

# The Bee Line

Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia

JUNE – JULY 2023 EDITION

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Article submissions are always welcome! Email the editor, Jennifer Bell, at: [jenniferburdock@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferburdock@gmail.com)

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# WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

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**By Nick Delphia**

Can you believe it's June already? Recently, our weather feels like it is early spring. While we did have some hot days, the majority of them have been below normal. Mother Nature seems to have handed us a true spring... the nectar flow may be ending soon, however,

it seems like the swarm season is exceptionally long this year, considering we had such an early start. I'm still hearing members are receiving swarm calls. Make sure you have extra equipment on hand in case you get "The Call", and are able to catch a swarm. Hopefully your bees are buzzing with activity, (did not swarm this year) and they are turning all the nectar into surplus honey, so you can bring all of those frames and supers out to our next big event – Extractaganza!

What is Extractaganza? It is an exciting event for everyone, especially the beekeepers who will extract their first honey. If you missed this event last year, you need to come out this year, you will not regret it. There is a great article about it later in this newsletter.

This year, we will not be participating in the Virginia Honey Bee Festival. Due to construction at Norfolk Botanical Garden, they have decided to cancel the Honey Bee Festival, but fear not, we plan on having a bigger and better event next year.

We have some great educational topics programmed for our upcoming meetings – you do not want to miss it. We are still conducting hybrid meetings, but attending in-person makes for a better experience.

Lastly, I want to thank everybody that attended our open hive demonstration/field day. It was a great turnout, and if you missed it, we missed you. Although the facility was double booked that day, (Master Gardener Plant Sale), we were able to find parking for all of our members and hold a successful event. Special thanks to Brad Webb for hosting a woodenware workshop, Kathy Robinson for coordinating the luncheon, and Jay Houk for assisting with the inspection out in the bee yard.



# Revolutionary BeerFest

submitted by: Rachel Haag

On April 15, volunteers from the Guild displayed the observation hive and other educational materials at the annual Revolutionary BeerFest, a fundraiser to support the Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways Museum. Members joined other local groups, such as quilting and basket-making guilds, Daughters of the American Revolution, and colonial-period re-enactors, to involve and educate the public.



During the five-hour event, the beekeepers had a steady stream of intrigued festival-goers. While some keep or had kept bees in the past, most were new to the subject and wanted to learn more. People were engaged and had many questions, some of which included, "Is there a queen in here?", "How do I rid my home and yard of pests, while keeping the bees safe?", "How do I get started and where can I get my first frames?".

The Guild even had a visitor who has been terrified of bees her entire life, who came in close to the hive and was determined to rid herself of that fear!

The event was great fun and proved to be a big success. Guests took home new knowledge about our favorite friends, the bees, and a honey stick or two!



Many thanks to guild members Laurie Grygotis, Rachel Haag and Ryan Haag for planning and staffing the display. We couldn't do it without you!

# Field Day







Photo Credit: Von Gilbreath

# Guild Elections

Elections! Anybody remember them? It's been a while since we held elections but we are going to hold our first post-pandemic election at the membership meeting on June 12, 2023. The nominating committee is pleased to recommend the following guild members who have agreed to serve as officers for the 2023-2024 term:

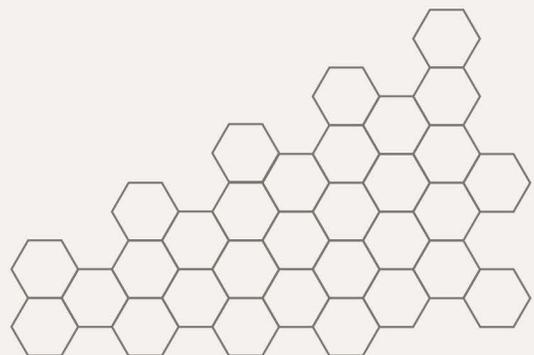
President: Brad Webb

Vice President: John Hathaway

Recording Secretary: Von Gilbreath

Treasurer: Donnie Norrell

Qualifications for office are based in part on meeting attendance and hours volunteered in service to the guild. To outgoing officers, Nick Delphia and Kathy Robinson, we say, "Thank you, thank you, thank you, and thank you!" for serving four years instead of the one year that you anticipated prior to the pandemic. To the incoming officers, thank you for your willingness to further serve the guild. And to nominating committee members, Kurt Fuge, Susan Horvath and Pam Fisher, thank you too for twisting a few arms!



# Extractaganza 2023

What is Extractaganza exactly? It's our annual Guild event that we hold in lieu of the July membership meeting. It's also the 16th Anniversary of our Guild's founding. Harvesting honey can be a hot, sticky and tedious task. Everyone knows that many hands make for light work, so every July, Guild members, with their families and friends, get together and bring in their honey harvest while enjoying an indoor picnic.

During the luncheon we will also announce and induct the new officers. New beekeepers who have not extracted honey before get to see how it is done and gain hands-on experience. If you have honey to spin, bring it! If you don't have any, come anyway and get your hands sticky learning how to uncap and extract honey.



Join us at the Fraternal Order of Police on July 8th at 110 Kempsville Rd, Chesapeake at 10 AM sharp. All Guild members, families, and friends are invited. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM; the Guild will provide the chicken and drinks.

Please bring your favorite dessert or side dish to share. We ask that you RSVP [here](#), with how many guests you will be bringing so that we can adequately plan for the day.

Also, let us know how many supers (boxes of frames) you will be extracting! (Please consider signing up to arrive early to set up for the event, or assist with clean up). After lunch, at 1:00 we will open the doors to the public, and continue to extract honey until the last frame of honey is spun.



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# Kerry Bass Memorial Scholarship

A huge “Congratulations” goes to Marissa Klinger, for the 2023 recipient of the Kerry Bass Memorial Scholarship. Marissa has been the captain of her school’s dance team for five years, and has been a member of the Student Council Association (SCA) and the National Honor’s Society for two years. She has a GPA of 4.0805, and is planning on majoring in Elementary Education at Longwood University.



# Samaritan House Donation

submitted by Kathy Robinson

Samaritan House is having their program "Step into the Light" gala/auction on June 10, 2023, at the Granby Theater. BGSV was asked if we could provide an item or a basket of items to be auctioned on June 10th. Our BOD thought it would be a wonderful idea to have members be a part of this endeavor and it has been a huge success. The donated hive products included honey (3 ½ lbs. total), handmade soaps with beeswax/honey, beeswax candles, luxury sugar scrub and body lotion with beeswax and honey. Most coveted with our drizzly weather, we were given two Bug-Me-Not mosquito repellent roll-ons. Alongside these items we have a couple beekeepers extending an invitation to join them in their apiary for an adventurous excursion in a few of their hives.

The honey bee theme continued with many others gifting a Gnome Honey Pot Bird House, Honey bee serving tray, storage box, decorative ceramic pitcher, embroidered bee table runner, drying mat with matching towel, busy-bee journal, beekeeper T-shirt, a bumble bee pendant and of course, a bee engraved coffee cup.

Our little honey bee has been very well represented through some very generous hearts in this basket. May their auction and our Bee-basket be a huge success!

A grateful Thank-You to all who participated in donating items for the Samaritan House Gala.

Bee Kind. Bee Generous. Bee Happy.



# EAS MA 2023

July 31 – Aug 4, 2023

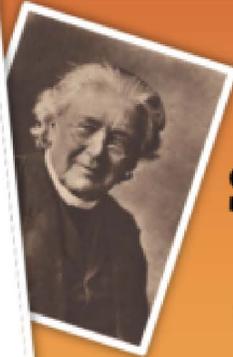
## 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Short Course and Conference\*

University of Massachusetts,  
Amherst MA

MASSACHUSETTS  
EAS 2023



PAST, PRESENT  
AND BEEYOND



Eastern  
Apicultural  
Society

[www.easternapiculture.org](http://www.easternapiculture.org)



### Speakers:

- Bob Binnie
- Dr. Rachael Bonoan
- David Burns
- Dr. Dewey Caron
- Megan Denver
- Krispn Given
- Dr. Cameron Jack
- Paul Kelly
- Dr. Heather Matilla
- Dr. David Peck
- Dr. Tammy Horn-Potter
- Dr. Samuel Ramsey
- Dr. Tom Seeley
- Dr. Kim Skrym
- Dr. Kaira Wagoner
- Kirk Webster
- Dr. Judy Wu-Smart

*and more...*

### Topics:

- Beginner track
- Beekeeping as a Business
- Latest Research
- Apitherapy
- Bee Health
- Taking Care of Your Bee Equipment

Major Beekeeping Suppliers  
and Local Artisans



### Hands-On Beekeeping in the Apiary:

- Colony Management
- Queen Rearing
- Making Cell Builders
- Disease Detection
- Measuring Drift in the Apiary

### Workshops:

- Expanded Microscopy Program
- Queen Rearing
- Bee-Lining
- Honey Show Judging
- Photography
- Cooking with Honey
- Wound Dressings
- Candle Making

### Special Events:

- Bee Olympics
- Special Visit by Lorenzo Langstroth
- Honey Show
- Auctions
- Field Trips, including New England Apiaries

EAS Master Beekeeping  
Program Testing &  
Certification

### Nature, Culture, Food, and Entertainment

Flagship campus of the University of Massachusetts system and nationally ranked public research university.



Site of the first US building erected exclusively for the teaching of beekeeping, and roughly 20 miles from the Greenfield where Lorenzo Langstroth authored his book "The Hive and the Honey Bee".

Downtown Amherst - Walkable mile of cuisine, culture, art, and independent film at the center of legendary trail networks for biking, hiking, arts, and literature, including the home of acclaimed poet Emily Dickinson.

Nearby you can visit Historic Deerfield and the Bridge of Flowers in Shelburne Falls, MA. If you are making a vacation of the trip, there are countless numbers of beautiful and historic places to visit.



90 miles from Boston and 175 miles from New York City. 64 miles to Tanglewood summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.



\*Watch for Updates on the EAS Website:  
<https://easternapiculture.org/conference/eas-2023/>

# Future Meeting Dates

June 12th - Dennis Heidenthal will be presenting information on Mite Treatments.

July - No Meeting - Extractaganza on July 8th

August 14th

Guild meetings will continue to be offered both virtually via Zoom and in-person at Towne Bank at 7:00 pm.

