

Nashville Area Beekeepers December 2020 News



<http://nashbee.org>

Missing a Newsletter?

[Archive](#)

Next Meeting:

The UT Apiculture Program

with

Dr. Jennifer Tsuruday

December 13th, 2020 at 2 p.m.

Please join us!

ZOOM LINK

In person meetings are cancelled until further notice.

NABA ON-LINE [BEE SCHOOL](#) INSTRUCTION
FOR BEGINNERS AND AS A REFRESHER

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING MAKE BEE VIDEOS?
NABA WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR HELP. Contact [Buzz](#)



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

*Gene Armstrong Apiary at Ellington
Submitted by Buzz Evans*

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Winter Feeding

Make Your Own Winter Food

Developed by Master Beekeeper Kent Williams

[RECIPE](#) in Al Taylor's Blog

MENTORING INFORMATION UPDATE!

A NABA Mentoring Program Group on Facebook has been created. Check it out for how to videos and other information. Here is the link

[NABA MENTORING LINK](#)

Please Note: All Mentoring should be done by phone until further notice.

Need a mentor or want to be a mentor? Any NABA member with more than one year of experience can be a mentor. Interested? Email: [Hope Woods](#)

December 13th Meeting Featured Speaker

Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda

Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda joined the faculty of the University of Tennessee in 2019 and is the state Apiculturist for TN. Prior to joining UT, she worked on honey bee behavior and genetics at the University of California at Davis, Purdue University, and Clemson University. She brings experience and knowledge from those projects to UT, where she is developing an apiculture program that includes the Master Beekeeping Program. Dr. Tsuruda will be speaking to the Nashville Bee Association about the UT Apiculture Program and its goals. Given current circumstances, there are some limitations on how the program operates but she will discuss what she hopes to discover and accomplish with and for the beekeepers of TN.



Jennifer Tsuruda, PhD

John Benham's December Tips!

End of the bee cycle - The end of the bee cycle occurs in late December with the beginning starting sometime after the winter solstice. The queen starts laying a small number of eggs to replace some winter bees, which is actually the beginning of the Spring build up. Cold weather will be here for some time yet and the natural brood build up coincides with the availability of outside food sources such as pollen. The build up is dependent on Winter Bees and food stores. Thus the Winter Bees are critical for survival. The brood being reared consists of the nurse and pollen foragers bees. When the weather breaks, the major brood build up will begin. The Winter Bees are designed for fat storage but are poor pollen and nectar foragers. Thus the necessity of brood that will be the correct age to forage when the weather breaks and pollen is available. The current honey stores in the colony will be used at an increasing rate for thermoregulation in the colder weather. As the weather warms, more stores are used as food for the increasing population of adult bees. All beekeepers should be thinking about bee food supplies while monitoring long range forecasts for the late winter and early spring period. **STAY WELL AHEAD OF THE FOOD BEING CONSUMED AND THE COLONY BUILD-UP!**

Oxalic acid vaporization treatment should be considered, as the amount of brood is normally low during this period. Base your decision on ambient and forecast weather conditions. Continue to monitor food supplies by lifting the hive and also by peeking in to look at candy or sugar stores, if they were added. Make sure dead bees do not block the entrance.

John would appreciate comments on his bee calendar. Please contact him at [John Benham](#)



John Benham

Pollinator Plant of the Month (Submitted by Ian Dawe)

This month:

Wavy-Leaf Aster (*Symphotrichum undulatum*)

Characteristics:

Perennial

Height: 1 – 4 feet

Bloom Color: White, Pink

Bloom Time: Aug- Nov

Native Habitat: Relatively common in Tennessee. Dry woods, particularly edges, thickets, and clearings. In the yard, this plant may need to be grown in groupings of several plants, for a better show and for more efficient foraging for honey bees. This plant will add color to a yard that is dwindling as Fall proceeds. The seeds can be sown in situ in late Fall or damp stratification for 30 days before sowing the seeds in a growing medium. Mature plants can be divided for further propagation in the Spring.

Benefit: Because of its late bloom time, it is a valuable source (although limited) of both nectar and pollen to honeybees. The pollen is yellow.

This Aster will grow in dry, well drained, soils and will thrive in partial shade, unlike other Asters. A stiff, very rough stem bearing spreading branches and loose clusters of flower heads with lavender, violet, or pale blue rays. There are several varieties of this plant, differing only in the outline of the leaves. The broadly winged leafstalks are particularly noteworthy. The lower leaves on a Wavy-Leaf Aster have leafy “wings”, variable in width, extending down the length of the leaf stem (petiole). Leaves closer to the top of the plant lack the petiole and simply wrap around the stem. The plants are typically 1 to 4 feet tall. Taller plants may lean due to the weight of the flowers. They can often be found growing in loose clumps with multiple plants relatively close together.



Ian Dawe



Wavy-Leaf Aster

Introducing NABA Members

Daniel Shaw

Dan grew up on a cattle farm in Lamar, Arkansas with 3 sisters, 2 brothers, and his parents. Dan was an active member of the FFA in high school by holding different titles in his school chapter and by showing livestock in county and state fairs. He also developed a love for the outdoors, wildlife, and the environment by growing up in the Boy Scouts. For his Eagle Scout project, he partnered with the Army Core of Engineers to provide fish habitat structures on Piney Bay Lake in London, AR. His love for outdoors continues today. He moved to Nashville in 2017 with his sweetheart Hope and they predetermined that they would start a honeybee colony and keep Rhode Island red hens as a way to make the backyard feel more like the farm. Dan soon decided to go back to school for Agriculture Sciences/Business after spending 4 years in construction and welding. While attending TSU his awareness of sustainable agriculture grew and an interest in commercial beekeeping was sparked after seeing the film "Pollinators" - school projects soon focused exclusively on honeybees. After studying in Costa Rica at EARTH University in 2019 and having two years of beekeeping under his belt, his goal of a sustainable agribusiness became clearer. After graduating Dan plans to return back to the families' farms with new goals in mind; carbon neutrality being the driving force. Dan and Hope want to diversify the landscape to provide more habitat for native pollinators as well as to provide for their own the honeybees colonies. Dan's dream is to become a commercial pollinator and travel to some of the country's largest farms. For now, he is happy to continue growing his apiary and improving on the sale of products from the hive. Dan is a member of the NABA board and has volunteered in many NABA projects.



Daniel Shaw

NABA MONTHLY ZOOM METINGS- ON WEBSITE

Did you miss any of our monthly ZOOM meetings? Our programs for August thru November are posted to the NABA website under "Member Resources".

- August: "The Threshold to Healthy Spring Bees" by John Benham
- September: "Feeding Your Bees – How, When & Why" by Trevor Quarles
- October: "Which Bee is Right for Me?" by Al Taylor
- November; "Becoming a Better Bee Detective" by Jay Williams

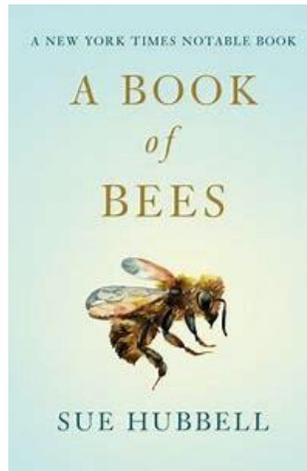
To access the recorded ZOOM presentations, go to nashbee.org and click on "Member Resources". We are adding a listing in the drop-down box titled "ZOOM Meetings". Until that is completed, click TWICE to access the recordings.

A description of each speaker's program is available in the Newsletter for that month. Go to "NABA Newsletters" in the drop-box under "Member Resources". The recorded program includes the speaker's presentation plus the question and answer session that followed. Future programs will be posted to the website if available.

Reviews of Books of Interest to Beekeepers (Submitted by David Hinton)

“A Book of Bees” by Sue Hubbell

If you only buy and read just one book about bees and beekeeping, let it be “A Book of Bees” by Sue Hubbell. How’s that for a recommendation? Hubbell’s book was first published over two decades ago and it’s still in print, and in the publishing world, there’s no greater recommendation than that.



David Hinton

Why am I so excited about this book? First, because it offers a wealth of practical information on beekeeping helpful for beekeepers from beginning to advanced. The index gives an indication on just how much is packed into this book: it is ten pages long, two columns on each page, and here are some of the listings: beekeeping in autumn, cleansing flights of bees, foraging flights of bees, protein needs of bees, weak colonies, survival strategies for bees, brood diseases, entrance reducers, Queen excluders, anti-bacterial qualities of honey, honey flavor, raising Queens, re-Queening, supersedure of Queens.....and the list goes on.

But the main reason I so strongly recommend this book is the author: Sue Hubbell is simply a delightful person and her personality infuses this book from beginning to end. I learned about Hubbell in a strange way, by coming across her obituary in the New York Times shortly after her death in October 2018. Let’s face it---how many beekeepers get a half page obituary in the New York Times? As the obituary noted in its opening sentence “Sue Hubbell, who wrote quietly penetrating books and essays about her life as a beekeeper, a curious wanderer and a divorced woman navigating middle age, died at age 83.”

Sue Hubbell earned a B.A. in Journalism from the University of California, and after later earning a Master’s degree in Library Science she went on to become a periodicals librarian at Brown University. In 1972 she and her husband made a radical change of life, selling their house in Providence, Rhode Island and moving to the Ozarks in Missouri to launch a commercial beekeeping operation. After the couple got a divorce, she got the bees and stayed on in the Ozarks running a 300 hive, multiple location bee business with one hired helper.

Sue Hubbell was a free spirit. In “A Book of Bees” she writes of canoeing nude down a river with her male friend, hoping not to run into Park Service Rangers, and at the end of the day “. . . downriver, our campsite was cool and lovely and bug free. In the evening the mists rose from the river. Before we went to sleep, we sat by our camp fire and watched the moonlight reflecting on the water.”

She enjoyed her life in nature, but particularly her close proximity to her beloved bees. As she writes towards the end of the book “For fifteen years now I have worked on such familiar terms with the bees that when I see them down at the river, or listen to them at night, I know exactly what they are doing.”

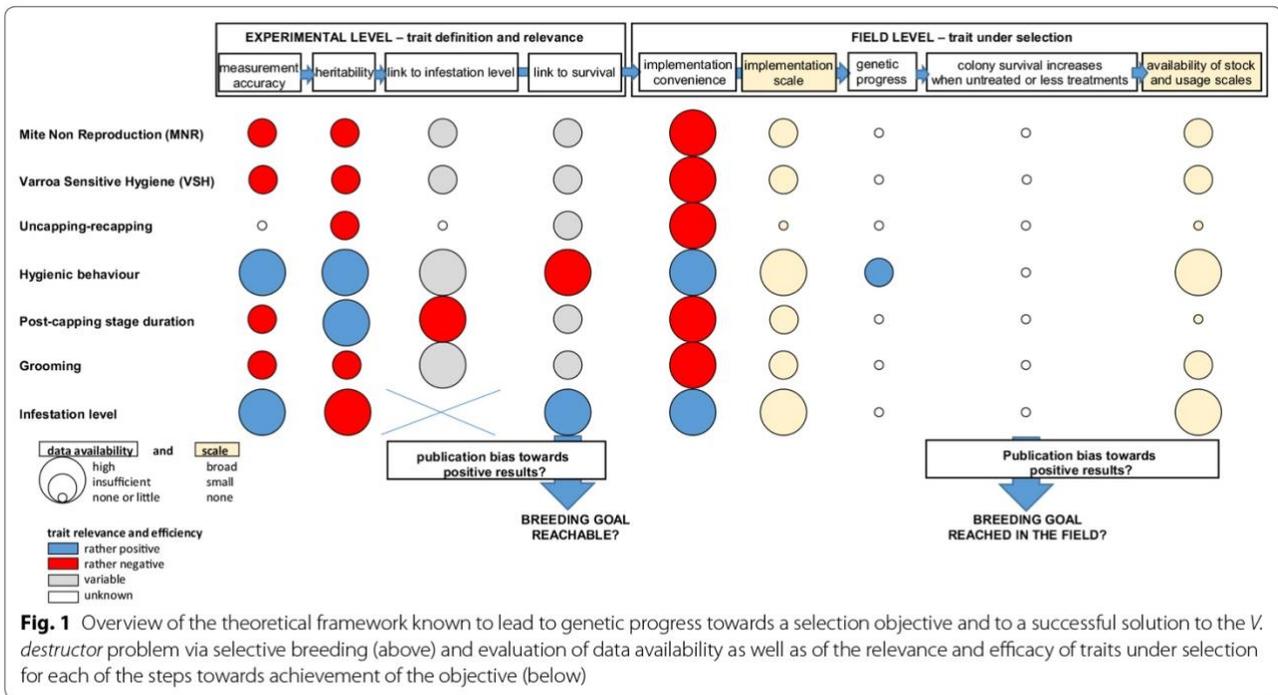
But it isn’t just the bees that fill her life with fascination. She notes that “... a beekeeper must be something of a botanist in order to learn the blossoming patterns of flowers that represent significant nectar flows for the bees. This is one of the most enjoyable aspects of beekeeping, but it took me several seasons to convince myself that I was doing genuine productive work when I walked out into wild places with field guides to the

wild flowers and shrubs, a notebook and a picnic lunch (and if I could persuade a friend to come along, a bottle of wine) in a knapsack. It seemed like too much fun.”

But my favorite quote from the book, the one so illustrative of her love for beekeeping, is her comment that “I am looking forward to being old. No one could expect an old lady to keep more than a hundred hives of bees. ...”

Bee Science

[Guichard et al](#) have written a very nice, interesting and informative overview of efforts to select resistance traits against Varroa destructor in honey bees. Figure 1 from their manuscript (below) gives you an overview of the information they discuss. The paper has free access so you should be able to use the hyperlink, however, if you need help please contact [Deb](#)



Gene Armstrong Apiary at Ellington
Submitted by Buzz Evans



Cooking with Honey

Roast Chicken with Cumin, Honey and Orange

(submitted by Deb Lannigan from cooking.nytimes)

Ingredients

½ cup freshly squeezed orange juice

½ cup honey

1 tablespoon ground cumin

salt and pepper

1 3lb chicken, giblets and excess fat removed

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Combine orange juice, honey, cumin, salt and pepper in bowl, and whisk until smooth. Place chicken in pan, and spoon all but 1/4 cup of liquid over all of it.

Roast chicken in oven for 10 minutes. Spoon accumulated juices back over chicken, reverse pan back to front, and return to oven. Repeat four times, basting every 10 minutes and switching pan position each time. If chicken browns too quickly, lower heat a bit. If juices dry up, use reserved liquid and 1 or 2 tablespoons of water or orange juice.

Roast for a total of 50 minutes or when a thermometer inserted into the thigh reads 155 to 165 degrees. Remove chicken from oven, and baste one final time. Let rest 5 minutes before serving.

Do you have a recipe to share? -please send email to [Deb](#)

MITE CONTROL INFORMATION HONEYBEE HEALTH COALITION

[Click here](#) for everything you need to know – booklet, videos, on-line decision tree and more from the ultimate

Tennessee Department of Agriculture is **continuing Apiary inspections** as protection of the food supply is an essential service.

Curious about the [Asian Giant Hornet?](#)

Your Newsletter Editor



Hi Everyone –My mom would really like you to **send her bee/flower /hive photos, honey recipes, stories about your bees and any honey bee questions.** Here is my mom’s email link [Deb](#) My mom gives me a treat when she gets mail from you!