

The Bee Line

Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia

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



**VIRGINIA HONEYBEE
FESTIVAL 2024**







Thanks to ALL our volunteers for making this year's HBF a success! We could not have done it without you!

Photo credit: Aaron Broughton and Jeremy Mitchell



The BGSV raised \$150 at the Virginia Honey Bee Festival for Heifer international, which our Guild has matched for a total donation of \$300 for 10 hives!

A Heifer honeybee gift donation includes a bee package, hive, box and training in beekeeping techniques. By donating bees for a family in need, it helps:

- Increase the global honeybee population to support the environment
- Boost income through sales of honey, wax and pollen
- Stimulate growth of the family's crops through pollination

Sometimes it's the smallest gifts that make the largest impact. Healthy beehives can double fruit and vegetable yields of small farms. A honeybee donation can turn a family's struggle into a lifetime of opportunity.



FALL GARDENING FESTIVAL

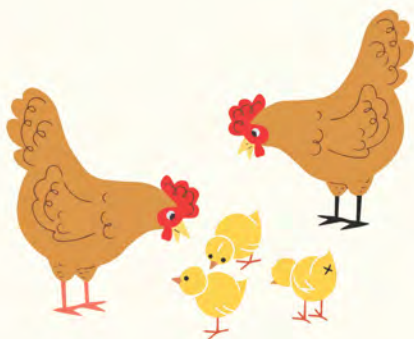
Thanks to Donnie Norrell, John Hathaway, Nick Delphia, Bailey Bunn, Andrea Rogers, Debbie Hunt, and Ray Jackson for helping out at the Fall Garden Festival on September 28th.



CHESAPEAKE FARM DAYS



Thanks to Bea Hovey, John Hathaway, Jay Houk, and Brad Webb for volunteering!





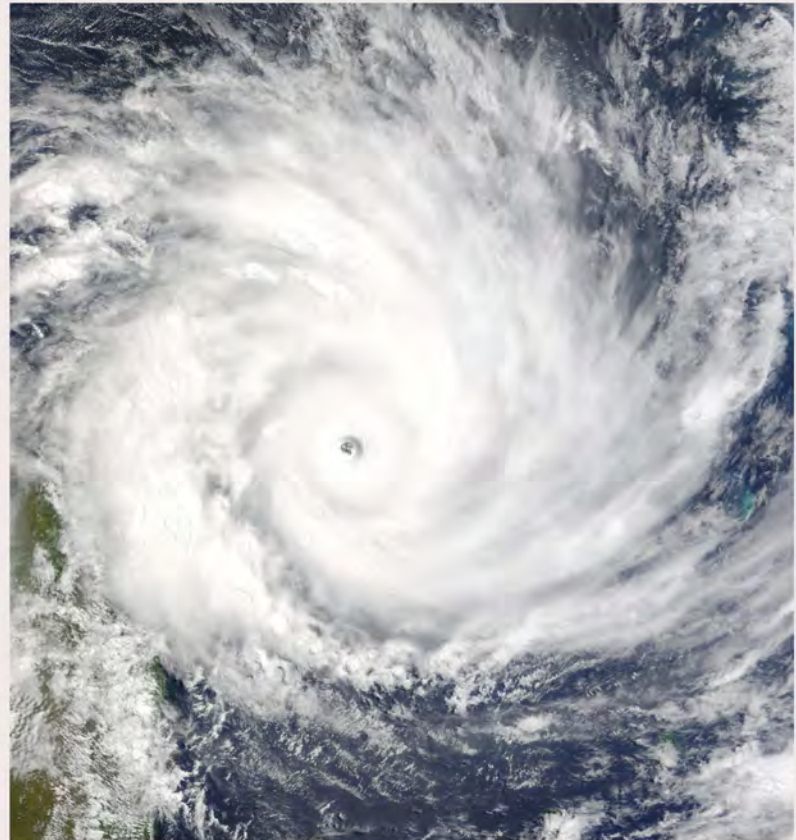
Hurricane Readiness

Written by Jennifer Bell

If you've lived in the Tidewater area for any extended length of time, you're certainly no stranger to hurricane season. However, if you're a new beekeeper, you may be wondering how to make your bees "hurricane ready" along with the rest of your home. We were lucky Hurricane Ian took a course west of our region, but now would be a good time to shore up your plan for the next big storm.

Given our proximity to multiple bodies of water, most of our area is prone to severe flooding. If your hives are in a low-lying area or near a water source, consider moving them to higher ground until the storm has passed, if feasible.

Expect high wind gusts and secure the tops of your hives accordingly. A small brick will likely be insufficient to keep the outer cover weighed down. Consider adding heavy cinder blocks and/or tying hives down with ratchet straps. Additionally, consider temporarily removing unnecessary boxes (e.g. top feeders) to minimize the wind profile.



If you are using solid bottom boards, slightly tilt your hives forward, to prevent water from accumulating on the bottom of the hive.

Finally, be mindful of potential debris knocking over your hive. Remove any dead branches from nearby trees in advance, and move objects that may become projectiles indoors (such as patio chairs, small planters, etc.).

The Coastal VA Beekeeper's Calendar



October

- Typically we will see pollen and nectar actively being collected. This usually kicks in the last big round of brood rearing and produces the winter bees. These bees are essential to the survival to the colony. Still be on the look for robbing this month.
- First frosts can occur towards the end of the month. Combine any remaining weak and queenless hives.
- Place reducer in hive entrance. Place spacer under inner cover and offset brood chamber boxes to provide ventilation and reduce moisture buildup in Winter.
- Medicate as needed for Nosema after supers are removed. Remove Varroa mite control if colonies were treated.
- Feed heavy syrup if hive has less than 60 pounds of honey (two full supers or one deep box).

November

- The first of the cold weather may appear, but over the past several years we've seen very mild temperatures in November. This gives the beekeeper more opportunities to build up colony reserves.
- One final inspection. Brood area should be in lower box(es) and small in size. Workers will begin clustering around queen and brood on colder nights.
- Cover screen bottom board or replace with solid bottom board.
- Order replacement queens, nucs, and package bees for next year.

Pumpkin Pancakes With Cinnamon Honey Butter

PREP TIME: 15 MIN

COOKING TIME: 15 MIN

MAKES: 12 PANCAKES

Ingredients

Pancakes:

- 12 cups flour
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 ½ teaspoons baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 ½ teaspoons cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon ginger
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon cloves
- 1 cup pumpkin puree
- 1 ¾ cup buttermilk, room temperature
- 2 tablespoons butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla

Butter:

- ½ cup butter (softened)
- ¼ cup powdered sugar
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon



Directions

1. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, brown sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, and cloves.
2. In a small bowl, whisk together pumpkin, buttermilk, butter, eggs, and vanilla.
3. Mix the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients until just combined. Some lumps are OK; do NOT overmix, that'll result in chewy pancakes. Let batter sit 5-10 minutes while you prepare the cinnamon honey butter.
4. Add all cinnamon honey butter ingredients to a small bowl and use an electric mixer to beat until smooth and fluffy, about 1-2 minutes.
5. Heat a large skillet or griddle over medium-high heat and grease with butter or oil. Pour about ⅓ cup of pancake batter into the skillet and gently spread the batter to form a circle. Cook 2-3 minutes or until bubbles appear on the surface. Flip and cook an additional 1-2 minutes or until golden. Repeat with remaining batter.
6. Serve warm with cinnamon honey butter and maple syrup!



Guild clothing is
now available for
purchase!

[Click HERE to order](#)

Future Meeting Dates

October 14th
November 11th

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.

