



## *Catch The Buzz*

*Memphis Area Beekeepers Association* [www.memphisbeekeepers.com](http://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: January 8, 2018 at 7 pm – Our own Stuart Hooser will present Honey Bee Nutrition!**

### **JANUARY AND THE BEES**

- The bees are in a tight cluster staying warm and consuming very little food early in the month.
- On days when the wind is calm and the temperature rises near 50 degrees, you'll probably see a few bees flying out taking a cleansing flight. Since bees do not go to the bathroom inside their hive, they fly out on warm days and this is called a cleansing flight.
- Winter bees live a little longer than summer bees, but remember, bees live short lives. Many of your bees will die during the winter, just from old age. When bees die during the winter, they fall to the bottom of the hive. In the summer, dead bees are immediately carried outside the hive by their sisters. But, in the winter, when the hive is clustered, the dead bees accumulate on the bottom board. On warm days, other bees might drag out their dead sisters. If snow covers the ground, you will notice more dead bees around your hives. This is normal. Don't panic! It is a sign of a strong hive when they drag out dead bees. But, if you don't see anything, don't panic either. It just means they will probably do this later on.

### **JANUARY AND THE BEEKEEPER**

- Monitor your hives
- Get your equipment ready
- Plan and conduct an inventory to make sure you have what you need for the Spring Season.
- **URGENT!! ORDER YOUR BEES AND EQUIPMENT IN JANUARY** - Many bee suppliers will completely sell out of package bees by the end of January. Call and place your bee order as soon as you can during the first week of January. Those who will be ordering your bees from package producers, the package producers will typically be prepared to take your orders for package bees and nucs beginning late fall and may be completely booked by the end of January. Call early!
- Make sure you join and attend your local beekeeping club
- Register your hives with the state
- Read up on beekeeping
- Clean up your smoker and hive tool
- This is the time for constructing, painting, and repairing equipment



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- Most of the new catalogs from the beekeeping supply companies will be available in January
- Your goal should be to have the bees and the equipment ready for making honey by mid-April. Old, dark comb should be removed from frames in storage. Do not install the foundation yet — that should be done just before the frames go into the hives
- **READ, STUDY, LEARN ALL YOU CAN ABOUT BEES AND BEEKEEPING**

**12/20/2018** National Honey Board Report: <https://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/ams/FVMHONEY.pdf>

**TENNESSEE:** Tennessee has been cold enough not to have any nectar or pollen sources. There are reports of very high early winter losses in all area of Tennessee

**ARKANSAS:** No report issued.

**MISSISSIPPI:** No report issued.

### **BEEKEEPING READING LIST**

1) **Some Beeyard Thoughts, Observations, and Updates**, published January 1, 2018,  
<http://www.beeeculture.com/beeyard-thoughts-observations-updates-16/>

This is a great article discussing some of the difficulties new beekeepers may have, and reasons why having an experienced mentor is always helpful when starting (for the first 10 years).

**Read or heard of good, science-based beekeeping articles? Please let us know, we will get them in to the 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
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

**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
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

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**

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 BUTTER - YIELD: $\frac{3}{4}$ Cup

<b>INGREDIENTS</b>	<b>DIRECTIONS</b>
<p>1/2 cup - butter or margarine, softened to room temperature</p> <p>1/3 cup – honey</p> <p>1/2 teaspoon - orange peel, grated</p>	<p>Combine butter, honey and orange peel; mix thoroughly.</p> <p><i>SERVING SUGGESTION</i> Serve with biscuits, muffins or other favorite breads.</p>

**SEE YOU AT THE JANUARY MABA MEETING, VISIT WITH YOUR MENTOR. IF YOU NEED A MENTOR, PLEASE LET US KNOW!**

**PLAN TO ATTEND THE 53<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MABA SHORT COURSE JANUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2018!**