



Catch The Buzz

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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: October 11, 2021 at 7 pm – MABA October 2021 Meeting – Bob Whitworth will present “**Preparing Your Honey Show Competition Entries**”. Be ready to learn about the Honey Competition that we host every year in November, and what it takes to makes winning entries. We follow the [2019 MABA Honey Show Rules](#). Be prepared for a practical, fact-filled presentation for beekeepers of all experience levels. See y’all there!

Importantly, we will be voting on new proposed MABA bylaws which have been unanimously approved by the current MABA Board of Directors. The proposed MABA Bylaw amendments and a summary of significant amendments to the current 1993 MABA bylaws are attached in your Newsletter email.

Ideally we will also be voting in new members for the Board of Directors as well.

*****Important – we ARE meeting at the Agricenter this October 2021 meeting*****

We thank all the volunteers that participated in the 2021 Pink Palace Crafts Fair held September 24-26, 2021 held at Audubon Park. How successful was it? Well, we educated countless members of the public, AND we sold all our honey!

[The Tennessee Beekeepers Association "Bee-ing Inspired" 2021 Annual Fall Conference](#), scheduled **October 8-9, 2021** has been **CANCELED** and is rescheduled to March 4-5, 2022 as originally scheduled at MTSU. Registrants should have received this information, but if not, you can contact Eric.Watson.Legends@gmail.com for refunds.

Is it time to harvest your honey but other projects got in the way and need an extractor?
If so, contact Eddie Nunn, email: thenunfarm@gmail.com, phone: 901-412-8128



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OCTOBER AND THE BEEKEEPER

- Although the work load is lessening, the work you do this month is critical.
- Check that your hives have enough honey stores to survive the winter; you need 60-100lbs of honey for your colony to survive. Check your hive by carefully lifting from the bottom back of the landing board; if the hive feels heavy and you can barely move it, you should be fine. If the hive moves easily and feels light, start emergency feeding so that the bees can store the food for winter use.
- Remember that winter feed is different from spring feed in that it is a 2:1 ratio (sugar/water).
- Feed until the first hard frost when the bees form a cluster or until they stop taking the feed, whichever comes first
- Take steps to prevent mice from getting into your hives, mouse guards or entrance reducers should do the trick.
- Add a windbreak to protect your hives if they are located in an area where winter winds are prevalent.
- Ensure that the bees do have some ventilation at the top of the hive for the release of the moisture produced throughout the winter - if the moisture does not leave the hive, it will collect on the inside of the cover/inner cover where it will condense, chill and drip on the cluster causing sudden drops in temperature and will cause the bees to struggle.
- Another effect of poor ventilation is mildewing and molding on the frames which can sour the honey and give the bees nosema (dysentery) which can destroy a hive quickly.
- Again: Check the hive's honey stores, watch out for robbing. Configure the hive for winter, with attention to ventilation and moisture control. Install mouse guard at entrance of hive. Finish winter feeding. Attend bee club meetings.

OCTOBER AND THE BEES

- The bees are busy gathering the last bits of nectar and pollen they can find. There are a few late blooming flowers that provide both of these (asters, rabbit brush, etc.) to help the hive prepare for the coming winter.
- They are also busy gathering propolis to seal the hive against drafts which can harm the colony while in cluster formation, drafts/cracks allow cold air to blow into the hive and can chill and kill the outer cluster bees and reduce the overall population which keeps the queen and colony warm.
- The workers are now starting to kick out almost all of the drones to help reserve the honey stores for those bees that will actually help the colony survive. A few drones may be retained throughout the winter for reasons not completely understood so if you see them flying on warm days don't be concerned (unless you see lots of them, then you could have a drone laying queen or an egg laying worker).



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9/21/2021 National Honey Board Report: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/fvmhoney.pdf>

TENNESSEE: Tennessee has been having a good nectar flow through August from goldenrod and asters. Beekeepers have been reporting better than average honey harvests this year. It appears from the reports I have been getting from beekeepers that the general public is purchasing more honey this year than in past years. Beekeepers that have reported better than average honey production are reporting that they are selling out of honey earlier this year than in past years. Tennessee has not seen any high losses of colonies so far this year.

ARKANSAS: During the month of August temperatures were above normal across most of the state. Precipitation during August was below normal across most of the state. The precipitation was calculated before Hurricane Ida made its way across the Eastern edge of the state. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor website, Arkansas had normal soil moisture conditions for August. Too few prices exist to establish a current market price for wholesale white honey.

MISSISSIPPI: Beekeepers are treating the hives and checking the bees for condition and weight after normal losses reported earlier. Plenty of rain and wildflowers to go along with it with Goldenrod is coming in. The Fall honey flow appears to be in good shape so far depending upon weather during Hurricane season.

BEEKEEPING READING LIST

ADDING ECOLOGICAL VALUE TO YOUR LAWN <https://www.beeculture.com/adding-ecological-value-to-your-lawn/>

Insect diversity may be declining even more rapidly than in plants and vertebrates, particularly in areas where indigenous habitats are replaced by an anthropogenic one. The most common component of anthropogenic greenspace is the ornamental lawn. Intensively managed and offering limited habitat opportunities for both plants and insects, lawns are biodiversity poor and ecologically insensitive. An alternative lawn format that positively influences biodiversity and reduces management requirements would be a useful tool in eco-friendly urban greenspace management. In investigating the potential for a forb-only alternative to the grass lawn we sampled both trial grass free lawn formats and turf lawns to identify any influence that lawn composition and grass-free lawn specific mowing regimes might have on the abundance and diversity of insect families. In addition to the mowing regimes, both the composition and origin of lawn flora were found to significantly influence insect abundance and diversity and these factors rarely interacted. Native-only and mixed origin grass-free lawns hosted greater numbers of adult insects than found in turf and an equivalent diversity of insect families, however the mowing regime applied was distinct from traditional turf lawn management by being substantially less intensive and our results suggest that there is the potential for even greater abundance and diversity via the grass-free format that may offer additional resources to insectivorous garden species such as birds. When the composition of grass-free lawns included native forbs the diversity of insect families was found to be sufficiently different from turf lawns to form distinct assemblages and in so doing contribute to beta diversity within urban greenspace. In sum, grass-free lawns may be a useful and aesthetically appropriate tool for adding value to the generally biodiversity-poor urban landscape.



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Want to read the rest of the journal article? Here it is:

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/265472480> Adding ecological value to the urban lawnscape Insect abundance and diversity in grass-free lawns

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 – No update from the NHB since 2/2021.

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

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



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UPCOMING EVENTS

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

November 8, 2021 – MABA November 2021 Meeting – Speaker and subject TBD. See y'all there! Importantly, **the November MABA meeting is our yearly Honey Show and Competition!** Let's have everyone bring their best honey and hive products to be judged. That is how you win! Review the [MABA Honey Show rules](#), prepare your products, and enter them to win your entered class, or maybe even the Premier Exhibitor! Best of luck to everyone!

December 13, 2021 – MABA December 2021 Meeting - **Make plans for the 2021 MABA Christmas Dinner and Harvest Celebration**, which will be held during the December MABA meeting time. More details forthcoming!

If that was not enough, the results and prize money for the 2021 MABA Honey Show will be presented to the lucky winners during the December Harvest Celebration. See y'all there!

To learn more about beekeeping in Tennessee visit the **Tennessee Beekeepers Association** website at: <http://www.tnbeekeepers.org>. MABA needs a few more members to become TBA members to allow us to have 3 voting Directors at TBA Directors meetings. Please consider joining the TBA!

Enjoy the cool weather, now that fall has finally arrived (kinda)!



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HONEY-BASED RECIPES

1. Spaghetti Squash With Honey Roasted Peppers, Zucchini And Crispy Goat Cheese Medallions: Makes 4 servings

INGREDIENTS

1 - spaghetti squash, washed and cut in half around, NOT lengthwise
2 - red peppers, stem, seeds and core removed, cut into thin strips
2 small or 1 large - zucchini, ends removed and sliced into 1/4" thick rounds
1/4 cup - olive oil, divided
2 T - honey
1 tsp. - kosher salt
8 oz. - log of goat cheese
1/2 cup - Italian breadcrumbs
1/3 cup - grated parmesan
1/4 cup - fresh basil, chopped
2 - cloves garlic, minced
salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste

TIP

This recipe is great with whole wheat pasta instead of spaghetti squash.

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 375°F.

Add 1/2" water to a shallow pan and place the cut side of the squash down. Cover with aluminum foil and bake for 1 hour or until the squash is tender and the strands easily separate.

While the squash is cooking, unwrap the goat cheese and place in the freezer so that it can get firm for slicing, about 15 minutes. Toss the red peppers and zucchini with 3 T of the olive oil, honey and salt. Spread the vegetables on a sheet pan.

In a small bowl mix the bread crumbs with the remaining 1 T of olive oil. Remove the goat cheese from the freezer and cut into 12 slices, it may crumble a bit, just press it back together. Gently press each slice into the bread crumbs and place on a 2nd sheet pan lined with parchment paper.

When the squash is done, remove it from the oven and raise the oven temperature to 425*. Add the sheet pans of veggies to the oven and roast them for 5 minutes, now add the goat cheese and cook for another 5-7 minutes. Remove the goat cheese when they start to brown a bit and become crispy, take care that the cheese doesn't start to run!

When the veggies and goat cheese are almost done baking, take a fork and begin to remove the spaghetti strands from the squash into a large bowl. Remove the veggies and cheese medallions from the oven.

Add the veggies to the spaghetti squash along with the parmesan, basil and garlic, toss to combine.

Serve immediately with the crispy goat cheese medallions on top along with freshly ground pepper and salt to taste