



## *Catch The Buzz*

*Memphis Area Beekeepers Association* <http://memphisbeekeepers.com/>  
P.O. Box 38028, Germantown, TN 38183  
Meeting Location: 7777 Walnut Grove Rd # C, Memphis, TN 38120

MA  
BA

### *Letter from the Editor:*

Hello, fellow MABA members! Let me first start by saying how privileged I am to have the honor of carrying on Mr. Eric Caron's monthly newsletter as he ventures into new territory with MABA. I look forward to continuing Mr. Caron's mission to provide a valuable newsletter filled with helpful tips, links, and other info to help the beekeeper continue in the journey of caring for the honey bees.

With that said, I'd like to share a little bit about myself before jumping into what members can expect in future newsletter editions. My husband, Richard, and I are co-owners of Tender Hearts Honey Bees, located in Bono, Arkansas. I am the beekeeper and overall 'manager' of the farm, while Richard handles the finer details of figuring out how to move the bees, how to build what we need, and sadly for him, how to create the many many projects I find interesting in my constant pursuit of new knowledge in all things beekeeping related. Together, we provide nucs and queens for the surrounding area in Arkansas, Tennessee, and Missouri. When I'm not knee deep in the bees, I write articles on beekeeping and sustainable living for various publications such as Backyard Beekeeping, Countryside, Hobby Farms and more.

My hope is for this newsletter to gradually build on Mr. Caron's mission of sharing beekeeping knowledge *that is directly related to our region and its region-specific management practices* in a more fleshed out version suitable for beekeepers of all levels from the 'just interested' to newbie to budding sideline. One of the first additions to anticipate beginning with the January edition will be website links to scientifically accurate and as up to date as possible information for many of the tips given each month. Book reviews, video links, FAQs, and more are in the making as well, so stay tuned.

If you have a topic idea for the newsletter, feel free to email me at [MABAeditor@gmail.com](mailto:MABAeditor@gmail.com). While I can't use all ideas, ideas from MABA members are what will help build this newsletter into the best and most useful newsletter that it can be.

Here's to the future of MABA and our beloved honey bees!

*Kristi Cook*



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## December's Monthly Meeting

**Date:** December 13, 2021

**Location:** Agricenter Concourse C  
Banquet Room

*Covid Notice: We ask everyone to please bring your masks to the meeting as we did last month. Should you forget your mask or not have one, no worries! We will have plenty available at the door.*

### **Primary Topic: Building Your Best Apiary in 2022**

In lieu of our annual MABA Christmas Dinner and Harvest Celebration, we'll be mixing things up a bit with an open forum discussion on building an apiary. (It is our hope to continue our annual Christmas dinner and celebration during the 2022 holiday season.) Be sure to join us as we discuss and explore the various manners our local beeks select to establish each individual apiary—after all, variety is the spice of life and part of what makes beekeeping so appealing to so many different types of people.

**Additional Meeting Topics:** Nuc Sign-ups, 2021 Honey Show Results and Prize Money, Officer Voting

2022 Nuc Signups are Now Open. Our nuc producers and sellers will be making their signup/commitment lists available to MABA members during the meeting. Don't delay in placing nuc orders, as in previous years demand has always been greater than supply.

The 2021 MABA Honey Show results and prize money will be awarded to each of the lucky winners. While the show this year was smaller than in years' past, we have every expectation that the MABA honey show will make a great comeback in 2022! So, start planning for your next year's entries now.

## Upcoming Events

January 10, 2021 – MABA January 2021 Meeting – Speaker and subject TBD!

January 29, 2022 – MABA 57th Annual Beekeeping Short Course – We welcome everyone to attend the MABA 57th Annual Beekeeping Short Course! Prepare yourselves for a fun and fact-filled day to learn more about bees and beekeeping. See y'all there! More information forthcoming!



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### **December and The Bees**

- The bees are often in a tight cluster at night to stay warm – they will be flying as soon as it is 50.
- This is a great time to move your bees, especially during early mornings when it is freezing. Tape up the entrance and no bee can come out, not that they will at that Temp.
- Though we are in an area where bee colonies are seldom broodless, early cold temperatures may cause the queen to slow her laying. Take this opportunity to treat for varroa with whatever method you prefer – oxalic, formic, or the other commercially available products (Apiguard, Apistan, Apivar, Hopguard, or Mite Away). Just be certain to follow the recommended treatment schedule.
- Feed your bees if they are light – 2:1 syrup is best, and avoid 1:1 syrup. If colder, consider granulated sugar.
- Monitor your hives – just make sure they are heavy enough – 60# of honey is needed for the winter.
- Ground maintenance – this is the time to weed and treat the area around your hive.

### **December and The Beekeeper**

- Plan your apiary, and order your equipment. If you have it already, start assembling!
- Plan and conduct an inventory to make sure you have what you need for the Spring Season.
- Make sure you join and attend your local beekeeping club
- Register your hives with the state
- Read up on beekeeping
- Clean up your smoker and hive tool



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## Beekeeping Reading List

*Editor's Note: Reprint from MABA December 2019 Newsletter. Updated next month.*

### **POLLINATOR FRIENDLY PLANTINGS ALONG ROADS AND HIGHWAYS,**

<https://www.beeeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-pollinator-friendly-plantings-along-roads-and-highways/>

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Oregon's Senator Jeff Merkley joined Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Tom Carper (D-DE), and Mike Rounds (R-SD) today to introduce new, bipartisan legislation to help states create pollinator-friendly habitats along roads and highways. This legislation would help address the steep decline of pollinator populations, which poses a serious threat to American farmers and the American food supply.

Specifically, the *Monarch and Pollinator Highway (MPH) Act of 2019* would establish a federal grant program available to state departments of transportation and Indian tribes to carry out pollinator-friendly practices on roadsides and highway rights-of-way.

“As monarch and honeybee populations decline precipitously, we don't just risk losing these beautiful creatures—we also face an existential threat to American agriculture and our food supply,” **said Merkley**. “Every state already contains thousands of miles of green space around roads and highways. If we transformed just a fraction of this land back to natural pollinator habitat, we could make a real difference to pollinator populations. This is a bipartisan, common-sense idea that the Senate should adopt without delay.”

“Pollinators, especially bees, are vital to creating and maintaining the habitats and ecosystems that we rely on to produce our food. This bill will help states promote highway beautification and preservation of these pollinator habitats along roadways,” **Alexander said**. “The Tennessee Department of Transportation's Pollinator Habitat Program is one of the nation's best state efforts in building and maintaining pollinator habitats along all of its state-maintained roadways. If this legislation were to become law, the Tennessee Department of Transportation could apply for federal funding to continue expanding their Pollinator Habitat Program.”

“Monarch butterflies and other pollinators serve an indispensable role in our natural ecosystems, and their population decline poses a profound threat to both American food supply and to the economic success of farmers in Delaware and throughout the country,” **said Carper, top Democrat on the Environment and Public Works Committee**. “Through the use of competitive grants and assistance to communities, this bipartisan bill will take meaningful, innovative steps towards building up pollinator habitats along our nation's roads and highways – helping our natural environment and our nation's agricultural industry at the same time. I want to thank Senators Merkley, Alexander and Rounds for their leadership on this urgent issue.”



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“Bees play a vital role in making sure food gets on our table, acting as pollinators for approximately one-third of all agricultural products in the U.S. Our legislation seeks to use innovation and targeted conservation practices to protect and improve bees’ natural habitat so they can continue to provide this essential service and make certain future generations of crops and plants are produced,” **said Rounds.**

“With so much of our natural landscape lost the millions of acres of roadsides across the US have become increasingly important as pollinator habitat,” **said Scott Black, Executive Director of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.** “The Xerces Society is excited to support the *Monarch and Pollinator Highway (MPH) Act of 2019* which will provide much needed funding for states to maximize habitat management and restoration for these vital animals.”

“Pollinators are in great peril, with populations that have dropped precipitously in recent decades. Protecting pollinator habitat along roadways is one helpful step in combating this rapid decline of bees and butterflies,” **said Jason Davidson, Food and Agriculture Campaigner at Friends of the Earth.**

*MPH Act* grants could be used for:

- The planting and seeding of native, locally-appropriate grasses, wildflowers, and milkweed;
- Mowing strategies that promote early successional vegetation and limit disturbance during periods of highest use by target pollinator species;
- Implementation of an integrated vegetation management approach to address weed and pest issues;
- Removing nonnative grasses from planting and seeding mixes except for use as nurse or cover crops; or
- Any other pollinator-friendly practices the Secretary of Transportation determines will be eligible.

The bill also requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to help states develop best practices around pollinator-friendly roads and highways. The bill would require DOT to develop and make available to state departments of transportation a prioritization ranking of pollinator-friendly practices on roadsides and highway rights-of-way, and to provide technical assistance to states that request it.

The *MPH Act* comes as the population of monarch butterflies, honeybees, and other pollinators face dangerous declines. Western U.S. monarch populations hit a record low in 2018, with one researcher describing the drop as “potentially catastrophic.” The honeybee population has also seen dramatic declines in recent years, with a 40% year-over-year decline between 2018 and 2019, and one expert describing repeated year-over-year losses as “unsustainably high.” The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that approximately 35% of the world’s food crops depend on pollinators for survival.



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## National Honey Board Report, Beekeeper Reports, and Unit Prices

*Coming Back Soon!!!!*

### Honey Based Recipes

*HONEY CHIPOTLE ROAST ACORN SQUASH: Makes 4 servings*

#### INGREDIENTS

2 small - acorn squash  
2 - chipotle peppers in adobo  
2 T - honey  
2 - limes, juiced  
1 generous pinch - salt  
2 T - olive oil  
1/8 cup - loosely packed fresh cilantro, chopped

Heat your oven to 350°F.

Cut the acorn squash in half, stem to root. Scoop out the seeds and pulp. Cut the squash into 1/2-inch slices and arrange it in a single layer on a baking sheet.

Mince the chipotle pepper very finely and place it in a small bowl. Add the honey, lime juice, and salt; mix in the olive oil. Brush half of the honey-chipotle glaze onto the squash.

Bake for 35-45 minutes, or until the squash is tender and the underside is golden brown. Drizzle the roast squash with the remaining glaze and sprinkle with cilantro.

#### TIP

Any extra chipotles in adobo can be frozen for use another time.