



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

MABA

MEETING DATE & TIME: January 13, 2020 at 7 pm – Stuart Hooser will present “What ails your hive and what to do about it”! See y’all there!

We will also discuss the upcoming MABA 55th Annual Beekeeping Course, which will be January 25, 2020 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. This year may be different, with warmer than normal daytime temperatures.
- 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. Monitor their food stores closely with this warm weather.
- 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!



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- 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
- 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

12/23/2019 [National Honey Board Report:](#)

TENNESSEE: November was relatively warm and wet. There were a few wildflowers providing nectar and pollen. Several beekeepers have reported high early losses. However, when questioned about Varroa mite treatments, none of them treated in July as they were instructed. They all had very high Varroa mite numbers in the samples collected and had just put treatments on in October. Those beekeepers that treated in July as instructed have not been reporting any losses.

ARKANSAS: No report issued.

MISSISSIPPI: All the hives have been previously treated and the bees reported to be in good shape for winter. Supplemental feeding along with food left in the hives from the Fall flow is in place and beekeepers are ready and waiting for the New year to get here.



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BEEKEEPING READING LIST

[Filed 12/17/2019], a class action lawsuit claims honey from Strange Honey Farm LLC is not 100 percent raw honey from Tennessee, as the company states.

Plaintiffs Robert Greer and James Reimer, both of Tennessee, say they purchased honey from Strange Honey Farm, believing it to be 100 percent raw honey, as advertised.

Allegedly, they discovered after they made their purchase that the product did not live up to its advertisement.

The Strange Honey class action challenges every element of the Strange Honey Farm's advertising claims, arguing that "Strange Honey markets and sells its honey as being 100% raw honey from Tennessee. In fact, the honey that Strange Honey sells is not from Tennessee, is not raw, and is not 100% honey."

Launching into these allegations, the two customers argue that to make their products easier to package and bottle, Strange Honey heats or cooks the honey. This cooking reportedly destroys the enzymes for which raw honey is prized.

The customers then go on to say that the honey Strange Honey sells is not just from Tennessee, but is sourced from multiple other locations, as far from Tennessee as Vietnam.

Finally, the plaintiffs say that the product sold by Strange Honey is not even 100 percent honey at all. According to Greer and Reimer, Strange Honey or one of its suppliers adds syrup to the honey. Allegedly, syrup is much cheaper than honey, and this is an attempt to pass off an inexpensive product as a more expensive one.

The Strange Honey class action lawsuit asserts that Strange Honey is aware that customers seek out honey, especially raw honey, for the fact that it is a natural product and is seen as beneficial to health.

Allegedly, the company advertises its products as raw honey that is locally sourced to entice customers who value natural, locally sourced, healthful products.

However, this was reportedly done deceitfully, as the company knew or should have known it was providing customers with a product that was less valuable than the one advertised.



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The Strange Honey false advertising class action lawsuit aims to hold the company and owners Gary and Fonda Strange liable for misleading consumers and seeks an injunction preventing the company from misrepresenting its products in the future.

Greer and Reimer seek damages on behalf of themselves and all people who purchased Strange Honey products in Tennessee and were similarly misled.

Two other [honey producers](#) have recently faced [similar claims](#).

<https://topclassactions.com/lawsuit-settlements/consumer-products/food/strange-honey-isnt-raw-100-honey-class-action-says/>

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	\$7.86	\$7.66	\$7.66	\$7.72	\$7.68	\$7.62	\$7.89	\$7.71	\$7.85	\$8.08
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

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	\$4.33	\$4.41	\$4.41	\$3.55	\$4.51	\$4.42	\$4.46	\$4.52	\$4.62	\$4.64
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

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



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UPCOMING EVENTS

January 13, 2020 – MABA January 2020 Meeting – Stuart Hooser will present “What ails your hive and what to do about it”! See y’all there!

January 25, 2020 – [MABA 55th Annual Beekeeping Short Course](#) –

LEARN HOW TO RAISE HONEYBEES!

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!

Saturday, January 25, 2020

Agricenter International
7777 Walnut Grove Rd. Bldg. C, Amphitheater Room
Memphis, TN 38120

7:45 AM to 3:00 PM

Registration at 7:45 AM – 8:45 AM

The Cost of \$15.00 includes a BBQ Lunch and your First Year’s Membership

The public is invited to attend an educational seminar on beekeeping. Various aspects of beginning beekeeping will be studied including bee hive equipment, hive management, bee disease control, sources of nectar, pollen, and how to install package bees, and other beekeeping topics.

This course will be conducted by experienced Memphis area beekeepers who are members of the local and state beekeeping associations. These presenters, collectively, have many years of beekeeping experience, and will provide a first-class opportunity for you to get started in beekeeping.

Those attending the course will receive beekeeping catalogues, hands-on instruction, and a chance to win a beekeeper’s beginners kit, including a complete bee hive, bees, bee veil, smoker, bee gloves, etc. Four hive kits will be awarded: 2 to Tennessee Residents, and two hives will be awarded for Tri-State Area residents. A BBQ lunch and refreshments will be provided.

If you have further questions, you can contact Charles Force **(901) 831-1207**, or you can also download and fill out the [2020 Memphis Area Beekeepers Registration Form](#), ready for the Short Course.

Building “C” at the Agricenter is located on the South end of the complex, and is the middle building. When you enter the door, the meeting room is at the far end of the Building “C” concourse. We will have registration tables at the door to collect dues and applications.



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February 10, 2020 – [MABA February 2020 Meeting](#) – Howard Kerr, current President of the Tennessee Beekeepers Association, will present “Bee Anatomy”! You will not want to miss this informative meeting – see y’all there!

March 20-21, 2020 – The [2020 Honey Convention](#) will be at the Rothchild Catering & Conference Center in Knoxville, TN! Look forward to 20+ 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 6-8, 2020 – [Heartland Apicultural Society 2020](#) meeting will be in Evansville, Indiana! HAS 2020 will be hosted by the University of Southern Indiana. More details coming soon including registration, speakers, our queen rearing class, lodging, and much more. This meeting will have everything you need at any level of beekeeping. Evansville, Indiana is 285 miles, so only a 5 hour ride!



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HONEY-BASED RECIPES

NO BAKE CHOCOLATE PEANUT BUTTER ENERGY BITES:

Makes 15 servings, each serving is 2 bites.

INGREDIENTS	DIRECTIONS
<p>1/2 cup - peanuts, finely chopped 1 1/2 cup - old fashioned oats, divided 1/3 cup - flax seeds 1/2 cup - almond flour 3 T - unsweetened cocoa 2 T - peanut butter powder 2/3 cup - mini chocolate chips, divided 1/2 cup - peanut butter 1/3 cup + 1 T - honey 2 T - almond or soy milk</p>	<p>Line a sheet pan with parchment or wax paper. Place peanuts in a small bowl, set aside. In a food processor, combine 1 cup of the oats, flax seed, almond flour, cocoa, peanut butter powder and 1/3 cup of the chocolate chips. Pulse several times until it resembles coarse meal. Add the peanut butter, honey and almond milk to the oat mixture and process until the mixture comes together. Transfer the oat mixture to a large bowl and mix in the remaining oats and chocolate chips, your hands work best for this! Scoop out 1" clusters of the mixture and roll into a ball with your hands. Then dip the bites in the finely chopped peanuts. Place each ball on the sheet pan and chill in the refrigerator. When the bites are chilled and set, store in an airtight container for up to a week.</p>

<https://www.honey.com/recipe/no-bake-chocolate-peanut-butter-energy-bites>