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### Letter From Your President

May surprised us with some cool weather at times, and reminders of things to come - heat and humidity! The bees have been busy collecting plentiful nectar and filling their cells with honey and pollen. The queen is laying eggs without respite, which means you have been busy managing for space by adding supers, and monitoring the queen's activities. Is anyone ready for a honey harvest? Now is the time to get those materials ready! Speaking of honey harvests, MABA is preparing for our yearly festivals. We anticipate a great turn out for these events! It is a great opportunity to educate the public and share our fascination with the honey bee. If you are interested in helping to coordinate our Festival efforts in September please let me know. Public education about the honey bee and beekeeping is a significant part of the MABA charter, thus we need to form a Public Education Committee to properly address these requests. MABA receives many requests each month from the public to give presentations. These are sometimes garden clubs, schools, libraries, and private groups as well. If you are interested in coordinating these efforts, or actually making the presentations, then please let me know. MABA Field Days have been happening, so let Gregg know you are interested, and attend when you can! The MABA Board will be meeting in person 6/13/2022 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  
President  
Memphis Area Beekeepers Association

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### Catch The Buzz...

**Next Meeting will be held on June 13th at 7-9pm at the Agricenter in The Banquet Room of Concourse C with Jon Zawislak as the speaker. Info below.**

Agricenter Address: 7777 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, TN 38120

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

June TBA , 2022  
Apiary Field Day  
Info coming soon

July 11, 2022  
Monthly Meeting  
7-9pm. Location: Agricenter

#### BEEKEEPERS IN JUNE AND THE BEEKEEPER

- Inspect the hive weekly to make certain the hive is healthy and the queen is present.
  - Add honey supers as needed.
  - Keep up swarm inspections
  - Attend bee club meetings and workshops.
- Time Spent: Estimate 4-5 hours.  
Equipment, bees will need honey supers, that is where they store the honey that the beekeeper can harvest when it is capped.

August 8, 2022  
Monthly Meeting  
7-9pm. Locatio: Agricenter

September 12, 2022  
Monthly Meeting  
7-9pm. Location: Agricenter

#### BEEES IN JUNE

- Colonies that did not swarm will be filled with bees and the bees will be foraging for nectar and pollen as they fill HONEY SUPERS.
- Give the bees space by adding Honey Supers. The main honey flow should be happening this month.
- The queen's rate of egg laying may drop a bit this month.

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### June Speaker for MABA

*Billy Joe Adair*

Jon Zawislak is an Assistant Professor of Apiculture and Urban Entomology for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. He has worked and played with honey bees since 1998, and is equally at home in the apiary, the laboratory or the classroom. Each year he teaches workshops and classes for new and experienced beekeepers throughout Arkansas and beyond. He emphasizes understanding the biology and behavior of honey bees and related pests as keys to keeping bees healthy, and minimizing the use of pesticides in the hives. He also spreads the word about the importance of pollinators to the non-beekeeping public. Jon has

a background in botany and entomology, and is an EAS certified Master Beekeeper. He and his family operate Walnut Valley Honey Company in Little Rock, Arkansas, producing great products from the hive and supplying pollinators for area community gardens

Speech Topic: "Varroa: Tool to Fight the Mites."



## Honey Elderberry Syrup

1 tsp. Per Serving

### INGREDIENTS:

3 ½ cups cold water  
1 cup dried elderberries  
1 tablespoon fresh ginger  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
½ teaspoon cloves  
1 cup raw honey

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Add water, elderberries, ginger, cinnamon, and cloves in a medium saucepan.  
Bring to a boil then cover and reduce to a simmer 45 minutes to an hour, or until the liquid has reduced to almost half. Remove saucepan from heat and allow to cool.  
Carefully mash the berries then pour syrup through a strainer into a large bowl.  
When the syrup is completely cooled, add the honey and stir well.  
Pour into a sealable jar and store in the fridge for up to three months.  
For more about this recipe visit : <https://www.hucklebeefarms.com/blogs/great-honey-recipes/elderberry-syrup>



## National Honey Board Report

**MISSISSIPPI:** Beekeepers are busy placing nucs and splitting supers for sale and to replace lost hives during the cold winter months. Clover and wildflowers are available when the rain is not pouring down and keeping the bees inside the hives. Heavy winds, rain and cold temps made it rough on the bees early in the month and they appear to be getting back into shape and searching for food.

**ARKANSAS:** During the month of April temperatures were above normal across most of the state. Precipitation during April was below normal across most of the same area. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor website, Arkansas had normal soil moisture across the Northern part of the state with an area of abnormally dry conditions across the central and southern part of the state for April. No supply chain issues reported. Too few prices exist to establish a current market price for wholesale white honey.

**TENNESSEE:** Honey sales are pretty much back to normal since the Pandemic. Supply chain and inflation have been major negative impacts on the beekeeping industry. Tennessee has been experiencing a very heavy nectar flow this spring. Black locust, clover, redbud were the major nectar plants in April. Overall, the colonies across the state are building up rapidly and putting up large quantities of honey.

## From the Apiary

Several new beekeepers participated in weekly educational apiary field day inspections during the month of May. Participants learned:

## 2022 Extended-Release Oxalic Update

### REVIEW OF MY FINDINGS ON EXTENDED-RELEASE OXALIC ACID (OAE) TO DATE

My sons and I have experimented, by permit [[1]], with OAE for some time, testing a range of ratios of glycerin, as well as with a variety of delivery matrices. So far, we've determined that:

We like the handling characteristics and efficacy of the 1:1 (by weight) ratio.

Swedish sponges make a great delivery matrix, but are pricey.

OAE has the potential to take mite infestation rates down to zero, but it is a long-term treatment. It is as rapid a reduction of mite levels as do most other treatments (formic is the quickest). It requires 2 months to exhibit full efficacy.

Very importantly, due to its slow action, highest efficacy is attained in yards where there is little mite. Its efficacy does not appear to be affected by temperature or humidity (since broodnest environment is the bees).

It's best applied proactively (early in the season), rather than reactively (waiting until the mite level is high).

It's easy on the bees and brood.

It's not a worry as far as contamination of honey or the combs. Unfortunately, this application method is not yet approved by EPA, and I in no way encourage or endorse it without a proper permit.

### OAE HOLDS GREAT PROMISE

Although this application method of oxalic acid is not yet approved by our slow-moving EPA [[2]], it is that it is going to be a game changer for varroa management. My sons and I are impressed by how it works in our own authorized experiments. I also get reports from beekeepers in countries where it is approved [[3]], as well as from beekeepers elsewhere (Figure 1).

TO SEE THE FULL ARTICLE VISIT  
<https://scientificbeekeeping.com/7701-2/>

## How to Help Bees During Spring Rain and Storms

### How to Help Bees Weather a Storm

A full hive is heavy! And that's good news when it comes to the spring storms. The biggest danger to a hive during a storm are to have it topple over or to have the cover fly off and then rain will get in. A full super will weigh about 60 pounds and a full deep will weigh about 90 pounds. Hives full of honey are going to be hard to move.

A full hive also means the bees have had time to secure the hive with propolis. It would take a

\*How to manage the vacant comb laying space in the brood nest to promote maximum queen egg laying.  
 \*When the brood nest was fully utilized to install queen excluders and honey supers.  
 \*That some of our new NUCs created superceding queen cells even though brood nest laying space was adequate.  
 \*About the timeline for virgin queens to hatch, mate, then return to the hive and start laying eggs.  
 \*How to move frames of three day old larvae, day old eggs, and capped brood from one queen rite strong hive to a queen-less colony for the queen-less hive to create a new queen of their own.  
 \*To continue supplemental syrup feeding of colonies with newly laying queens.  
 \*The apiary nectar flow from May blooming privet hedge, blackberry, tulip poplar and clover has created 10 full medium honey supers.  
 \*How to maximize nectar flow and honey production by moving full frames to the outside hive walls and empty frames to the center.  
 \*That bees fill cells with honey furthest from the hive entrance sunlight first, and to rotate the 3/4 filled super to expedite the entire super build up.

with a lot of wind to knock over a hive that is full of honey and has been secured with propolis

If you live in an area that gets hurricanes or tornadoes, you'll want to have a plan for securing keep them from being knocked over during these storms. When hurricane Harvey hit our area, the hives by using straps around the hives to keep them stacked. We also drove t-posts on eitl hive and used straps horizontally to secure the hive to the t-posts. This worked really well and hives survived.

If you live in an area that doesn't get hurricanes or tornadoes, the hive cover can still fly off di storm. This will let rain in and can cause a lot of damage inside the hive. Weighting the cover a few bricks is a great way to keep the lid from being dislodged. You can also use straps but you won't need to strap them to t-posts.

I've also seen people use latches or small screws and wire to latch the deep and supers togeth remained stacked.

If the hives are near a sturdy shelter, for instance near a barn or house, you could move the h backside of the hive against the structure. Only move the hive a couple of feet, so any foragin able to identify their hive and come home.

How to help bees during storms will depend on how strong the storms are and how long they spring storms, the bees will be able to take care of themselves. However, when strong storms prudent beekeeper will help the bees out by securing the hive and providing supplemental fee

TO SEE THE FULL ARTICLE  
<https://backyardbeekeeping.iamcountryside.com/health-pests/bee-weather-series-how-to-help-spring-rain-and-storms/>

We will continue with the weekly field day inspections in June to ensure the colonies are healthy and the queens are laying with plenty of space in both brood nest and honey supers. Please come and enjoy learning best beekeeping practices at an upcoming MABA field day.

Good Beekeeping,  
 Gregg Tingle

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Keeping up with your hive tool!  
 Are you like I was? I would lay my hive tool down and then have to look for it each time I needed it. Well, I found a helpful tool that I use all the time now. It is called a "Handy-Mag". It is a magnet with a belt clip on it. I use the clip to hang it on my pocket with the magnet facing out. This keeps the hive tool readily available on my side. I picked mine up at Home Depot. The only trick you must get used to, is to pull it down when you need it so the clip stays on your pocket rather than coming off with the hive tool as it will if you pull up on it to remove it. Just a simple trick to keep your hive tool handy and in easy reach when you need it.- David Perry



For more information, please [click here](#) to contact us.

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