

BGES



Minutes from April Meeting
April 5, 2014\Chamber of Commerce Building, Melfa

Called to order by President Kist at 10:08 AM

All BGES officers were present. A total of 29 people participated.

The featured speaker was Marinos Kalmoutis of Nelsonia who acquired a complete apiary about 2 years ago. With over 50 hives and little experience with bees, he shared the ups and downs of learning to be a beekeeper. He did have help from the past owner, but he also embarked on transitioning to an “organic” (chemical-free) approach. While losing some hives (a natural occurrence), he is down to about 28 hives now but fees that his bees are stronger without chemical treatments. He has been guided by info from <http://basprings.com/natural-treatment-sheet/> and the book “Natural Beekeeping” by Ross Conrad (available thru www.isbns.net search on ISBN 978-1-933392-08-0). As Marinos becomes more experienced, I think he will be able to lead more members in the “organic” way. Bettina Dembek reported that she visited a beekeeping group in Germany where most members have 10 or more hives and virtually all use the organic approach.

Bob Good showed a Beetle Baffle he purchased that is supposed to keep hive beetles from accessing frames within the hive. Visit www.beetlebaffle.com and check out the Fox News video clip link.

Donna Fauber is still collecting info on who wants nucs and who might have nucs to sell this spring/summer. If not already done so, contact Donna directly (dfauber@verizon.net).

Beekeepers have been asked to report their over-wintering experience to a national survey being conducted through April. Please report at:

<http://10.selectsurvey.net/beeinformed/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=BIP2014>

More info can be found at: <http://beeinformed.org>

BGES needs to appoint a nominating committee to prepare for possible changes in leadership. Nominations are due at the May meeting. Both Mary Walker and David Fluhart have volunteered. We need just one more member. One way to be or NOT to be nominated is to be on the committee. Contact Mary directly if you will participate (mwalker@esva.net) .

Chris Merritt demonstrated his “frame jig” to help assemble wooden frames of all sizes. He was kind enough to present BGES with one available for loan. It does 10 frames at a time.

New and old members are reminded of Open Hive Day on Saturday, April 12 (rain date April 26) at both W.T. Wilkins (Northampton County) and Marinos Kalmoutis (Accomack). Directions:

Northampton County near Eastville: WT Wilkins at his farm, Yeardley. The 911 address is 14184 Yeardley Rd. Enter north entrance to Eastville, take first right (Old Town Neck Rd) for 1.4 mi, then right on Yeardley Rd. to its end. (If you go to the high school, you've gone too far- go back to find Old Town Neck Road.)

Accomack County near Gargatha- Marinos Kalmoutis' home- 911 address is 27276 Berry Road (Bloxom) From south look for the Gargatha General Store on the right hand side of US 13 and Berry Road is on left on US 13 . Go past houses and look for horse fences.

TBA-- A back-up Hive inspection will be conducted by Russell Vreeland at his home in Craddockville later in April for any who could not make it to the first events. His 911 address is 10460 Teakle Road, Belle Haven, (but GPS will say Painter).

The Treasurer reported that BGES has a balance of \$ 795.75

Angela Barnes passed around examples of queen cells as well as newly laid eggs in cells. We all should be on the lookout for queen cells and many drone cells as indications of possible swarming intentions. When queen cells are present, it is also an opportunity to do a hive split.

Paul Kist shared his recent experience with angry (defensive) bees. Russell Vreeland chimed in with a similar tale. Such experiences may relate to whether many forager bees are away from the hive or not.

Russell presented some beekeeping books to the Guild. Some may enter our library kept by Ann Snyder. Russell asked for any last minute updates to the Swarm List which he is about to publish for use by exterminators, law enforcement, fire

companies, etc. He also related how ANEC will not spray near beehives if they know where they are. Call ANEC directly to advise them if power lines which may have undergrowth sprayed with herbicide are nearby your hives.

The Guild is reminded that wooden ware is available from Andy Westrich in Hampton (jandy618@juno.com 757-513-2467) who will pass it to Paul Kist for free delivery at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 6th at the Barrier Island Center, Machipongo, at 6:30 PM. Our featured speaker will be Dave Kavello who will educate us on swarms, a timely topic for May!

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 Noon.

Submitted by: John Chubb, BGES Secretary