

THE BUZZZZZZZZ



In this issue

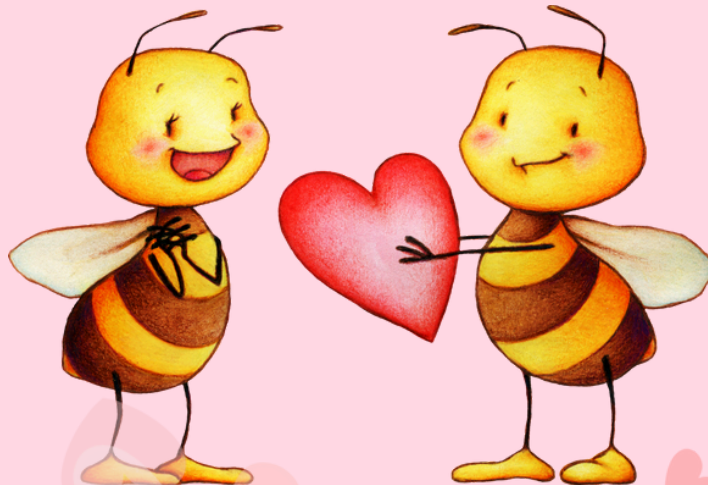
February Calendar

Why we love honey bees

2025 Officers

Photo of the Month

The Honey Jar



Bee my Valentine



Why We Love Honey Bees



In a sun-drenched meadow filled with wildflowers, a gentle hum fills the air. It's the sound of honey bees at work, flitting from blossom to blossom, their tiny bodies dusted with golden pollen. This scene, though simple, encapsulates a profound relationship between humans and these remarkable insects.

Honey bees have long captivated our hearts and minds. Their importance stretches far beyond the sweetness of honey; they play a crucial role in our ecosystem. Pollination, the process by which bees transfer pollen from one flower to another, is essential for the reproduction of many plants. In fact, about one-third of the food we consume relies on these industrious pollinators. Fruits, vegetables, nuts, and even coffee depend on bees to thrive. Without them, our diets would be far less diverse and nutritious.

Beyond their agricultural contributions, honey bees symbolize community and cooperation. A single hive, home to thousands of bees, operates like a well-oiled machine. Each bee has a role—workers gather nectar, drones mate with the queen, and the queen lays eggs. Their harmonious existence reflects the power of collaboration, reminding us of the importance of unity in our own lives.

Honey bees also inspire creativity and innovation. Their intricate hives, built from beeswax, are architectural marvels, showcasing geometric precision. The art of beekeeping has become a cherished hobby for many, drawing people into the world of nature and sustainability. Each jar of honey tells a story of hard work, dedication, and the delicate balance of life.

However, our love for honey bees is also rooted in a shared vulnerability. In recent years, bee populations have faced alarming declines due to habitat loss, pesticides, and disease. This has sparked a global movement to protect these vital creatures. Communities are planting wildflower gardens, advocating for sustainable farming practices, and raising awareness about the importance of bees.

In celebrating honey bees, we acknowledge their role not just in our food systems, but in our very existence. They remind us to cherish the interconnectedness of all living beings and the fragile ecosystems we inhabit. The next time you savor a spoonful of honey or marvel at a bee buzzing around a flower, remember the profound impact these tiny creatures have on our world. Their essence is woven into the fabric of our lives, and for that, we love them dearly.

Meet your 2025 Officers



PRESIDENT
Kristi Orcut

Vice President
Hollee
Freeman



Hollee Freeman, PhD, is an award-winning and nationally certified educator who has worked for over three decades in K-12 schools, at the undergraduate and graduate levels, as well as in educational administration.

Dr. Freeman has shared her work around creating space for learning in STEM contexts as a TEDx and Creative Mornings RVA speaker, in addition to a host of other venues.

Hollee has been a member of Rockwood Park Backyard Beekeeper Association for 3 years. She manages 7 colonies in 3 bee yards (Chesterfield, Richmond and Petersburg). She is a VA state certified apprentice beekeeper.



SECRETARY Mr. C

(Keith Caleb)

I have been keeping bees for 4 years. My hives are in the city of Richmond. I enjoy being apart of the RPBBA and the

VSBA. ~Mr. C



TREASURER
Theo
Hartman

After retiring from a 35-year career in power generation, where I built and maintained gas turbine power plants, I ventured into beekeeping in 2015 and joined the RPBBA. I served as the RPBBA Treasurer from 2016 to 2017 and I am holding the Treasurer's officer position again since 2021. Currently, I manage around 50 hives across 7 apiaries located in Chesterfield, Powhatan, and Henrico counties. I live on a 30-acre farm in the Winterpock area in Chesterfield, where I have partnered with Jody Conway. We run a small beekeeping equipment and gift store and also hold beekeeping-related workshops. I am also part of the BroodMinder company, where we research, develop, and sell sensors and software for beehive monitoring and management.

February Calendar

2-10~ Monthly Membership Meeting

7pm (Doors open at 6:30)

Beulah Recreation Center

6901 Hopkins Rd, North Chesterfield, VA 23234

2-15~ Beginning Beekeeping Class

9am

Beulah Recreation Center

6901 Hopkins Rd, North Chesterfield, VA 23234

2-17~ Master Beekeepers Study Group

7pm

Beulah Recreation Center

6901 Hopkins Rd, North Chesterfield, VA 23234



Photo by
Carla
Parks


Want your bee pic
displayed

Send to Vikki at
rockwood.beekeepers@gmail.com

attach photo and anything
you want us to know about
the picture

Honey Oatmeal Cookie Crisps

Ingredients



3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted Butter , cut into chunks
3/4 cup packed Brown Sugar
4 Tablespoons Honey
1/4 teaspoon Kosher Salt
2 cups Old-Fashioned Oats
1 teaspoon Baking Powder
3/4 cup All-purpose Flour

Instructions

preheat oven to 325°F.

Line a baking sheet pan with parchment paper or coat with nonstick spray.

In a large saucepan, melt the butter, stirring, until just fluid don't over cook. Remove from the heat. Stir the sugar, honey, and salt to the melted butter.

Stirring the mixture, mashing out any lumps until completely smooth. Thoroughly stir in the oats and baking powder. Let the dough cool slightly.

Stir the flour into the dough until evenly mixed.

Let it stand to for 5 to 10 minutes to firm up.

Scoop up the dough and drop in even 1 1/2-inch mounds, spacing 2 inches apart. Pat down the mounds into 2-inch rounds..

Bake one sheet at a time for 10 to 13 minutes on middle rack until the cookies are brown at the edges and lightly tinged on top; watch carefully, as they may brown very rapidly at the end. Transfer the baking sheets to wire racks. Let the cookies firm up for about 2 minutes. Using a wide spatula, transfer the cookies to the wire racks. Let cool completely.