



## 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

### January's Monthly Meeting

**Note: January's monthly meeting will be virtual. Please do not come to the Agricenter. See details below.**

*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.*

January 10, 2022      **Nucs: Why Did Mine Not Make It?**  
Speaker:      Louis Padgett  
Time:      7:00-9:00 pm  
Location:      Office, Google Meet. <https://meet.google.com/nfv-yfun-umj>

Additional info:      Be sure to order your nucs ASAP as many providers sell out weeks before Spring gets here. For a full description of each provider, scroll to the end of the newsletter. For a concise list of providers, [click here](#).

### Upcoming Events

January 15, 2022      **TBA-Western Regional Meeting**  
Time:      10 am-Noon  
Location:      UT Extension Office  
                 309 North Parkway  
                 Jackson, TN 38305  
Info:      If a TBA member did not receive the 12/15/21 letter from Pres. Hale regarding the upcoming TBA meeting, please contact Mr. Furniss Harkness, VP, Western Region TBA @ 901-340-5259 or via email at [furnissh@aol.com](mailto:furnissh@aol.com).

January 29, 2022      **MABA 57th Annual Beekeeping Short Course**  
Time:      7:30 am-3:00 pm  
Location:      Agricenter, Auditorium, Concourse C  
Info:      Are you ready for the 2022 beekeeping season and honey harvest?  
                 Are you new to bees? We are here to help!  
For more info:

<https://memphisbeekeepers.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Short-Course-Advertisement-January-29-2022-v2-4.pdf>



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### Upcoming Events cont'd

February 14, 2022

#### **MABA Monthly Meeting**

Topic: *Coming out of winter: How to prepare for spring buildup*

Speaker: Kent Williams

March 15-16, 2022

#### **Tennessee State Inspectors Certification Course**

Time: 6:00-10:00 pm

Location: Agricenter, Concourse C

Info: State Apiarist Mike Studer will conduct the class. Seating is limited to 15-20 *experienced* beekeepers only due to the difficulty of the examination at the end of the course. Participants should click this link to review [Beekeeping in Tennessee](#), especially the disease and pest portion prior to class.

Contact: Stuart Hooser at (901) 485-6152 or [stuart.hooser@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.hooser@gmail.com)

April 28-20, 2022

#### **Kent Williams Beekeeping School**

Time: 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Location: 580 State Route 386 North  
Wingo, KY 42088

Info: Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS) Certified Master Beekeeper Kent Williams and members of Lake Barkley Beekeepers Association (LBBA) will present classes each day on basic hive inspections, equipment, splits, advanced queen rearing, and more.

Contact: Chuck Collins at (270) 519-4772 or check out LBBA FB page



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

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/fvmhoney.pdf>

ARKANSAS: During the month of November temperatures were below normal across most of the state. Precipitation was well below normal for most of the state. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor website, Arkansas had normal soil moisture across the Northern part of the state and moderate drought conditions across the southern part of the state for November. Too few prices exist to establish a current market price for wholesale white honey.

MISSISSIPPI: All the hives have been previously treated and the bees reported to be in good shape for winter. Supplemental feeding along with food left in the hives from the Fall flow is in place and beekeepers are ready and waiting for the New year to get here.



The club bees were fed in December. Several members attended to help with these duties. Your help was much appreciated by everyone.



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## **National Honey Board Report, Beekeeper Reports, and Unit Prices Cont'd**

TENNESSEE: Dr. Mike Studer, State Apiarist, Tennessee Department of Agriculture reports that in Tennessee, “The only sources of nectar and pollen in November were small wildflowers. Retail honey prices from beekeepers are moving above \$10.00 per pound, many saying they are having to raise prices to \$12.00 per pound due to the rise in costs associated with producing the honey. There have been reports from beekeepers of absconding colonies in the last month.”

## **News from the Club Apiary**

### **JANUARY AND THE BEES**

- The bees are in a tight cluster staying warm and consuming very little food early in the month. This year may differ, with warmer than normal daytime temperatures.
- On days when the wind is calm and the temperature rises near 50 degrees, you'll probably see a few bees flying out taking a cleansing flight. Since bees do not go to the bathroom inside their hive, they fly out on warm days and this is called a cleansing flight.
- Winter bees live a little longer than summer bees, but remember, bees live short lives. Many of your bees will die during the winter, just from old age. When bees die during the winter, they fall to the bottom of the hive. In the summer, dead bees are immediately carried outside the hive by their sisters. But, in the winter, when the hive is clustered, the dead bees accumulate on the bottom board. On warm days, other bees might drag out their dead sisters. If snow covers the ground, you will notice more dead bees around your hives. This is normal. Don't panic! It is a sign of a strong hive when they drag out dead bees. But, if you don't see anything, don't panic either. It just means they will probably do this later on.



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### **JANUARY AND THE BEEKEEPER**

- Monitor your hives. Monitor their food stores closely with this warm weather.
- Get your equipment ready
- Plan and conduct an inventory to make sure you have what you need for the Spring Season.
- **URGENT!! ORDER YOUR BEES AND EQUIPMENT IN JANUARY** - Many bee suppliers will completely sell out of package bees by the end of January. Call and place your bee order as soon as you can during the first week of January. Those who will be ordering your bees from package producers, the package producers will typically be prepared to take your orders for package bees and nucs beginning late fall and may be completely booked by the end of January. Call early!
- 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
- This is the time for constructing, painting, and repairing equipment
- Most of the new catalogs from the beekeeping supply companies will be available in January
- Your goal should be to have the bees and the equipment ready for making honey by mid-April. Old, dark comb should be removed from frames in storage. Do not install the foundation yet — that should be done just before the frames go into the hives
- **READ, STUDY, LEARN ALL YOU CAN ABOUT BEES AND BEEKEEPING**



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## **Beekeeping Reading List**

### **Hive Population Wake Up Call**

**By: Rusty Burlew**

For the full article complete with photos [CLICK HERE](#)

Overwintered colonies that starve usually do so in early spring, just before the first nectar flows. In the northern climates, colonies may starve as late as April, even though everything appears green and lush.

Part of the reason is that many pollen plants bloom before nectar plants. Here in the Pacific Northwest, red alders flower early and sprinkle butter-hued drifts of pollen on car windshields and picnic tables. But pollen isn't nectar and it doesn't provide the sugar fix the honey bees need. Nectar-producing flowers may not appear for several weeks after those first dustings of pollen.

Then too, some of the earliest nectar supplies may be unavailable to honey bees due to inclement weather. To use another local example, big-leaf maples provide buckets of early nectar (and to-die-for honey) but in most years it is lost to spring rains that keep the honey bees inside. They can only look out their windows and sigh.

#### **Consumption goes up while supplies go down**

Aside from the weather, the annual life cycle of a honey bee colony puts it at risk of spring starvation. In the northern hemisphere, most colonies have plenty of food from the end of summer through December. During that period, the colony continues to shrink, brood rearing slows or stops altogether, and without brood, the colony keeps the nest cooler, at around 68°F (20°C). All of these factors reduce the daily food requirement.

But in the weeks following the winter solstice, the colony slowly reverses itself. Brood rearing begins again, and with brood rearing comes the need to keep the nest warmer, at around 93°F (34°C), give or take. On warmish days, the bees may venture out for cleansing flights, and flying bees use more fuel than clustering bees. On really warm days, they may actually attempt foraging, an activity that expends even more fuel.

Slowly at first, the hive population increases. Within weeks, the population gains momentum, and before you know it, there are many more mouths to feed. The food supply gets used up faster and faster as the supply gets lower and lower. It is easy to breathe a sigh of relief on that first April morning when you see your bees flowing out of the hive and playing in the sunshine. But depending on your local area, some of those colonies may not live to see May Day.



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This year I took the unusual step of providing candy boards to all my colonies. Normally, I only supply them to colonies that lack sufficient honey stores. But after our unusually long, dry summer and parched autumn, I decided it was safer to feed everyone. With the candy boards in place, I relaxed. Bad move.

### **The population problem**

It turns out that last Monday was a wake-up call for me. The weather was a balmy 55°F (13°C) with no rain, so I inspected every hive. What I found floored me.

My colonies are out of control. If I didn't know it was January, I would have guessed it was May. My doubles have bees covering all twenty frames. My triples have bees covering 25 frames. Bees oozed from every seam, even along the sides. A few of the candy boards have golf ball-sized lumps of sugar remaining.

At first blush, you may think this is a good thing, but my immediate thought was, "How the heck can I keep these bees alive till spring?" In truth, I don't know if I can. We still have two or maybe three months to get through and I've got about three times more bees than I had in October. Although I've seen this happen in the past, it was always an isolated hive or two, never an entire apiary.

### **Bad weather or bad management?**

My first thought was to blame the weather. Okay, the weather is weird. Early in the winter we had a cold-snap that lasted about two weeks, but since then it has been warm—lots of days in the forties and even the fifties. The warm days could easily cause an early population increase.

On the other hand, I put pollen supplement in the candy boards. Normally, if I use pollen supplement at all, I don't offer it until after the solstice. But this year, due to a poor foraging season, I put the boards on a month early. That may have been my big mistake: too much pollen too soon. I had buried the pollen patty inside the sugar, thinking that they wouldn't get to it right away, but they excavated passages to it immediately.

### **Considering the alternatives**

So now what? When I knock on the individual boxes, some sound dense, as though they may still contain honey. Since it's warm, I can go in and rearrange the remaining honey frames, making sure they are above or immediately beside the cluster—except they aren't in clusters, they are teeming mobs. Or I can go buy a pickup load of sugar, something that doesn't appeal to me in the least. I'm still undecided.

I have to say, tiny clusters in winter worry me, but this worries me even more. I wonder where to go from here.



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## **Honey Based Recipes**

### **Honey Leches French Toast**

**Courtesy of: National Honey Board**

**YIELD:** Makes 4 servings

#### INGREDIENTS

For Honey Leches Mixture:

2 T - blueberry honey

1/4 cup - evaporated milk

1/4 cup - lite Thai coconut milk

3 - large eggs

1 tsp. - pure vanilla extract

1/2 tsp. - ground cinnamon

For Berry Garnish:

1/2 cup - fresh raspberries

1/2 cup - fresh blueberries

1/2 cup - fresh strawberries, sliced

For Hot Honey:

1/2 cup - blueberry honey

1/2 tsp. - cayenne pepper

For Pound Cake:

8 - small slices of pre-made pound cake  
vegetable spray



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### DIRECTIONS

**For Honey Leches Mixture:** Place 2 T blueberry honey, evaporated milk, coconut milk, eggs, vanilla extract and cinnamon in a mixing bowl and whisk to evenly combine. Keep chilled.

**For Berry Garnish:** Place the raspberries, blueberries and strawberries in a mixing bowl and lightly toss to evenly combine. Keep chilled.

**For Hot Honey:** Place 1/2 cup blueberry honey in a small mixing bowl. Add cayenne and whisk to evenly combine. Keep warm, so the hot honey is very pourable.

Pre-heat an electric griddle to 375°F.

Prepare the pound cake. Arrange pound cake slices, side by side, flat, in a casserole dish or a pan with sides. Pour the honey leches mixture over and around the pound cake slices and soak for 1 minute.

Lightly coat the pre-heated electric griddle with vegetable spray. Remove pound cake slices from the honey leches mixture, allowing any liquid to drain off (discard any remaining liquid), then place each slice on the hot griddle.

Griddle the pound cake slices approximately 2 minutes on each side, to golden crispy and hot throughout.

To serve, place 2 griddled overlapping pound cake slices on a plate (4 plates total). Top each with approximately 1/4 cup of the mixed berries and then drizzle each with approximately 2 T of the warm hot honey.

Serve and enjoy!

Recipe courtesy of Chef Rob Corliss, made for the National Honey Board

You can also use a large non-stick sauté pan, over medium-high heat, on your stovetop to griddle the French toast vs. an electric griddle.

If your homemade pound cake recipe calls for one cup of sugar, you can replace it with only a 1/2 cup of honey. Reduce any liquid by 1/4 cup, add 1/2 tsp. baking soda, and reduce oven temp by 25 degrees.



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## Honeybee Nucleus (NUC) Providers

Memphis Area Beekeepers Association (MABA) 2022

NUC Provider: Mr. Billy Joe Adair, owner of *Adair Honey Farm*; Cellular Telephone: (901) 268-0528; Electronic Mail: [billyjoeadair@bellsouth.net](mailto:billyjoeadair@bellsouth.net). Mr. Adair has 200 NUCs of Russian honeybees for sale and prefers orders be made directly to him through email, Facebook private messaging, or texting to his cellular telephone. NUC orders are being received now with a price for individual NUCs of \$165.00 each with a possible (to-be-negotiated) discount for purchases of 10 or more NUCs. NUC orders will run until all 200 NUCs are gone. Projected pick-up date is the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in May 2022 with this pick-up location: Billy Joe Adair, 75 Adair Way, Moscow, Tennessee 38057. There is no deposit required on advance orders and cash payment on pick-up is required. There will be no queens for sale this year by Mr. Adair. Website: [www.adairhoney.com](http://www.adairhoney.com); Facebook: Billy Joe Adair.

NUC Provider: Mrs. Kristi Cook, owner of Tender Hearts Honeybees website: [www.tenderheartshoneybees.com](http://www.tenderheartshoneybees.com) cell:901-301-3067 email: [kristi@tenderheartshoneybees.com](mailto:kristi@tenderheartshoneybees.com). FB @ Tender Hearts Honey Bees. Mrs. Cook has NUCs of both Italian hybrid and Russian hybrid honey bees for sale and prefers orders be made directly to her via her website or contacting her via phone. NUC orders are being received now with a price for individual NUCS of \$165.00 each and will run until all NUCs are sold. Queens will be available at a yet-to-be determined time this spring/summer with a price of \$30 each with queen marking available for \$8 per queen. Mrs. Cook requires a deposit for a guaranteed NUC of \$50.00 which can be made on her secure website with the balance in cash or card due upon pick up. Payment of the full amount of the NUC order can also be made on her website. Every attempt will be made to have NUCs ready the first to middle part of May and maybe earlier, weather and bees depending. Customers will be contacted two weeks



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prior to delivery with pick-up locations at the Memphis Agri-center or Bono, Arkansas (precise addresses on her website).

NUC Provider: Mr. Richard Coy, owner of *Coy's Honey Farm*. Mr. Coy has 100 NUCs of Russian bees for sale at \$145.00 per NUC and 30 queens (depends upon weather and availability) for sale at \$28.00 per queen. Mr. Coy requests that orders be made through Memphis Area Bee Club member Mr. Greg Tingle at this cellular telephone number: (901) 413-1704; and this electronic mail address: [greggtingle@gmail.com](mailto:greggtingle@gmail.com). Mr. Tingle will receive orders for Mr. Coy now until the deadline established by Mr. Coy of March 1<sup>st</sup>. Payment will be in cash only at pick-up with no deposit required. Time and place of pick-up is to be announced by Mr. Coy and relayed to Mr. Tingle to convey to purchasers one week in advance of pick-up. Projected NUC pick-up availability is mid-April. Website: [coyshoneyfarm.net](http://coyshoneyfarm.net); Facebook: Coy's Honey Farm.

NUC Provider: Mr. Andrew Finch; Cellular Telephone: (850) 333-2490; Electronic Mail: [andrewfinch86@icloud.com](mailto:andrewfinch86@icloud.com). Mr. Finch has 1000 NUCs of general honeybees for sale at \$150.00 per NUC and an indeterminate number of queens at \$30.00 each. Orders may be made now directly to Mr. Finch who will receive orders via his telephone or email until all NUCs are gone. No deposit is required. Projected pick-up date is April 16 - 23 with cash only as payment upon pick-up and pick-up location at 414 Gaston Road, Booneville, Mississippi 38829.

NUC Provider: Mr. Harry Fulton, owner of *Bigbee Valley Bees*. Mr. Fulton has 100 NUCs of Russian honeybees for sale at \$150.00 per NUC. Queens may be available later on in the season with a price to be determined at that time. NUC orders are being accepted now and will continue to be accepted until all 100 are sold. Mr. Fulton requests that orders be made through Memphis Area Beekeepers Association club member Stuart Hooser at this cellular telephone number: (901) 485-6152; and this electronic mail address: [stuart.hooser@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.hooser@gmail.com). Payment must be in cash or money order at pick-up with no deposit required. Pick-up location will be Memphis Agri-center with the date of



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pick-up to be most likely between April 15 to May 1.

Time and date of pick-up will be communicated either by Mr. Fulton or Mr. Hooser to individual purchasers' email addresses one week in advance of delivery.

NUC Provider: Gary Heintz; Cellular Telephone: (731) 441-1911. Mr. Heintz has 100 NUCs of general non-chemically treated bees for \$225.00 per NUC with no deposit required. Mr. Heintz will not have any queens for sale this year. He is taking NUC orders now and will take orders until all of the 100 NUCs have been sold. Orders for Mr. Heintz's NUCs can be placed with a personal telephone call. As telephone reception is weak in Mr. Heintz's location, should he not answer a telephone call, a text with a request for a return call is generally successful. Once bees are ready, Mr. Heintz will have them inspected and then call the purchaser for pick up at this address: 3120 Highway 192 South, Holladay, Tennessee 38341. Payment is cash only with no deposit required.

NUC Provider: Ms. Joy Layton; Cellular Telephone: (901) 319-7244; Electronic Mail: [joylayton2012@gmail.com](mailto:joylayton2012@gmail.com). Ms. Layton has 15 Russian hybrid NUCs for sale at \$165.00 - \$175.00 each with price depending on whether the NUC box is plastic or cardboard (plastic is \$175.00 and cardboard is \$165.00). No queens will be available from Ms. Layton this year. Orders can be placed with Ms. Layton by calling her cell or contacting her by email. Terms of payment are to be worked out with each individual purchaser with no deposit required. Pick-up is to be at Ms. Layton's Olive Branch, Mississippi home with date, address, and time given one week prior by personal agreed-upon contact. For an additional fee depending on distance, Ms. Layton will deliver to personal addresses.



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NUC Provider: Mr. Gus Mitchell, owner of *Cranes Nest River Apiaries*; Cellular Telephone: (276) 870-0618; Electronic Mail: [guswaynemitchell@yahoo.com](mailto:guswaynemitchell@yahoo.com). Mr. Mitchell has 100 NUCs of Russian type bees for sale at \$175.00 per NUC. He will not have any individual queens for sale this year. Mr. Mitchell will begin receiving NUC orders at the January Memphis Area Beekeepers Association (MABA) meeting and continue selling until all 100 NUCs are gone. NUC orders may be made by calling Mr. Mitchell's cellular telephone or sending a message to his email address. Payment is to be cash on pick-up without deposit. Mr. Mitchell projects NUCs to be ready at the end of May to the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2022. One week prior to pick-up, the location, date, and time of the pick-up will be communicated by Mr. Mitchell to purchasers. Facebook: [@cranesnesthoney](https://www.facebook.com/cranesnesthoney).

NUC Provider: Mr. Louis Padgett; Cellular Telephone: (901) 246-8540; Electronic Mail: [lpthirty2@gmail.com](mailto:lpthirty2@gmail.com). Mr. Padgett has 40 NUCs of open-mated Russian bees for sale at \$160.00 per NUC. No queens will be available from Mr. Padgett this year. Mr. Padgett will receive orders now via telephone calls or texts to his cellular telephone and through email messages. Orders will be received until all 40 NUCs are sold. Mr. Padgett expects NUCs to be ready the first week of May and will be distributed to purchasers in the order in which they were purchased. Date, time, and location of pick-up will be announced by Mr. Padgett to individual purchasers approximately one week prior to pick-up with cash only required upon pick-up. No deposit is required.

NUC Provider: Mr. Bob Russell, owner of *Red Belly Bee Farm*; Cellular Telephone: (662) 598-1505; Electronic Mail: [redbellybees@gmail.com](mailto:redbellybees@gmail.com). Mr. Russell has between 100



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and 150 NUCs of general honeybees for sale at \$150.00 per NUC and will begin accepting orders on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Orders will continue until all of his available NUCs have been sold. He will not have queens for sale this year. Mr. Russell will receive orders through calling his cellular telephone or placing an order through his email.

Date, time, and place of pick-up will be communicated by Mr. Russell to individual purchasers one week prior to pick-up and will depend on the number of orders received. Website: <http://www.beeempire.com>; Facebook: Red Belly Bee Farm.