



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

MABA

MEETING DATE & TIME: August 9, 2021 at 7 pm – MABA August 2021 Meeting at the Agricenter in the Banquet Room of Concourse C – Kristi Cook, current President of the Northeast Arkansas Beekeepers Association, will present “Natural Queen Rearing”. This will be a great discussion for beekeepers of all experience levels. Raising your own queens will always been an important skill to master. See y’all there!

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.

7/23/2021 [National Honey Board Report](#):

TENNESSEE: No report issued.

ARKANSAS: During the month of June temperatures were slightly above 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 normal soil moisture conditions for June. Too few prices exist to establish a current market price for wholesale white honey.

MISSISSIPPI: Reports that the Spring honey flow was pretty good and bees are foraging well after a wet month in June. Currently Red Vine, Sumac and White Dutch Clover along with some trees are available sources of food when the bees are out and about. No major losses reported over the Spring, just normal losses so far. Beekeepers are staying on top of treatments for the hives and the bees are in good shape for the summer months. Prices are steady and \$2.35 a pound out of the barrel is being quoted for sales.



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BEEKEEPING READING LIST

CELL PUNCH QUEEN REARING, by Roland Gerner, from <https://www.beeculture.com/cell-punch-queen-rearing/>

With this method, even beekeepers who have difficulties with grafting due to failing eyesight or other reasons can breed queens. It is based on the “Cell punch method” described by the late English beekeeper David Cushman.

Material

- one 2 ml disposable syringe per cell (a box of 100 costs less than five euros on the Internet. If you only need a few syringes, you can also get them at a pharmacy. Or ask your dentist or family doctor.)
- Express clamps 7-12 mm, for example from the hardware store
- a sponge cloth
- a sharp knife.

The steps of procedure

1. Pull out the plunger completely from the syringe and cut off the two ends of the syringe barrel with the knife.
2. Prepare your breeding frame by placing a crossbar in one frame and attaching the express clamps to it (see large picture above). If you want to cage the queen cells, you can drill a hole in a queen cell cup according to the outer diameter of the syringes and attach them to the syringe barrel with wax or superglue.
3. At the given time, remove a comb with open brood from the colony from which you wish to graft eggs and sweep off the bees. Then look for young larvae, which should be in the largest possible amount of royal jelly. Place the moistened sponge cloth on a flat surface and the comb on top of it. The area from which you want to punch out the cells should be above the sponge cloth. It prevents the wax from sticking to the table when punching out a cell. Pay attention to the wires so that you do not hit one.
4. Hold the syringe barrel so that the two rings visible inside are at the top and punch out the cells you have selected using circular movements. You must press until the cylinder hits the sponge cloth. Then pull the syringe cylinder out of the comb again, leaving the punched-out cell in the cylinder.
5. Then insert the syringe plunger on the side of the syringe where the punched-out piece of comb is located. Push the piece through the cylinder until the plunger is stopped by the lower ring in the syringe.
6. Make three vertical incisions in the walls of the cell with the knife, fold the cell walls down, and press them onto the outer surface of the syringe barrel.
7. Then insert the syringes with the cells into the clamps of the breeding frame. Afterwards put it either in an incubator or in a nursing colony. The acceptance rate by the bees is normally quite high.

Additional tips

Practice punching out first on old combs that you want to melt down anyway, or on drone combs. I recommend that you process all the cells you need up to step 4, then put the frame with the breeding material back in the colony and only then continue with steps 5 to 7. By the way, the holes created by the punching are rarely closed again by the bees.



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If you give a syringe with a nursed queen cell into a hopelessly queenless colony 36 hours after punching out the cell, you don't need to cage the cell and the queen will hatch in the colony. The syringe can be hung between two frames.

Summary

The method is much easier in practice than the description might suggest at first. Since I need only a few queens, it is ideal for me. In contrast to grafting, it can be done anywhere, even if the conditions are not optimal. Try it and you will see, it is really quite simple!

The advantages of the method

- The larvae remain in their natural cells.
- The queen does not have to be found in the colony.
- The cost of materials is very low.
- With a little practice, the cells are punched out very quickly, and the comb can be hung back in its colony after a short time.
- The syringes with the queen cells can be easily removed and placed between two frames.

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



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UPCOMING EVENTS

September 11-12, 2021 – **2021 Germantown Festival** – Think about Volunteering to teach and sell honey at the upcoming [Germantown Festival](#), 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.**

September 13, 2021 – MABA September 2021 Meeting – Speaker and subject TBD.

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!](#)

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

All are welcome!! Join us for this free event!!

- July 27: The honey bee digestive system, with Tom Webster (KSU)
- Aug. 31: Recognizing and mitigating queen events, with Jamie Ellis (UFL)
- Sept. 28: Varroa management, with Dan Aurell (AU)
- Oct. 26: Pollinating partnerships among bee species, with K. Delaplane (UGA)

Last Tuesday of
the month

6:30 – 7:30 pm
Central Time

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

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. CRUNCHY SUMMER AVOCADO DIP - Makes approx. 7 cups, depending on size of the avocados

INGREDIENTS

4 - firm but ripe avocados
6 - radishes, trimmed and diced
1 cup - cherry or grape tomatoes, cut into quarters
1/4 cup - cilantro leaves, roughly chopped
2 - cloves garlic, minced
Juice and zest of 1 orange

For Honey-Jalapeño Vinaigrette:

1 - jalapeño, stem and seeds removed, minced
1/3 cup - white balsamic vinegar
1/4 cup - good olive oil
2 T - honey
1/2 tsp. - kosher salt
1/2 tsp. - fresh ground pepper
1/2 tsp. - cumin
tortilla chips, for serving

DIRECTIONS

Halve and remove pits from the avocados. With the tip of the knife, dice the avocado by cutting the avocado into 5 slices in each direction taking care not to pierce the skin, scoop the avocado flesh into a medium bowl with a spoon. Repeat with each avocado half.

Add the diced radishes, grape tomatoes, cilantro, garlic, orange zest and juice. Gently fold together, taking care not to break up the avocado too much.

In a separate bowl, whisk all the Honey-Jalapeno Vinaigrette ingredients together and pour over the avocado mixture, gently toss to coat.

Serve immediately with fresh veggies and pita chips or tortilla chips.

TIP

Add chopped peel and eat shrimp to this salad for a light lunch with big flavor!