



## Catch The Buzz

*Memphis Area Beekeepers Association* [www.memphisbeekeepers.com](http://www.memphisbeekeepers.com)

P.O. Box 38028, Germantown, TN 38138

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

# MABA

**MEETING DATE & TIME:** April 12, 2021 at 7 pm – **MABA April 2021 Meeting** – **Michael Studer**, the Tennessee State Apiarist, from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, will be presenting remotely through Google Meet. Mike will present the current state of beekeeping across the state of Tennessee. We will be meeting again through Google Meet. Please look for the invitation in your email (and possibly Junk mail boxes, it happens). See y'all there!

**Please check the Swarm List**, updated before sending this newsletter. Listed swarm list members must be current MABA members. **Only those highlighted are current members. Please renew your yearly membership by the May newsletter if you want to remain on the swarm list.**

**Stay tuned for MABA field days**, we will post these on the [MABA website](#), as well as on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

### APRIL AND THE BEEKEEPER

- The objective is for all colonies to be queen-right, healthy, and well-nourished so they can build up to maximum populations for the major nectar flow. This all needs to be done while keeping a fine balance between the growing population and the amount of space available so that the bees do not have the chance to think about swarming.
  - On a calm, warm day go through your hives and do a thorough inspection.
  - Remove mouse guards and replace poor quality frames or brood frames with new comb or foundation.
  - Move brood down (if you can), honey frames to the side, and empty comb over-head. Note: Both boxes will probably be filling up with brood by mid-April. In many cases, the queen may start heading down on her own to find more space to lay.
  - Clean up bottom boards.
- Is it time to make splits? Each split will require a new queen. Before your queen emerges, mature drones are needed. Drones are mature 8-10 days after they emerge and hang out on the edge of the brood nest. Queens prefer sunny, 75-degree days, with winds less than 10mph. Use the splits to replace winter losses or increase your hive numbers. If increasing your hive numbers, pick out your next location. Splits are a great way to create increase or replacement nucs. It also helps facilitate a robust honey crop and is a form of varroa control as it disrupts the brood.
- Consider adding disease free dead-out brood boxes to booming two-story hives in anticipation of making splits with them when your new queens arrive. It will relieve congestion and give these overly populous hives something to use and will make an excellent split later.
- If you already have queen cells, what kind are they: swarm, emergency, or supersedure? Note: This can also indicate the timing is right to start making queens. What will you do with the queen cells?
  - Move them to make nucs or splits.



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- Try to cut them all out and keep rechecking.
  - Make a nuc with the queen mother.
  - Let the bees be.
- 
- Place swarm traps around mid to late April.
  - If you want to give your hives a boost, feed with equal parts sugar and water.
  - DISCONTINUE simulative sugar feeding before supering.
  - The 'Rule of Thumb' for putting supers on hives is when the dandelions bloom.
  - Wax moth activity dramatically picks up when the temperature rises, keep an eye on your stored supers – especially ones that contained pollen or brood.
  - Leftover honey frames should be adding in to live colonies, or frozen before small hive beetle (SHB) moves in and ruins them.

Adapted from: <http://www.indianahoney.org/2016/03/Beekeeping-Tips-for-April.cfm>

3/30/2021 [National Honey Board Report](#):

**TENNESSEE:** Major nectar and pollen sources from February included Maple, Elm and Henbit. Colonies are filling frames with fresh nectar and pollen and building up rapidly. Beekeepers are still having issues selling their honey due to Covid-19 restrictions.

**ARKANSAS:** During the month of February temperatures were well below normal across most of the state. Winter storm Uri pushed through the state on its way to the gulf. Precipitation during February was normal slightly below normal across most of the state. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor website, Arkansas had normal to a few scattered areas of abnormally dry soil moisture conditions for February. Too few prices exist to establish a current market price for wholesale white honey.

**MISSISSIPPI:** The bees were almost in a prison like atmosphere with all the snow, ice and rain the last month. Beekeepers are working hard to check on the bees and getting things ready for Spring. Extra feeding to keep them in condition and get those that are thin to add weight. Everyone is busy trying to get splits ready for new Queens and filling orders for new purchases of hives.



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### **BEEKEEPING READING LIST**

**Secret Powerhouse Of Your Yard**, <https://www.beeeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-secret-powerhouse-of-your-yard/>

Home gardens are by far the biggest source of food for pollinating insects, including bees and wasps, in cities and towns, according to new research.

The study, led by the University of Bristol and published today in the *Journal of Ecology*, measured for the first time how much nectar is produced in urban areas and discovered residential gardens accounted for the vast majority – some 85 per cent on average.

Results showed three gardens generated daily on average around a teaspoon of Nature's ambrosia, the unique sugar-rich liquid found in flowers which pollinators drink for energy. While a teaspoon may not sound much to humans, it's the equivalent to more than a tonne to an adult human and enough to fuel thousands of flying bees. The more bees and fellow pollinators can fly, the greater diversity of flora and fauna will be maintained.

Ecologist Nicholas Tew, lead author of the study, said: "Although the quantity and diversity of nectar has been measured in the countryside, this wasn't the case in urban areas, so we decided to investigate.

"We expected private gardens in towns and cities to be a plentiful source of nectar, but didn't anticipate the scale of production would be to such an overwhelming extent. Our findings highlight the pivotal role they play in supporting pollinators and promoting biodiversity in urban areas across the country."

The research, carried out in partnership with the universities of Edinburgh and Reading and the Royal Horticultural Society, examined the nectar production in four major UK towns and cities: Bristol, Edinburgh, Leeds, and Reading. Nectar production was measured in nearly 200 species of plant by extracting nectar from more than 3,000 individual flowers. The extraction process involves using a fine glass tube. The sugar concentration of the nectar was quantified with a refractometer, a device which measures how much light refracts when passing through a solution.

"We found the nectar supply in urban landscapes is more diverse, in other words comes from more plant species, than in farmland and nature reserves, and this urban nectar supply is critically underpinned by private gardens," said Nicholas Tew, who is studying for a PhD in Ecology.

"Gardens are so important because they produce the most nectar per unit area of land and they cover the largest area of land in the cities we studied."

Nearly a third (29 per cent) of the land in urban areas comprised domestic gardens, which is six times the area of parks, and 40 times the area of allotments.

"The research illustrates the huge role gardeners play in pollinator conservation, as without gardens there would be far less food for pollinators, which include bees, wasps, butterflies, moths, flies, and beetles in towns and cities. It is vital that new housing developments include gardens and also important for gardeners to try to make sure their gardens are as good as possible for pollinators," Nicholas Tew explained.



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“Ways to do this include planting nectar-rich flowers, ensuring there is always something in flower from early spring to late autumn, mowing the lawn less often to let dandelions, clovers, daisies and other plant flowers flourish, avoiding spraying pesticides which can harm pollinators, and avoiding covering garden in paving, decking or artificial turf.”

Dr Stephanie Bird, an entomologist at the Royal Horticultural Society, which helped fund the research, said: “This research highlights the importance of gardens in supporting our pollinating insects and how gardeners can have a positive impact through their planting decisions. Gardens should not be seen in isolation – instead they are a network of resources offering valuable habitats and provisions when maintained with pollinators in mind.”

**Have time to read more? Read this:** [Pollinators Need Flowering Food](#)

**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
<b>2021</b>	\$8.40	\$8.18										
<b>2020</b>	\$8.03	\$7.88	\$7.95	\$7.90	\$8.09	N/A	\$7.93	\$7.83	\$7.95	\$7.61	\$7.76	\$8.22
<b>2019</b>	\$7.28	\$7.54	\$7.86	\$7.66	\$7.66	\$7.72	\$7.68	\$7.62	\$7.89	\$7.71	\$7.85	\$8.08

**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
<b>2021</b>	\$5.89	\$5.30										
<b>2020</b>	\$4.89	\$5.12	\$4.91	\$5.01	\$5.05	N/A	\$5.03	\$4.96	\$5.00	\$4.89	\$4.88	\$5.13
<b>2019</b>	\$4.16	\$4.32	\$4.33	\$4.41	\$4.41	\$3.55	\$4.51	\$4.42	\$4.46	\$4.52	\$4.62	\$4.64



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### UPCOMING EVENTS

**MABA MEETING DATE & TIME:** May 10, 2021 at 7 pm – **MABA May 2021 Meeting – Dr. Jeffrey Harris**, Mississippi State University Associate Extension/Research Professor, will be presenting remotely through Google Meet. Dr. Harris will present the current state of beekeeping in MS and his research efforts against Varroa destructor. We will be meeting again through Google Meet. Please look for the invitation in your email (and possibly Junk mail boxes, it happens). Be prepared for a practical, fact-filled presentation for beekeepers of all experience levels. You'll be sorry if you miss this meeting! See y'all there!

[UT Extension Master Beekeeper Program](#), coordinated by State Apiculturist Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda. **Due to the covid-19 pandemic, the Master Beekeeping Program in-person classes are currently on hold.** As much as we understand the need for education and support for beekeepers and want to provide classes, we need to ensure the health of us all, which helps ensure the health of our bees. Thank you for your patience and understanding. Save your Thursday evenings April 22-July 8 for beekeeping education! This 12-week series (must attend at least 10 sessions for certification) meets from 7:00-8:30pm EST and costs \$125 per participant. Do not be confused by the name – there are no prerequisites for this Basic Level class and you will learn skills to help you be a successful beekeeper! More information can be found on the course registration page.

**At Home Beekeeping Webinar** presented by <https://www.aces.edu/>

Stay home and learn about bees the last Tuesday of each month, from 1830 to 1930 CST.

**April 27:** Biology and management of swarming, with Mike Goblirsch (USDA)

**May 25:** Working with mosquito control to protect bees, with Kristen Healy (LSU)

**June 29:** Reading a honey bee frame, with Kate Ihle (USDA)

You can access the meetings at <https://auburn.zoom.us/j/904522838> or through <https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension/>

Watch the most recent March 2021 presentation, by Dr. Tsuruda at

<https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension/videos/258665875942272>

### NC State Beekeeping Webinars

The [NC State Apiculture Program](#) has many recorded beekeeping videos to suit any needs

To learn more about beekeeping in Tennessee visit the **Tennessee Beekeepers Association** website at: <http://www.tnbeekeepers.org/>



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# MA BA

**HONEY-BASED RECIPES** - <https://www.honey.com/signup>

### 1. GREEK HONEY LEMON CHICKEN KABABS: Makes 4-6 servings

#### INGREDIENTS

##### For Chicken:

1/2 cup - olive oil

1/4 cup - flat leaf parsley, stems removed and chopped

3 T - honey

2 - lemons, zested and juiced  
4 cloves - garlic, crushed and roughly chopped

2 T - Za'atar

1 1/2 lbs. - chicken tender or breasts, cut into 1" strips and skewered length-wise

##### For Honey Taziki:

1 cup - whole milk Greek yogurt

1 - English cucumber, seeds removed, finely grated, drained on paper towels, and squeezed dry

2 T - fresh dill, chopped, plus a few sprigs for garnish

1 T - honey

2 T - fresh lemon juice

2 cloves - garlic, minced

2 tsp. - kosher salt

##### For Serving:

2 tsp. - Za'atar

2 T - olive oil

1 - lemon, sliced

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Combine all ingredients except the chicken kababs in a shallow dish, add the chicken kababs and toss to coat. Let this marinate for at least 2 hours up to overnight.

Combine all the Honey Taziki ingredients in a small bowl, being sure the cucumbers are well-drained and squeezed dry with paper towels to remove extra moisture, cover and refrigerate.

Place the chicken kababs on a sheet pan and cook for 12-14 minutes, turning halfway through. When the chicken is cooked through, remove the kababs to a clean plate and cover.

Serve the kababs warm or room temperature. Drizzle the Honey Taziki with the olive oil and sprinkle with the Za'atar, serve with lemon slices and fresh pita.

#### TIP

Za'atar is a spice blend popular in Middle Eastern dishes and is available in international grocery stores as well as online. This spice combo is becoming more readily available even at regular grocery stores, but you can make your own with toasted sesame seeds, dried sumac, salt, basil, oregano and thyme.

Try it out and it will become a great new spice blend for all kinds of dishes!