

Catch The Buzz --IT'S SHORTCOURSE TIME--

P.O. Box 38028, Germantown, TN 38183

Memphis Area Beekeepers Association

www.memphisbeekeepers.com

Meeting Location: 7777 Walnut Grove Rd # C, Memphis, TN 38120

Meeting Date & Time: February 8th - at 7pm

Welcome 2016 MABA Leadership Team

Club Officers: President - Stuart Hooser
Recording Secretary - Charles Force

Vice President - Sammy Mardis
Treasurer - Reni Urskine
Corresponding Secretary - Louis Padgett

Board Members: Bob Haskett, Ron Clift, Van Power, Jerry Murphy, Tom Tompkins

Thanks everyone for volunteering and presenting at the January Short Course. If you shop at Krispy Kreme on Hacks Cross Road thank Karen for helping our club. As always the TOPS Barbecue on Sycamore View provided the best barbecue. A special thanks to these two local businesses.

Agricenter is the best place to hold our monthly meetings and trainings and host our Apiary. Tell others about facilities and let them know that Agricenter is a great venue for meetings etc.

In Chapter 21 of the 2015 edition of the Hive and the Honey Bee, authors Currie , Spivak and Reuter say it well: Beekeepers should first focus on learning best management practices and later, with experience, focus on the nuances of bee genetics.

FEBRUARY

February brings increasingly warm weather and signals the end of the quiescent time in the bees' yearly cycle. If you need new bees, NOW is the time to order. Locally grown NUCs are your best option. It is also time to make sure that your equipment is purchased or repaired and ready for spring. Colonies can starve in late winter and early spring just before flowers bloom. If the weather is above 55 degrees, you can open the hive quickly to move honey frames closer to the cluster. Bees can starve even if there is plenty of honey in the hive if the honey is too far away from the cluster

FEBRUARY AND THE BEES: Sunlight is becoming slightly longer and the longer, more warm days trigger the queen to start laying significantly more eggs. Their cluster has worked its way upward into the top brood chamber. On the colder days, they are behaving similarly as in January.

FEBRUARY AND THE BEEKEEPER: On a warm day, 50 degrees or more, you can open the top briefly and look in on the hive. Do not remove any frames, as this will chill the brood. Upon inspection you can assess if the colony still has enough stored honey for food. If not, you may want to consider emergency feeding options.

Emergency feeding is just that...an emergency. So do whatever it takes to get some sugar in the hive. Dry sugar will work but only if the bees have warm enough days to fly out for water. There may not be many days warm enough in early February for dry sugar feedings or hard candy feedings. Sometimes sponges soaked in heavy sugar water and jammed between the frames near the cluster will suffice until the weather warms. Do anything you can think of...after all it is better than letting the hive starve to death. Of course, if you have frames of honey available, that's the best way to feed them, but most of us have sold all our honey by now. You might also consider placing a pollen patty on top of the upper hive body. This will really work well if the end of winter is extremely mild and there are many warm days. Pollen patties stimulate the laying of more eggs. However, if the weather turns cold again, then the bees may not be able to keep this early brood warm and fed. So it is a gamble this early.

Finally, if you did not order your package bees in January, you must do it now (and hope you're not too late)! And if you did not order your new equipment, hurry! You want all of hive equipment ready by mid-March. Make sure you join and attend your local beekeeping club, Register Your Hives With The State.

Sheep, chickens, horses, pigs ... if I could have only one kind of homestead livestock, I'd choose honeybees. You never have to muck out stalls of bee manure. You don't need to keep their water trough thawed in subfreezing weather. And — thank God — you don't have to get up in the dark every morning before even a rooster goes off and go out to pull on some bee udders. Members of *Apismellifera* can clean themselves, fetch their own food and water and store your harvest. They'll even patch their home's leaks!

The fact that honeybees practically take care of themselves is really only a small part of their appeal. Even the golden sweetener they provide (which, like every other homegrown product, is worlds better than its oversanitized store counterpart) isn't what makes them irresistible to me. The plain truth is I can no longer imagine my life without those creatures and the fascination and respect they engender. A honeybee colony is a mysterious and independent creation. Bees haven't been bred and rebred into docile egg machines or walking meat racks. They are as wild today as when they were first imported into this country. As a consequence, working with bees is a challenge (and lesson) in cooperation, not domination ... a rare human-to-nature experience these days.

Read more. . . <http://www.motherearthnews.com/homesteading-and-livestock/how-to-raise-honeybees-zmaz85zsie.aspx>

EPA-registered Pesticide Products Approved for Use Against Varroa Mites in Bee Hives

Registration #	Product Name	Active Ingredient
2724-406	ZOECON RF-318 APISTAN STRIP	Fluvalinate (10.25%)
2724-406-62042	APISTAN ANTI-VARROA MITE STRIPS	
61671-3	FOR-MITE	Formic acid (65.9%)
70950-2	AVACHEM SUCROSE OCTANOATE [40.0%]	Sucrose octanoate (40%)
70950-2-2205	SUCROCIDE	
70950-2-84710	SUCRASHIELD	
73291-1	API LIFE VAR	Thymol (74.09%), Oil of eucalyptus (16%), Menthol (3.73%)
75710-2	MITE-AWAY QUICK STRIPS	Formic acid (46.7%)
79671-1	APIGUARD	Thymol (25%)
83623-2	HOPGUARD II	Hop beta acids resin (16%)
87243-1	Apivar	Amitraz (3.33%)
91266-1	OXALIC ACID DIHYDRATE	Oxalic acid (100%)
91266-1-73291	OXALIC ACID DIHYDRATE	
91266-1-91832	OXALIC ACID DIHYDRATE	
11556-138	CHECKMITE+ BEE HIVE PEST CONTROL STRIP	Coumaphos (10%)
11556-138-61671	CHECKMITE+ BEE HIVE PEST CONTROL STRIP	

<http://www.epa.gov/pollinator-protection/epa-registered-pesticide-products-approved-use-against-varroa-mites-bee-hives>

READ, STUDY LEARN ALL YOU CAN ABOUT BEES AND BEEKEEPING

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT January 2016

TENNESSEE: December was warmer and wetter than average. There were some small herbaceous flowers producing pollen and nectar, but nothing significant. Beekeepers are reporting losses due to queen failure in November and December, in colonies that were requeened in the spring of 2015 with queens from out of state commercial producers. Some beekeepers are having to feed due to the warm weather since the bees are using up stores faster due to increased foraging activity with little return.

MISSISSIPPI: Most of the beekeepers report the bees and hives are prepared for the winter months ahead. Plenty of rain from December and blasts of cold weather hit the state late in the month. Demand exceeds available supplies.

ARKANSAS: No report issued

CATCH THE BUZZ – Thumbs Up for Smart Food Labels

Taking transparency to the next level

By John Karolefski

[http://www.beeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-thumbs-up-for-smart-food-labels/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=7627fee287-](http://www.beeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-thumbs-up-for-smart-food-labels/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=7627fee287-Catch_The_Buzz_4_29_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-7627fee287-256261941)

[Catch_The_Buzz_4_29_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-7627fee287-256261941](http://www.beeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-thumbs-up-for-smart-food-labels/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=7627fee287-Catch_The_Buzz_4_29_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-7627fee287-256261941)

Grocery shoppers nowadays want transparency in the food and beverages they consume. Where do the edibles come from? Were they produced in a humane and eco-friendly way? Do they contain GMOs? As a result, supermarkets are promoting local foods largely in the produce department. Eggs can be cage-free, vegetarian and organic free-range. Some food packages bear labels such as Non-GMO Project Verified or No High Fructose Corn Syrup.

Leading food, beverage and consumer products companies plan to take transparency to the next level by affixing a SmartLabel to their goods. Consumers will be able to get details about products by scanning a QR code on the product package or by doing an online search to reach a landing page with information on ingredients and other attributes of a wide range of products. These details could be some or all of the following: ingredients, nutritional information, allergens, third-party certifications, social compliance programs, usage instructions, advisories, safe handling instructions, and so forth.

The Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA) is behind this technology initiative now underway with major companies planning to take part. Projections call for nearly 30,000 products bearing the label to be on store shelves by the end of 2017. It's estimated that more than 80 percent of the food, beverage, pet care, personal care and household products that consumers buy will be using the label within five years.

More than 30 companies have committed to using SmartLabel to provide detailed information about their products. Some of these CPG giants include ConAgra Foods, Hormel Foods, Campbell Soup Company, Knouse Foods, Land O'Lakes, PepsiCo, The Coca-Cola Co., Nestlé, Hershey, J.M. Smucker Company, Kellogg Company, General Mills, and Procter & Gamble.

By the end of 2017, food companies say they will use the label to tell consumers if their products do, may or do not contain ingredients sourced from genetically engineered (GE) crops, commonly known as GMOs. That number could triple if a uniform national standard is set for GMOs. GMA is urging Congress to develop a uniform national standard for GMO labeling to replace state labeling mandates that vary across the country.

Grocers can — and should — get involved with SmartLabel as well. Several retailers have offered to help shoppers who don't own a smartphone by having the store's customer service desk provide information. Also, online and brick-and-mortar stores are considering posting a link on their web page to allow access to product details or through customer service desks.

This initiative is impressive. Three cheers for GMA for such a bold and needed program. It will be interesting to see how receptive shoppers are to having access to detailed information about products. Sometimes you get what you ask for.

So just to see what a simple QR code could do for you honey label, scan this code we made here for free. You can use photos, your web address, phone no., or email here. Unleash all the information about you and your product using a QR Code on your label.



See you all at the next MABA Meeting!!!!!!