



Catch The Buzz

Memphis Area Beekeepers Association www.memphisbeekeepers.com

P.O. Box 38028, Germantown, TN 38183

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

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MEETING DATE & TIME: February 12, 2018 at 7 pm – Harry Fulton, former Mississippi State Entomologist/Apiarist and Pesticide Registration, and Nuc and queen producer from Brooksville, MS, will discuss the early spring preparations to ensure success for your colonies. You will not want to miss this!

We hope you learned a lot during the Short Course last Saturday the 27th, there is more to follow this spring, which is always the busiest time of year for the beekeeper!

If you need a mentor, please let us know! If you can and want to be a mentor please let us know, sharing is rewarding! **Sign up to be a mentor!**

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. We will likely have a few of those days this year.

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.



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- 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 in the state they are in: TN, AR, MS, MO, etc.

1/19/2018 National Honey Board Report: <https://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/ams/FVMHONEY.pdf>

TENNESSEE: Tennessee reported there were no nectar or pollen flows in December. Beekeepers are reporting higher than average losses for the early winter.

ARKANSAS: No report issued.

MISSISSIPPI: A cold and wet December has had beekeepers working as much as they can when time and weather permits. Supplemental feeding has the bees in pretty good shape early in the month, and time will tell next month if any losses has occurred during this extreme cold spell.

BEEKEEPING READING LIST

1) **Extreme Urban Beekeeping Methods**, chapter in [The Backyard Beekeeper](#) by Kim Flottum and published by Quarry, 2018, <https://www.motherearthnews.com/homesteading-and-livestock/beekeeping/extreme-urban-beekeeping-methods-ze0z1801zmos>

Read or heard of good, science-based beekeeping articles? Please let us know, we will get them into the MABA newsletter.



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UNIT HONEY PRICES BY MONTH

Retail-Average Retail Price per Pound across all reporting regions - Data from <https://www.honey.com/honey-industry/statistics/retail-honey-price> used with permission. Based upon average price across all reporting regions. Assumes various sizes sold at the same rate.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2018	\$7.57											
2017	\$7.35	\$6.99	\$6.85	\$7.04	\$7.06	\$7.25	\$7.05	\$7.26	\$7.27	\$7.37	\$7.18	\$7.25
2016	\$6.74	\$6.91	\$6.79	\$6.79	\$6.72	\$7.12	\$7.01	\$6.88	\$6.88	\$7.12	\$7.04	\$7.39

Average Wholesale Case Price Per Pound across All Reporting Regions. Data from <https://www.honey.com/honey-industry/statistics/wholesale-honey-price> used with permission. Based upon average price across all reporting regions. Assumes various sizes sold at the same rate.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2018	\$5.30											
2017	\$5.25	\$5.32	\$5.38	\$5.27	\$5.13	\$5.46	\$5.39	\$5.35	\$5.44	\$5.27	\$5.19	\$5.31
2016	\$5.04	\$5.15	\$5.04	\$5.20	\$4.97	\$5.19	\$5.09	\$5.01	\$5.10	\$5.31	\$5.27	\$5.39

To subscribe to the National Honey board newsletter visit: <https://www.honey.com/signup>

Plan now for National Honey Bee Day 2018, which is Saturday August 18, 2018

The **2018 Tennessee Beekeepers Association Business Meeting** is February 24, 2018 at 1:00 pm (central time) at the [James E. Ward Agricultural Center, 945 E Baddour Pkwy, Lebanon, TN 37087](http://www.tnbeekeepers.org/). Please plan to attend this meeting if you are a TBA member to represent West TN.

To learn more about beekeeping in Tennessee visit the Tennessee Beekeepers Association website at: <http://www.tnbeekeepers.org/>



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HONEY-BASED RECIPES

1. HONEY CHIA SEED PUDDING - YIELD: Makes 4 servings

INGREDIENTS	DIRECTIONS
2 T honey 2 cups coconut milk 6 T chia seeds 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract Fresh berries	Combine the coconut milk, chia seeds, vanilla and honey in a medium bowl. Mix well until the honey has dissolved. Cover and refrigerate for at least 4 hours, but preferable overnight. Stir well and divide the pudding into individual portions. Serve with fresh berries. Add granola, if desired.

2. HONEY LEMON GINGER - NATURAL COLD & FLU REMEDY *By Ciara Attwell*

A simple homemade cold and flu remedy of Honey Lemon & Ginger infused together in a jar.

Ingredients 400g / 1 cup honey 2 lemons, sliced 1 inch fresh ginger, sliced 1-16oz jar with lid

Instructions 1. Add the lemon, ginger and honey to the jar in layers. I placed 2-3 slices of lemon in the jar, added a couple of pieces of ginger and then a few spoonfuls of honey. Repeat until you have used all the produce and the jar is full.

2. Screw the lid on tightly and put in the fridge for at least 12 hours before using to allow all the ingredients to combine and the flavours to infuse. When ready, add one or two teaspoons to a mug of warm water and drink immediately.

3. It is normal for the lemon juice and the honey to separate in the jar. The honey will settle at the bottom and you will get a delicious lemon and ginger juice towards the top. Rather than continuously mixing them back together I simply take a spoon of the juice and a spoon of the honey from the jar each time I use it.

4. The mixture will keep in a sealed jar in the fridge for up to 2 months.

SEE YOU AT THE FEBRUARY MABA MEETING, VISIT WITH YOUR MENTOR. If you need a mentor, please let us know! If you can and want to be a mentor please let us know, sharing is rewarding! **Sign up to be a mentor!**