



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

MEETING DATE & TIME: February 11, 2019 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 26th, 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. 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.



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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.

- 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.

1/30/2019 National Honey Board Report: <https://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/ams/FVMHONEY.pdf>

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. Bees have been bringing in some pollen across the state throughout the month of December. The weather has been abnormally warm and wet. There are no major pollen or nectar sources blooming currently.

ARKANSAS: No report issued.

MISSISSIPPI: Plenty of rain and wet conditions. Beekeepers are waiting for the rain to stop so they can get into the hives and check on the bees and put in protein patties for feed. Bees are rebuilding numbers in the hives preparing for splitting next month and adding in Queens. Red Maple should be ready in about three weeks after January first.

Need BEEs? Contact one of the sellers below, most of which are at this February meeting:

Dena Hodge 901-413-1460

Ron Clift 901-651-8548

Gus Mitchell 276-870-0618

Harry Fulton - Please contact Charles Force: 901-831-1207 or 662-429-7586

Chuck Vessels - Please contact Charles Force: 901-831-1207 or 662-429-7586

Jerry Heintz 731-441-1911, locate in Holladay, TN



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Are you in Mississippi? MDAC has a list of certified nuc, package, and queen producers at <https://www.mdac.ms.gov/bureaus-departments/plant-industry/honeybee-program/>, look them up!



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BEEKEEPING READING LIST

1) **Apitherapy A Compound the Makes Bees into Queens Could also Aid Human Stem Cell Therapies** by Anna Groves for Discover Magazine

Scientists have announced a breakthrough in stem cell research that could have major implications for medical treatments that involve regenerating human cells. And their discovery came from an unlikely source: royal jelly. It's the same substance honey bees use to turn a common bee larvae into a queen.

Royal Jelly - A queen bee starts her life just like any other bee – a larva in the honey bee hive, taken care of by her siblings. But when it's time for a new queen, this larva is pulled aside and fed copious amounts of royal jelly, a nutritious goop secreted by the hive's nurse bees. This, rather than any genetic differences, is what makes her a queen. This queen bee grows larger than the other bees in the hive, which means she ends up with substantially more cells in her body, despite being genetically similar to her sisters. Royal jelly is thought to increase her cell count by somehow triggering an increase in stem cells — cells that haven't yet differentiated into specialized cells — early in her development. Royal jelly is popular as a dietary supplement in many areas of the world. Though many of the claimed effects on human health are of dubious merit, a few have been supported by randomized controlled trials. The latter inspired researchers to examine what effects the jelly might have outside of a bee hive. Now, a research team out of Stanford University has found that the active compound in royal jelly, royalactin, prevents stem cells from differentiating, or growing into mature versions of, say, muscle or skin cells. This means that as they continue to grow and multiply they create more stem cells, increasing their therapeutic potential.

If You Give a Mouse Royalactin - Kevin Wang, an assistant professor of dermatology, was the principal investigator on the study, which came out Apitherapy (Continued) today in Nature Communications. He says that because of royalactin's role in queen formation, and the rumors of regenerative human properties, it made sense to test it on stem cells. They used embryonic stem cells from a mouse for their experiments. "This was a giant leap of faith," says Wang. They made royalactin in the lab rather than harvesting it from bee hives. "We would bankrupt our whole department if we used real royalactin," says Wang. "To get that much royalactin we'd need gallons and gallons of royal jelly." In the end, the royalactin worked as hoped – it triggered a cellular response that made the stem cells self-renew. As the cells divided and multiplied, they all remained stem cells.

The Quest for Human Royalactin - The researchers suspected that the reason the mouse stem cells responded to royalactin was that there was an analogous compound — a protein with the same shape — naturally occurring in mice. It's a bit like finding a lock and key that shouldn't match, but do. A bee-made key that fits into a mouse-made lock implies that out there somewhere is a mouse-made key identical in shape — even if it's not identical in material — to the bee-made key. If there wasn't, that mouse-made lock wouldn't exist. They found that mouse-made key – the mammalian analog to royalactin – by using an algorithm to search through every single protein secreted by humans, looking for one that matched the shape of royalactin. They found one – and only one – protein that fit the bill. Nearly nothing was known about this protein except that it existed. And that it is expressed only briefly, very early on in human development.



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Discovery of Regina - What do you name a newly discovered human queen bee compound? “I wanted to name it ‘Beyoncé’ for ‘Queen Bey’ but the Nature Communications editor was strongly against it, which was too bad,” explains Wang. Instead, the team settled on “regina,” Latin for “queen.” Wang’s dream is that the regina discovery will lead to advances in stem cell-based medical treatments. A patient recovering from a stroke, heart attack, Alzheimer’s, or a stomach ulcer might receive a stent, delivering regina directly to the area and allowing more stem cells to grow there, potentially speeding up recovery. Of course, this dream is far from reality, and much more research will be needed to figure out the true potential of the molecule. For now, regina and royalactin can still be used as new stem cell renewal factors. These are the compounds added to stem cells in culture that keep them undifferentiated stem cells. Wang suspects these compounds are equal to, if not better than, the chemicals that are currently used for this task.

Source: <http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/d-brief/2018/12/05/honey-bee-royaljelly-human-stem-cells/>

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
2019	\$7.28	\$7.54										
2018	\$7.57	\$7.22	\$7.34	\$7.28	\$7.03	\$7.23	\$7.37	\$7.41	\$7.17	\$7.34	\$7.51	\$7.46
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
2019	\$4.16	\$4.32										
2018	\$5.30	\$5.18	\$5.22	\$5.31	\$5.21	\$5.31	\$5.12	\$5.42	\$5.24	\$5.26	\$5.42	\$5.44
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



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

Plan now for National Honey Bee Day 2019, which is Saturday August 17, 2019

February 16, 2019 – [TBA February 2019 Business Meeting](#) – The Tennessee Beekeepers Association board of directors will meet Saturday, February 16, 2019 at 1:00pm (central time). The meeting will be held in the Rutherford County Extension Service community room, part of Lane Agri-Park, 315 John Rice Boulevard, Murfreesboro, TN.

Admission is open to the general public however each region has up to 3 voting members who must be current TBA members. See y'all in Murfreesboro!

March 11, 2019 – MABA March 2019 Meeting – Andrew Fogg from Dadant will bring MABA an overview of spring hive health and the steps you can take to ensure healthy hives and excellent honey crops. Be prepared to learn, and then use that knowledge in your bee hives to keep your bees healthy. See y'all there!

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!!

April 8, 2019 – MABA April 2019 Meeting – Wanna learn more about swarms and splits? You will be in the right place during this meeting! Dena Hodge, Robert Hodum, and Sammy Mardis will present their “do's” and “don't's” for successful swarm captures and colony splits. See y'all there!

May 13, 2019 – MABA May 2019 Meeting – Speakers and Subject coming soon!

June 10, 2019 – MABA June 2019 Meeting – Dr. Jeffrey Harris, Mississippi State University Associate Extension/Research Professor, will return to MABA for a practical, fact-filled presentation for beekeepers of all experience levels. You'll be sorry if you miss this meeting!

July 8, 2019 – MABA July 2019 Meeting – Speakers and Subject coming soon!

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.

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 1 cup honey, 2 lemons (sliced), 1 inch fresh ginger (sliced), in a 16 oz 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 flavors 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!**



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