



Catch The Buzz

MABA

Memphis Area Beekeepers Association www.memphisbeekeepers.com

P.O. Box 38028, Germantown, TN 38138

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

MEETING DATE & TIME: March 9, 2020 – [MABA March 2020 Meeting](#) – David Hale will present “All Hail to the Queen! How to Successfully Rear Your Own Queens”. Be prepared to learn, and then use that knowledge in your bee hives to raise your own queens and keep your bees healthy. See y'all there!

For NEW beekeepers, please read the following as well, [New Beekeepers Class](#)! If you are new to beekeeping or need a refresher, MABA will offer a New Beekeepers Class in March, April, and May, and repeat thereafter, at 1800 (6PM) the same evening as the MABA monthly meeting held at 0700. The class will be held in the same room as the regular meeting (in March it will be in the Amphitheater). See y'all there!

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!**

Stay tuned for MABA field days, we will post these on this website, as well as on Facebook and Twitter!

MARCH AND THE BEES

- March, a warm month in the Shelby County Area, the lengthening days and new pollen and nectar sources stimulate brood rearing. As days lengthen and temps increase, the cluster expands and drones are produced. With an increase in brood rearing and increase in adult bees, **the nest area of the colony becomes crowded**. More bees are evident at the entrance of the nest. Give the queen room by removing some honey-bound frames or adding an extra box. The queen needs the space to build up for the nectar flow.
- The bees also gather water to regulate temperature and to liquefy thick or granulated honey in the preparation of brood food. Remember, **the colony expands rapidly in March**, with an increase in both young and field-worker bees. This is the critical time for starvation. The worker bees are beginning to forage and drones begin to appear. As the days grow longer, the Queen increases her rate of egg production and colonies wishing to swarm may start to raise swarm cells and colonies with failing queens may start supersedure cells. These will hatch in 16 days.
- Weather permitting, a few early swarms could occur in March. Manage for swarming by moving the box on top down to the bottom board if the bees are in two boxes or manipulate the frames by removing brood frames from the center and adding empty drawn comb or new wax foundation to the brood chamber. Food stores are being consumed at a rapid rate. Natural Pollen is coming in rapidly but cold, windy weather can affect nectar sources so a close watch on food stores is critical.
- Regardless of its condition, crowded or not the colony will try to expand by building new combs if food and room are available. These new combs are used for the storage of honey, whereas the older combs are used for pollen storage and brood rearing.



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MARCH AND THE BEEKEEPER

- Get your equipment ready.
- Inspect your hive(s)! when the temperature is 50 degrees or higher, look in the hive and pull out a few frames.
- Remove the entrance reducer and clean the bottom board as it may be filled with dead, winter bees.
- Assess how many of your colonies have died out over the winter.
- Clean out these boxes and freeze the comb if you can. This will prevent the spread of wax moths
- Feed your bees or they will starve until they can bring in enough nectar and pollen. Feed sugar syrup mixture, sugar or patties. Remove the patties by Mid-March to prevent infestations of hive beetles.
- Check honey stores prepare to Re-queen failing Queens, order queens, remove all medicines as specified on the labels.
- Manage for swarming
- Attend Bee Meetings

2/25/2020 National Honey Board Report: <https://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/ams/FVMHONEY.pdf>

TENNESSEE: January was unseasonably warm. Nectar and pollen sources in bloom are red maple, elm, Hazelnut, dandelion, Bradford pear, forsythia and some other spring wildflowers. The average price of retail honey is \$10.00 per pound as reported by beekeepers.

ARKANSAS: No report issued.

MISSISSIPPI: January was a month with a lot of rain. Over fourteen inches reported with the normal being around four inches of rain. There are plenty of blooms waiting for the bees to feed on but with the weather being so sporadic the bees have been in and out and not working as much as the beekeepers would like them to at this time. It has been too wet in and around the hives to work with them and check on the bees at this time.



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BEEKEEPING READING LIST

COMMERCIAL BEEKEEPING, ITS NOT ABOUT HONEY, Written By: Jerry Hayes
<https://www.beeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-commercial-beekeeping-its-not-about-honey/>

Commercial Beekeeping turns to Agriculture as Major Revenue Stream.

The beekeeping industry, which is integral to agriculture production, is undergoing some significant developments.

Bees of course help plants reproduce thanks to their help in the pollination process. And at this time of year, many commercial beekeepers are preparing to go to California soon to help pollinate the approximately one million acres of almonds, with each acre taking about two honeybee colonies. “There’s more travel now for commercial beekeepers because of the growth in production in agriculture for fruits, nuts and vegetables,” says Jerry Hayes of *Bee Culture: The Magazine of American Beekeeping*. “It used to be more regional production. But now there’s more concentration in different parts of the U.S. and Canada.”

This in turn means that there’s been a shift in focus on revenue streams for commercial beekeepers. “This has become more valuable now than honey production,” says Hayes. “This is the real money for beekeepers.”

Following the season

And so, beekeepers start in late winter following the development of agriculture moving north. “After California, some will go north into Oregon and Washington for apples, berries and cherries. Others will go east to Florida and follow the spring north where they wind up in Maine for cranberry pollination. This whole gypsy commercial beekeeping thing is what keeps food on our tables.”

To keep up with the demand to pollinate North American crops, beekeepers have developed a way to split colonies in half. “They’ve learned how to do that in order to continue to provide service to growers,” says Hayes. It’s also been done to help make up for bee losses thanks to the Varroa mites, a parasitic mite that has destroyed colonies of bees.

Along with increased travel and mite infestation, other changes in the beekeeping industry include extreme reactions to pesticides used in agriculture. “In Northern China, they have 10,000 hectares of pears and they’ve misused pesticides so much that managed beekeepers won’t go there anymore. And they’ve killed off most of the native bee pollination,” says Hayes. Instead, people are hired to climb up trees with goose feathers attached to a stick to hand pollinate each flower.

Back in North America, other challenges include developing a new generation of beekeepers. “Beekeeping is one of the last dirty jobs because of what it entails,” says Hayes, who notes that beekeeping operations are seeing increasing consolidation thanks to aging keepers whose businesses aren’t being taken over by their next generations. “It’s tough stuff and just like agriculture, it takes years to know how to do this and how to do it well.”

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 |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 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>



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UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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 – Louis Padgett will present “Queen grafting from 101 to 901”. Louis will present everything you need to produce and reproduce your own queens. See y'all there!

May 11, 2020 – MABA May 2020 Meeting – Speaker and subject TBD. See y'all there!

June 8, 2020 – MABA June 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!

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

August 10, 2020 – MABA August 2020 Meeting – Speaker and subject TBD. See y'all there!

September 14, 2020 – MABA September 2020 Meeting – Mike Studer, Tennessee State Apiarist, will present the state of beekeeping in TN and how to keep our bees healthy and thriving. You will want to attend this meeting!

September 15-16, 2020 – TN Apiary Inspector Course with Mike Studer, Tennessee State Apiarist. **Please let Charles know if you are interested in this class!**

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.

SEE YOU AT THE MARCH 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!**



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HONEY-BASED RECIPES

1. MEDITERRANEAN SALMON SHEET PAN DINNER: Makes 2 servings

INGREDIENTS

For Chimichurri:

- 1 bunch - flat leaf parsley, washed well
- 6 sprigs - oregano, leaves removed
- 1 T - fresh thyme leaves
- 1 clove - garlic
- 1/2 cup - olive oil
- 2 T - honey
- 1 T - red wine vinegar
- 1 T - fresh lemon juice
- 1/4 tsp. - red pepper flakes
- 1/2 tsp. each - kosher salt and fresh ground pepper

For Sheet Pan:

- 1 small - red onion,
peeled and cut into 1" wedges
- 1 1/2 cup - sweet peppers, left whole if small, larger ones cut in half
- 3 T - olive oil, divided
- 1 - zucchini, trimmed and cut into 1/2" slices
- 1 - yellow squash, trimmed and cut into 1/2" slices
- 1 tsp. each - kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
- 2 (4-6 oz.) - salmon filets
- lemon wedges for serving

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Coat a heavy sheet pan with non-stick cooking spray.

Pulse all the chimichurri ingredients in a food processor until well combined, it should still have some texture, don't process until completely smooth. Set aside.

In a medium bowl, toss the red onion and sweet peppers in 1 1/2 T olive oil and spread out on the sheet pan, bake for 8 minutes.

Toss the remaining vegetables and olive oil together, and add them to the sheet pan. Clear a space in the center of the pan for the salmon filets and spread 2 T of the chimichurri over each salmon filets. Sprinkle the salt and pepper over all the vegetables and salmon.

Return the salmon and vegetables to the oven for another 10-12 minutes, until the salmon is flaky and cooked through. Remove from the oven and serve with remaining chimichurri and lemon wedges.

TIP

The chimichurri makes about 1 1/2 cups and can be stored in the fridge for 2 weeks to dress up other meals such as baked chicken and vegetables or grilled fish.