



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: August 10, 2020 at 7 pm – MABA August 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.

Need to borrow a MABA extractor to harvest your honey? If so, contact Eddie Nunn, email:

thenunnfarm@gmail.com, phone: 901-412-8128

AUGUST - THE BEES AND THE BEEKEEPER

- August is harvesting time. Harvest your honey and carefully check your bees.
- Remember August is also a time to check for Varroa mite inspections.
- If doing splits August should be the last, early August and the split may build up before winter.
- Remember as Nectar flows run out there may be a need to feed the bees. Re-queening now is good if you can find mated queens.
- It is a time to make plans for feeding in the fall and find sources of feed in case the fall flow does not come in.
- Filter and bottle your honey in preparation for honey sales and shows.

7/24/2020 National Honey Board Report: <https://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/ams/FVMHONEY.pdf>

TENNESSEE: No report issued.

ARKANSAS: During the month of June temperatures were below normal across most of the state. Precipitation during June was above 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 generally healthy and have only minimal colony losses. Few prices exist to establish a current market price for wholesale white honey. Beekeepers are seeing a spike in prices caused by increased retail sales due to the Corona virus pandemic. Pricing for single load and immediate delivered honey has jumped to \$1.80-\$1.90 with a few loads at \$2.00 as packers try to meet the retail demand. No one knows how long this will last but at this point most beekeepers are happy to get it.

MISSISSIPPI: Rain has caused many to hold off on pulling honey and the bees are still making honey. Beekeepers are waiting for a good chance to check on the bees and start collecting honey soon. Prices are running \$1.90-2.10 a pound for a barrel.



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BEEKEEPING READING LIST

Can Worker Bees Infect the Queen with Viruses?

By: Carolyn Bernhardt

Worker honeybees feed, groom, and tend to the queen throughout her lifetime, which could theoretically provide an opportunity for pathogens to spread from the workers to the queen. As a result, scientists suspect that the queen may carry similar viruses to the ones carried by the worker bees in her colony. A team of researchers led by University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine Associate Professor Declan Schroeder, PhD, recently published a study exploring similarities between pathogens found in worker bees and queens and analyzing pathogen transmission from workers to queens. The researchers took queens from 42 colonies and relocated them into unrelated foster colonies. Worker samples were taken from the source colony on the day of queen exchange and the queens were collected 24 days after introduction. All samples were screened for six of the most impactful pathogens in beekeeping. The researchers found that honey bee pathogen presence and diversity in queens cannot be revealed from screening workers, nor were pathogens successfully transmitted to the queen. The results of this study reveal that the pathogen profile of a newly introduced queen does not reflect that of the resident workers. Future experiments should focus on how queens become infected with viral pathogens, since worker bees have been ruled out as a potential source of infection for queens. This is especially important because, according to the research team, queens are key vectors for vertical transmission within colonies. Read more in the June 16 paper published in MPDI (<https://doi.org/10.3390/insects11060382>).

<https://www.beeeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-can-worker-bees-infect-the-queen-with-viruses/>

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	\$7.88	\$7.95	\$7.90	\$8.09	N/A	\$7.93					
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					
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

September 14, 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!

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

October 12, 2020 – MABA July 2020 Meeting – Speaker and subject TBD. See y'all there!

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

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!



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HONEY-BASED RECIPES

1. PEACHES AND HONEY COCKTAIL (OR MOCKTAIL): Makes 1 serving

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 oz. - honey lime syrup (recipe below)
- 2-3 - fresh basil leaves
- 1-2 oz. - sparkling water
- 1 1/2 oz. – vodka (or non-alcoholic “spirit”)
- 1 - ripe peach, sliced

For Honey Lime Syrup:

- 1/3 cup - honey
- 1/2 cup - warm water
- 1/3 cup - fresh lime juice

DIRECTIONS

In a small saucepan combine honey, water and lime juice. Heat on low and mix together, being careful not to let the water boil. Remove from heat once combined.

Muddle basil in a tall glass or cocktail shaker add sparkling water, 1.5 ounces honey lime syrup, vodka (or non-alcoholic “spirit”), and a couple of peach slices. Pour over ice and garnish with additional lime and peach slices.

TIP

The honey lime syrup recipe yields about six 1 1/2 oz. of syrup, which can be stored and used for future beverages. Seal the leftover syrup into an airtight container and refrigerate for future use, to be used within one to two weeks.