



Catch The Buzz



Memphis Area Beekeepers Association www.memphisbeekeepers.com

P.O. Box 38028, Germantown, TN 38183

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

MEETING DATE & TIME: September 14, 2020 at 7 pm – MABA September 2020 Meeting – **CANCELLED** – Y'all, the Agricenter has cancelled this meeting due to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, AKA the COVID-19-causing coronavirus. We will be in contact with our current members in the days ahead. While we weather the days ahead, stay socially connected yet physically distanced, so that we can all come back together when the storm has passed.

September 15-16, 2020 – TN Apiary Inspector Course with Mike Studer, Tennessee State Apiarist. **This meeting is CANCELLED**

Need to borrow a MABA extractor to harvest your honey? If so, contact Eddie Nunn, email:
thenunfarm@gmail.com, phone: 901-412-8128

SEPTEMBER AND THE BEES: 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.
- **If you have not checked or treated for Varroa mites, now is the time to treat if needed** – Many will treat with Apivar or oxalic acid as soon as they have pulled their honey supers – only apply if you are done with your honey harvest and your mite counts indicate treatment is needed.



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8/24/2020 National Honey Board Report: [FVMHONEY.PDF](#)

TENNESSEE: No report issued.

ARKANSAS: During the month of July temperatures were mostly normal across most of the state. Precipitation during July was below normal across most of the state. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor website, Arkansas had mostly normal soil moisture for May. Commercial beekeepers are reporting that their bees are looking healthy. According to beekeepers, there have been only minimal colony losses this year. Varroa mites seem to be under control. Few prices exist to establish a current market price for wholesale white honey. Beekeepers are reporting prices from \$1.25-\$1.30 per pound.

MISSISSIPPI: Honey has been pulled and reported to be excellent quality, good color and taste with low moisture content. The bees are reported to be in good shape and heavy bodied before the Fall season comes in later. The Spring crop is considered short as compared to previous years. Beekeepers are busy treating the hives for mites and preparing the bees for the rest of the year.

BEEKEEPING READING LIST

LAWN,"AN ECOLOGIST HAS TO WONDER, WHY IS THIS EVEN HERE?"

By: Scott Hewitt – Columbian Arts & Features Reporter

People are few and far between on the Washington State University Vancouver campus these days, but a trio of graduate biology students intend to start filling the landscape with native wildflowers and the pollinators that love them. Their goal is to achieve the Bee Campus USA designation for WSUV's 351-acre spread from the Xerces Society, a Portland-based nonprofit organization that promotes pollinator health and certifies both college campuses and cities as officially bee-friendly.

And why not be friendly? Bees provide the free labor that generates about one-third of all the world's food crops, including many fruits, vegetables, nuts and even coffee. The global crop production generated by bees is valued at \$577 billion. Many animals other than humans depend on bee activity to produce the foods they need to survive.

If you've been paying any attention to ecology news in recent years, you know that pollution and habitat disappearance are killing bees off quickly, all over the world.

People are just waking up to that serious threat and to the importance of pollinators for our food system, Rebekah Gaxiola said.

"What the public figures out is usually 10 to 15 years behind what's really going on," said Gaxiola, whose doctoral research focuses on how nitrogen pollution affects pollinators in the Columbia River Gorge.



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The WSUV campus is pretty clean and careful when it comes to herbicide applications, Gaxiola said, but there's still one huge, underlying, green dilemma there: hundreds of acres of grass turf.

“An ecologist has to wonder, why is this even here?” Kelsey King said about WSUV’s vast stretches of lawn. A lawn is a profoundly artificial, unsustainably uniform type of landscape that’s not good for much beyond pretty pictures, said King, whose doctoral research focuses on the effects of climate change on endangered butterflies.

“Lawns are ecological deserts,” said doctoral candidate Samantha Bussan, who studies how butterflies are affected by cattle grazing. “They take so much work to maintain. They don’t let water penetrate. They’re really bad for the soil. They’re antithetical to seeing nature flourish.”

Lawns first became popular status symbols in the 1700s in England, as nobles and aristocrats enjoyed maintaining conspicuous expanses of natural green carpet. They were the only ones who could afford to keep private land uniform and unproductive, King said. Modern American lawns are made of those invasive European grasses, she added.

“The whole idea of a tame green lawn, it’s a very classist British idea,” she said. On the first week of classes, Gaxiola, Bussan and King strolled down a paved campus path and took in an overall view of the low-lying field of grass along Northeast Salmon Creek Avenue that they intend to transform into a rich wildflower habitat that’s perfect for pollinators.

Along the way they deployed insect nets and glass vials to trap, examine and release bees, wasps and butterflies, all the while trading tales of stings avoided and stings endured in the cause of science.

The real work on their Bee Campus project begins in spring 2021 with a detailed inventory of exactly what species of plants and pollinators are already in that meadow. The trio intends to enlist undergraduate students to help with that process and gain some real-world field experience. Local naturalist groups and interested community members can join in, too.

Then, in the heat of summer, the group will work with campus facilities and landscaping managers to till the soil and remove all the noxious weeds. That will take grunt work, careful use of pesticides, as well as “solarization,” which means spreading dark tarps on the ground to trap solar energy and “cook” weeds and seeds in the soil.

After that, the group will work to plant native, locally sourced seeds and grasses throughout the zone in question, which will be about half of that field along Northeast Salmon Creek Avenue. (The other half, closest to the road, will probably end up covered by a new building as the campus continues to grow, King said.) Oregon sunshine, yarrow, tufted hairgrass, slender cinquefoil and lupine are among the species the trio have in mind.

Meanwhile, the campus is already trying to encourage native white oak trees, which were common throughout this region before white settlers moved in, to drop seeds and spread across this zone too.



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It's an ambitious plan that may take years of careful management to thrive and start looking beautiful, King said. In the meantime, the view from the street may stay pretty raw for a while. The project has gotten buy-in from campus facilities director Phil Oaks, who has joined a new Bee Campus committee. He plans to tweak mowing schedules so they're optimal for the project — which means postponing, and being selective, about exactly when and where mowing happens.

“Mowing should be done once the plants you want to reproduce have finished flowering and seeding,” King wrote in an email. “Our plans are to continue annual mowing in the late summer or fall because this actually helps mimic some of the natural disturbance that grasslands thrive on.”

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
2020	\$8.03	\$7.88	\$7.95	\$7.90	\$8.09	N/A	\$7.93	\$7.83				
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
2020	\$4.89	\$5.12	\$4.91	\$5.01	\$5.05	N/A	\$5.03	\$4.96				
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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MABA

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 12, 2020 – MABA September 2020 Meeting. This meeting is **CANCELLED**, unless the August newsletter indicates we can meet at the Agricenter like normal. Bee well and bee safe!

The **[2020 Tennessee Beekeepers Association Fall Conference](#)** IS CANCELED:

While there is no real answer about the impact of Covid-19 on any given future date, to look forward only 10 weeks in the future while viewing present conditions, seems to bring a rather bleak picture and grim forebodings. Personally, I would rather keep my health, and the health of my friends and associates, as pristine as my efforts will allow.

Plans for the 2020 Fall TBA Conference are still solid, but I did not allow for a pandemic.

Face masks, social distancing, disinfectants, and personal hygiene are all good, sound, and effective practices to prevent contagions, but our plans do not allow the space, nor the facilities, to implement these applications. In light of this, the planned 2020 Fall TBA Conference, **has been canceled**.

Please take care of yourselves in this difficult time,

Carey Mitchell
TBA Executive Vice President

November 9, 2020 – MABA July 2020 Meeting – Speaker and subject TBD. See y'all there!

December 14, 2020 – MABA July 2020 Meeting – Speaker and subject TBD. See y'all there!

To learn more about beekeeping in Tennessee visit the **Tennessee Beekeepers Association** website at:
<http://www.tnbeekeepers.org/>

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:

GRILLED SHRIMP AVOCADO BOWL: Makes 2 serving

INGREDIENTS

For Pickled Radishes:

- 1 1/2 cup - white wine vinegar
- 1/4 cup - honey
- 1 1/2 T - sea salt
- 1 cup – radishes, trimmed and thinly sliced
- 1 - lemon, thinly sliced
- 2 sprigs - oregano

For Shrimp:

- 2 T - honey
- 2 T - olive oil
- 2 T - balsamic vinegar
- 2 T - lemon juice
- 1/4 cup - flat-leaf parsley, stems removed and chopped
- 1/2 lb. - shrimp, tail-on

For Honey Tahini Dressing:

- 1/3 cup - olive oil
- 1/3 cup - tahini, stirred smooth
- 1/3 cup - apple cider vinegar
- zest and juice of 1 lemon
- 3 T - honey
- 2 cloves - garlic, minced
- 1 tsp. - kosher or sea salt
- 1 tsp. - freshly ground pepper

For Bowls:

- 2 cups - kale, trimmed and blanched to just wilted (directions below)
- 3 cups - prepared quinoa
- 1 - avocado, peeled, pitted and sliced
- 1/4 cup - dry roasted almonds, chopped

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400°F.

In a small saucepan, bring the vinegar, honey and salt to a boil, remove from heat and drop in the radishes, lemon slices and oregano. Let the mixture cool for about 10 minutes and refrigerate in a covered jar.

Next combine the honey, olive oil, balsamic vinegar, lemon juice, flat-leaf parsley and shrimp in a small bowl and refrigerate.

In a glass jar, combine all of the Honey Tahini Dressing ingredients and shake vigorously until well combined, set aside.

In a 4 qt. saucepan bring water and 1 T salt to a boil and drop in the trimmed and chopped kale. Boil the kale for 2-3 minutes, drain the kale in a colander and set aside to cool.

Place the shrimp on an oiled sheet pan. Cook the shrimp 6-8 minutes until cooked through. Remove to a clean plate.

Divide the quinoa evenly between 2 bowls, add the kale, shrimp and avocado slices. Drizzle with the Honey Tahini dressing and sprinkle with the almonds. Serve with some of the pickled radishes and lemon slices.

TIP

You could use packaged kale chips or make your own instead of the wilted kale if you prefer.