

APRIL 2026

THE **BZZZZ** ZZZZ



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CHESTERFIELD BEE FESTIVAL OR BUST



How You Can Help Make the Bee Festival a Success?

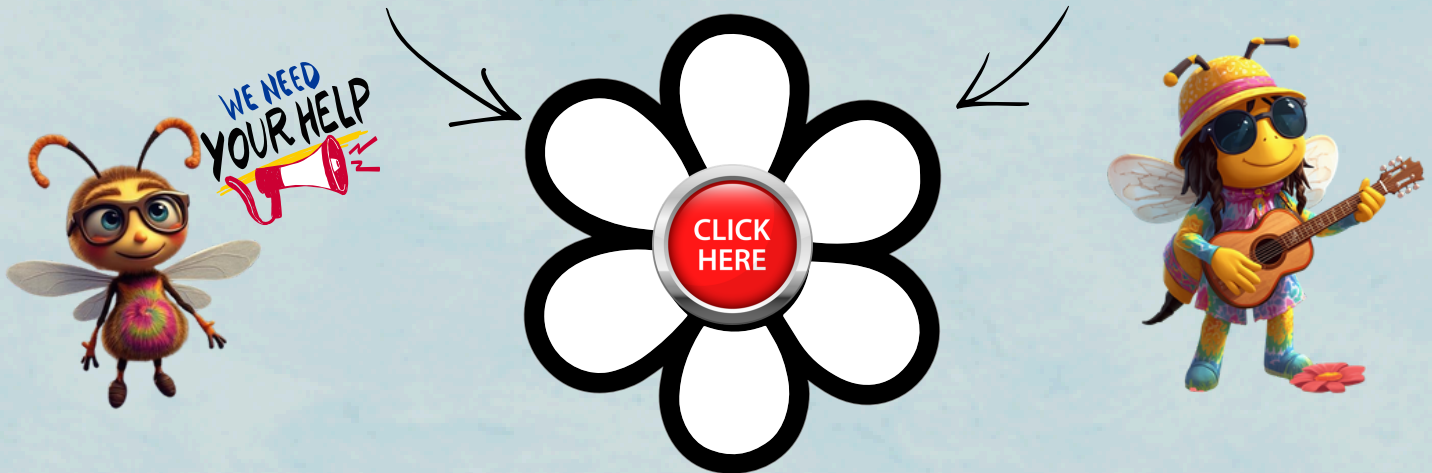
The Chesterfield Bee Festival (May 2) is right around the corner, and we need our amazing community to help bring it to life. This is where you shine!

Here are a few simple (but powerful) ways to get involved:

Volunteer — especially in Education & Exhibits

We're looking for friendly, knowledgeable folks to help engage attendees at our education stations and exhibits. If you love talking bees, pollinators, plants, or sustainability—this is your moment. And all volunteers will get 2 raffle tickets for our new vendor showcase fundraiser!

<https://chesterfield-bee-festival-app.lovable.app/volunteer>



Invite Your People

Know someone who would love this event? Personally invite them! This festival is all about community, and word-of-mouth is our most powerful tool.

Show Up & Bring the Energy

Come enjoy the day—music, animals, activities, raffles, and more—and help create the welcoming, fun atmosphere that makes this festival special.

Together, we can make this our biggest and best Bee Festival yet. Thanks for being part of it!

Spread the Word

Help us reach more families and future beekeepers by sharing the festival with:

Local schools & PTAs
Community groups & clubs
Churches & neighborhood networks

A quick email, post, or mention goes a long way!



Share on Social Media

PLEASE...

Follow, like, and share our posts to build buzz (pun intended). Even one share helps expand our reach! SO LET'S DO IT!!!

We have FESTIVAL PROMO ADS RUNNING!! Share to all your Social Links!

Fun Fact about Social Media: WHAT???... So Facebook and other social media operates on Algorithms. So, how you react to a post can literally help or hinder. If you look at it for 3 seconds and move on it hinders. If you look at it for a min of 20 sec it triggers a positive algorithm. If you like it, good trigger. If you comment, Big Trigger, If you Share, bigger TRIGGER. So the more Triggers the more successful your post will be because FB sees it as a HUGE success and it puts it out automatically to more people.

Ever wonder why people ask stupid or obvious question on FB? These people are making money off of views and responses. (Yes, you can monetize this.) So when you respond or even just stay on the post looking for something they said was in a pic for more than a few seconds that is money in their pocket. So, if it is something you may not want to support then don't engage or stare at it. Here is one more realization for you, Negative comments Count, so if you are dissing something that was said aggressively (and peeps do this on purpose to get you riled up), it acts as a positive for that post so you are in fact supporting the person who angered you. Put that in your smoker and light it!



Social Media is a crazy game!
Learn how it is played and use it to your advantage!



April's To-Do List

Weather may be changing abruptly, it will probably mean lots of swarming... This could well be the "year of the swarm" - prepare.

If you haven't already done it, check all hives, clean out the bottoms (remove any dead bees) and reverse the hive bodies if appropriate. Continue checking the location of the queen & the brood and reversing as needed (inspect every 7 days). Optimally, the brood is in the lower hive body and the upper hive body will contain some nectar & pollen. This permits the bees to feel less crowded, less likely to swarm. In a week or so, the queen will have filled the bottom frames with brood and she will move up to the upper hive body.

Equalize brood from stronger colonies to the weaker ones (1 or 2 frames). Add empty pulled frames to replace the removed brood frames. **REMEMBER** when swapping frames - Be really, really sure the queen is **NOT** on any of the exchanged frames.

Be sure to be on the lookout for swarm cells. If the swarm cells are capped, there is little time. Two approaches: (1) cut them out, (2) pull the frames [2 frames with swarm cells - or 1 with swarm cell(s) and 1 with capped & emerging brood, 1-2 pollen / nectar, 1 empty frame] to start an emergency split. If you choose to cut out the queen cells, you will need to do it every week until they quit making the cells. Look real closely, if you miss one, next week they'll probably be gone. Remember when capped, queens hatch out in 8 days after being capped! And **ALWAYS** identify your queen before you cut out the swarm cells! There is no worse feeling than having cut out all the new queen cells and then determining your old queen has already left the hive.

You may want to consider feeding weak sugar syrup (1 part sugar / 2 parts water) in a top feeder. This should stimulate brood production in the weaker hives. The bees will quit drinking your syrup when nature gives them natural nectar choices.

If you still have your supers in storage, now is the time to clean them up and air them out. If they were stored with para-mothball, it will require a few days for the odor to dissipate.

If you are using new foundation only add one complete (10 frames) super on each hive. Keep checking (weekly). Add a second new super when the first is about 75% pulled and partially filled with honey. If you start by adding 2 supers of wax foundation initially, the bees may eat holes in the foundation and make a mess of the upper one. When using drawn comb supers' life is less complicated - stack them. Adding multiple supers to start may be a good plan. Check and add additional supers in a couple of weeks (depending on nectar flow). One idea is to evenly space 9 DRAWN frames in a 10-frame super. The bees will "pull" the comb out beyond the wooden frames. This makes it much easier to uncap the frames when harvesting.

Favored Blossoms of the month: Many fruit trees (apple, cherry, pear), later in the month tulip poplars, redbuds, and several other "nut" trees.

APR

Calendar of Events

April 13th - 7pm - Monthly Membership Meeting

come early at 6:30 for social time

April 20th - 7pm - Study Group



*Above meeting are at Beulah Recreation Center at 6904 Hopkins Rd. North Chesterfield

MAY 2. CHESTERFIELD BEE FESTIVAL 10am-3pm

Our April meeting will feature a workshop on building a European Hornet trap using a 2-liter pop bottle and will be led by RPBBA member Betsy Connell. Betsy will have some supplies available (pop bottles) and if you have some at home it would be helpful to bring them to the meeting.

Following Betsy's workshop, we will have a brief presentation on the Master Beekeeper journey and the first step of becoming an Apprentice Beekeeper led by RPBBA member Carla Park.



Golden fields hum with a gentle, living sound,
As wings like whispers drift all around.
We wander through hives, both learning and amazed,
At the dance of the bees in sunlit haze.
Sweet drops of honey, a gift from their art,
Nature's small workers with giant hearts.
In joy we gather, to celebrate and see,
The magic and rhythm of the honeybee.
Come with me to the Chesterfield Bee Festival
and Celebrate the Honey BEES



THE HONEY POT

Honey Berry Cake

Ingredients

1 cup sugar

1 cup canola oil

1 cup honey

3 large eggs

1/2 cup orange juice

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

3-1/2 cups all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking powder

1 teaspoon baking soda

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 cup fresh or frozen raspberries

1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries

GLAZE:

1 cup confectioners' sugar

2 tablespoons honey

2 tablespoons 2% milk



Directions

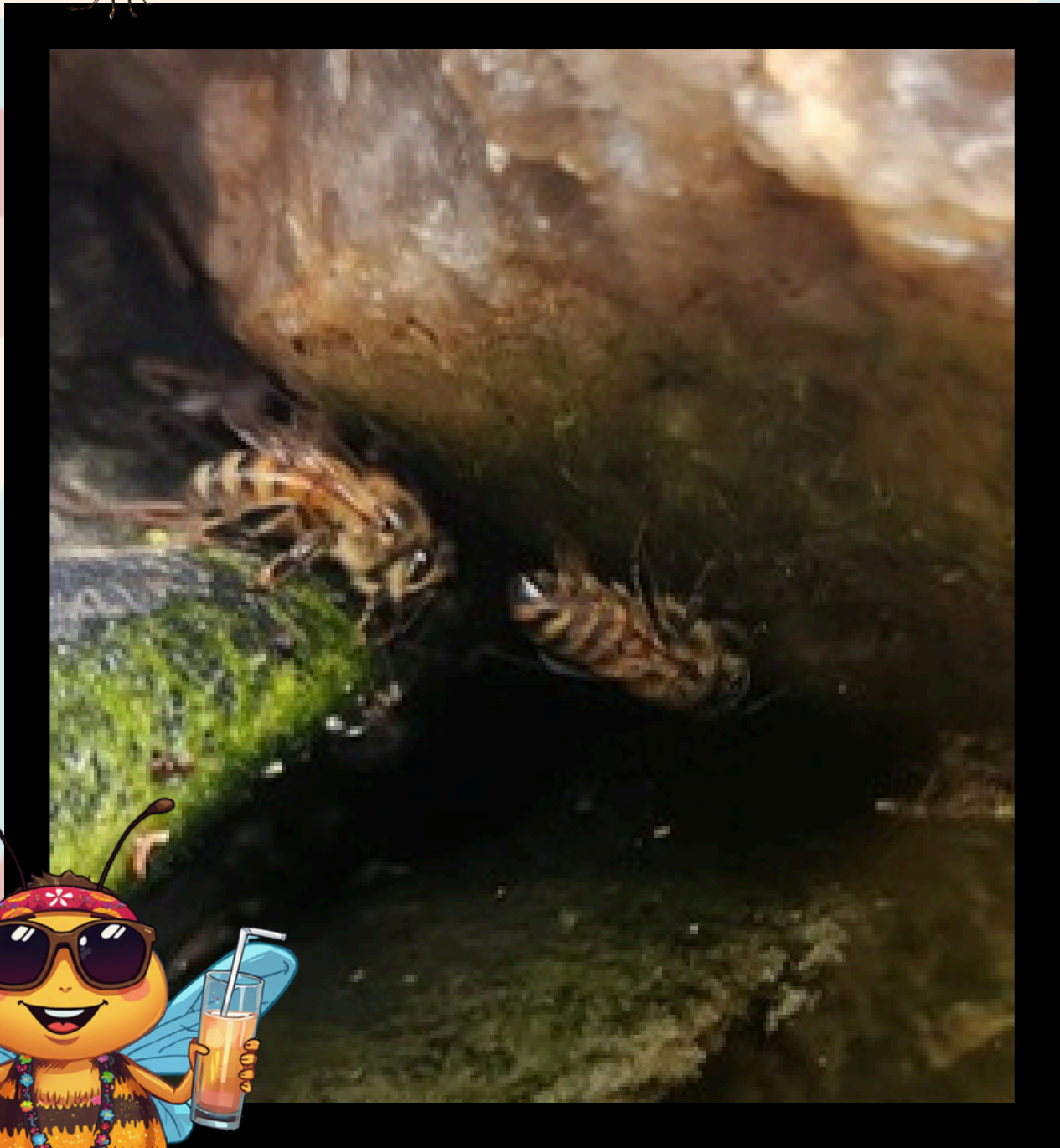
Preheat oven to 350°. Grease a 13x9-in. baking pan. In a large bowl, beat sugar, oil, honey, eggs, orange juice and vanilla until well blended. In another bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt; gradually beat into sugar mixture.

Transfer to prepared pan. Bake for 15 minutes. Sprinkle top of cake with raspberries and blueberries. Bake until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, 30-35 minutes longer. Cool completely in pan on a wire rack.

Combine glaze ingredients; drizzle over cake. Serve with additional berries if desired.



PHOTO OF THE MONTH



"Cool Beverage"

by Vikki Davis

WANTED: Pictures Of Bees or Beekeeping, Pollenators, etc...

If you have a picture you would like to share send to
Vikki@srdpottery.com (Be sure to put FOR The Newsletter) in the Subject
line.