



## *Catch The Buzz*

*Memphis Area Beekeepers Association* <http://memphisbeekeepers.com/>

P.O. Box 38028, Germantown, TN 38183

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

**MA  
BA**

**MEETING DATE & TIME:** January 14, 2019 at 7 pm – Scott Gray will present **Trapping Feral Bees!**

We will also discuss the upcoming MABA 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Beekeeping Course, which will be January 26, 2019 from 7:45 AM to 3 PM. We can't wait to see you there!

### **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



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- 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
- 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:](#)

**TENNESSEE:** The fall nectar flow ended in early November in Tennessee. Beekeepers have been checking colonies for food stores and condensing colonies down for winter. Some losses have been reported, most have been related to varroa mites/ viruses and attributed to beekeepers waiting too late in the fall to treat..

**ARKANSAS:** No report issued.

**MISSISSIPPI:** Cold temps and plenty of rain during the last part of November. Beekeepers report that no major losses or problems have occurred, and treatments have been fairly successful keeping the bees in good condition. The Goldenrod flow has been good, and food should be available in the hives for the winter ahead. The hives have been prepped for the extra cold until January. Prices are steady at \$1.90-2.00 per pound.



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### **BEEKEEPING READING LIST**

Diversified Pollinators : Sunflower Pollen Has Medicinal, Protective Effects on Bees, by Jonathan Giacomini, NC State University

Bees fed a diet of sunflower pollen show dramatically lower rates of infection by two separate pathogens, suggesting medicinal and protective effects for pollinators in peril. With bee populations in decline, a new study offers hope for a relatively simple mechanism to promote bee health and well-being: providing bees access to sunflowers.

The study, conducted by researchers at North Carolina State University and the University of Massachusetts Amherst, showed that two different species of bees fed a diet of sunflower pollen had dramatically lower rates of infection by specific pathogens. Bumble bees on the sunflower diet also had generally better colony health than bees fed on diets of other flower pollens.

The study showed that sunflower pollen reduced infection by a particular pathogen (*Crithidia bombi*) in bumble bees (*Bombus impatiens*). Sunflower pollen also protected European honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) from a different pathogen (*Nosema ceranae*). These pathogens have been implicated in slowing bee colony growth rates and increasing bee death.

The study also showed a deleterious effect, however, as honey bees on the sunflower diet had mortality rates roughly equivalent to honey bees not fed a pollen diet and four times higher than honey bees fed buckwheat pollen. This mortality effect was not observed in bumble bees.

Jonathan Giacomini, a Ph.D. student in applied ecology at NC State and corresponding author of a paper describing the research, said that bees already seem adept at collecting sunflower pollen. Annually, some two million acres in the United States and 10 million acres in Europe are devoted to sunflowers, he said, making sunflower pollen a ready and relevant bee food.

“We’ve tried other monofloral pollens, or pollens coming from one flower, but we seem to have hit the jackpot with sunflower pollen,” said co-senior author Rebecca Irwin, a professor of applied ecology at NC State. “None of the others we’ve studied have had this consistent positive effect on bumble bee health.”

Sunflower pollen is low in protein and some amino acids, so it should not be considered as a standalone meal for bee populations, Irwin said. “But sunflower could be a good addition to a diverse wildflower population for bees,” she said, especially generalists like bumble bees and honey bees.

“We don’t know if sunflower pollen is helping the host bees fight off pathogens or if sunflower pollen does something to the pathogens,” Irwin said. Future research is aimed at figuring this out.

The NC State researchers are now planning to follow up on the study to examine whether other species



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of bees show the positive effects of sunflower pollen and to gauge the mechanism behind the mostly positive effects of sunflower pollen. “We don’t know if sunflower pollen is helping the host bees fight off pathogens or if sunflower pollen does something to the pathogens,” Irwin said. Future research is aimed at figuring this out.

Journal Reference: 1. Jonathan J. Giacomini, Jessica Leslie, David R. Tarpy, Evan C. Palmer-Young, Rebecca E. Irwin, Lynn S. Adler. Medicinal value of sunflower pollen against bee pathogens. Scientific Reports, 2018; 8 (1) DOI: [10.1038/s41598-018-32681-y](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-018-32681-y)

**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 | \$7.37 | \$7.41 | \$7.17 | \$7.34 | \$7.51 |        |
| <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 | \$5.18 | \$5.22 | \$5.31 | \$5.21 | \$5.31 | \$5.12 | \$5.42 | \$5.24 | \$5.26 | \$5.42 |        |
| <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>



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### UPCOMING EVENTS

January 26, 2019 – [MABA 54th Annual Beekeeping Short Course](#) – Speakers and Subjects – Coming soon!

March 21-23, 2019 – The [2019 Honey Convention](#) returns, this time to Fountainhead College of Technology in Knoxville, TN! Look forward to 18 great speakers and 70+ classes to attend! Lectures. Networking. Workshops. Classes. Vendors. Food. Door Prizes. Auction. If it's about beekeeping it will be there!!

July 10-12, 2019 – [Heartland Apicultural Society 2019](#) meeting in Nashville, TN! HAS 2019 will be hosted by Belmont University. With 6 [keynote speakers](#) and 24 more great speakers this meeting will have everything you need at any level of beekeeping. Registration and more details forthcoming.

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



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### HONEY-BASED RECIPES

#### HONEY CHARRED CAULIFLOWER WITH SMOKED SPANISH PAPRIKA: Makes 2 servings

| INGREDIENTS  | DIRECTIONS  |
|--|---|
| 3 T - olive oil  | Heat a 12 inch sauté pan with olive oil and add sea salt, red pepper flakes and Spanish paprika.  |
| 1 tsp. - sea salt                                      | Lay cauliflower in 1 layer on the bottom of the pan. Cook over medium high heat to char cauliflower, approximately 3 minutes. Flip each piece and repeat for 3 minutes. |
| 1/2 tsp. - red pepper flakes                           | Add water honey and orange juice and stir to coat. Cover for 1 minute.  |
| 1/2 tsp. - Spanish smoked paprika                      | Remove cover and finish cooking over high heat to reduce liquid for 2-3 minutes.  |
| 1 lb. - cauliflower florets, cut into bite size pieces | Season with salt and pepper.  |
| 2 T - water  |   |
| 3 T - honey  |   |
| 1/2 – orange, juiced                                   |   |
| Salt and pepper  |   |