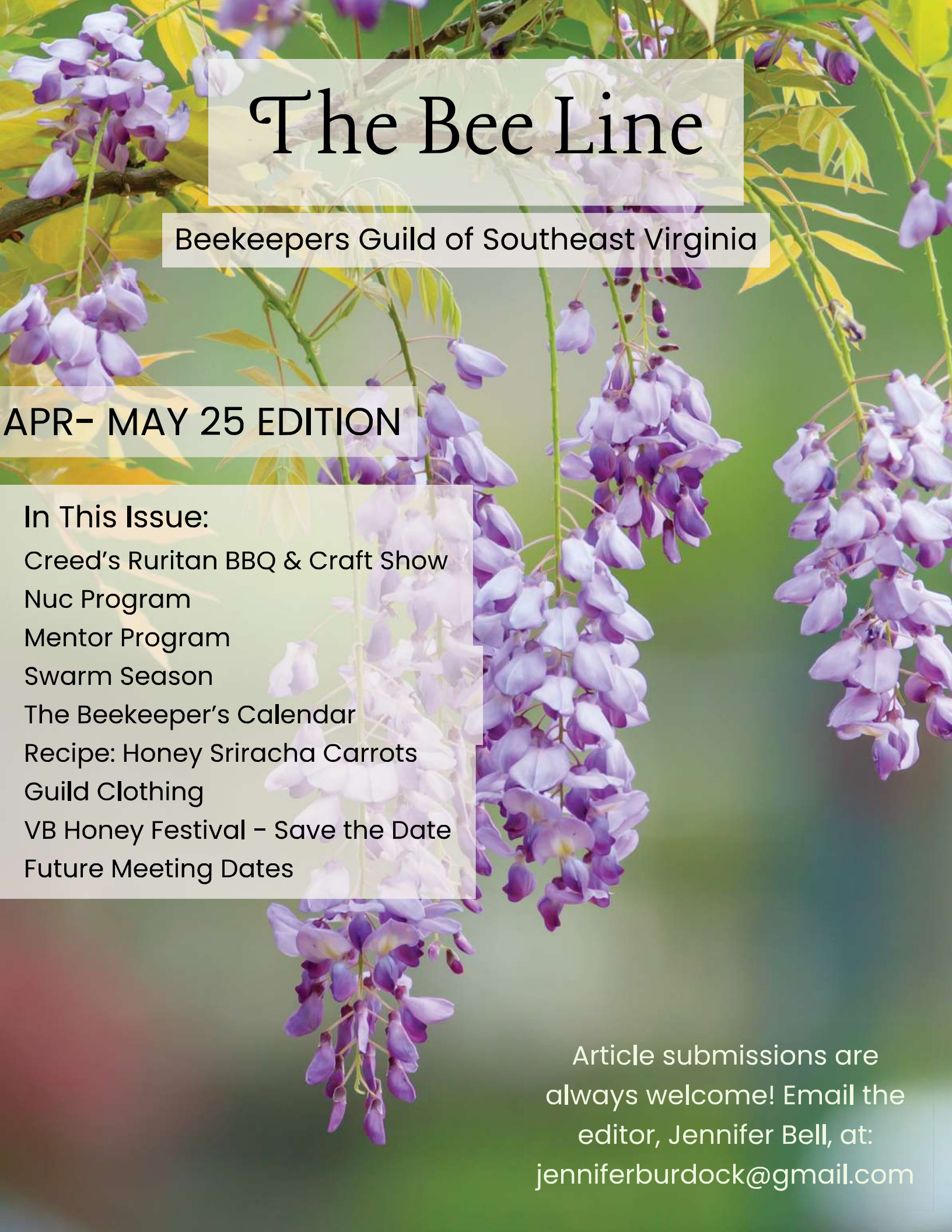

# The Bee Line

Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia

APR- MAY 25 EDITION

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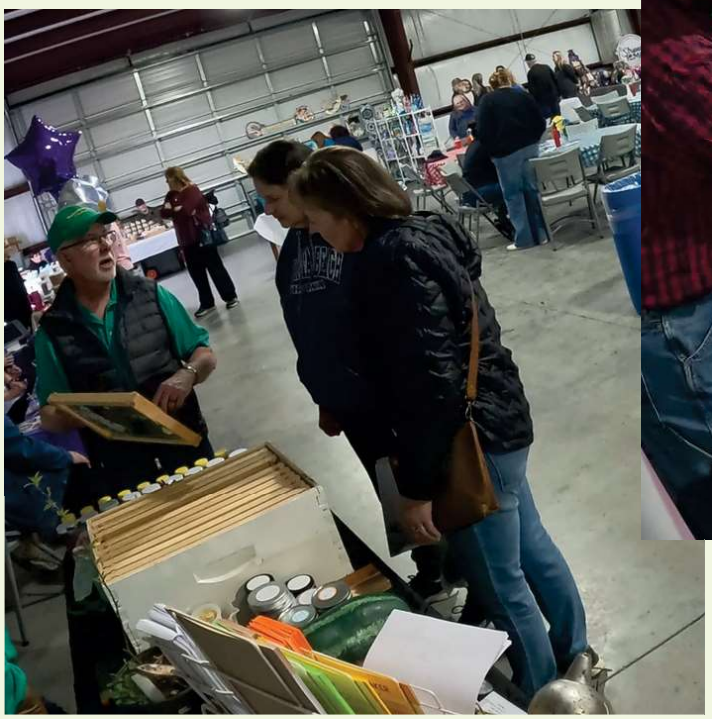
Article submissions are always welcome! Email the editor, Jennifer Bell, at: jenniferburdock@gmail.com

# Creed's Ruritan BBQ  & Spring Craft Show



# Calling All 2025 Nuc Sellers!

With our introductory course wrapping up, we have a lot interest from new-bees looking to buy nucs! Making a split is a great tool for swarm prevention, and if you don't have the room to expand it into another hive, please consider selling those bees to a fellow member! Our guild is one of the few clubs in Virginia that produce local nucs for members, rather than importing bees from outside the area. As a seller you are able to set the terms of the sale including the price and how you want to handle equipment (trading frames, including the price of equipment in your sale, loaning equipment, etc.) We take pride in this program and would like to keep it going! There are a few guidelines that the guild requires our sellers to adhere to:

1. Nucs provided by suppliers, enrolled in the guild nuc program, must be state-inspected and be accompanied with a health certificate as proof of state inspection.

2. Nucs shall have fully drawn frames, a queen who is the mother of the brood in the nuc, brood in all stages of development, including capped brood in a solid pattern and stored honey and pollen.

If you have questions on how to put together a nuc, reach out to a mentor or our other experienced beekeepers.

If you are interested in selling nucs this spring - to be ready by May/June timeframe - please reach out to the nuc coordinator, Bailey Bunn, with the following information:

1. Name
2. Email address
3. Phone number
4. Brood chamber size (medium or deep)
5. Approximately how many nucs you anticipate to sell. It is okay if this number changes.

Bailey Bunn – Nuc Coordinator
bunnbailey13@gmail.com
303-815-2821

# Mentors Wanted!

With the success of the Beekeeping Short Course, our guild is buzzing with new members in need of mentors to guide them through their first year. Please consider becoming a mentor, even if you are a second-year beekeeper. Most questions start off centered around obtaining the correct equipment, installing a nuc/package and discussing those first-year observations the new beekeepers are seeing as the bees start to expand their hive. You do not need to know all the answers to every question and several of our senior folks are here to support you with any issues that may present a challenge.

This is an extremely rewarding opportunity for both the mentor and mentee. If you are interested or have additional questions, please contact our mentor coordinator, Kevin Du Bois, at kevinduboisphoto@gmail.com. **We particularly need mentors in Virginia Beach.** Thank you for your consideration, and support of the new beekeepers and the Guild.

# February Swarm Bucket Workshop

photos by: Kevin Du Bois

Swarm season is upon us! This swarm was photographed in the Larchmont neighborhood of Norfolk in late March.

Photo Credit: Erin Douglass

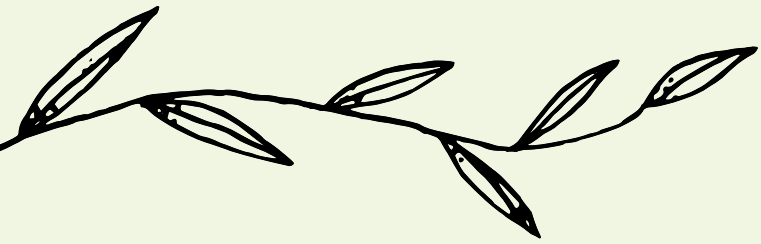
# The Coastal VA Beekeeper's Calendar

**April**

- Remove entrance reducers and mouse guards.
- Feed any new splits, new swarms, and light hives, especially if weather inhibits foraging. Make sugar syrup in a 1:1 ratio (5 lbs. sugar to 10 cups water).
- Replace 2 of 10 frames of old dark comb each year with new foundation to reduce disease and pesticide loads in the hive.
- You should have your honey supers on already! A queen excluder may be placed under the first honey super.
- Do NOT use medications in a colony with honey supers for human consumption in place. The only exceptions are formic acid, a naturally occurring component of honey, and HopGuard.
- Keep new nucs well fed and monitor closely for overcrowding until able to transfer to full size hives. If installing package bees, DO NOT open the hive for at least five days. After one week, check queen cage & release the queen if the bees have not done so already. Disturb the hive as little as possible during the first two weeks while they settle into their new home with the queen.
- Make splits when you see drones in the bee yard to expand your operation or replace winter losses. Queen cells can be used to make a split and prevent swarming.
- Install a bait hive with one frame of treated drawn comb in a nearby tree to catch swarms.

**May**

- Do NOT use medications in a colony with honey supers for human consumption in place. The only exceptions are formic acid, a naturally occurring component of honey, and HopGuard.
- Comb honey supers should be added on top of another honey super, not over the brood chamber, to reduce the amount of pollen in the comb honey.
- It is time to add another super when the previous super on a colony is one-half to two-thirds filled (6-7 frames in a 10-frame box). Raise the partially filled super and place the empty super under it.
- Keep empty comb as storage space in the supers on all colonies until the honey flow has ended.
- Remove and extract capped supers from your colonies if you need additional supers.
- Continue to check for queen cells every seven days. Remove all queen cells from the colony to reduce swarming; you can use them to make summer splits and increase your colony numbers.
- If planning to sell nucleus colonies, make sure the apiary is inspected by the local apiary inspector prior to sale.
- Prop up the outer cover to improve airflow during hot weather. Good air circulation improves both honey production and hive health.
- Order queens if you plan to requeen in the fall.



# Overwintered Hives

Photo Submitted by Kevin Du Bois

# Honey Sriracha Roasted Carrots

TOTAL TIME: 45 MIN MAKES: 6-8 SERVINGS

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## Ingredients

- 1 lb carrots, peeled
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- ½ tsp garlic powder
- ¼ tsp salt
- ¼ pepper
- 2 Tbsp butter
- 2 Tbsp honey
- 1 Tbsp sriracha
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- S&P to taste

## Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400F. Slice carrots into 2 inch pieces and place on a sheet pan. Toss carrots with olive oil and dry spices.
2. Bake carrots for 20 mins. Remove and flip the carrots, then bake for an additional 10 mins.
3. While carrots are baking - add butter and garlic to a saucepan on medium heat. Cook ~2 mins until butter is melted and garlic is fragrant. Add the honey, sriracha, S&P to taste and mix together until smooth.
4. Once carrots are finished baking, add them to the pan and toss them in the sauce.

# Guild clothing is now available for purchase!

Click HERE to order

Save the Date

# Future Meeting Dates

**April 14th**
**May 12th**

Guild meetings will continue to be offered both virtually via Zoom and in-person at Towne Bank 137 Mt. Pleasant Rd., Chesapeake, VA 23322 at 7:00 pm.