



## 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

**MEETING DATE & TIME:** 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! See y'all there! \*\*\* **We will meet in the same room, however enter from the East entrance by the amphitheater, Due to Delta Fair Move-out. Look for the signs! \*\*\***

**It's National Honey Month!** Is it time to harvest your honey but other projects got in the way? If you need an extractor please contact **Eddie Nunn, email:** [thenunfarm@gmail.com](mailto:thenunfarm@gmail.com), phone: 901-412-8128

**Have honey to sell? CLUB TO PURCHASE HONEY!** Our honey production was not sufficient for all our sales events. We wish to purchase a total of 436.5 lbs of current crop honey. The honey will be bottled in containers furnished by MABA as follows: 150 bears, 72 pints, and 72 quarts. We request a per pound quote for the bottled honey, and **ask members to provide a small sample at the September Board Meeting (6:00 pm Sept. 9th). Members are free to quote on any or all sizes required.**

**Things to do in the hive in September:** The bees are busy gathering available nectar from Goldenrod and Asters, and other fall-flowering plants. This is their final opportunity to gather stores before the fall frosts. The queen begins to lay the eggs that will be the workers to carry them through to the next spring, and is likely in the bottom brood chamber.

### SEPTEMBER AND THE BEEKEEPER

- September is a continuation of the hive management actions started in August.
- This is the last month of nearly uninterrupted flight opportunity for your hives.
- This is the time to conduct a thorough inspection before the start of the fall cool temperatures.
- What you do here will influence the success or failure of your colonies for the coming winter.
- **Estimate colony strength: Combine disease-free, weak colonies with stronger ones.**
- Evaluate queen: Make sure the queen is present. If you do not find her, be sure that you see eggs.
- Check several brood combs for brood quality, which is an indicator of queen quality. A good queen will lay a solid brood pattern with few skips. The fewer the skips, the better the queen. All of the combs need not be good, but most of them should have solid patterns
- **Take off all your supers.** There is no need for them now, and you will want to tighten up the hive by removing excess supers.
- **Weigh your hives.** This is guesswork unless you invest in a hive scale. Find something around the house that weighs around 70 pounds. Lift it up slightly with one hand. This will give you an idea what 70 pounds feels like. Now, go to your hives and with one hand, slightly lift the back. Only lift it an inch or two so that you can sense how heavy it feels. It needs to feel around 70 pounds. If not, you will want to start feeding the hive 2:1 sugar water.
- **Check to see if the colony honey bound.** Raise problem combs and other full combs of honey to the upper brood chamber. Never raise eggs or young larvae above the excluder as the bees may rear a queen. Combine disease-free, weak colonies with stronger ones. Install entrance reducers and mouse guards late in the month of September.



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**8/28/2019 National Honey Board Report:** <https://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/ams/FVMHONEY.pdf>

**TENNESSEE:** Honey extraction is well underway in TN and beekeepers are reporting better than average yields for this year. Sourwood, sumac and asters are producing nectar, but the flow is starting to end and the dearth is beginning to start.

**ARKANSAS:** No report issued.

**MISSISSIPPI:** The last of the honey flow ended and beekeepers have been busy pulling honey and preparing it for sale. The honey is reported to be good quality with decent volume and nice color this year as compared to last year's crop. Plenty of food is available and also in the hives for later use. The beekeepers note that the bees are in pretty good shape heading into the fall months ahead. Wildflower \$1.85-2.10 lb. out of the barrel.

### **BEEKEEPING READING LIST**

**Join The 2019 Annual North American Mite-A-Thon:** Learn More About the Mites That May be in Your Hive **Saturday, September 7 to Saturday, September 14, 2019**

**What is the Mite-A-Thon?** Mite-A-Thon is an international effort to help beekeepers gain knowledge of the level of mite infestation that their hives are carrying just before the overwintering season begins. The data collected by participants also helps to visualize Varroa infestations in honey bee colonies across North America within a one-week window. All beekeepers can participate from Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Their Varroa monitoring data will be uploaded to [www.mitecheck.com](http://www.mitecheck.com) and a report produced (without identifying individual participants).

**What can beekeepers gain by participating?** The parasitic mite, Varroa destructor (Varroa), and the viruses it vectors is a significant driver of this honey bee colony mortality. Yet, indicators suggest that many beekeepers are not monitoring honey bee colony Varroa infestations and therefore aren't able to connect infestation to colony loss.

**What are the reasons the Mite-A-Thon is being held?** There are two objectives of the Mite-A-Thon: 1) To raise awareness about honey bee colony Varroa infestations through effective monitoring methods. 2) To make available management strategies for discussion within bee organizations utilizing Mite-A-Thon partner developed information and outreach materials.

**What does it cost?** There is no cost. Participants can create their own test materials or kits can be purchased online and at bee supply stores. Promotion of Mite-A-Thon will be accomplished through local bee clubs, state beekeeping organizations, and national associations.

**How will it work?** Participants will monitor the level of mites (number of mites per 100 bees) using a standardized protocol utilizing two common methods of assessment (powdered sugar roll or alcohol wash) and then enter data, including location, total number of hives, number of hives tested, local habitat, and the number of Varroa mites counted from each hive. The published information will not identify individual participants.



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**What is the next step for a beekeeper?** Determine your preferred method of testing for mites and commit to a day for testing, either individually or through beekeeping organizations, and report your data at <http://www.pollinator.org/miteathon>. For more information contact Mite-A-Thon at 415-362-1137.

**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	\$7.86	\$7.66	\$7.66	\$7.72	\$7.68	\$7.62				
<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	\$4.33	\$4.41	\$4.41	\$3.55	\$4.51	\$4.42				
<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

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



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# MABA

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **UT Extension Master Beekeeping Program Schedule – 2019**

Basic – [http://tiny.utk.edu/mbp\\_basic](http://tiny.utk.edu/mbp_basic)

Advanced – [http://tiny.utk.edu/mbp\\_adv](http://tiny.utk.edu/mbp_adv)

**Think about Volunteering** to teach and sell honey at the upcoming festivals in September and October.

**September 7-8, 2019** – [The Germantown Festival – Honey Sales!](#)

**October 11-13, 2019** – [The Pink Palace Crafts Fair](#)

We'll need help unloading, selling, demonstrating, and teaching the public about beekeeping, we hope to see you there!

**Contact Bob Whitworth** if you would like to sign up to **volunteer**, [bgw92143@hotmail.com](mailto:bgw92143@hotmail.com) or 901-569-3560

The [2019 Tennessee Beekeepers Association Fall Conference](#) will be held October 11 and 12<sup>th</sup> at the [Hyder Burks Pavilion at Tennessee Tech](#) in Cookeville, TN.

Confirmed speakers include our keynote presenter, [Dr. Leo Sharashkin](#). He is a proponent of natural beekeeping with extensive experience in horizontal hives. Other confirmed speakers include Gene Armstrong, Dennis Barry, Dr. Clarence Collison, Sue Dickhaus, Sterling Earhart, Jim Gentry, Joel Hausser, David Hughes, Dale McCleskey, Judy O'Dell, Charlie Parton, Lynda Rizzardi, Mike Studer, Mike Torda, Jennifer Tsuruda, Susan Welchance, Joel White, Jay Williams, Kent Williams, and Mike Wilson.

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

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

**It's hot out there, drink plenty of water when you are working your bees! Thankfully cooler weather is on the way, fall is 2 weeks away!**



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### HONEY-BASED RECIPES

#### 1. HONEY THYME CAKES

<b>INGREDIENTS</b>	<b>DIRECTIONS</b>
<p><b>For Thyme Cakes:</b></p> <p>1/2 stick - brown butter 3/4 cup + 1 T – honey 2 - eggs 1/2 cup - milk 1/2 tsp. - lemon oil 12 - sprigs of thyme 2 1/4 cups - all-purpose flour 1/2 cup - sugar 1/2 tsp. - baking soda 2 T - lemon zest 3/4 tsp. - vanilla extract</p> <p><b>For Honey Glaze:</b></p> <p>1/2 cup - honey 2 T - butter 2 T - brown sugar</p>	<p>Brown butter in small pot. Then add sprigs of thyme to butter. Let butter cool.</p> <p>Combine all wet ingredients and whisk. Sift flour before combining dry ingredients.</p> <p>Fold wet ingredients into dry and add the butter. Portion into silicone bread molds with two scoops each.</p> <p>Bake at 330°F for 22 to 25 minutes.</p> <p>Make honey glaze by combining all ingredients together in a saucepan on low heat. Whisk until sugar is melted and everything is combined.</p> <p>After cakes and glaze have cooled, brush glaze on the top of cakes.</p>