



## *Catch The Buzz*

*Memphis Area Beekeepers Association* [www.memphisbeekeepers.com](http://www.memphisbeekeepers.com)

P.O. Box 38028, Germantown, TN 38138

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

# MABA

**MEETING DATE & TIME: April 8, 2019** – MABA April 2019 Meeting – Wanna learn more about nucs, 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 nuc installations, swarm captures, and colony splits. **Special note:** We will meet in Wing B of the Agricenter – please follow the signs and other beekeepers. See y’all there!

From the many that knew him, MABA extends our condolences to the family of Bob Haskett for their loss. MABA acknowledges his many years of service and dedication in the many offices he has held over numerous years. The new Treasurer and Honey Extractor volunteers will surely have big shoes to fill!

**Please check the Swarm List**, updated before sending this newsletter. Listed members must be current member. Yearly membership is always due April 1<sup>st</sup> of the given year, so **please renew ASAP for your yearly membership and if you want to be included on the swarm list.**

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

The [Tennessee Beekeepers Association](#) (TBA) passed a [resolution](#) to support Howard Kerr’s recommendation for recurring appropriations through the Tennessee Legislature for the respective beekeeping research and extension programs of University of Tennessee and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. **Do your part to help the honey bee in Tennessee!** Please **consider writing to your local legislators** to lend your support for the updating and expansion of our state’s capacity to lead statewide beekeeping efforts, whether in the field or in the lab.



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### APRIL AND THE BEEKEEPER

- The objective is for all colonies to be queen-right, healthy, and well-nourished so they can build up to maximum populations for the major nectar flow. This all needs to be done while keeping a fine balance between the growing population and the amount of space available so that the bees do not have the chance to think about swarming.
  - On a calm, warm day go through your hives and do a thorough inspection.
  - Remove mouse guards and replace poor quality frames or brood frames with new comb or foundation.
  - Move brood down (if you can), honey frames to the side, and empty comb over-head. Note: Both boxes will probably be filling up with brood by mid-April. In many cases, the queen may start heading down on her own to find more space to lay.
  - Clean up bottom boards.
- Is it time to make splits? Each split will require a new queen. Before your queen emerges, mature drones are needed. Drones are mature 8-10 days after they emerge and hang out on the edge of the brood nest. Queens prefer sunny, 75 degree days, with winds less than 10mph. Use the splits to replace winter losses or increase your hive numbers. If increasing your hive numbers, pick out your next location. Splits are a great way to create increase or replacement nucs. It also helps facilitate a robust honey crop and is a form of varroa control as it disrupts the brood.
- Consider adding disease free dead-out brood boxes to booming two-story hives in anticipation of making splits with them when your new queens arrive. It will relieve congestion and give these overly populous hives something to use and will make an excellent split later.
- If you already have queen cells, what kind are they: swarm, emergency, or supersedure? Note: This can also indicate the timing is right to start making queens. What will you do with the queen cells?
  - Move them to make nucs or splits.
  - Try to cut them all out and keep rechecking.
  - Make a nuc with the queen mother.
  - Let the bees be.
- Place swarm traps around mid to late April.
- If you want to give your hives a boost, feed with equal parts sugar and water.
- DISCONTINUE simulative sugar feeding before supering.
- The 'Rule of Thumb' for putting supers on hives is when the dandelions bloom.
- Wax moth activity dramatically picks up when the temperature rises, keep an eye on your stored supers – especially ones that contained pollen or brood.
- Leftover honey frames should be adding in to live colonies, or frozen before small hive beetle (SHB) moves in and ruins them.

Adapted from: <http://www.indianahoney.org/2016/03/Beekeeping-Tips-for-April.cfm>



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3/21/2019 National Honey Board Report: <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/>

**TENNESSEE:** Tennessee has seen an extremely wet spring that has been abnormally warm. Bees have been bringing in red maple, elm henbit, dandelion, and some other small wildflower nectar and pollen throughout February. Colony losses overall across the state appear to be around 40% for the past winter at this time. Colonies are heavy with brood and consuming nectar as fast as the bees are bring it in with all the rain we have been getting.

**ARKANSAS:** No report issued.

**MISSISSIPPI:** The bees are reported to be building up in the hives and appear to be in pretty good condition and shape. Lots of rain and only a few days of good weather for the bees to be able to get out and forage for pollen that keeps getting washed away by the rain. Various trees and plants are in full bloom, and beekeepers are hoping for a break in the weather for the bees to get out as supplemental feeding is still needed at this time.

### **BEEKEEPING READING LIST**

**A MOBILE PHONE MICROSCOPE IS GOOD ENOUGH TO FIND NOSEMA SPORES IN THE FIELD** <https://www.beeeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-a-mobile-phone-microscope-is-good-enough-to-find-nosema-spores-in-the-field/>

Researchers at the UCLA Samueli School of Engineering, in collaboration with the Department of Biology at Barnard College, have developed a mobile-phone microscope that enables rapid and automated detection of Nosema spores in honey bees in field settings. This mobile and cost-effective platform, weighing only 0.8 pounds, is composed of a smartphone based fluorescence microscope, a custom-developed smartphone application and an easy to perform sample preparation protocol that enables fluorescence tagging of bee parasite spores even in the field.

Aydogan Ozcan, UCLA Chancellor's Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the associate director of the California NanoSystems Institute at UCLA led the research in collaboration with Jonathan Snow, an assistant professor at the Department of Biology at Barnard College (NY), and Hatice Ceylan Koydemir, a senior research associate at UCLA. The study was published in *Lab on a chip*, a journal of the Royal Society of Chemistry (UK).

Disease diagnostics by this new platform involves sample preparation, where honey bees gut tissue is removed and midguts dissected, followed by adding a tiny amount of a stain to fluorescently tag parasite spores. A drop of the prepared solution is then placed on a glass slide, which is then inserted into the mobile-phone microscope for analysis. An image of the sample is then captured by the smartphone and transmitted to a computer for automated analysis to quickly reveal the spore count, which is sent back to the user in less than 90 seconds.

The researchers tested the performance of this mobile platform using field samples and determined that the device is capable of detecting the parasite concentration per bee that is below the threshold needed to advise



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treatment against Nosema parasites. Therefore, this mobile-phone based instrument meets the required detection sensitivity for establishing the treatment.

“Ensuring the wellbeing of bees is a very important problem for global food security and ecosystem stability. There are many factors affecting rapidly declining bee populations, with parasitic infections playing a significant role. The developed mobile device paves the way to address this emerging problem in an inexpensive manner, and, to our knowledge, it is the first and only existing portable platform for Nosema spore detection in field settings.” said Ozcan.

The study was supported by the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign, a National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center (ERC) and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI).

### More information:

Jonathan W. Snow et al. Rapid imaging, detection, and quantification of Nosema ceranae spores in honey bees using mobile phone-based fluorescence microscopy, *Lab on a Chip*(2019). DOI: 10.1039/C8LC01342J

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>2019</b>	\$7.28	\$7.54										
<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	\$7.46

**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>2019</b>	\$4.16	\$4.32										
<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	\$5.44



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### UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**May 13, 2019** - MABA May 2019 Meeting - Bob Russell from Red Belly Bee Farm (Myrtle, MS – just before Albany, MS on US-78) will be presenting his experience in northeast Mississippi. Don't miss his discussion on Big Double stacks – two colonies working a single super stack. See y'all there!

**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 Bowling Green, KY! 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.

**September 9, 2019** – MABA September 2019 Meeting – Mike Studer, Tennessee State Apiarist, will present the state of beekeeping in TN and how to keep our bees healthy and thriving. You will want to attend this meeting! If there is enough interest Mr. Studer will hold a TN Apiary Inspector Course. Please let Bob if you are interested in this class!

**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/>

**SEE YOU AT THE APRIL 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!**

**FYI:** If you did not know, shortly after Trevor announced Bon Aqua Springs Woodenware & Bee Supply was closing permanently, Bon Aqua Springs Woodenware & Bee Supply was SOLD to new owners and moved their operation from Bon Aqua Springs, TN to Murfreesboro, TN, where they will continue the business.



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**HONEY-BASED RECIPES** - <https://www.honey.com/signup>

### 1. HONEY-LACQUERED BACON BURRITO: Makes 2 burritos

#### INGREDIENTS

##### For Honey Lime Salsa:

- 1 lb. - tomatillos
- 1/2 cup - onion, chopped
- 1/4 cup - cilantro
- 2 - jalapeno peppers
- 2 T - honey
- 1 T - fresh lime juice
- 1/2 tsp. - kosher salt

##### For Honey Bacon:

- 4 slices - thick cut bacon
- 2 T - honey

##### For Potato & Beet Mixture:

- 3 T - olive oil
- 1 large - sweet potato, peeled and diced
- 4 small - Yukon gold potatoes, diced
- 2 - beets, peeled and diced
- 1 - yellow onion, peeled and diced
- 4 cloves - garlic, chopped
- 1 tsp. - kosher salt

##### For Burritos:

- 4 - eggs, scrambled
- 2 - 10" flour tortillas
- 4 oz. - monterey jack cheese, shredded

Remove the husks from the tomatillos and rinse. Place in a saucepan and cover with water. Bring the tomatillos to a boil and simmer for 5 minutes

Remove with a slotted spoon to a blender and add the onion, cilantro, jalapeño peppers, honey, lime juice, and salt. Pulse the ingredients until they are finely chopped and chill for at least one hour.

Preheat oven to 400° F. Cook the bacon on a wire rack over a sheet pan for about 10 minutes. Turn it over and drizzle with 2 T honey. Continue to cook for another 8-10 minutes or until the bacon is crispy. Remove from the oven and chop into small bits once cooled.

Place the diced potatoes, beets, and onions on a sheet pan and toss with 3 T olive oil. Roast for about 10 minutes and then add the chopped garlic, tossing well and sprinkling with the kosher salt. Return the pan to the oven and roast for another 10-12 minutes or until the potatoes are crispy and the onions are beginning to brown. Re-move from the oven and keep warm.

Heat skillet to medium heat, and place the tortilla on the skillet adding 1/2 the cheese along the middle. Cook for 2-4 minutes until the cheese begins to melt and the tortilla is soft and pliable. Add 1/2 the potato mixture, 1/2 of the scrambled eggs, and some of the salsa. Fold in the short ends of the tortilla and roll up the ingredients, tight-ening as you go to close up the burrito. Serve with additional salsa.