



Catch The Buzz

**MA
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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: July 12, 2021 at 7 pm – MABA July 2021 Meeting – We are resuming in-person meetings at the Agricenter! Charles Force and Stuart Hooser will present “How To Conduct a Hive Inspection.” Do you ever open your hive and wonder “What is that?!” This will be a great discussion for beekeepers of all experience levels. See y’all there!

MABA had a successful Field Day June 26th. Thank you to all the new beekeepers that came out and the mentors that shared their experience that nice Saturday morning!

Need to borrow a MABA extractor to harvest your honey? If so, contact Eddie Nunn, email: thenunnfarm@gmail.com, phone: 901-412-8128

JULY AND THE BEES

- **Summer is here and The Bees are hot.**
- They are bringing in water and any pollen and nectar.
- They may hang out on the front of the hive as a way to cool themselves and the brood chamber.
- The HOT bees may be a bit more aggressive as the honey flow may be tapering off and the bees have less to do.
- Swarming is possible but they are searching for water. They bring it back and fan it over the hive, some bees will transfer it to other bees in the brood chamber.

JULY AND THE BEEKEEPER

- Check the hives, looking for evidence of a queen/eggs and larvae. Pay careful attention to weak hives to make sure strong hives are not robbing—taking the resources out of the weak hive. Again, watch for robbing.
- Try to determine if the honey flow slowed or not in your area and mark that date on a calendar for future references.
- Add honey supers, do not forget the queen excluder. A good rule is to add supers is when the bees cover 7 of 10 frames. As the supers fill up, add new supers.
- It is also a good time to harvest honey, once the honey is harvested put the supers back on the hive for the bees to refill or stand them on end and allow the bees to clean them out. If they are not to be used again until next season add para-dichlorobenzene—Moth Crystals and put a solid bottom and a solid top on them after treating them. (The Beekeeper may choose to put the super back on and allow the bees to fill it for the winter).
- Some beekeepers believe this is the time to re-queen.



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6/25/2021 [National Honey Board Report](#):

TENNESSEE: Most of the State's beekeepers are reporting higher than average honey production so far this year. Clover, black locust, tulip poplar and wildflowers were the main nectar and pollen sources for May. With the easing of the Covid-19 restrictions more people are coming out to the Farmer's Markets helping the beekeepers sell their honey.

ARKANSAS: During the month of May temperatures were below normal across most of the state. Precipitation during May was mostly normal to slightly below normal across most of the state. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor website, Arkansas had normal soil moisture conditions for May. Too few prices exist to establish a current market price for wholesale white honey.

MISSISSIPPI: Bees are feeding off of Chinese Tallow and Popcorn. Beekeepers are busy checking the bees to make sure treatments are working and feed is available. Current prices remain steady.

BEEKEEPING READING LIST

1) TO STING OR NOT TO STING, by Tracy Farone, from <https://www.beeeculture.com/to-sting-or-not-to-sting/>

When do bees sting and how do they organise their collective defence behaviour against predators? An interdisciplinary team of researchers from the Universities of Constance and Innsbruck has provided new insights into these questions. Their study, published in *BMC Biology*, combined behavioural experiments with an innovative theoretical modelling approach based on "Projective Simulation". It shows that individual bees decide whether to sting – or not – based on the presence and concentration of an alarm pheromone. The scientists suggest that each bee has a likelihood of stinging that is not constant, but shows at least two internal thresholds for the concentration of the pheromone: one to start stinging and one to stop stinging. The computational modelling also revealed how several environmental factors, such as the rate of predator attacks and predator diversity, likely drove the evolution of the honeybees' pheromone-based communication in their defensive behaviour.

High concentrations of alarm pheromone as a stop signal

When a honeybee colony is attacked by a predator or seriously disturbed by a human who – accidentally or intentionally – got too close to the hive, the bees of the colony launch a coordinated counterattack to defend the colony and to scare off the trespasser. An important stimulus for them to start chasing and stinging the intruder is the presence of an alarm pheromone, which the bees carry on their stinger. In the event of an attack, the pheromone is dispersed either actively – by guard bees – or automatically upon stinging – by recruited soldiers. Thus, it carries information not only about the presence of an attacker, but also about the extent of the colony's counterattack. "The more bees have stung the intruder, the more alarm pheromone has been released with each sting and the higher its local concentration," clarifies Dr Morgane Nouvian, a biologist from Konstanz and joint-lead author of the study together with Andrea López-Incera from Innsbruck.



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To understand how individual bees from the hive may use this information to make the ultimate decision to sting for the good of the colony and possibly die as a result, the scientists observed individual stinging responses of Western Honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) from three colonies. Using different concentrations of natural and synthetic alarm pheromones and a dummy predator, they revealed that the aggressiveness towards the dummy – measured as the stinging likelihood – initially increases with the concentration of the alarm pheromones until it reaches a peak. However, at high concentrations, the aggressiveness drops back to a low level.

This is the first time decreasing aggressiveness at high pheromone concentrations has been demonstrated under controlled experimental conditions. “One possible function of this ‘stopping’ effect of high concentrations of the alarm pheromone could be to avoid over-stinging and unnecessary sacrifice when attacking an already defeated intruder,” Nouvian suggests.

To read the complete article go to [To sting or not to sting? | EurekAlert! Science News](#)

Read or heard of good, science-based beekeeping articles? Please let us know, we will get them into the MABA newsletter. webmaster@memphisbeekeepers.com

UNIT HONEY PRICES BY MONTH – No update from the NHB since 2/2021. After contacting the NHB, they are unlikely to resume this report. Consequently, it will be removed from the newsletter next 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
2021	\$8.40	\$8.18										
2020	\$8.03	\$7.88	\$7.95	\$7.90	\$8.09	N/A	\$7.93	\$7.83	\$7.95	\$7.61	\$7.76	\$8.22
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

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
2021	\$5.89	\$5.30										
2020	\$4.89	\$5.12	\$4.91	\$5.01	\$5.05	N/A	\$5.03	\$4.96	\$5.00	\$4.89	\$4.88	\$5.13
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



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 9, 2021 – MABA August 2021 Meeting – Speaker and subject TBD.

2021 Germantown Festival

Think about Volunteering to teach and sell honey at the upcoming **Germantown Festival** is September 11-12, 2021. We'll need help unloading, selling, demonstrating, and teaching the public about beekeeping, we hope to see you there! **We will have a member volunteer sign up in a month or two.**

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

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

NC State Beekeeping Webinars

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

October 8-9, 2021 – [The Tennessee Beekeepers Association "Bee-ing Inspired" 2021 Annual Fall Conference](#) will be at MTSU this year! [Registration is open now!](#)

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



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HONEY-BASED RECIPES

1. WATERMELON CUCUMBER SALAD WITH HONEY LIME DRESSING - Makes 6 servings

INGREDIENTS	DIRECTIONS
<p>For Dressing:</p> <p>2 T - extra virgin olive oil 1 tsp - lime zest 2 T - honey 4 T - lime juice</p> <p>For Salad:</p> <p>4 cups - watermelon, cubed 1 - English cucumber, sliced and quartered 1/3 cup - fresh mint, thinly sliced 1/3 cup - feta, crumbled sea salt to taste (optional)</p>	<p>In a small bowl, whisk together olive oil, zest, honey and lime juice.</p> <p>Put the cubed watermelon, cucumber and fresh mint into a medium bowl and gently toss.</p> <p>Drizzle dressing over watermelon and then top with crumbled feta. Add sea salt to taste, if desired.</p>