

Catch The Buzz

Memphis Area Beekeepers Association

P.O. Box 38028, Germantown, TN 38183

www.memphisbeekeepers.com

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

Meeting Date & Time: June 13th - at 7pm

Bring your questions write your questions and put them in the box they will be answered.

We will meet in the Multi-Purpose Room near the entrance to Building C

Our Presenter this Month: Dr. Jeff Harris from Mississippi State University

Things to do in June: The Bees: Colonies that did not swarm will be filled with bees and the bees will be foraging for nectar and pollen as they fill HONEY SUPERS. Give the bees space by adding Honey Supers. The main honey flow should be happen this month. The queen's rate of egg laying may drop a bit this month.

The Beekeeper: Inspect the hive weekly to make certain the hive is healthy and the queen is present. Add honey supers as needed. Keep up swarm inspections. Attend bee club meetings and workshops.

Time Spent: Estimate 4-5 hours. **Equipment, bees will need honey supers, that is where they store the honey that the beekeeper can harvest when it is capped.**

-----For Sale: The last **NUCLEUS HIVES OF THE SEASON**—contact club members, Deena Hodge or Ron Clift, just ask if they have any of those **LAST OF THE SEASON NUCLEUS COLONIES** with prolific queens. Remember, Club Member Jerry Murphy would like to buy your USED CARDBOARD NUCLEUS BOXES. He will be at the meeting on Monday Night.-----

Busy as a Bee How true is the idiom - "busy as a bee"? We often compare busy people to the honeybees, *Apis mellifera*. Are bees really so busy? Take a peek into what these tiny creatures are doing every day. The worker bees, which are all females, are the hardest working. They are tasked with the foraging of nectar and pollen, spending most of daylight outside the hive. Entomologists have reported that these bees make more than 100 foraging trips in a day. When the sun goes down, they head back to the nest. In 2014, Researchers from the University of Illinois studied the foraging activities of honeybees by tagging 100 to 300 workers from five colonies with tiny micro-transponders and found out that some bees were much busier than the rest. According to the researchers, these "elite" foragers "began to make trips as soon as the colony became active each morning, and made regular, closely spaced trips throughout the day until the cessation of colony-wide flight activity in the evening." (Source: Animal Behaviour (2014) 41-48)

As bees do not have eyelids, they do not sleep the way we do; they simply stop moving and rest. During winter, when it gets too cold outside, the bees all clump together towards the middle of the hive, surrounding the queen, and keep themselves warm by vibrating their abdomens and vigorously buzzing their wings. This can heat their bodies up to about 110 degrees Fahrenheit (44° C), which is about 48 degrees Fahrenheit (9° C) warmer than their normal body temperature. (Data source: The Telegraph, Honey Bees Secret World of Heat Revealed.)

Other worker bees are kept busy around the clock with jobs within the hive including feeding the queen and larvae, building and repairing the hive, fanning her wings to keep the nest cool, and protecting the hive against enemies. The queen is also busy, laying more than 1,000 eggs each day. Drones, the male bees, have it the easiest. If fertilization is considered a kind of work, then that is the only work they do. They leave their hive for only two to three hours a day and rely on the worker bees for food.

The next time you purchase or open a jar of honey, remember the long, grueling days of the industrious honeybees and how much time and hard work has gone into making the golden liquid - In the average worker bee's brief lifetime of four to five weeks, she will make just one-twelfth of a teaspoon of honey. It takes about 60,000 bees, collectively traveling up to 55,000 miles and visiting more than 2 million flowers, to gather enough nectar to make just one pound of honey (Source: The National Honey Board). Thank you, honeybees!

<http://www.benefits-of-honey.com/busy-as-a-bee.html>

CATCH THE BUZZ – With busy bees in the lead, 'pollinator-friendly' approach vital for healthy agricultural ecosystems – UN As bellwethers for ecosystem health and biodiversity, bees play a crucial role in agriculture and ending hunger, and "pollinator-friendly" approaches are therefore highly encouraged, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

"A world without pollinators would be a world without food diversity – and in the long run, without food security," José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General, said late last week during a visit to Slovenia's national beekeepers' festival.

FAO, as well as some 53 countries, has supported Slovenia in the promotion of declaring May 20 as the World Bee Day at the last regional Conference of Europe.

The technical committees of FAO and the FAO Conference in 2017 would be one of the first concrete actions in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on climate change, according to Mr. Graziano da Silva.

Honey bees, he noted, are the world's most famous pollinators, a group of species whose members fly, hop and crawl over flowers to allow plants – including those that account for over a third of global food crop production – to reproduce. Their absence, however, would remove a host of nutritious foods from our diets, including squash, strawberries, carrots, apples, almonds, cherries, blueberries and cocoa.

Moreover, ecosystem health and biodiversity also depend on more than 20,000 species of wild bees which have links to specific flowering plants and are more vulnerable to climate change.

“Bees are a sign of well-functioning ecosystems,” said Mr. Graziano da Silva, adding that “to a great extent the decline of pollinators is also a sign of the disruptions that global changes are causing to ecosystems the world over.”

Land-use change, pesticide use, monoculture agriculture and climate change are some facts that have threatened bee populations.

Fostering robust pollinator communities ensures a diversity of environmental homes for them and supports traditional agricultural practices that benefit them, he noted.

“Pollination is one of the most visible ecosystem services that make food production even possible,” said the FAO Director-General.

Improving pollinator density and diversity have direct and positive impact on crop yields. In this regard, the FAO-backed International Pollinators Initiative – knowledge, guidelines and protocols – has been supporting countries in monitoring pollinators and better understand threats, information needs and data gaps since 2000. Welcoming Slovenia's leadership in apiculture, Mr. Graziano da Silva also urged all countries to take up “pollinator friendly” approaches towards farming and appreciate the important role of bees and other pollinators, and make their pollinator-friendly choices, he added.

“Without bees, it would be impossible to achieve FAO's main goal, a world without hunger,” he said.

http://www.beeeculture.com/catch-buzz-2-3/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=44f40729f7-Catch_The_Buzz_4_29_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-44f40729f7-256261941

Atlantic Hurricane Season Starts June 1: La Nina May Fuel Most Active Season in 3 Years

Courtesy of AccuWeather Global Weather Center – June 2, 2016 –

AccuWeather reports experts are calling for an above-normal hurricane season this year with 14 named storms forecast for the Atlantic basin.

Of those, eight are predicted to become hurricanes and four are predicted to become major hurricanes.

Due to a combination of factors, this season is expected to be more active than any season in the past three years. Experts warn that those living along the Atlantic coast should be on alert. "During the early part of the season, of course, we look off the Southeast coast of the United States, where we've already had one with Bonnie, but we also look in the Gulf of Mexico especially the northwestern portion of the Caribbean into the Gulf of Mexico," AccuWeather Atlantic Hurricane Expert Dan Kottlowski said.

"Those are two areas that we're watching very closely and those are the prime areas," Kottlowski said.

For months, meteorologists have been monitoring the possibility for the El Niño weather pattern to transition to a La Niña – a change that would have a significant impact on how active the season becomes. Earlier this spring, it was unclear whether or not this transition would occur, but experts say it's now looking more likely. La Niña is characterized by below-normal water temperatures in the Pacific Ocean near the equator. When this occurs, less wind shear is found in the developmental regions of the Atlantic, increasing the potential for a higher-than-normal amount of tropical systems.

"There's even more information now strongly suggesting that there's at least a 75 to 80 percent chance that we will go into a La Niña pattern," Kottlowski said. "Historically, some hurricane seasons that have followed a transition from El Niño to La Niña have been very active. It's possible we could flip from one extreme to the other, from below-normal seasons the past three years to an above-normal year in 2016," he said.

The 2015 Atlantic hurricane season yielded 11 named storms in total, of which four became hurricanes and two became major hurricanes. Historical data also indicates that seasons which are active during the months of May, June and July have a higher likelihood of becoming a normal or above-normal season.

Meteorologists are monitoring the northwestern Caribbean and eastern Gulf of Mexico for potential development next week. Should a storm develop, it will take the name Colin. Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30. *Source, www.americanbeejournal.com*

CATCH THE BUZZ – MISSISSIPPI GETS EPA APPROVAL TO USE UNAUTHORIZED PESTICIDE TO SAVE GRAIN SORGHUM CROP

Farmers in Mississippi will now have another tool to avoid economic losses by using a unauthorized pesticide to defend certain crops from bugs that destroy them. Experts disagree over the impact the pesticide poses to honey bees. As MPB's Mark Rigsby reports, the Environmental Protection Agency is taking public comment on a new plan to put the pesticide, Sulfoxaflor, back on the market.

On a warm spring day, in a rural part of Madison County, in central Mississippi, Greg Logan opens the top of one of his bee hives to check on how much honey his bees have made. "You can tell these frames are full of honey. You can see the wax cap, white in color," says Logan. Logan has been a beekeeper since he was a teenager. He's not worried about his bees coming into contact with pesticides when outside the hive. "Certainly, will come into contact with them. I'm not concerned pesticides are going to cause them significant problems. We hopefully have the E.P.A. watching out for us in that fashion. Responsible farmers doing what they should be doing, then they should be able to coexist without any problems," says Logan.

The Environmental Protection Agency is granting the state Department of Agriculture and Commerce a federal emergency exemption to use Sulfoxaflor on grain sorghum. Grain sorghum is mostly used as feed for livestock. The crop contributed \$39 million to Mississippi's agriculture economy last year. The pesticide is used to protect against the destructive sugarcane aphid.

"The sugarcane aphid is an extremely damaging insect," says Deputy Agriculture Commissioner John Campbell. He says the bug has become a big problem for farmers over the past few years. He says the aphid is able to develop a resistance to pesticides. He says research shows Sulfoxaflor to be very effective against the bug.

"We need two products, a minimum of two products to control it. As well as, this product allows for a shorter pre-harvest interval, that the other does not. Without this tool, we could see substantial yield loss and economic loss to our farmers in Mississippi," says Campbell.

Sulfoxaflor is produced by Dow Agrosiences. It goes by the brand name Transform. The label says it's highly toxic to bees, and there are instructions for farmers to minimize the risk. The pesticide was being used in the U.S. and other countries for a few years prior to a lawsuit brought by a group of bee keepers. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in California ruled the EPA improperly approved the pesticide. The EPA pulled it from the market. They're currently taking public comment on a new proposal intended to protect bees by limiting how it's used.

"We do not want to ban pesticides. We realize farmers need to protect their crops. Many beekeepers are farmers," says Michelle Colopy, program director for the Pollinators Stewardship Council. It's a watchdog group for the agriculture industry, with a focus on beekeeping. The group took administrative legal action against the EPA, asking for more research on the pesticide's long-term impact on bees.

"We do need to protect our bees, which are intergral to crop yield. To protect them so they can continue to pollinate a third of our food supply," says Colopy.

In a 2015 press release, Dow says Sulfoxaflor showed excellent performance and had "no noted adverse effects on pollinators." You would think the Mississippi Beekeepers Association would be against the use of Sulfoxaflor on crops, but they're not.

"If the farmers can't use chemicals, most of them are going to go out of business, and so there's going to be no crops to go to," says Johnny Thompson, vice president of the Mississippi Beekeepers Association.

The group sent a letter to the EPA asking to give farmers permission to use it.

“We have to assume some of that risk, and not say put it all on the farmers as their responsibility,” says Thompson. Beekeepers produced \$3.2 million worth of honey in Mississippi last year. Jeff Harris is the honeybee expert at Mississippi State University Extension Service.

“I think our beekeepers have decided the risk to their bees from this particular compound is relatively low, compared to what they’re already exposed to in their environments already. They’re actually in support of the farmers having the tools to protect their crops,” says Harris.

The state has another request to use Sulfoxaflor on cotton. It’s still under consideration. Justin Ferguson from Mississippi Farm Bureau believes if farmers aren’t permitted to use it, the economic consequences could be devastating.

“This product is vital to the use for protection from insects in grain sorghum and cotton for Mississippi farmers,” says Ferguson.

“If we didn’t have it what would happen?”

“It would be an economic disaster for those crops,” says Ferguson.

Ferguson says there’s been a lack of communication between farmers and beekeepers in the past. So the Mississippi Bee Stewardship Program was created to build strong relationships to maintain the economic prosperity of row crops, and the health of honey bees.

[http://www.beeculture.com/catch-buzz-mississippi-gets-epa-approval-use-unauthorized-pesticide-save-grain-sorghum-crop/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=bacda93e93-Catch The Buzz 4 29 2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-bacda93e93-256261941](http://www.beeculture.com/catch-buzz-mississippi-gets-epa-approval-use-unauthorized-pesticide-save-grain-sorghum-crop/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=bacda93e93-Catch+The+Buzz+4+29+2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-bacda93e93-256261941)

TENNESSEE: In the state of Tennessee, colonies built up rapidly during the month of April. Overall colonies across the state are doing very well. There are currently minimal pest or disease issues, with no treatments being needed at this time. Predominantly warmer and dryer than normal weather conditions provided a great nectar flow. Food sources in the month of April were predominately tulip poplar, black locust, blackberry, clover, willow, mint, dandelion, Fruit trees, wild cherry and many wildflowers.

Unit Honey Prices by Month -

Average Retail Price per Pound across all reporting regions - Data from Bee Culture magazine used by permission. Based upon average price across all reporting regions. Assumes various sizes sold at the same rate

Retail

2016	Jan.	Feb.	March	Apr.	May
	\$6.74	6.91	6.79	\$6.79	\$6.72

Average Wholesale Case Price Per Pound Across All Reporting Regions. Data from Bee Culture magazine used by permission. Based upon average price across all reporting regions. Assumes various sizes sold at the same rate.

Wholesale	Jan.	Feb.	March	Apr.	May
2016	\$5.04	\$5.15	\$5.04	\$5.20	\$4.97

How Doth the Little Busy Bee by Isaac Watts

How doth the little busy bee
 Improve each shining hour,
 And gather honey all the day
 From every opening flower!

How skillfully she builds her cell!
 How neat she spreads the wax!
 And labors hard to store it well
 With the sweet food she makes.

In works of labor or of skill,
 I would be busy too;
 For Satan finds some mischief still
 For idle hands to do.

In books, or work, or healthful play,
 Let my first years be passed,
 That I may give for every day
 Some good account at last.

Letters

Nancy, United States 21/04/2016 @18:51:44

I cut my finger almost to the bone and needed stitches. Instead I applied honey and took pics every day of the healing process. Amazing it healed quicker than normal, no stiches no scars and it helped cut the pain

Abushiri Mbwana, Tanzania 11/05/2016 @03:18:11

A day without a spoon of honey is like a day without sun shine. I start my day with a spoon of honey for a perfect body energy and I end my day at night wit a spoon of Honey to end sleeplessness. I use baobab and Honey for facial mask

<http://www.benefits-of-honey.com/the-benefits-of-honey.html>