



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

If it wasn't April already you would think it was March! The weather is proving to be challenging this spring!

We had a great turnout at the Tennessee State Inspectors Certification Course on March 15-16 here in the Banquet Room, led by Mike Studer, the March speaker.

MABA had a great Apiary work day on March 19, 2022! The upgraded MABA Apiary is in great shape, ready for the season ahead. Read Gregg's account below! If you enjoyed that or missed out, we are planning another MABA Apiary Field Day 4/23/2022 at 7:30 AM. As usual be certain to bring your protective equipment, including a suit/jacket with veil, gloves, and high top shoes or boots.

The first nucs of the season are also being delivered 4/23/22 at 6:30 AM – 7:00 AM. Coy Apiaries is delivering Nuc orders placed for members through Gregg Tingle. See details below:

- Cash payment \$145.00 each nuc, and/or \$28 each queen
- Prepare to install Nucs in your apiary the day of pickup: use blocks, landscape timbers, and have the best full sun location identified. Have your hive equipment ready for the Nuc, as well as 1:1 sugar syrup ready for the feeder
- Have your protective outerwear ready: suit, gloves, high top shoes or boots, and smoker
- Install your Nucs and enjoy the start of your beekeeping journey!

If you ordered your bees from other producers, fear not, they will be coming soon enough! Those producers will be contacting you directly in the near future!

We are looking forward to a great 2022 festival season in September and October. We will have more details how you can get involved!

Last but not least, the MABA Board will be meeting in person again for the first time 4/11/2022 at 6:30 in the Banquet Room, Concourse C, of the Agricenter, right before the meeting, for those interested.

See y'all soon!

Eric Caron

memphisbeekeeper@gmail.com

President

Memphis Area Beekeepers Association memphisbeekeepers.com



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April's Monthly Meeting

April 11, 2022

“Free Bees, Where to Find Them, and How to Catch Them”

Speaker: David Glover
Time: 7:00-9:00 pm
Location: Agricenter, Banquet Room
Concourse C



David Glover will present “Free Bees, Where to Find Them, and How to Catch Them”. While many new beekeepers will buy nucs or packages to get bees, others will capture swarms or rescue them from houses. Think you have what it takes? Get your writing sticks, you’ll be putting them to use! See y’all there!

Upcoming Events

April 23, 2022

MABA Apiary Field Day

Time: 7:30 am - ???
Location: Agricenter, MABA Apiary
Info: We will demonstrate how to install Nucs, and how to split hives and place caged queen bees

May 9, 2022

MABA monthly meeting

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm
Location: Agricenter, Banquet Room, Concourse C
Info: Billy Joe Adair, will present “*How To Install Your Nuc & How to Expand*”

June 13, 2022

MABA monthly meeting

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm
Location: Agricenter, Banquet Room, Concourse C
Info: Jon Zawislak, will present “*Varroa and Other: Kill the ... Things!*”



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News from the MABA Apiary



March beekeeping has offered up both exciting and challenging apiary experiences. Weather conditions continue to fluctuate between recurring spring cold fronts bringing plenty of rain and cold weather back into play. The first deep dive into the brood chambers of the club bees took place on 3/26/22. Hive health evaluations were done to estimate food stores, mite load assessment, and queen rite determination, based on brood laying patterns. Swarm management tactics were applied to colonies by reversal of each brood chamber in order to provide adequate space for the queen to lay her eggs. Any single deep colonies with crowded populations got a medium box added for space. Most food stores were in a critical need state. Each frame from the hives were sprayed down with sugar syrup with a honey bee healthy supplement. This process rapidly gets needed survival nutrients into the bees' systems. All feeders were filled with thin syrup. Swarm management tactics will continue by keeping a close lookout for queen cell formation, and equalization of populations by moving capped brood from strong colonies to weaker ones before the major nectar flow begins,

Congratulations and thanks for a job well done to all the volunteers who helped with the new apiary layout and landscape upgrade field day March 19, 2022! Twenty plus volunteers showed up to lay down weed/grass preventative stripping, construct new hive stands, and assemble new hive equipment, consisting of hive body and frame building. The field day photos archive the event which every member should hold proudly and will reap many rewards now and for many years to come.

Good beekeeping,

Gregg Tingle, MABA Apiary Committee Chair



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APRIL AND THE BEEKEEPER

- The objective is for all colonies to be queen-right, healthy, and well-nourished so they can build up to maximum populations for the major nectar flow. This all needs to be done while keeping a fine balance between the growing population and the amount of space available so that the bees do not have the chance to think about swarming.
 - On a calm, warm day go through your hives and do a thorough inspection.
 - Remove mouse guards and replace poor quality frames or brood frames with new comb or foundation.
 - Move brood down (if you can), honey frames to the side, and empty comb over-head.
Note: Both boxes will probably be filling up with brood by mid-April. In many cases, the queen may start heading down on her own to find more space to lay.
 - Clean up bottom boards.
- Is it time to make splits? Each split will require a new queen. Before your queen emerges, mature drones are needed. Drones are mature 8-10 days after they emerge and hang out on the edge of the brood nest. Queens prefer sunny, 75-degree days, with winds less than 10mph. Use the splits to replace winter losses or increase your hive numbers. If increasing your hive numbers, pick out your next location. Splits are a great way to create increase or replacement nucs. It also helps facilitate a robust honey crop and is a form of varroa control as it disrupts the brood.
- Consider adding disease free dead-out brood boxes to booming two-story hives in anticipation of making splits with them when your new queens arrive. It will relieve congestion and give these overly populous hives something to use and will make an excellent split later.
- If you already have queen cells, what kind are they: swarm, emergency, or supersedure? Note: This can also indicate the timing is right to start making queens. What will you do with the queen cells?
 - Move them to make nucs or splits.
 - Try to cut them all out and keep rechecking.
 - Make a nuc with the queen mother.
 - Let the bees bee.
- Place swarm traps around mid to late April//**NOWWWW!!!**. **David Glover will show us how to get free bees and where to find them at our April Meeting.**
- If you want to give your hives a boost, feed with equal parts sugar and water.
- DISCONTINUE simulative sugar feeding before supering.
- The 'Rule of Thumb' for putting supers on hives is when the dandelions bloom.



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- Wax moth and SHB activity dramatically picks up when the temperature rises, keep an eye on your stored supers – especially ones that contained pollen or brood. Leftover honey frames should be added to live colonies, frozen or put under Paramoth before Wax Moths move in and tunnel around. If using Paramoth or other products to store your drawn comb under for wax moth protection should be sure to air out those supers and frames 1 week before you put them on a hive.

What's Blooming around the area? American holly, Tulip Poplar, blackberry, willow, Black locust, clover, Maple trees, Yaupon holly, dandelions, Henbit, Forsythia, Speedwell, and other small wildflowers are the current sources of nectar and pollen.

A few early sources of pollen and nectar: [Plants For Bees \(purdue.edu\)](http://plantsforbees.purdue.edu)

Watching the entrance

Watching bees at the colony entrance can reveal quite a lot about the colony. Bees in the spring need pollen to raise larvae, so pollen foragers should be evident. The pollen will most likely range in color from light to dark, with one color sometimes predominating, reflecting one major pollen source. We don't know how but we know the bees are seeking to maximize their dietary choices.

There should be lots of bees active at the entrance on warm, sunny days. Some young bees will be performing orientation flights, learning the landmarks. Others will be functioning as guards, inspecting each incoming bee. Foragers will be the most numerous bees seen at the entrance as they fly directly from the entrance and disappear quickly inside when they return with their collected bounty. Some foragers may be water collectors. Look also at what the bees carry out of the hive, like dead bees, chalkbrood mummies or mouse debris. ---my favorite thing to do!

*******Participate in the Bee Informed Partnership Winter Loss Survey.** The Bee Informed Partnership is an extension project that endeavors to decrease managed honey bee colonies. Find the survey link here: [Bee Informed Partnership – Using beekeepers' real world experience to solve beekeepers' real world problems](https://www.beeinformed.org/)

We take your data seriously

Your participation in this research is confidential. All your answers will be stored in a secure, password protected database application that uses SSL encryption. No personally identifiable information will be disclosed in any publication or presentation resulting from this research. Completion of all or part of this survey is voluntary. If you are not comfortable answering a question, please leave it blank – we still use and benefit from the information that you do provide, even if you don't answer every question.

Bee Informed Partnership
Annual Loss & Management Survey

2022 Special Focus: Nutrition and Environment
(nectar flows, feeding, pollination events, weather, etc.)

Help us estimate the level of US honey bee colonies lost in 2021 through 2022

Bee counted!

Live from April 1st to 30th
Take the survey at [beeinformed.org](https://www.beeinformed.org)



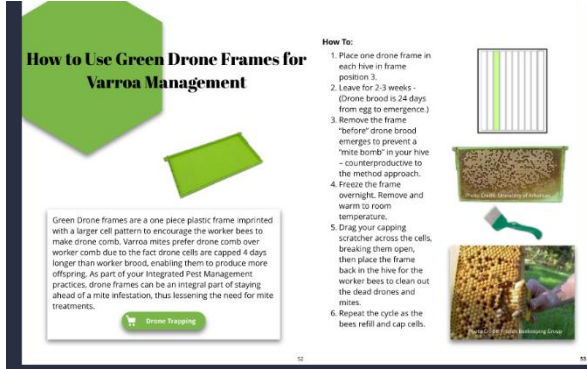
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The curious beekeeper: [The Curious Beekeeper Archives - American Bee Journal](#)

From
2022



Texas Bee Supply Monthly Magazine April
[Texas Bee Supply Monthly - April 2022](#)

Interesting Mite discussion/defense/explanation: article excerpted from the American Bee Journal
It began like this: **Mite bomb answer missed the mark**

[This was mailed to me (Jamie Ellis) in response to my answer to a question about mite bombs in the December 2021 issue.] This problem needs some field experience and some science as the answers given are misleading and totally inappropriate. "Mite bomb" refers to a colony of bees whose mite population is a little ahead of the other colonies in the apiary. To field experience, this says one thing: If you are going to treat it for mites, you therefore must treat the entire apiary. Read more [The Classroom Archives - American Bee Journal](#)

Here is the link for the At Home Beekeeping Webinar: <https://www.beekeeping.com/at-home-beekeeping-webinar-2/>

At Home Beekeeping Webinar
Distance Learning for Beekeepers

We're offering beekeepers the chance to attend virtual meetings from the comfort of one's own home using a computer or mobile device. Speakers include university researchers and extension specialists from across the SE US as well as USDA ARS researchers. Each event will bring participants up to date on timely beekeeping topics with time for Q & A included.

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

- March 29: Methods of controlling Varroa that work, with J. Berry (UGA)
- April 26: How to make great queens and avoid poor ones, with D. Torgny (NCSU)
- May 31: Cost and benefits of propolis to honey bees, with E. Rinkovich (USDA ARS)
- June 28: Plantings for honey bees, with Katherine Parys (USDA ARS)

Last Tuesday of the month
6:30 - 7:30 pm Central Time

Watch via Zoom Webinar
<https://auburn.zoom.us/j/904522838>

or Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyExtension/>

Questions? Email Allyson Shabel ams0137@aces.edu

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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 February temperatures were about normal across most of the state. Precipitation during February was above normal across the northern part of the state. The southern part of the state was seeing unusual below normal conditions. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor website, Arkansas had normal soil moisture across the Northern part of the state and moderate drought to severe drought conditions across the central and southern part of the state for February. Beekeepers continue to work on cleaning and repairing existing supers, frames and pallets. They were also reporting that they were adding some supplemental feed to hives to prepare for Spring. No supply chain issues were reported. Movement is very slow this time of year. Too few prices exist to establish a current market price for wholesale white honey.

MISSISSIPPI: Beekeepers are just now checking on the bees and splitting hives to make room for the new Queens coming in. Lots of rain and cold temps kept the bees inside as the pollen washed away. Some extra feeding is used to keep the bees in proper weight and condition. Beekeepers are hoping for the weather to become more Springlike so that the bees can get out and about and forage all the new blooms and feed available.

TENNESSEE: Beekeepers are reporting heavy winter losses across the state. Red Maple, Henbit, Forsythia, Dandelion, Speedwell, and other small wildflowers are the current sources of nectar and pollen. Beekeepers are still reporting supply chain issues with bee supplies and containers for honey packing.

The Central Indiana Beekeepers have something for New Beekeepers that I really think is succinct and insightful:

New Beekeepers: Getting Started

by [jerryz](#) | Feb 8, 2021 | [Beekeeping](#), [Beginning](#)

So, you have decided to give it a try! What's Next? – Quite a bit actually. This list will touch on decisions you will be making. Becoming a beekeeper involves several decisions.

Here is the link: [New Beekeepers: Getting Started | Central Indiana Beekeepers Association \(indyurbanbeekeeping.org\)](#)



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Beekeeping Reading List

SURVEY SAYS: HONEY CONSUMPTION ON THE RISE

<https://honey.com/images/files/2021-NHB-AU.pdf>

Following on annual gains in positive perceptions of honey, U.S. consumers also reported significant upticks in honey usage this past year. The increase, revealed in the National Honey Board Consumer Attitudes & Usage Study 2021, follows a pattern of growth for self-reported usage seen since 2019.

Consumers who selected honey as their most preferred sweetener cited attributes like ‘natural,’ ‘good for the environment,’ ‘organic,’ a source of antioxidants,’ and ‘flavorful.’ Data from the survey confirms the National Honey Board’s marketing campaign focusing on ‘good for me, good for the planet,’ continues to resonate with American consumers, who are interested in how honey promotes healthy honey bees.

The growing demand for honey in the United States is also confirmed by data from the USDA Sugar and Sweeteners Outlook with 2020 use at 571 million pounds, up about 8 percent from 2019.

“Now more than ever, we’re seeing consumers make extremely thoughtful decisions about food,” said Margaret Lombard, chief executive officer of the National Honey Board. “This focus has correlated to the increase in honey popularity due to consumers’ desire to know where their food comes from and their preference for foods that are naturally produced. Consumers know that honey is made by bees from the nectar of flowers – and you can’t get closer to nature than that.”

The National Honey Board Consumer Attitudes & Usage Study 2021 tracking study, fielded in May 2021, comprised an online quantitative survey of over 2000 people identified as the primary shopper in their household. The survey was balanced to age and ethnicity as reflected in the Census.

In closing

So everyone until the Newsletter has a permanent person I Louis Padgett will substitute. As one can see I use a variety of sources and I will share, always remember that if one asks 3 beekeepers, one will get 3 (or more) responses!!

I hope this helps—come to meetings, go to our excellent growing teaching apiary, go with a beekeeper, but the key is to learn, learn, learn. **I text my mentors weekly and talk to them when it is too much to text—of course I text and ask if I can call first.**



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Honey Based Recipes

Stuffed French Toast, By: Shana Archibald

[CLICK HERE](#) for link to recipe

INGREDIENTS

French bread or sour dough loaf, cut to fit in a 9×13 pan (a regular loaf of bread works too)
8 ounces cream cheese, room temperature
2 tablespoons vanilla, divided
2 cups powdered sugar
Juice from 1 lemon
2 cups fresh blueberries
1 cup fresh raspberries or blackberries (frozen berries will work too)
6 eggs
2 cups milk
1/3 cup honey
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

DIRECTIONS

Prepare your 9×13 backing dish with cooking spray.

If you're using French bread, cut into one inch slices.

Make the filling by mixing the cream cheese and one tablespoon of vanilla, until smooth. Fold in berries.

In a large bowl, mix together the eggs, milk, honey, one teaspoon of cinnamon and one tablespoon of vanilla.

Pour over the bread making sure to get the tops of the slices.

Cover and chill overnight (up to two days).

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Remove French toast from refrigerator while oven heats.

Bake, uncovered for 30-40 minutes, or until puffed and golden and a knife inserted in the center comes out clean.

Cover with foil and bake another five to 10 minutes if needed for the eggs to set.