



## *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

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### **MEETING DATE & TIME:** December 9, 2019 – **MABA Christmas Dinner and Harvest Celebration!**

The 2019 MABA Harvest Celebration will be held in the Amphitheatre at the Agricenter – a change of location, this upcoming Monday, December 9th at 7 PM.

Dinner will be catered by Garibaldi's. Enjoy salad, spaghetti, ravioli, green beans, sweet and unsweet tea. And if that's not enough, dessert will be some wonderful local cake! Coffee and tea will also be available.

We have entertainment! Our very own Gregg Tingle and friends will present "Finding Christmas". You will not want to miss this!

**Tickets were \$10 each.** The deadline for payment was reception by Dec. 1, 2019. Attendees must have emailed Eddie by December 1st, 2019 to indicate they will be in attendance, even if payment was sent earlier.

If that was not enough, the results and prize money for the 2019 MABA Honey Show will be presented to the lucky winners. See y'all there!

### **DECEMBER AND THE BEES**

- The bees are often in a tight cluster at night to stay warm – they will be flying as soon as it is 50.
- This is a great time to move your bees, especially during early mornings when it is freezing. Tape up the entrance and no bee can come out, not that they will at that Temp.
- Though we are in an area where bee colonies are seldom broodless, early cold temperatures may cause the queen to slow her laying. Take this opportunity to treat for varroa with whatever method you prefer – oxalic, formic, or the other commercially available products (Apiguard, Apistan, Apivar, Hopguard, or Mite Away). Just be certain to follow the recommended treatment schedule.
- Feed your bees if they are light – 2:1 syrup is best, and avoid 1:1 syrup. If colder, consider granulated sugar.
- Monitor your hives – just make sure they are heavy enough – 60# of honey is needed for the winter.
- Ground maintenance – this is the time to weed and treat the area around your hive.



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### **DECEMBER AND THE BEEKEEPER**

- Plan your apiary, and order your equipment. If you have it already, start assembling!
- Plan and conduct an inventory to make sure you have what you need for the Spring Season.
- Make sure you join and attend your local beekeeping club
- Register your hives with the state
- Read up on beekeeping
- Clean up your smoker and hive tool

**11/21/2019** National Honey Board Report: <https://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/ams/FVMHONEY.pdf>

**TENNESSEE:** In Tennessee the fall nectar flow is over for the most part. There are still a few asters blooming. Beekeepers that removed all their honey earlier in the year are having to feed colonies to prepare them for winter. Most colonies that were not robbed have plenty stores for winter.

**ARKANSAS:** No report issued.

**MISSISSIPPI:** The fall Goldenrod flow was good and the bees have benefitted from it and are in good shape for winter. Treatments for mites and regular maintenance of the hives in late summer have the bees in good condition and weight. Sales are moderate and price is steady.



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### BEEKEEPING READING LIST

#### POLLINATOR FRIENDLY PLANTINGS ALONG ROADS AND HIGHWAYS,

<https://www.beeeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-pollinator-friendly-plantings-along-roads-and-highways/>

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Oregon’s Senator Jeff Merkley joined Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Tom Carper (D-DE), and Mike Rounds (R-SD) today to introduce new, bipartisan legislation to help states create pollinator-friendly habitats along roads and highways. This legislation would help address the steep decline of pollinator populations, which poses a serious threat to American farmers and the American food supply.

Specifically, the *Monarch and Pollinator Highway (MPH) Act of 2019* would establish a federal grant program available to state departments of transportation and Indian tribes to carry out pollinator-friendly practices on roadsides and highway rights-of-way.

“As monarch and honeybee populations decline precipitously, we don’t just risk losing these beautiful creatures—we also face an existential threat to American agriculture and our food supply,” **said Merkley**. “Every state already contains thousands of miles of green space around roads and highways. If we transformed just a fraction of this land back to natural pollinator habitat, we could make a real difference to pollinator populations. This is a bipartisan, common-sense idea that the Senate should adopt without delay.”

“Pollinators, especially bees, are vital to creating and maintaining the habitats and ecosystems that we rely on to produce our food. This bill will help states promote highway beautification and preservation of these pollinator habitats along roadways,” **Alexander said**. “The Tennessee Department of Transportation’s Pollinator Habitat Program is one of the nation’s best state efforts in building and maintaining pollinator habitats along all of its state-maintained roadways. If this legislation were to become law, the Tennessee Department of Transportation could apply for federal funding to continue expanding their Pollinator Habitat Program.”

“Monarch butterflies and other pollinators serve an indispensable role in our natural ecosystems, and their population decline poses a profound threat to both American food supply and to the economic success of farmers in Delaware and throughout the country,” **said Carper, top Democrat on the Environment and Public Works Committee**. “Through the use of competitive grants and assistance to communities, this bipartisan bill will take meaningful, innovative steps towards building up pollinator habitats along our nation’s roads and highways – helping our natural environment and our nation’s agricultural industry at the same time. I want to thank Senators Merkley, Alexander and Rounds for their leadership on this urgent issue.”

“Bees play a vital role in making sure food gets on our table, acting as pollinators for approximately one-third of all agricultural products in the U.S. Our legislation seeks to use innovation and targeted



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conservation practices to protect and improve bees' natural habitat so they can continue to provide this essential service and make certain future generations of crops and plants are produced," **said Rounds.**

"With so much of our natural landscape lost the millions of acres of roadsides across the US have become increasingly important as pollinator habitat," **said Scott Black, Executive Director of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.** "The Xerces Society is excited to support the *Monarch and Pollinator Highway (MPH) Act of 2019* which will provide much needed funding for states to maximize habitat management and restoration for these vital animals."

"Pollinators are in great peril, with populations that have dropped precipitously in recent decades. Protecting pollinator habitat along roadways is one helpful step in combating this rapid decline of bees and butterflies," **said Jason Davidson, Food and Agriculture Campaigner at Friends of the Earth.**

*MPH Act* grants could be used for:

- The planting and seeding of native, locally-appropriate grasses, wildflowers, and milkweed;
- Mowing strategies that promote early successional vegetation and limit disturbance during periods of highest use by target pollinator species;
- Implementation of an integrated vegetation management approach to address weed and pest issues;
- Removing nonnative grasses from planting and seeding mixes except for use as nurse or cover crops; or
- Any other pollinator-friendly practices the Secretary of Transportation determines will be eligible.

The bill also requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to help states develop best practices around pollinator-friendly roads and highways. The bill would require DOT to develop and make available to state departments of transportation a prioritization ranking of pollinator-friendly practices on roadsides and highway rights-of-way, and to provide technical assistance to states that request it.

The *MPH Act* comes as the population of monarch butterflies, honeybees, and other pollinators face dangerous declines. Western U.S. monarch populations hit a record low in 2018, with one researcher describing the drop as "potentially catastrophic." The honeybee population has also seen dramatic declines in recent years, with a 40% year-over-year decline between 2018 and 2019, and one expert describing repeated year-over-year losses as "unsustainably high." The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that approximately 35% of the world's food crops depend on pollinators for survival.

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



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### 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	\$7.89	\$7.71	\$7.85	
<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	\$4.46	\$4.52	\$4.62	
<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>

### UPCOMING EVENTS

January 13, 2020 – MABA January 2020 Meeting – Speaker and subject TBD!

January 25, 2020 – **MABA 55th Annual Beekeeping Short Course** – We welcome everyone to attend the MABA 55th Annual Beekeeping Short Course! Prepare yourselves for a fun and fact-filled day to learn more about bees and beekeeping. See y'all there! More information 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 CHIPOTLE ROAST ACORN SQUASH: Makes 4 servings

<p><b>INGREDIENTS</b></p> <p>2 small - acorn squash 2 - chipotle peppers in adobo 2 T - honey 2 - limes, juiced 1 generous pinch - salt 2 T - olive oil 1/8 cup - loosely packed fresh cilantro, chopped</p>	<p>Heat your oven to 350°F.</p> <p>Cut the acorn squash in half, stem to root. Scoop out the seeds and pulp. Cut the squash into 1/2-inch slices and arrange it in a single layer on a baking sheet.</p> <p>Mince the chipotle pepper very finely and place it in a small bowl. Add the honey, lime juice, and salt; mix in the olive oil. Brush half of the honey-chipotle glaze onto the squash.</p> <p>Bake for 35-45 minutes, or until the squash is tender and the underside is golden brown. Drizzle the roast squash with the remaining glaze and sprinkle with cilantro.</p> <p><b>TIP</b></p> <p>Any extra chipotles in adobo can be frozen for use another time.</p>
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