



## *Catch The Buzz*

**MA  
BA**

*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

**MEETING DATE & TIME: March 12, 2018 at 7 pm** – Andrew Fogg from Dadant (Frankfort, KY branch) will discuss beekeeping in 2018.

Also, you can save 5% and get your [Dadant](#) order delivered to this meeting if you place your order ahead of time. Just mention you are with MABA for the 5% discount and that the order should be delivered for the March 12, 2018 MABA meeting. Call [888.932.3268](tel:888.932.3268) to place your order now with the Dadant, Frankfort, KY branch, no later than Thursday or Friday.

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!**

**Stay tuned for MABA field days**, we will post these on this website, as well as on Facebook and Twitter!

### **MARCH AND THE BEES**

- March, a warm month in the Shelby County Area, the lengthening days and new pollen and nectar sources stimulate brood rearing. As days lengthen and temps increase, the cluster expands and drones are produced. With an increase in brood rearing and increase in adult bees, **the nest area of the colony becomes crowded**. More bees are evident at the entrance of the nest. Give the queen room by removing some honey-bound frames or adding an extra box. The queen needs the space to build up for the nectar flow.
- The bees also gather water to regulate temperature and to liquefy thick or granulated honey in the preparation of brood food. Remember, **the colony expands rapidly in March**, with an increase in both young and field-worker bees. This is the critical time for starvation. The worker bees are beginning to forage and drones begin to appear. As the days grow longer, the Queen increases her rate of egg production and colonies wishing to swarm may start to raise swarm cells and colonies with failing queens may start supersede cells. These will hatch in 16 days.
- Weather permitting, a few early swarms could occur in March. Manage for swarming by moving the box on top down to the bottom board if the bees are in two boxes or manipulate the frames by removing brood frames from the center and adding empty drawn comb or new wax foundation to the brood chamber. Food stores are being consumed at a rapid rate. Natural Pollen is coming in rapidly but cold, windy weather can affect nectar sources so a close watch on food stores is critical.
- Regardless of its condition, crowded or not the colony will try to expand by building new combs if food and room are available. These new combs are used for the storage of honey, whereas the older combs are used for pollen storage and brood rearing.



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### **MARCH AND THE BEEKEEPER**

- Get your equipment ready.
- Inspect your hive(s)! when the temperature is 50 degrees or higher, look in the hive and pull out a few frames.
- Remove the entrance reducer and clean the bottom board as it may be filled with dead, winter bees.
- Assess how many of your colonies have died out over the winter.
- Clean out these boxes and freeze the comb if you can. This will prevent the spread of wax moths
- Feed your bees or they will starve until they can bring in enough nectar and pollen. Feed sugar syrup mixture, sugar or patties. Remove the patties by Mid-March to prevent infestations of hive beetles.
- Check honey stores prepare to Re-queen failing Queens, order queens, remove all medicines as specified on the labels.
- Manage for swarming
- Attend Bee Meetings

**2/26/2018 National Honey Board Report:** <https://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/ams/FVMHONEY.pdf>

**TENNESSEE:** In Tennessee the January weather was cold enough to keep the bees clustered for most of the month. There have been no sources of nectar or pollen during the month.

**ARKANSAS:** No report issued.

**MISSISSIPPI:** A cold and wet month has beekeepers waiting for the weather to improve so they can check on the bees and determine the amount of losses. Plenty of snow, rain and freezing temps have set season back about three weeks behind normal time schedules for working with the hives and prepare packages of bees for sale.

### **BEEKEEPING READING LIST**

1) A great article about honey bee colony health - **Honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) colony health and pathogen composition in migratory beekeeping operations involved in California almond pollination.** Published: August 17, 2017. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0182814>



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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
<b>2018</b>	\$7.57											
<b>2017</b>	\$7.35	\$6.99	\$6.85	\$7.04	\$7.06	\$7.25	\$7.05	\$7.26	\$7.27	\$7.37	\$7.18	\$7.25
<b>2016</b>	\$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
<b>2018</b>	\$5.30											
<b>2017</b>	\$5.25	\$5.32	\$5.38	\$5.27	\$5.13	\$5.46	\$5.39	\$5.35	\$5.44	\$5.27	\$5.19	\$5.31
<b>2016</b>	\$5.04	\$5.15	\$5.04	\$5.20	\$4.97	\$5.19	\$5.09	\$5.01	\$5.10	\$5.31	\$5.27	\$5.39

### UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**March 15, 2018** – The [Lawrence/Wayne Beekeepers Association \(LWBA\)](#) will host TN State Apiarist, [Mike Studer](#), as the speaker for their March meeting, Thursday, March 15th at 6 PM, at New Life Free Will Baptist Church, 2699 Buffalo Rd, Lawrenceburg, TN, next to Giles county. This would be a great meeting if any of our MABA members are in that area that day.

**April 5-7, 2018** – [Kent Williams Bee School in Wingo, KY](#)

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 OATMEAL COOKIES: Makes 6-7 dozen

INGREDIENTS	DIRECTIONS
<p>1/2 cup hot water, or hot black tea 1 cup raisins 2 cups flour 1 1/2 cups quick cooking rolled oats 1 tsp baking soda 1 tsp. ground cinnamon 1/2 tsp. salt 1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg 1 cup butter 3/4 cup honey 1 egg 1 tsp. vanilla 1/2 to 1 cup chopped walnuts 1 package (6 oz.) chocolate chips, optional</p>	<p>Pour hot water/tea over raisins; let stand at least 15 minutes.</p> <p>Combine flour, oats, baking soda, cinnamon, salt and nutmeg. Mix thoroughly; set aside.</p> <p>Cream butter; gradually add honey until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla.</p> <p>Drain raisins; reserve 1/4 cup liquid. Alternately add flour mixture and reserved raisin liquid. Stir in nuts, raisins and chocolate chips. Chill dough for at least one hour.</p> <p>Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 350°F about 12 minutes or until browned. Let stand one minute on cookie sheet; remove and cool on rack.</p> <p>Store in airtight container.</p>

#### 2. HONEY TODDY: 1 beverage

INGREDIENTS	DIRECTIONS
<p>1 orange-flavored tea bag boiling water 1 T honey 1 oz. premium orange liqueur 1 oz. brandy orange slices</p>	<p>Place an orange-flavored tea bag in a mug and add boiling water, 3/4 full. Let the tea steep for 5 minutes.</p> <p>Remove the tea bag and add the honey, brandy and orange liqueur. Garnish with orange slices.</p>



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The “Rules” for Successful Beekeeping, <http://scientificbeekeeping.com/the-rules-for-successful-beekeeping/>

Randy Oliver discusses his “own process of self-education in becoming a successful beekeeper—which has been much more difficult since the invasion of varroa. The learning curve has been brutal—there were times when I thought that I was the worst beekeeper in the world (although that notion was quickly dispelled by visiting others). For a change, I’m going to direct this article toward beginning beekeepers, who are often overwhelmed by conflicting advice about the “proper” way to keep bees.”

### **Advice to Beginning Beekeepers**

This spring, as usual, I’ve given quite a number of beekeeping workshops to beginning and “recreational” (formerly “hobby”) beekeepers. These beekeepers are wallowing in information gleaned from the Internet about the “right” way to keep bees. Unfortunately, they do not yet have enough experience to know what to believe, whereas long-time beekeepers simply roll their eyes at some of the suggestions being promoted.

There is an old adage that if you want to get a definitive answer to any beekeeping question, just ask a second or third-year beekeeper, as they are generally at the peak of their confidence level regarding their knowledge about beekeeping (and often blog away offering advice to others). After that, most of us are humbled by the fact that beekeeping is a lifelong learning experience, full of surprises, and ruled largely by Murphy’s Law.

The best way to learn beekeeping is to work with an experienced mentor who has successfully kept bees in your area for many years. I’d look for someone who is candid about the mistakes they’ve made, and the number of times that they’ve recovered from major crashes. Such beekeepers are generally not the noisiest self promoters, but here’s a tip: any beekeeper worth his salt will have bees for sale every spring. The biggest problem with healthy overwintered colonies is how to keep them all from swarming off, and it is relatively easy for any good beekeeper to triple his number of hives each spring if he wishes.

... more on the website.

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

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

**SEE YOU AT THE MARCH 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!**