



Catch The Buzz

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

A Letter from the President

Welcome to all new and current Memphis Area Beekeepers! As the newly elected president of the Memphis Area Beekeepers Association, I want to thank everyone for their participation in the MABA Short Course this past Saturday, 1/29/22. We had a great turnout! I thank the Short Committee for their efforts, led by Furniss Harkness, our vice president.

As we look to the warmer months of 2022 (we are all weathering an ice storm currently), please know that MABA will hold Apiary Days in our soon-to-be-upgraded MABA Apiary. Be on the lookout for details in the weeks and months ahead.

As a new or beginner beekeeper, if you did not have a chance to sign up for a mentor, please sign up at the February meeting. The mentor/mentee assignments are being worked on. Mentors will be contacting their mentees as soon as all the details are finalized. Also, if you need to sign up for the Swarm List, please know that sign up for that will happen soon.

Keep your eyes and ears open for regional and national beekeeping meetings, like the Tennessee Beekeepers Association meeting March 4-5 at MTSU in Murfreesboro, TN. Other West TN beekeeping associations also have Short Course offerings. Most of that information will be available on memphisbeekeepers.com or shared through our [MABA FaceBook page](#).

The February MABA meeting presenter will be Kent Williams! We have gladly welcomed Kent to MABA meetings several times in recent years. He brings a wealth of beekeeping information and a presentation style you will all enjoy, from beginners to those more experienced. The March meeting presenter will be Mike Studer, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture State Apiarist.

MABA seeks to educate the public about the benefits of beekeeping, for individuals and for the environment. With that aim, I am making committee member appointments to lead discussions on how we can better reach the Memphis Area with our education and learning opportunities. At the same time, we also need to learn how we can best serve our own members' needs. If you have an interest in participating in our Community Education or Membership Engagement committees, please let me know. The committees have already started and a few more volunteers are needed to engage in the discussions.

See y'all soon, hopefully with warmer temperatures!

Eric Caron

memphisbeekeeper@gmail.com

President

Memphis Area Beekeepers Association memphisbeekeepers.com



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February's Monthly Meeting

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.

February 14, 2022

“Preparing for spring: Best practices for spring buildup.”

Speaker: Kent Williams
Time: 7:00-9:00 pm
Location: Agricenter
Banquet Room
Concourse C



Kent Williams is a master beekeeper and has been keeping honeybees for more than 30 years. He currently has several hundred hives in his apiaries in Western Kentucky and Mississippi. Kent raises queens, makes NUCs and shakes packages. He also rents bees for pollination in California, Kentucky and Indiana. In addition to speaking to honeybee groups, Kent also sponsors an annual school for beekeepers at his Kentucky farm in April. Even with all his experience, Kent states that he is continuously learning how to keep bees alive and healthy. Please join us to hear about what we can do to move into spring beekeeping with Kent's talk on preparing for spring.

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

Feb. 17-19, 2022

PickTN Conference 2022

Location: Franklin Marriott Cool Springs, Franklin, TN

Info: <https://www.picktnconference.com/>

March 14, 2022

MABA monthly meeting

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm

Location: Agricenter, Concourse C

Info: Mike Studer, Tennessee State Apiarist will present “*The Big Picture on Tennessee Beekeeping.*”



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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

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

Contact: Chuck Collins at
(270)519-4772 or visit the
LBBA FB page



(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.

Several MABA members visited Kent's bee school in 2021 and many will be returning in 2022—it's that good!



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News from the MABA Apiary



The average colder temperatures have kept the bees in solid cluster mode on the sunny sides of the hive. The queens are deep inside these clusters surrounded by workers that are rapidly consuming honey or sugar syrup stores to generate the heat needed to survive these colder months.

We had a couple of brief snow falls with single digit wind chills. Each hive's screened bottom board was securely sealed by installing the corrugated panels in the board slots prior to the cold fronts' arrival.

The few days that the outside temperature rose above 55 degrees, worker bees could be seen taking brief cleansing flights, removing a few dead bees that had expired and fallen to the bottom.

As days gradually become milder, the queen will start a small brood nest on the sunny side of the hive. Keeping a close watch on the food stores becomes critical as the hive population slowly expands. The

next feeding will be an application of pollen patties and sugar cakes right above each cluster as to shorten the distance that workers and nurse bees travel to obtain needed food.

The board approved the expansion of our apiary from the current 11 existing hives to a target of 25 hives. It was agreed that this number of colonies will provide our members the space and colony diversity needed to provide the membership a more hands-on educational experience. This number of hives will also hopefully produce enough honey inventory to supply the two fall sales events, Pink Palace and Germantown crafts festivals. The board also approved the purchase of a small amount of new equipment needed for this hive expansion. Be on the lookout for a membership invitation notification for a new equipment building workshop.

The apiary committee met with Agricenter manager Bruce to discuss the upcoming road construction and design projects. These Agricenter construction projects will require a new location on the Agricenter properties for our honey house and equipment shed. MABA will be included as a beneficiary of a seed grant that will provide us with pollinator flower seeds to cultivate and plant several acres in areas around our apiary.

The club apiary is the most valuable asset our club can provide its membership. Committee discussions regarding landscape and design improvements will continue as we move toward our goal of providing a top-notch space to our members where they can enjoy a positive educational beekeeping experience.

Thanks, and good beekeeping,

Greg Tingle



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FEBRUARY AND THE BEES

- February brings increasingly warm weather and signals the end of the quiescent time in the bee's yearly cycle.
- If you need new bees, NOW is the time to order. [Locally grown NUCs](#) are your best option.
- It is also time to make sure that your equipment is purchased or repaired and ready for spring.
- [Colonies can starve](#) in late winter and early spring just before flowers bloom. If the weather is above 55 degrees, you can open the hive quickly to move honey frames closer to the cluster. Bees can starve even if there is plenty of honey in the hive if the honey is too far away from the cluster.
- Sunlight is becoming slightly longer and the [longer days trigger the queen to start laying](#) significantly more eggs. Their cluster has worked its way upward into the top brood chamber. On the colder days, they are behaving similarly as in January. We will likely have a few of those days this year.
- On a warm day, 50 degrees or more, you can open the top briefly and look in on the hive. Do not remove any frames, as this will chill the brood. Upon inspection you can assess if the colony still has enough stored honey for food. If not, you may want to consider [emergency feeding options](#).
- Emergency feeding is just that...an emergency. Do whatever it takes to get some sugar in the hive. Dry sugar will work but only if the bees have warm enough days to fly out for water. There may not be many days warm enough in early February for dry sugar feedings or hard candy feedings. Sometimes sponges soaked in heavy sugar water and jammed between the frames near the cluster will suffice until the weather warms. Do anything you can think of...after all it is better than letting the hive starve to death.

Of course, if you have frames of honey available, that's the best way to feed them, but most of us have sold all our honey by now.

- You might also consider placing a [pollen patty](#) on top of the upper hive body. This will really work well if the end of winter is extremely mild and there are many warm days. [Pollen patties](#) stimulate the laying of more eggs. However, if the weather turns cold again, then the bees may not be able to keep this early brood warm and fed. So, it is a gamble this early.



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- Finally, if you did not order your package bees in January, you must do it now (and hope you're not too late)! And if you did not order your new equipment, hurry! You want all of your equipment ready by mid-March
- Make sure you join and attend your local beekeeping club
- Register your hives in the state they are in: TN, AR, MS, MO, etc.

National Honey Board Report Beekeeper Reports, and Unit Prices

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

ARKANSAS: During the month of December temperatures were normal across most of the state. Precipitation during December was normal to below normal across 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 abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions across the central and southern part of the state for December. Too few prices exist to establish a current market price for wholesale white honey.

MISSISSIPPI: A cold and wet December has kept beekeepers working as much as they can when time and weather permit. Supplemental feeding has the bees in pretty good shape in preparation for a cold and icy January. Orders for queens and nucs are coming in.

TENNESSEE: Tennessee has been warmer than normal throughout the month of December. The bees have been consuming their winter stores at a higher rate than normal. Beekeepers have had to feed colonies to keep them alive. Colonies across the state have been bringing in small amounts of pollen and nectar from dandelion and other winter wildflowers. Honey is selling retail for \$10.00 to \$12.00 per pound.



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Beekeeping Reading List

Cold Comfort

By Jon Zawislak



I've had a number of calls and emails in the last week about what beekeepers should be doing to help their colonies survive this cold snap. Yankees may shrug it off, but our weather this week in Arkansas - and all across the south - has been unseasonably cold by our standards. Folks say *better late than never*, but let's be honest... it is the middle of February now. If you haven't done anything to prepare your bee colonies for winter, it really could be too late. You can simply wait and see if that was enough when all this stuff thaws again, or you can bundle up and venture out to check on them.

While northern beekeepers often wrap and insulate hives to prepare for every winter, we don't usually need to go to extremes here in Arkansas. Our winters are relatively mild, and our bees often have warm "flying days" between brief cold periods. Is this good or bad? And what should we be doing to help our bees make it to spring?

First, it's good to understand how bees evolved to deal with the cold.

We think our honey bee originated in a warm climate in Africa. The notorious African honey bees are the same species as our gentle European bees, *Apis mellifera*. These creatures made their own way through the middle east, around the Mediterranean Sea and up into Europe. Likely the mid-eastern deserts cut them off from any common ancestors with the Asian honey bees, of which there are numerous species of *Apis*. As their populations spread out into all these different environmental niches and microclimates, they eventually developed into the separate races of honey bees we think of today.

Scientists suspect that honey bees originated in a warm climate because it's terribly inefficient to try to overwinter a large colony, with thousands of nest-mates that require the collection of so much food just



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to get by. Temperate social bees (like bumble bees) rear new queens each fall, which hibernate alone. The rest of the colony dies out, leaving a handful of mated queens to start new seasonal bumble bee colonies alone. This is why bumble bees don't produce much honey - they only need enough for their day-to-day needs. Pretty much everything our honey bees do in the spring is driven by their need to survive the next winter.

As these African honey bees moved north, they left behind many of their natural enemies, and so they lost some of their ultra-defensive behavior that we associate with African bees and Africanized bees (hybrids of European and African stock that were both imported to the new world). They also began to encounter colder conditions. These winged immigrants to Europe responded to cold weather by clustering together for warmth. They can actively generate heat by vibrating their thoracic wing muscles, similar to the way our muscles shiver when we are cold.

Of course, it takes a lot of energy to produce significant of heat. Luckily for the bees, their favorite food (honey) is high in calories (consider how much energy your children have on the day after Halloween).

The reason bees store honey, of course, is to stockpile food for when there are no flowers available. This could be a long dry summer or a long cold winter.

As honey bees adapted to colder climates, they also increased the size of their colonies to have a larger winter population cluster, to more efficiently generate sufficient warmth. They also responded by storing up more honey than their tropical counterparts, to fuel these efforts. These are two traits that we enjoy about our western honey bees, and which set them apart from their Africanized cousins. Along with their more docile dispositions, of course....To continue reading [click here](https://www.uaex.uada.edu/farm-ranch/special-programs/beekeeping/uabeeblog/posts/coldcomfort.aspx) or visit <https://www.uaex.uada.edu/farm-ranch/special-programs/beekeeping/uabeeblog/posts/coldcomfort.aspx>.



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Honey Based Recipes

HONEY COCONUT MACADAMIA NUT + CHERRY BARS

[CLICK HERE](#) for link to recipe

YIELD: Makes 9 servings



INGREDIENTS

1 ½ cups-oats
1/2 cup - shredded coconut, unsweetened
1/3 cup - macadamia nuts, chopped
1/3 cup - dried tart cherries
1/3 cup - honey
3 T - almond butter
3 T - peanut butter
nonstick spray

DIRECTIONS

Spray an 8x8 baking dish with nonstick spray.

In a bowl, combine the dry ingredients oats, coconut, nuts, and tart cherries. Add the honey, almond butter, and peanut butter and stir until well combined.

Press into the baking dish and chill for 3 hours. Cut into bars and enjoy.

Recipe courtesy of Mitzi Dulan, RD, CSSD, made for the National Honey Board



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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. 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 1st 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; Facebook: Billy Joe Adair.

NUC Provider: Mrs. Kristi Cook, owner of *Tender Hearts Honeybees*; Cellular Telephone: (901) 301-3067; Electronic Mail: kristi@tenderheartshoneybees.com. Mrs. Cook has 200 NUCs of both Italian hybrid and Russian hybrid honeybees for sale and prefers orders be made directly to her through her website, email, Facebook private messaging, or texting to her cellular telephone. 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 to be published at that time. 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 or second week in May and maybe earlier, weather and bees depending. Customers will be contacted two weeks prior to delivery with pick-up locations at the Memphis Agri-center or Bono, Arkansas (precise addresses on her website). Website: tenderheartshoneybees.com; Facebook: @tenderheartshoneybees.



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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: greggingle@gmail.com. Mr. Tingle will receive orders for Mr. Coy now until the deadline established by Mr. Coy of March 1st. 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; Facebook: Coy's Honey Farm.

NUC Provider: Mr. Andrew Finch; Cellular Telephone: (850) 333-2490; Electronic Mail: 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. 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 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.



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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. 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.

NUC Provider: Mr. Gus Mitchell, owner of *Cranes Nest River Apiaries*; Cellular Telephone: (276) 870-0618; Electronic Mail: 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 1st 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.



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NUC Provider: Mr. Louis Padgett; Cellular Telephone: (901) 246-8540; Electronic Mail: 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. Mr. Russell has between 100 and 150 NUCs of general honeybees for sale at \$150.00 per NUC and will begin accepting orders on January 1st. 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.



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Name	Contact information	Bees	Product	Cost	Deposit	Queens	Comments
Billy Joe Adair	(901) 268-0528 billyjoeadair@bellsouth.net www.adairhoney.com Facebook: Billy Joe Adair	Russian bees	5 frame nucs	\$165	Not Required	No	
Gus Mitchell	(276) 870-0618 guswaynemitchell@yahoo.com Facebook: @cranesnesthoney	Local bees	5 frame nucs	\$175	Not Required	No	
Harry Fulton	Contact Stuart Hooser to order.	Russian bees	5 frame nucs	\$150	Not Required	TBD	Contact Stuart Hooser at stuart.hooser@gmail.com or (901) 485-6152
Richard Coy	Contact Greg Tingle to order. coyshoneyfarm.net Facebook: Coy's Honey Farm	Russian bees	5 frame nucs	\$145	Not Required	Yes, Queens \$28 each	Contact Greg Tingle at greggingle@gmail.com or (901) 413-1704
Kristi Cook	(901) 301-3067 kristi@tenderheartshoneybees.com https://tenderheartshoneybees.com/ Facebook: @tender-heartshoneybees	Both Russian Hybrids and Italian Hybrids bees	5 frame nucs	\$165	\$50	No	
Bob Russell	(662) 598-1505 redbellybees@gmail.com http://www.beeempire.com Facebook: Red Belly Bee Farm	Local bees	5 frame nucs	\$150	Not Required	No	Return empty nuc box for \$20 refund
Jerry Heintz	(731) 441-1911 Call or Text	non-chemically treated bees	5 frame nucs	\$225	Not Required	No	
Joy Layton	(901) 319-7244 joylayton2012@gmail.com	Russian hybrid	5 frame nucs	\$165 - \$175	Not specified	No	cardboard nuc: \$165.00 plastic nuc: \$175.00
Louis Padgett	(901) 246-8540 lpthirty2@gmail.com	open-mated Russian bees	5 frame nucs	\$160	Not Required	No	
Andrew Finch	(850) 333-2490 andrewfinch86@icloud.com	general honeybees	5 frame nucs	\$150	Not Required	Yes, Queens \$30 each	