

BEEKEEPERS GUILD OF THE EASTERN SHORE - BGES

MINUTES JUNE 30th 2023

Meeting was held at The Home of George and Leilani Brown for our annual picnic

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 Pm by President Tara Southard. There were 25 members and guests in attendance.

List of officers

Tara Southard - President

Chris Kutyla - Vice President

Tia Bell - Secretary

Sandra Scher - Treasure

Art Vancil - Social Media

President Tara Southard opened up the meeting with the following:

- Next meeting will be an “Honey Extractor” demonstration at the home of Tia Bell on Sept. 30th, 2023, Time TBD
- We will be moving our Saturday meetings to the BIC to help accommodate those that live further south in hopes of higher attendance since the weekday meetings at the BIC are in low attendance.
- Tara will be doing “The New Roots Youth Garden outreach” on July 9th.
- Honey tasting with straws will take place, vote on the best one.
- There are free plant swaps, take what you want.
- Each member is to take a bottle of Honey Bee Healthy on the table that the club purchased and Tara was so kind as to divide up in small bottles, thank you Tara!
- Chris K., who started just 3 years ago as George has his mentor, has been in conversation with 10 members to see what it is they need from the club. He has a long conversation with a few. Most people just need a mentor and help getting started, ie: where do I get bees, or equipment, or what should we buy?
- T-Shirt order was a huge success. Those in attendance, please get your T-shirts from Tia and pay accordingly. There are a few extra that can be purchased, contact Tia.
- REMINDER – Dues are coming in June, its \$20 for the year from each family. Some still owe for 2022. Please reach out to Tia or Sandra to see if you owe. Bring a check to the picnic for your dues.
- AND THE WINNERS OF THE HONEY CONTEST WERE: 1ST PLACE, John and Ann Snyder, 2nd place Chris K, 3rd place was Tara. CONGRADULATIONS, You get bragging rights.

TREASURES REPORT: by Sandra Scher: Current balance held in the bank account is: \$1161.19. **Update after many dues were paid, T-shirts paid for and income from the T-shirts (no mark up) as of 8/2/2023 new balance is \$2221.42

NEW BUSINESS: New beekeepers need a mentor to help with the purchases of equipment and especially bees and will assist the new members with help and guidance as they make their first steps in year one. Facebook as the main vehicle to connect and communicate on resources and actions. That is also so important for the newcomers.

Upcoming plans for 2023 and 2024:

- Honey Extraction, Location - Tia's garage, Four beekeepers extract honey with 4 Extractors - Tia, Tara, Chris & George. Each beekeeper will demonstrate their procedure
- Saturday October 14th -@ 10am - Winter Preparation -
Location - Barrier Island Center & ZOOM
4 experienced beekeepers speak on how they prepare for winter - (Ideas for speakers- Mike O'Brien, George Brown, Tim Palmer, Chris Willis, Bill Pucher) Each officer will try to recruit a member of the Guild - We would like to have members speak at this meeting.
- Saturday November 4 & 11@ 8:30 - 1:30 - Beekeeping Class
Location - Naomi Makemie Presbyterian Church Onancock
Tara will ask Leilani if she will schedule the speaker, Sandra will order the books and Tia will make up the folders, Chris will be the lead on Nov 4 and Tara will be the lead on Nov 11.
Need to ask for a group of member to organize the food & drink
Need to make up flyer and pass out at the Sept & Oct meetings
- Dec - No meeting – Merry Christmas
- Saturday January 13th @ 10am - Speaker - Angela Barnes???? Master Gardner???? Maybe both?? Location Tasley Firehouse & ZOOM. Tara will ask Angela to speaker and Sandra will talk to the Master Gardner's
- Saturday February 17th @ 10am – Speaker
- Location - Barrier Island Center & ZOOM, Chris will work on speaker
- Saturday March 9th @ 10am - General Meeting - how are your bees?? Preparing for Spring Swarm Season! Location - Tasley Firehouse & ZOOM
- April - Open Hive Day
- May - Nothing Yet

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm so everyone could eat and mingle.

If you want to be a member of the VA State Beekeepers Association, please send a \$10 check to:

VSBA
201 Bluebird Lane
Charlotte Court House, VA 23923

*** Updates since meeting:

Tara, Chris, Tia, Sandra, and Art meeting at Chris's house to discuss the open/public BGES Facebook (FB) After some effort, the Admin's and moderators of the FB have been located and all Admin's have been release to Tara, Chris and George. This way, we can moderate members. With this, the officers decided to create a private group to paid members only. This will allow better monitoring since the officers personal information is published, ie: address, cell numbers etc. You will be contacted via email from Art Vincil to join the group. Tia has been reaching out to members that are past due by 2, 3, 4 years to ask if they want to stay in the club, since then, many have paid and updated their information. Almost all t-shirts have been handed out and paid for.

- Events both Virginia and NC Bee Association & BGES events

Virginia State Beekeeping Association Conference Nov 3 &4 at the Williamsburg Lodge Williamsburg Virginia

-Monthly Member highlight - Short paragraph introducing different members of the Guild

Picture - How many hives do they have? How long have you been keeping bees? How did you get started bee keeping? Bee keeping story or adventure.

-Bee News with sources

-Questions - bring any questions to the meetings we will answer there and then post answer in Facebook

-Resource lists - equipment, bees