

# The Forager

September 2006 Vol.3 No. 9

President: Fred Hafer, Vice President: Joe Taylor, Treasurer: Karen Zablocki, Recording Secretary: Laura Davis  
Editor: Michael A. Coyle and Ben Duff Newsletter deadline is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month

## WORDS FROM ME (Joe Taylor, Vice President)

I hope everyone enjoyed their Labor Day. Around my house it is the last noisy day before peace and quiet after all the kids go back to school.

I thank everyone in the club for making last month a success. We had members step up to the plate and volunteer for everything that we needed to do. The website committee is: Marcus Griffin, chairman, with Charles Spann, Bob Montcalm, Fred Hafer, and Larry Tate completing the committee. The FORAGER is being handled by Michael Coyle and Ben Duff and last, but not at all least, we are looking forward to Denise Bedford's refreshments. I thank you all for volunteering to help *our* club.

It looks like we are going to have a very good short course next spring. I met with Betty and Bob Schwartz a few days ago and he shared some ideas with me. As I talk to other club members, I see that Bob is enlisting assistance from other club members on this project. Good work, Bob!!

If anyone in the club has any thoughts as to what kind of programs they would like to have, please let me know so that we can start working on them.

Our annual Christmas dinner and meeting is set for December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006 (note that this is a Tuesday) at 6:00PM at the Old Country Buffet. This is located in the Greenbrier area of Chesapeake, Va. The location and date were set as close as possible to our regular meeting date. I have asked Carol Watkins, Lisa Wiggins and Judy Ferguson to handle all the other details. We will be requesting a head count in the near future so plan to put this date on your calendar and attend.

All who attended last year had a really great time. Let's do it again this year.

Some of you may think that it is too soon to think about, but at my age nothing is too soon. We need to be thinking about Founder's Day coming up in February. The club furnishes the main dish meat and club members furnish covered dishes and desserts. We all have so much fun at these gatherings and we need someone to host the event. That one special volunteer is out there and we need them to step forward.

Please come out for our September Club meeting to hear Marcus Griffin tell us about his recent trip to the Philippines. It should be very interesting.

As I close for this month, I want to thank everyone for their support of **OUR** Tidewater Beekeepers Association.

Your vice president,

**Joe Taylor**

## **August 14, 2006 – Tidewater Beekeepers Meeting**

The monthly TBA meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM at the Chesapeake Agriculture Annex- Holt Dr., by Joe Taylor, the Vice President. We had several new visitors attending our meeting. Introductions were made.

Treasurer's Report was given by Carol Watkins. The end balance as of Aug. 14, 2006 is \$1557.81.

Joe Taylor stated that we had “old business” and “new business” to discuss. Mr. Taylor asked Fred Hafer if he would summarize the transactions which had occurred after the last meeting was held. Mr. Hafer stated that pornography, online drugs, and gambling comments have been linked to our TBA website. He requested that Cort Tompkins shut down our website and never received a response. Mr. Hafer reported that he received verbally abusive emails from several TBA members in regards to his actions, which led to his resignation.

Several members asked about the process of gaining access to our website. Most agreed that Cort Tompkins would need to respond to our requests. It was stated that the creation of our website was of no charge to the members.

New member, Larry Tate, suggested that the membership could petition to have the TBA name licensure removed, which could take approximately 6 months.

Another member recommended that the members compose a letter to Cort Tompkins asking for a cease and assist in shutting down the website. Mr. Hafer suggested that the letter needs to also be addressed to the Tidewater Gun Club and the hosting company.

Bob Schwartz made a motion to have volunteers be on a website committee. The motion was voted on and carried.

The members of the Website Committee:

1. Marcus Griffin
2. Charles E. Spann
3. Bob Montcalm
4. Fred Hafer – saved all pictures and information from the old website.
5. Larry Tate

Bob Ferguson asked Mr. Hafer to reconsider his resignation.

Steve Black asked the members who made hurtful comments to Mr. Hafer to apologize

and also asked for reconsideration of resignation.

A motion was made to bring Mr. Hafer back as the president. The members voted on Mr. Hafer for president and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Hafer responded that he would need time to make this decision.

Bob Schwartz asked that Bob Montcalm be relieved from his duty of providing refreshments since he is now on the website committee. The new volunteer for refreshments is Denise Bedford.

Mr. Hafer asked for volunteers to be newsletter editors for the Forager. Michael Coyle and Ben Duff volunteered to be editors.

Joe Taylor and Steve Black volunteered to make reservations at the Old Country Buffet for the Christmas party. Lisa and Carol were volunteered as the decoration committee.

Judy Ferguson announced that there will be a program about bees on CBS Aug. 20 in the morning.

Bob Schwartz stated that there will be a new series on cable about beekeeping.

Carol asked to be reimbursed for the educational hive she purchased from Brushy Mtn. for \$65. The motion was made that she be reimbursed and the motion carried.

Upcoming events:

- National Honey Month (September) – Sept. 9, 2006. TBA will have a booth at the Farmer’s Market on Dam Neck Rd. Members encouraged to sell their honey.
- Virginia Beach Farm Day – Thursday October 19 and Friday October 20, 2006. School children grades 1-4 will be visiting the Farmer’s Market.
- Harvest Fair – Saturday October 21 from 10-4pm. Members can sell honey. Need volunteers.

Carol informed the members that the cost of honey stix and honey candy for the Farm Day would amount to \$150-175. A motion was made to purchase the honey stix and honey

candy. The motion carried. Also, several members agreed to help create our own coloring books for the children.

Fred Hafer announced that Home Brew USA is looking to buy large quantities of honey (10 + gals).

After a short break Joe Taylor asked members to tell bear stories. Carl Duncan shared a story about a bear tearing apart one of his hives, however he spotted the queen on the ground and saved her! He now uses an electric fence around his hives and has not seen a bear since.

Open discussion and questions:

- Marcus Griffin asked about the lack of honey in his hives. Several members commented on the various possibilities.
- Larry Tate asked about feeding contaminated honey back to the bees. CE Harris stated that he would make sugar syrup as usual and add honey to the mixture.
- Floyd explained the use of the hive top feeder brought for demonstration.
- A new member asked how long to feed sugar syrup to the bees during winter. CE Harris cautioned that feeding too long will cause swarming in the spring.
- Floyd discussed freezing drone brood – pros and cons were discussed by the members.
- Leilani Ozment asked about the usefulness of Api Life mite treatment. CE Harris stated he is in the experimental stages of using it.
- New member asked about the placement of his hives near Leyland Cypress trees and morning shading.

After the raffle and door prizes, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laura Davis

**Next Meeting:** Monday, September 11, 2006  
at 7:30pm

**Location:** Agricultural Extension Trailer on Holt Drive in the Chesapeake Municipal Center

**Program:** Trip to Philippines

**Speaker:** Marcus Griffin

### **Beekeeping in Trouble!**

*Problems Shipping Queens & Senate Bill, SB-2395* in September 2006 American Bee Journal is a must read! Shipping queens and bees has become a real problem. Chuck Norton of Reidsville, NC started having problems in this past July, when queens he had shipped to Michigan were returned to the post office of origin the next day due to the heat and air carrier's refusal to ship his queens. UPS is more expensive and not a viable option for Norton. Norton's investigation found his problems of shipping queens to be a problem throughout the US. Gus Rouse of Kona Queen Hawaii, Inc. has had problems since 9/11/2001. Gus Rouse writes the ability to ship bees is being threatened by actions of some animal rights groups and the inability of the Post Office and their air carriers to deliver them in a timely and efficient manner. SB-2395 would help solve these problems, but since its introduction March 6, 2006 by Iowa Senator Charles Grassley it has gone to Homeland Security Committee with no subsequent action. The American Beekeeping Federation and the American Honey Producers Association support this bill. Please call and write your Congressmen and urge them to support this bill.