Rockwood Park Backyard Beekeepers Association

New Member Introduction



Welcome

Welcome to Rockwood Park Backyard Beekeepers Association (RPBBA)! We are happy that you have joined our association. Our mission at RPBBA is to promote community awareness of bees and their important role for human life. RPBBA teaches people about bees and encourages them to become certified master beekeepers. We are a 501(c)(3) Corporation incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

If you are a new beekeeper, do not be intimidated. There is a steep learning curve to understanding our *Apis mellifera* friends. We are here to help get you through that learning curve and even get you on the path to becoming a Master Beekeeper if that is your desire. Our club is more than a decade old and we have some great enthusiastic teachers and mentors.

Board of Directors

- Jody Conway
- Theo Hartmann
- Jimmy Rheinhart
- Richard Higby
- Gene DeSalvo
- Bill Crouch
- Hollee Freeman
- Diana Sorrensen
- Kristi Orcutt

Keith Ebbescotte

Meetings are on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 PM. Doors open at 6:30 PM.

Beulah Recreation Center
6901 Hopkins Rd.
Chesterfield, VA 23234

"The happiness of the bee and the dolphin is to exist. For man it is to know that and to wonder at it."

Jacques Yves Cousteau

Activities

In addition to monthly meetings, RPBBA has a series of activities including the Honeybee Festival, Educational Committee, holiday potlucks, club picnics, manning a booth at the state fair, etc. We encourage you to volunteer and be active in the events of your association. We have a strong core of dedicated volunteers who care deeply about our little pollinators and we are always welcoming to new members who want to *bee* involved. Do not be an introvert, step out of your shell and volunteer. You may find it is as rewarding as working with your colonies!

🐝 Beginner Beekeeping Classes

Each Winter, usually beginning in January, RPBBA conducts a beginner beekeeping class. These classes are overseen by Master Beekeepers and are taught by members of our club. The classes are usually held over four full Saturdays and are conducted in conjunction with other area beekeeping clubs. So, if you miss a class at RPBBA, you can probably make it up at another local club. Cost is very reasonable and includes books, copies of slides and over 20 hours of classroom sessions.

State and Regional Conferences

RPBBA is very well represented at the state level (Virginia Beekeepers Association) and with the Eastern Apiary Society (EAS). As a member of RPBBA, we encourage you to be active in beekeeping at all levels and look forward to seeing you at the State of Virginia Conferences.

Voting

As a club member, we encourage you to vote on important club matters. Votes can be cast in person or by electronic ballot. We usually inform the membership at club meetings about important topics that require a vote and send out an electronic form to conduct the election. We encourage you to *bee* informed and vote! Each member has one vote. If you have a family membership, your family is entitled to one vote for the family.

Master Beekeeper Certification

RPBBA encourages all beekeepers to gain a deeper understanding of beekeeping and is dedicated to helping beekeepers become Certified Master Beekeepers. There are three levels in the program: Apprentice Beekeeper, Journeyman Beekeeper and Master Beekeeper. RPBBA helps members with study groups and through the monthly educational programs. More detailed information can be found at http://virginiabeekeepers.org/Master-Beekeeper-Program.

🐝 Master Beekeeper Study Groups

Study groups for Apprentice, Journeyman, and Master Beekeeper are held on the third Monday of the month. Attendance is free and you are encouraged to print a copy of the study guide (found on the Virginia Beekeepers website) and follow along in the discussions. Even if you are not quite ready to jump on the Master Beekeeper track, these study groups are a great tool for learning about bees.

Public Outreach Engagements

RPBBA is an association dedicated to education and that includes the public. As a member, we encourage you to learn about beekeeping and we also encourage you to teach others about beekeeping. Some opportunities that we encounter are volunteering to work at the Chesterfield Bee Festival or the state fair, speaking at community and civic organizations about the importance of bees, etc. Teaching is a great way to master a subject and at RPBBA, there are lots of opportunities to educate the public.

Swarms!

RPBBA maintains a swarm hotline and has members who are experienced and willing to help with capture or removal of swarms. If you have an interest in going on swarm calls, please let a Board member know that you want on the swarm list!
Swarm Hotline: (804) 404-2331

Other Resources

There are many members of our club who sell bees, nucleus hives, packages, wooden ware, etc. As an active member, you will have access to some of the best local over-Wintered bees and queens. Do not waste your money buying those packages from out of state; support your local beekeepers. Also, if you are getting to the point where you are interested in selling bees or products of the hive, there are many members who are willing to give you advice and guidance. This is one of the best reasons to be an active member!



"The only time I ever believed that I knew all there was to know about beekeeping was the first year I was keeping them. Every year since I've known less and less and have accepted the humbling truth that bees know more about making honey than I do."

Sue Hubbell

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