

# 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](mailto:jenniferburdock@gmail.com)

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# WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

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## By Nick Delphia

Several weeks ago, the Guild held our annual signature event, Virginia Honey Bee Festival, which was a huge success! This event would not have been as successful as it was without all of your help. On behalf of the Guild, I would like to extend a huge heartfelt “THANK YOU!!!” to all of the volunteers for the Honeybee Festival. It was nice to see you all in person, (I haven’t seen some of you since before the pandemic began). We were fortunate to have extra help from our scouts

in Troop 462, and Pack 462, it was one way for them to give back to us for being their Charter Organization Sponsor. While on the topic of events, we also had a successful Fall Garden Festival, and I want to send a heartfelt thank you to the volunteers for that event as well! The weather was perfect for that event.

We need help; we have several vacant positions that need to be filled. Steve Jones is stepping down from his position as Vice President, and I would like to thank him for his service to the Guild over the past few years as Vice President and Chairman of our Education Committee. Thank you, Steve. A few months ago, Jean Carideo also had to step down as our Recording Secretary. We have an immediate need to fill those positions. If you are interested, please contact me.

We are also in the beginning stages of planning for our Beginner beekeeping short course. We plan on conducting a hybrid course – in person and virtual. More details will be announced once we finalize the plans. If you have any suggestions or ideas for upcoming meetings (for our educational topic) please let me know, and I will bring up to the board for consideration.

Nick

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# Virginia Honey Bee Festival



A sincere THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this year's festival a huge success! We had a fantastic turnout, including a visit from Channel 13 News. In case you missed it, you can view the video clip here:

<https://youtu.be/kIXGKPdSa0A>





Virginia Honey Bee Festival



Virginia Honey Bee Festival

# Hurricane Readiness

*Written by Jennifer Bell*

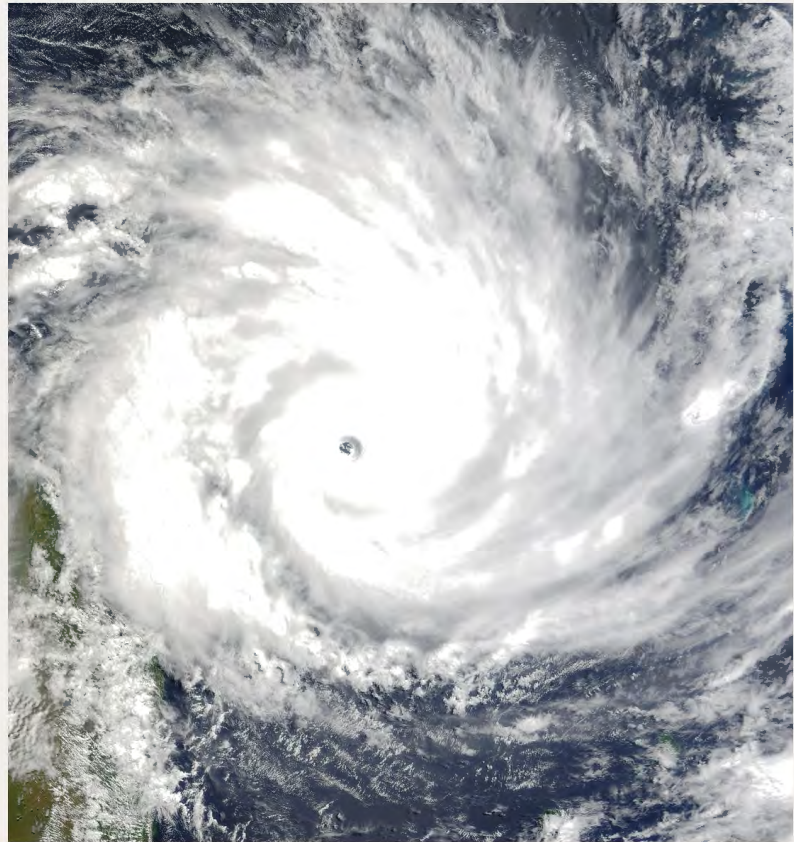
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If you've lived in the Tidewater area for any extended length of time, you're certainly no stranger to hurricane season. However, if you're a new beekeeper, you may be wondering how to make your bees "hurricane ready" along with the rest of your home. 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.

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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.).



# Mentor Program

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Written by: Dennis Heidenthal

Hello Mentors and New Beekeepers!

We have a whole slew of new beekeepers who are looking for mentors, therefore, we are asking our membership to come forward to fill this need.

I have found mentoring to be fulfilling and a wonderful opportunity to share the joy that comes from beekeeping, with others. It is a chance to pass along some of your knowledge and unique techniques. Mentoring can be the start of a long and hopefully prosperous, beekeeping friendship.

There are many practical benefits to mentorship as well. We can all use an extra set of hands and a second set of eyes occasionally in the bee yard, such as trying to spot that annoyingly elusive queen in a strong hive.

Most people learn best with hands-on experience, and a second person helping to build new equipment or spinning out honey, makes the work go a lot faster. Some day you may need an emergency queen cell or a frame of eggs, and who are you going to turn to? The beekeeper across town you hardly know or the friend you have mentored, who has wonderfully gentle bees, who you have taught to keep a clean healthy hive?

New beekeepers, there are some things you can only learn from experience; no amount of reading or videos will cover it all. You just have to jump in there and get your hands dirty. Watch and listen to your mentors closely and, when given the chance, lend a hand. Remember everyone has their own way of doing things and their own pace.

There is often more than one correct way of doing things and your mentor will be showing you what has worked well for them. Most new beekeepers may not realize that being allowed into another beekeeper's hives, is a great privilege.

The Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia believes the mentoring experience should be pleasant and rewarding for both the mentor and new beekeeper. In order to be successful, the program should include certain elements, intended to guide the new beekeeper through the first year or so of beekeeping. Being a mentor doesn't mean knowing all there is about beekeeping. It's ok to not know the answer to every question, but rather to be willing to search for answers together.

It's illuminating to students to know that no matter how long one keeps bees, there is always more to learn. Nobody knows it all! As a mentor you're there for support and guidance.

At the same time, realize that eventually the student will adopt practices that work for them, but which may differ from yours. It is ok for a student to adopt a method that differs from your own and works for them; it shows growth in confidence and experience. Most of all, try to make yourself available. You'll get calls about things that seem mysterious or frightening to the new beekeeper. Your calm and wise counsel is what they want. As always, feedback to the mentor coordinator on how to improve the experience for both parties is always welcome.

I want to express my appreciation to both new beekeepers and mentors, for their interest, participation and patience. Let me know if you would like a mentor or would like the opportunity to become a mentor.







# MENTOR COORDINATOR CHAT

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SUNDAY  
NIGHTS 7-8 PM

Come join us, starting October 16 through November 20 for a Sunday night virtual bee chat from 7-8PM.

Check your email from the Guild for a link to the Zoom chat. Mentors and new bee keepers are welcome.

Each week we will talk about what is going on in the hive and things we should be thinking about as we approach winter.

# VA Beach Fall Gardening Festival



THANK YOU  
VOLUNTEERS!

# BEEHIVE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Applications for the Beehive Distribution Program will be accepted October 26, 2022 through November 10, 2022. When the application period opens on October 26, a link to the online application will be made available on the Program webpage, under a section titled "APPLICATION." Paper applications will be available upon request.

Recipients of beehive units will be selected at random from qualifying applications. Individuals are encouraged to provide a valid email address with their application, as notifications regarding the status of an application will be sent by email. Applications from individuals who were not selected to receive beehive units this year, will not be carried forward to next year's Program.

The Program provides equipment directly to eligible individuals for the construction of new beehives. Residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia who are 18 years of age or older at the time an application is submitted are eligible to receive up to three beehive units per year. Individuals are not eligible to receive beehive units in consecutive years until all applications from individuals that did not receive units in the previous year are processed. No more than three beehive units may be distributed per household. Individuals who submit an application for a beehive unit through the Program will be registered as a beekeeper with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Beehive equipment received through the Program must be assembled and occupied with a colony of honey bees within one year of receiving the equipment. Honey bees and equipment to manage beehives, such as personal safety equipment and honey processing equipment, are not provided through the Program. Individuals interested in applying to receive beehive units through the Program should review the Guidelines & Requirements which provides application instructions.

Further information on the Program is available at <https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-beehive-distribution-program.shtml>



# Krupnik

## Honey & Spice Holiday Cordial

Krupnik is a traditional, sweet, honey liqueur popular in Poland and often served around Christmas time. Legend has it that it was created by the Benedictine monks in the 16th century.

### Ingredients

2 Tbsp cold water	1 orange rind
2 cups sugar	2 cloves
3 cups boiling water	20 allspice berries
1/4 vanilla bean - or -1 tsp vanilla extract	1 cinnamon stick
1/4 tsp nutmeg	1-1/3 cup honey
10 peppercorns	2 cups vodka or grain spirits

### Directions

1. Stir 2 Tbsp cold water into the sugar until partially dissolved, then stir in the boiling water.
2. Add vanilla, nutmeg, cloves, cinnamon, peppercorns, orange rind, and allspice. Bring to a boil, then cover and simmer on low heat for 5 mins.
3. Strain the caramelized mixture and return to the pan.
4. Stir in honey and heat, stirring until honey is completely incorporated.
5. Bring to a boil, then remove from the heat.
6. Cool and gradually stir in alcohol.
7. Serve warm or cold.



## Upcoming Meeting Dates

November 14th

December 12th

Guild meetings are currently hybrid (virtual via Zoom + in person at Towne Bank) and start at 7:00 pm. If you wish to attend in-person, please RSVP in advance using the sign-up genius link, as Towne Bank is currently limiting capacity to 30 people.