



Catch The Buzz

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Memphis Area Beekeepers Association <http://memphisbeekeepers.com/>

P.O. Box 38028, Germantown, TN 38183

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

MEETING DATE & TIME: December 10, 2018 – **MABA Christmas Dinner and Harvest Celebration!**

A successful honey harvest deserves a celebration!

Please join us December 10th at 1900 in the regular meeting room at the Agricenter. Door prizes will be many potted poinsettias used for table decorations.

The meal is catered by the Smokey Mountain Catering Company. Enjoy smoked turkey, smoked ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn bread stuffing, sweet potato dressing, simmered green beans, cranberry sauce, and dinner rolls. And if that's not enough, desert will be peach cobbler. Coffee and tea will be available.

Rusty Eason will entertain us, you will not want to miss this! Rusty has served as a Music Minister in large Baptist Churches as a career, though on Monday the 10th he will play the trumpet, guitar and banjo – maybe all at the same time! Look forward to a great performance.

Tickets are \$12 each in advance and \$15 at the door. The deadline for the \$12 price is Dec. 5. Checks should be mailed to the club treasurer directly: 4852 Waycross Ave, Millington, TN 38053.

If that was not enough, the results and prize money for the 2018 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.



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- Ground maintenance – this is the time to weed and treat the area around your hive.

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

11/26/2018 National Honey Board Report: <https://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/ams/FVMHONEY.pdf>

TENNESSEE: No report issued.

ARKANSAS: No report issued.

MISSISSIPPI: All preparations for the cold winter months ahead are checked off and the hives and bees are ready. Treatments needed earlier have been done and the bees have plenty of feed in the hives from a good Goldenrod and Aster flow earlier in the late summer months. Beekeepers report that the bees are in pretty good shape for now. -- Wildflower- light amber \$2.10 per pound.



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BEEKEEPING READING LIST

Next Season In The Southeast, by David MacFawn, <https://www.beeculture.com/plan-ahead/>

Planning is critical for your operation's success and your colony growth plan is one of several important plans you will need, including your financial plan and the sales and marketing plan. It is better to put your thoughts on paper so you can develop and evolve your plan. At the minimum, the plan should be well thought out and continually developed as events change, resources are added or deleted and as the season progresses.

The colony growth plan starts with planning in the Autumn (October, November and December) with the beekeeper thinking about what should be implemented by February/March in the Southeast and a bit later in the north. The beekeeper needs to assess their operation as follows:

Colony Number: How many colonies do you currently have? How many colonies do you want to have? Are you going to use 10 frames or eight frames equipment?

1. Ten frame equipment helps minimize swarming by minimizing congestion
2. Eight frame equipment is easier to lift and handle. It also matches four to eight comb feral bee colony average. The bees swarm more but they seem to develop quicker than a 10 frame. Eight frame equipment is easier to handle for pollination.
3. Deep brood chambers and/or supers does minimize equipment but is heavy to lift. I typically use a deep brood chamber because it is quicker for me to find the queen and it is cheaper equipment wise.
4. Shallow or medium supers should be matched to your nectar flows and the amount of "honey" needed to over Winter.

Spare equipment:

- Do you have enough spare equipment to support your growth plan?
- In South Carolina, I use a deep brood chamber and medium supers. Medium supers match the 40-pound average nectar flow. In addition, we need about 45 to 50 pounds of honey to overwinter colonies. I also minimize different equipment sizes used in my operation.

Honey processing equipment:

- Have you anticipated how much and what type of honey extracting equipment will support your future colony numbers and its cost?



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- If you have fewer than 15 colonies, you may consider working with someone who has an approved honey processing facility instead of purchasing extracting equipment.

Extracting and workshop buildings:

- Is your extracting equipment and facility large enough to support your future plan?
- Do you have enough honey storage tanks, buckets and bottling tanks?
- Do you have a place to assemble and store equipment?

Vehicles for transportation:

- Are you going to use your current vehicle, or will you require additional trucks / trailers?
- Will you rent or purchase the trucks and trailers?

Colony losses:

- Will colony losses impact your honey yields?
- How are you going to address *Varroa* mites?
- Frames and foundation for the brood chamber, food chamber, and any extracting supers.
- Are you going to use wax coated plastic foundation in your supers in addition to your brood chamber?
- Are you going to use beeswax foundation in your brood chamber and wax coated plastic foundation in your supers?
- Wax moths are attracted to the dark comb/protein where brood and pollen has been stored. If you use beeswax coated plastic, will you let the wax moths clean up old comb/frames that have been culled from the colony then recoat the frames with beeswax?
- Will you use 10, nine, or eight frames in your brood chamber and/or supers? I use 10 frames in my brood chamber and nine frames in my supers. Nine frames in the supers result in the bees drawing the comb just past the top bar making it easier to get your uncapping knife under the cell caps. It is

debatable whether to use frame spacers in your equipment. Spacers ensure the frames are spaced properly but Small Hive Beetles (SHB) may be able to hide in the back of the spacer.



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Feeders and equipment, you will be using and to support the feeding:

- Boardman feeders that insert the colony entrance can be used for water. Feeding sugar syrup in boardman feeders may result in robbing,
- Frame or division board feeders inserted in place of a frame works well in the Summer, but the Autumn/Winter months the bee cluster may have difficulty accessing the syrup,
- Pail feeders inserted over the porter bee escape hole in the inner cover are ideal. Likewise, feeders (pail or glass/plastic jars) inserted in holes in a top cover also work well. No hive disturbance is necessary to check and replenish,
- Hive top super feeders work well in warm and cold weather, but may be considered expensive,
- In many parts of the Southeast, it does not get cold enough for long enough to freeze 1:1 sugar syrup. Hence, an extra brood chamber may not be needed around a plastic pail feeder. In addition, 1:1 sugar syrup may not freeze in glass one-gallon jars.

Colony number expansion and splits; how will you make up lost colonies and the resulting bee and frame expense?

- Split existing colonies? When will you split the colonies?
- Will you let the colony raise their own queen? Use mated queens? Use queen cells?
- Will you have drawn comb available to aid new colonies? Drawn comb gives the new colony an extra head start timewise.
- Purchase packages? Purchase NUCs (Nucleus Colonies)? Purchase existing colonies?
- No matter what your strategy, the queens/bees should be ordered in the November/December time frame.

Outyards necessary to support the number of your colonies.

- Location, Water sources
- Distance to the outyard from your home base of operation,
- Supporting vegetation and flora for honey production,



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- Easy access; can you drive up to the hives to minimize heavy lifting and carrying from the hive to the truck. If on a farm, will the hives be located such that you will be able to access the hives even after the farmer tills and plants.
- If pollinating, are the colonies located such that they provide optimal pollination?

Miscellaneous equipment needs like smokers, veils, hive tools, bee brushes, etc. are all part of the costs of doing business.

- What type of top covers are you going to use?
- In the Southeast we can use a “migratory” cover or a cover made out of 23/32” exterior plywood. Without an inner cover, the migratory cover may become propolized to the top super. However, a hive tool may be easily inserted between the “migratory” cover and top super to remove the cover. An inner cover is needed if a telescoping cover is used to be able to get the telescoping cover off.
- What type of bottom boards are you going to use? Solid or screened IPM bottom boards.
- Screened IPM bottom boards results in the bees building their nest further up the equipment stack.
- Screened IPM bottom boards do allow more ventilation through the colony. This is especially important when moving colonies in warm weather.
- The Bee Informed Partnership data shows no statistically significant colony mortality differences between solid and screened bottom boards. (support@beeinformed.org).

A spreadsheet can be used to develop the colony growth plan which can help determine what equipment is needed and the amount. It also helps in developing an order list while allowing easy editing of the information. This preplanning allows you to shop for the best price for the equipment quality you want.

After the colony growth plan is developed, you can develop the financial plan, and sales and marketing plan. If a small “backyard” operation, the beekeeper may be able to develop these plans in their head. However, once you get to the 50 or more-colony level, the plans should be further developed, with consideration for putting the plan on paper. A lot of thought is required in the Autumn and early Winter. The colony growth plan will help ensure your success next year.

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
2018	\$7.57	\$7.22	\$7.34	\$7.28	\$7.03	\$7.23	\$7.37	\$7.41	\$7.17	\$7.34	\$7.51	
2017	\$7.35	\$6.99	\$6.85	\$7.04	\$7.06	\$7.25	\$7.05	\$7.26	\$7.27	\$7.37	\$7.18	\$7.25
2016	\$6.74	\$6.91	\$6.79	\$6.79	\$6.72	\$7.12	\$7.01	\$6.88	\$6.88	\$7.12	\$7.04	\$7.39

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
2018	\$5.30	\$5.18	\$5.22	\$5.31	\$5.21	\$5.31	\$5.12	\$5.42	\$5.24	\$5.26	\$5.42	
2017	\$5.25	\$5.32	\$5.38	\$5.27	\$5.13	\$5.46	\$5.39	\$5.35	\$5.44	\$5.27	\$5.19	\$5.31
2016	\$5.04	\$5.15	\$5.04	\$5.20	\$4.97	\$5.19	\$5.09	\$5.01	\$5.10	\$5.31	\$5.27	\$5.39

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 14, 2019 – [MABA January 2019 Meeting](#) – Topic and speaker coming soon!

January 26, 2019 – [MABA 54th Annual Beekeeping Short Course](#) – Speakers and Subjects – Coming soon!

March 21-23, 2019 – The [2019 Honey Convention](#) returns, this time to Fountainhead College of Technology in Knoxville, TN! Look forward to 18 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 10-12, 2019 – [Heartland Apicultural Society 2019](#) meeting in Nashville, TN! HAS 2019 will be hosted by Belmont University. With 6 [keynote speakers](#) and 24 more great speakers this meeting will have everything you need at any level of beekeeping. Registration and more details 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 LECHES FRENCH TOAST: Makes 4 servings

INGREDIENTS

For Honey Leches Mixture:

2 T - blueberry honey

1/4 cup - evaporated milk

1/4 cup - lite Thai coconut milk

3 - large eggs

1 tsp. - pure vanilla extract

1/2 tsp. - ground cinnamon

For Berry Garnish:

1/2 cup - fresh raspberries

1/2 cup - fresh blueberries

1/2 cup - fresh strawberries, sliced

For Hot Honey:

1/2 cup - blueberry honey

1/2 tsp. - cayenne pepper

For Pound Cake:

8 - small slices of pre-made pound cake

vegetable spray

For Honey Leches Mixture: Place 2 T blueberry honey, evaporated milk, coconut milk, eggs, vanilla extract and cinnamon in a mixing bowl and whisk to evenly combine. Keep chilled.

For Berry Garnish: Place the raspberries, blueberries and strawberries in a mixing bowl and lightly toss to evenly combine. Keep chilled.

For Hot Honey: Place 1/2 cup blueberry honey in a small mixing bowl. Add cayenne and whisk to evenly combine. Keep warm, so the hot honey is very pourable.

Pre-heat an electric griddle to 375°F.

Prepare the pound cake. Arrange pound cake slices, side by side, flat, in a casserole dish or a pan with sides. Pour the honey leches mixture over and around the pound cake slices and soak for 1 minute.

Lightly coat the pre-heated electric griddle with vegetable spray. Remove pound cake slices from the honey leches mixture, allowing any liquid to drain off (discard any remaining liquid), then place each slice on the hot griddle.

Griddle the pound cake slices approximately 2 minutes on each side, to golden crispy and hot throughout.

To serve, place 2 griddled overlapping pound cake slices on a plate (4 plates total). Top each with approximately 1/4 cup of the mixed berries and then drizzle each with approximately 2 T of the warm hot honey.

Serve and enjoy!