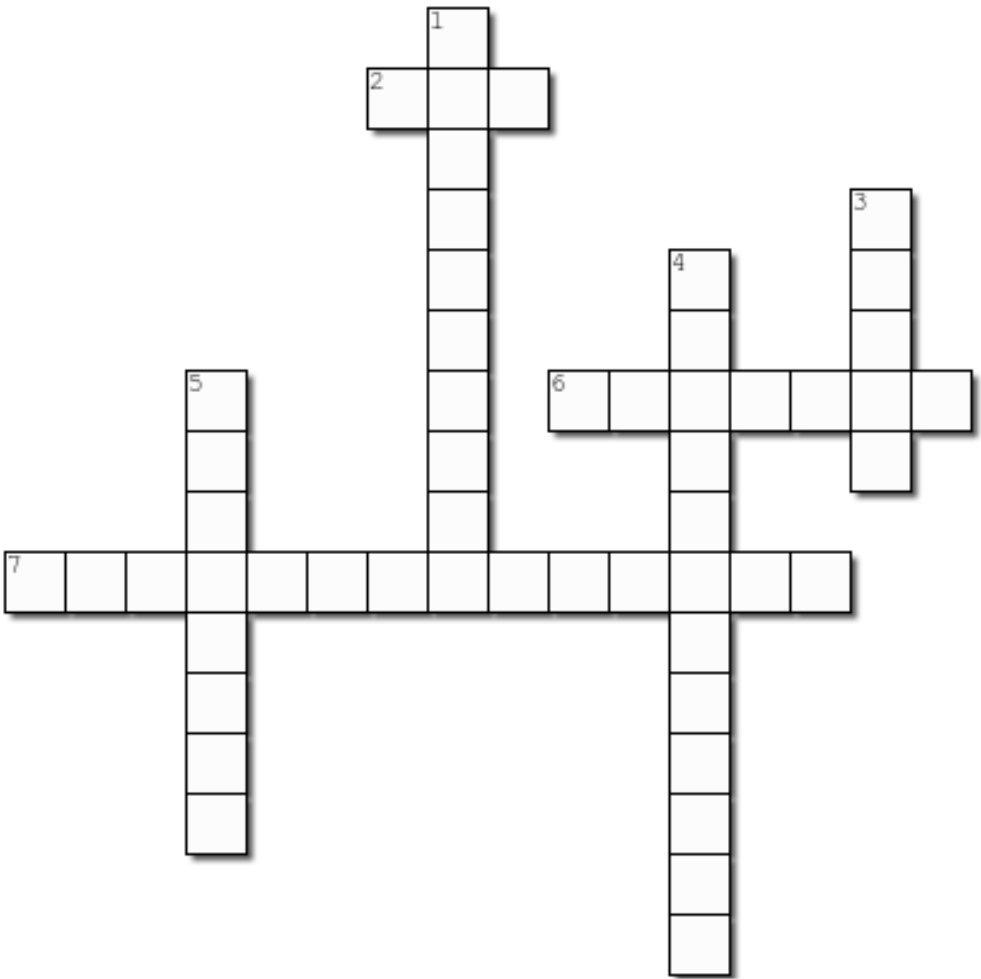
**Guild Equipment:** [Will Walker](#) (VABCH)

[Jean Carideo](#) (CHES)

**Newsletter Contributions:** [Avari Merritt](#)

**Nematodes:** [Chris Pering](#)

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Across

- 2 Used to create wax  
6 Used to mark hive or food source  
7 Used to create royal jelly

Down

- 1 Helps in wax manipulation  
3 Creates venom for bee's stinger  
4 Produces the alarm pheromone  
5 Responsible for queen's retinue

## FIND THE QUEEN



## 2019 Virginia Honeybee Festival

Mark your Calendars, it's time to celebrate honey bees once again at the guild's signature event - the Virginia Honey Bee Festival™, held in conjunction with the Norfolk Botanical Garden.



We'll start the festivities Saturday morning, August 17, 2019, 10am to 4 pm, in Baker Visitors Center with an assortment of educational displays, vendors, food purveyors and live music. More activities for children will take place in the WOW garden.

A honey bee festival would not be complete without local honey for sale and guild members will provide it along with beeswax candles and other hive products such as handcrafted soaps, lip balm and propolis.

To be successful, the festival requires many guild volunteers. Volunteers explain the 8-frame observation hive, assist with beeswax candle-rolling, explain Heifer International, sell bee-friendly plants, referee the Busy Bee Beanbag toss, help kids blow giant bubbles and possibly demonstrate how to extract honey from the comb.

Please help if you can; shifts are short - only four hours. The sign-up page will be posted soon.

### USDA Cuts Honeybee Tracking

A pair of announcements issued last week by the USDA and the Environmental Protection Agency advised the public of imminent changes to each agency's programs and established protocols that had been enacted as efforts to support a steadily declining population of honeybees. According to data from the USDA, the honeybee population has fallen from 6 million hives in 1947 to 2.4 million hives in 2008.

An initial report announcing "the indefinite suspension" of the annual Honeybee Colonies report was issued by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service on July 1. The report cited "budget shortfall" as the determining factor for the program cut.

The announcement drew criticism and also raised suspicions regarding the reason cited to suspend the program. Keith Tignor, Virginia state apiarist, pointed out that similar surveys will be continuing both at the state and national levels.

Read the entire article at [Lancaster Farming](#).

Did this article help you? Do you want to see others like it? Let us know! Do you have an article or photo you'd like to see in the next newsletter? Please send all submissions to the editor at:

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

#### Bee Quiz

- 1 T
- 2 F
- 3 F
- 4 F
- 5 T
- 6 F

#### Crossword

- 1 Mandibular
- 2 Wax
- 3 Venom
- 4 Koschevnikov
- 5 Dufour's
- 6 Nasonov
- 7 Hypopharyngeal