



## *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

MA  
BA

**MEETING DATE & TIME: July 9, 2018 at 7 pm** – Van Power will present The Art of Honey Extraction. Many of you are seeing the bees cap the honey in your supers, so this is a timely subject for many. You will not want to miss this!

**Is it time to harvest your honey? Contact Bob Haskett, email: [RHas4852@aol.com](mailto:RHas4852@aol.com), phone: 901-872-0074**

### **JULY AND THE BEES**

- **Summer is here and The Bees are hot.**
- They are bringing in water and any pollen and nectar.
- They may hang out on the front of the hive as a way to cool themselves and the brood chamber.
- The **HOT** bees may be a bit more aggressive as the honey flow may be tapering off and the bees have less to do.
- Swarming is possible but they are searching for water. They bring it back and fan it over the hive, some bees will transfer it to other bees in the brood chamber.

### **JULY AND THE BEEKEEPER**

- Check the hives, looking for evidence of a queen/eggs and larvae. Pay careful attention to weak hives to make sure strong hives are not robbing—taking the resources out of the weak hive. Again, watch for robbing.
- Try to determine if the honey flow a slowed or not in your area and mark that date on a calendar for future references.
- Add honey supers, do not forget the queen excluder, a good rule is to add them when the bees cover 7 of 10 frames. As the supers fill up, add new supers.
- It is also a good time to harvest honey, once the honey is harvested put the supers back on the hive for the bees to refill or stand them on end and allow the bees to clean them out. If they are not to be used again until next season add para-dichlorobenzene—Moth Crystals and put a solid bottom and a solid top on them after treating them. (The Beekeeper may choose to put the super back on and allow the bees to fill it for the winter).
- Some beekeepers believe this is the time to re-queen.

**6/25/2018** National Honey Board Report: <https://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/ams/FVMHONEY.pdf>

**TENNESSEE:** The nectar flow has been average this year for most of the state. Clover is in full bloom, sumac is blooming. Most of the colonies across the state are healthy and building up quickly.

**ARKANSAS:** No report issued.

**MISSISSIPPI:** The beekeepers are busy checking the hives and making sure the bees are in good condition while making honey. The Chinese Tallow looks plentiful and the heavy rains in late April and May brought plenty of wildflowers to work with. No major losses or problems reported at this time.



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### BEEKEEPING READING LIST

An excerpt **Why do beekeepers fail?** <http://gobeekeeping.com/failingbees.htm>

The success of the colony depends upon many things. Honey bees are capable of democratic decision making! The life and death decisions of these bees depends upon choosing the right dwelling place and location for them to survive. As humans we can give them various kinds of dwelling places called "hives." But will they "adapt and accept what we give them?"

And . . . most new beekeepers do more damage to their bees than anything else. They visit and start pulling frames up and out of the hive. . . . You should start by removing a frame from near the outside wall of a hive. Usually the queen will not be on outside frames and the bee population is less there. Once that first frame is removed, the next frame can be removed with slight pressure from your hive tool to move it away from the frame adjacent to it -- then with a good grip lift it up. **DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DROP A FRAME OF BEES AT YOUR FEET?**

Some queens are killed by beekeepers that roll the bees between frames as frames are lifted out of the hive. I am sure you want to avoid that mistake. It is easy to crush a queen between frames when putting frames back into a hive. Or if you set a frame down on the ground next to your hive -- what happens to any bee that just happen to be on the frame where it contacts the ground or thing it is placed on. The same applies to adding and removing supers to the hive. There are all kind of activities that could result in the loss of the queen -- *This is the reason I say don't pull frames out of the hive to look for the queen. You remove one frame at a time carefully to avoid killing the queen.*

### **Water collection by honey bees**

Water has several uses in a honeybee hive. During certain times of the year foragers find a source of water, fill their crops, and ferry it home. The number of bees foraging for water depends on the needs of the colony. If the in-hive workers accept the water quickly from the foragers, the foraging bees sense that the need is still high, and they will go back for another load. If the in-hive workers are slow about "unloading" the water, the foragers sense that the need for water has lessened and fewer bees will return for more. Bees find water in a number of places including damp rocks, branches, muddy puddles, pond edges, and drops adhering to vegetation. They swallow the water and store it in their crops before flying home. The water is transferred to the waiting in-hive workers through the process of trophallaxis—the direct transfer from one bee to another.

Bees rarely store water, but bring it in as needed. In the heat of summer it is used for evaporative cooling. The water is spread in a thin film atop sealed brood or on the rims of cells containing larvae and eggs. The in-hive workers then fan vigorously, setting up air currents, which evaporate the water and cool the interior of the hive. The process is similar to the human-designed air conditioner. Nurse bees, who feed the developing larvae, also have a high demand for water. The nurses consume large amounts of pollen, nectar, and water so that their hypopharyngeal glands can produce the jelly that is used to feed the larvae, and to a lesser extent, other bees in the hive. A third use for water occurs in the winter. Stored honey— especially honey high in glucose—tends to crystallize as it dries. Bees need water to dilute the crystals back into liquid before they can eat it. The same occurs if a beekeeper feeds crystalline sugar to bees as a winter supplement: the bees need to dissolve the crystals before they can eat the sugar. Urban beekeepers face a problem when their bees select the neighbors'



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swimming pools, bird baths, or hummingbird feeders as a water source. Although this occasionally happens, the bees' need for additional water is less during nectar flows because the nectar contains a high percentage of water. Urban beekeepers can provide a source of water if they wish. Bees seem to prefer water that has some growth in it—such as green slime—rather than perfectly clean water. Some scientists speculate that the reason is simply that the bees can smell it and recognize it as a water source. Chlorinated pools were scarce during the last 80 million years, so bees didn't evolve to recognize the odor.

<http://honeybeesuite.com/water-collection/> \_\_\_\_\_

Water. Bees need water. One of the issues is providing it. Another is to have it more attractive than the neighbor's hot tub. To accomplish this you need to understand that bees are attracted to water because of several things:

- Smell. They can recruit bees to a source that has odor. Chlorine has odor. So does sewage.
- Warmth. Warm water can be taken on even moderately chilly days. Cold water cannot because when the bees get chilled they can't fly home.
- Reliability. Bees prefer a reliable source.
- Accessibility. Bees need to be able to get to the water without falling in. A horse tank or bucket with no floats does not work well. A creek bank provides such access as they can land on the bank and walk up to the water. A barrel or bucket does not unless you provide ladders or floats or both. I use a bucket of water full of old sticks. The bees can land on the stick and climb down to the water. <http://www.bushfarms.com/beeswater.htm>

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

### 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	\$7.22	\$7.34	\$7.28	\$7.03	\$7.23						
<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



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**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	\$5.18	\$5.22	\$5.31	\$5.21	\$5.31						
<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

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 Heartland Apicultural Society** meeting is July 11-13, 2018 at [Washington University in St. Louis, MO](http://www.washington.edu). This will be a top notch event with the best presenters for all beekeeper levels. [Register online now at heartlandbees.org](http://www.heartlandbees.org)

The **2018 Tennessee Beekeepers Association Fall Conference** will be held October 12 and 13<sup>th</sup> at the [Hyder Burks Pavilion at Tennessee Tech](http://www.hyderburks.com) in Cookeville. More details coming, but plan for a couple of fun- and fact-filled days!

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

**Beekeeping equipment for sale:** Ryan Graycheck (404-398-3998 or rpg013@gmail.com), please check the MABA Bee Classified/For Sale page for specifics.

**Need containers?** If you need glass jars or plastic honey bears please contact Robert Hodum, 901-603-6492.

**SEE YOU AT THE JULY MABA MEETING, VISIT WITH YOUR MENTOR.**

**It's hot out there, drink plenty of water when you are working your bees!**



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### HONEY-BASED RECIPES

#### 1. HONEY BERRY CRISTO: Makes 4 servings

##### INGREDIENTS

8 slices - whole grain bread

1/2 cup - goat cheese, softened

32 thin slices - black forest ham

8 slices - havarti cheese

##### DIRECTIONS

**For Honey Glazed Blueberries:** Place blueberry honey, blueberries and lemon juice in a small saucepot and stir to combine evenly. Heat over medium heat for approximately 5 minutes to reduce the mixture until it turns into a syrupy preserve-style consistency. Lightly smash the cooked blueberries with a spoon to give it a rustic preserve feel. Remove from heat, place mixture into a small container and chill in the refrigerator. Keep chilled.

Evenly spread each slice of whole grain bread with approximately 1 T of softened goat cheese.

**Build the Sandwiches:** Place one slice of bread (goat cheese spread facing up) on a clean counter. Top with 2 T of the chilled honey glazed blueberries, cover with four overlapping slices of black forest ham, then place two overlapping slices of havarti cheese, then top with four more overlapping slices of black forest ham, then cover with 2 T of the chilled reserved honey glazed blueberries. Finally, place one slice of bread (goat cheese spread facing down) on top to create one sandwich. Repeat for the three remaining sandwiches.

**Cook the Sandwiches:** Pre-heat oven to 350° F. Heat a non-stick sauté pan over low-medium heat. Lightly spray the pan with vegetable spray. Place the sandwiches into the pan and cook for approximately 1-2 minutes per side, or until the sandwiches are an even golden color and crispy on both sides. Remove browned sandwiches from the sauté pan and place on a sheet pan. Place in the oven and cook browned sandwiches for approximately 5 minutes - or until the sandwich is hot throughout and the havarti cheese is fully melted.

Remove the sandwiches from the oven. Place on a clean cutting board, and slice each sandwich in half.

Serve and enjoy!