



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

MA BA

MEETING DATE & TIME: February 10, 2020 at 7 pm – Howard Kerr, currently President of the Tennessee Beekeepers Association, will present “Bee Anatomy”! You will not want to miss this informative meeting – see y’all there!

We hope you learned a lot during the Short Course last Saturday the 25th, there is more to follow this spring, which is always the busiest time of year for the beekeeper!

If you need a mentor, please let us know! If you can and want to be a mentor please let us know, sharing is rewarding! **Sign up to be a mentor!**

FEBRUARY

- February brings increasingly warm weather and signals the end of the quiescent time in the bees’ yearly cycle.
- If you need new bees, NOW is the time to order. Locally grown NUCs are your best option.
- It is also time to make sure that your equipment is purchased or repaired and ready for spring.
- Colonies can starve in late winter and early spring just before flowers bloom. If the weather is above 55 degrees, you can open the hive quickly to move honey frames closer to the cluster. Bees can starve even if there is plenty of honey in the hive if the honey is too far away from the cluster.

FEBRUARY AND THE BEES

- Sunlight is becoming slightly longer and the longer, more warm days trigger the queen to start laying significantly more eggs. Their cluster has worked its way upward into the top brood chamber. On the colder days, they are behaving similarly as in January. We will likely have a few of those days this year.

FEBRUARY AND THE BEEKEEPER

- On a warm day, 50 degrees or more, you can open the top briefly and look in on the hive. Do not remove any frames, as this will chill the brood. Upon inspection you can assess if the colony still has enough stored honey for food. If not, you may want to consider emergency feeding options.
- Emergency feeding is just that...an emergency. Do whatever it takes to get some sugar in the hive. Dry sugar will work but only if the bees have warm enough days to fly out for water. There may not be many days warm enough in early February for dry sugar feedings or hard candy feedings. Sometimes sponges soaked in heavy sugar water and jammed between the frames near the cluster will suffice until the weather warms. Do anything you can think of...after all it is better than letting the hive starve to death.



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Of course, if you have frames of honey available, that's the best way to feed them, but most of us have sold all our honey by now.

- You might also consider placing a pollen patty on top of the upper hive body. This will really work well if the end of winter is extremely mild and there are many warm days. Pollen patties stimulate the laying of more eggs. However, if the weather turns cold again, then the bees may not be able to keep this early brood warm and fed. So it is a gamble this early.
- Finally, if you did not order your package bees in January, you must do it now (and hope you're not too late)! And if you did not order your new equipment, hurry! You want all of your hive equipment ready by mid-March
- Make sure you join and attend your local beekeeping club
- Register your hives in the state they are in: TN, AR, MS, MO, etc.

1/28/2020 [National Honey Board Report](#)

TENNESSEE: December in Tennessee was abnormally warm and wet. There were no major sources of nectar or pollen in December. Beekeepers are reporting losses due to starvation as a result of the abnormally warm weather with no sources of nectar or pollen available.

ARKANSAS: No report issued.

MISSISSIPPI: The cool December weather along with rain kept the bees pretty much in the hives for a good portion of the month while the rest had the bees out foraging and appearing to be in good shape, fed well and ready for the New Year to rebuild and make more hives for Spring. Sales are moderate to slow with prices steady.

Need BEES? Contact one of the sellers below, most of which are at this February meeting:

Dena Hodge 901-413-1460

Gus Mitchell 276-870-0618

Harry Fulton - Please contact Charles Force: 901-831-1207 or 662-429-7586

Coy Honey Farms - Please contact Charles Force: 901-831-1207 or 662-429-7586

Jerry Heintz 731-441-1911, located in Holladay, TN

Are you in Mississippi? MDAC has a list of certified nuc, package, and queen producers at <https://www.mdac.ms.gov/bureaus-departments/plant-industry/honeybee-program/>, look them up!



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BEEKEEPING READING LIST

HONEY IN WINTER: THE MAGIC INGREDIENT, Written By: Janvi Manchanda
<https://www.beeeculture.com/32924-2/>

Benefits of Honey in Winter: THIS is why honey is the magic ingredient we all need during winter season. Honey has numerous benefits that can help us keep our body and skin healthy during this harsh winter season. We all love winter for different reasons, be it the snow or the chilly weather or the warmth of cuddles or just the delicious food. But winters also mean a lot of health problems from the most basic throat infection and cough to joint pains, we simply must deal with these ailments due to the drop in the temperature and the chilly air. Now, this is one reason why a lot of people dislike this cuddle season with a chilly breeze. If you're one of those people who struggle with health issues due to this cold weather, you may want to take some extra care of your health.

Instead, of rushing to your doctor when you fall sick, you can turn to some home remedies to keep you healthy and prevent these health problems as much as possible. There's one such magic ingredient in your kitchen which can keep your health and your skin healthy during the winter season and this secret ingredient is honey. It's rich in antioxidants and vitamins and minerals and is known to have many health benefits. So, even if you dislike the sweetness that honey has to offer, you should definitely turn to it for your health.

Here are some benefits of using honey during winter:

1. A sore throat is one of the most common problems during the winter season. This mostly happens due to the drop in the temperature and can be the source of a lot of pain and it can also impact your voice. A sore throat can make talking very painful and other than this it can make you irritable and also lead to an infection and sometimes even fever. But you can prevent a sore throat by including some honey in your diet. Start adding honey to your herbal tea like ginger or lemon tea or add it to your black tea. If you don't like doing that, simply have a spoon or two of honey twice a day.
2. Honey can boost our immune system and make it stronger. The winter season can impact our health and cause numerous diseases and infections which can be easily prevented by using some honey. Health problems related to our respiratory systems are more common during this time because with breath in the chilly winter air which can easily make us sick. But having a spoonful of honey mixed with a glass of warm water and a few drops of lemon can keep these problems away.
3. If you ever get wounded or even burnt, you should turn to honey to reduce the pain and accelerate the healing process. Not many people know that honey is a natural wound sealant. It aids the body in healing the wound from inside by making it believe that the burnt area is covered with fresh skin. Honey also has antibiotic properties which makes it a great healing home remedy for minor wounds.



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4. We all know that honey also has beauty benefits. It's widely used in skincare and hair care home remedies due to this. Winter often tends to dry up our skin as well as our hair and scalp and honey is known to have moisturizing and hydrating properties. You can mix honey with coconut oil to condition and moisturize your hair and scalp and you can also use honey to prevent dry and chapped lips. Honey also makes for a great moisturizing ingredient in natural face masks as well as exfoliating scrubs.

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											
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											
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>

Plan now for National Honey Bee Day 2020, which is Saturday August 15, 2020



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UPCOMING EVENTS

February 29, 2020 – The Tennessee Beekeepers Association Board of Directors Meeting. The TBA board of directors will meet Saturday, February 29 at 1:00 pm (central). The meeting will be held in the Rutherford County Extension Service community room, part of Lane Agri-Park, 315 John Rice Boulevard, Murfreesboro, TN. All Tennessee beekeepers are welcome to attend – let's have a big presence for West TN!

February 29, 2020 – The [Savannah Area Beekeepers Association](#) will hold their yearly Short Course from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m at the Hardin County Middle School. The keynote speaker will be Clarence Collison, retired Mississippi State University Head of Entomology and Plant Pathology. Prepare for a great day of learning!

March 9, 2020 – MABA March 2020 Meeting – David Hale will present. Be prepared to learn, and then use that knowledge in your bee hives to keep your bees healthy. 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!!

April 9-11, 2020 – Kent Williams will host the [2020 Kent Williams Bee School](#) in Wingo, KY. Activities begin at 9 am each morning and end about 4 pm.

April 13, 2020 – MABA April 2020 Meeting – Speaker and subject TBD. See y'all 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!

To learn more about beekeeping in Tennessee visit the [Tennessee Beekeepers Association](#) website, and [JOIN the TBA!](#) We have TBA registration forms along with the MABA registration forms.



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HONEY-BASED RECIPES

1. HONEY LEMON GINGER - NATURAL COLD & FLU REMEDY *By Ciara Attwell*

A simple homemade cold and flu remedy of Honey Lemon & Ginger infused together in a jar.

Ingredients 1 cup honey, 2 lemons (sliced), 1 inch fresh ginger (sliced), in a 16 oz jar with lid

Instructions 1. Add the lemon, ginger and honey to the jar in layers. I placed 2-3 slices of lemon in the jar, added a couple of pieces of ginger and then a few spoonfuls of honey. Repeat until you have used all the produce and the jar is full.

2. Screw the lid on tightly and put in the fridge for at least 12 hours before using to allow all the ingredients to combine and the flavors to infuse. When ready, add one or two teaspoons to a mug of warm water and drink immediately.

3. It is normal for the lemon juice and the honey to separate in the jar. The honey will settle at the bottom and you will get a delicious lemon and ginger juice towards the top. Rather than continuously mixing them back together I simply take a spoon of the juice and a spoon of the honey from the jar each time I use it.

4. The mixture will keep in a sealed jar in the fridge for up to 2 months.

SEE YOU AT THE FEBRUARY MABA MEETING, VISIT WITH YOUR MENTOR. If you need a mentor, please let us know! If you can and want to be a mentor please let us know, sharing is rewarding! **Sign up to be a mentor!**

ALSO, HONEY FOR SALE! MABA has some 2019 honey still available, if you or your loved ones need a sweet refill during this cold and virus season. Please see us at the registration desk to buy your golden delight!