

# Nashville Area Beekeepers January 2021 News



<http://nashbee.org>

**Missing a Newsletter?**

[Archive](#)

## Next Meeting:

### Basic Equipment for Beekeeping with

Dave Sells

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 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

# HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021

Hope to see you all in person soon!



*Bee on Upright Flox  
Submitted by Roger Sanders*

More inside:

page 2 Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> NABA Speaker Overview

page 2 John Benham's December Tips

page 3 Apiary Registration Required

page 4 Pollinator Plant of the Month

page 5 Links to Previous Meetings

page 5 Dues Renewal Announcement

page 6 Introducing NABA Members

page 6 Volunteers Needed

page 7 Charles Colwell Award Winner

page 8 Book Review

page 9 Cooking with Honey

page 10 Bee Science

## 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](#)

## January 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting Featured Speaker

### Dave Sells

Dave is the owner of Maple Bend Bee Supply located in Murfreesboro, TN. While he is an agriculture enthusiast, raising horses, cattle, and chickens, his true passion is honeybees. His grandfather was a commercial beekeeper and passed his love and respect of bees on to Dave. Dave enjoys educating new beekeepers, whether it be at a local meeting or in his shop. He loves to talk honeybees! Dave, his wife Jessica, and their family reside in Lascassas, TN where they are active members of their community. In his spare time, he enjoys flying, going to lake with his family and supporting the Blue Raiders.

Dave will be discussing Basic Equipment for Beekeeping. His presentation will cover all the tools and equipment you will need to start and work your hives.



*Dave Sells*

### John Benham's January Tips!

**January** – The number of brood should be increasing, as the queen increases her egg laying but that will depend on the December weather. You may consider doing an oxalic acid treatment on a warm day this month but again, if you are not experienced ask for help. Check out the amount of honey/patties in the hive. Food supplies are dwindling but make sure they are sufficient. Clear off any snow and/or ice buildup covering the hive, which could interfere with proper ventilation or block the entrance.

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



*John Benham*



*Bee hives with winter wind guard  
Submitted by Roger Sanders*

## Apiary Act Of 1995 Requires all Apiaries to be Registered

**AVAILABLE ON-LINE**

The Tennessee Apiary Act of 1995 (found at TCA Sections 44-15-101 et seq.) requires all new apiaries to be registered with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. They are then required to be re-registered every three years. The list of beekeepers is maintained by the State Apiarist and upon registration the beekeeper receives a unique registration number. This number is the beekeeper's personal registration number and can be used to brand hives and equipment.

Registering your apiary allows you to receive e-mail notifications of disease outbreaks and updates from the State Apiarist. Also, you will receive notification of aerial spraying of pesticides in your area if the state is notified, free inspection of your colonies if needed, and compensation for colonies destroyed due to American Foulbrood or other regulated pests or diseases. No indemnity is paid for loss of unregistered hives.

A benefit of registration is found at TCA Section 44-15-125, which provides that as long as you maintain the registration of your apiary and otherwise comply with the Apiary Act, and operate your apiary in a reasonable manner, you "shall not be liable for any personal injury or property damage that is caused by the keeping and maintaining of...bees that nest in a beehive that is located on such apiary" (other than for intentional tortious conduct or gross negligence).

Failure to register your bees or comply with the Apiary Act may result in confiscation of your bees, equipment and a \$500 fine. Moving bees and used equipment into, out of, within or through the state are required by law to be inspected.

Click her to [register your apiary, or renew the registration](#) of an apiary previously registered.

You will also need the longitude and latitude of the apiary (see picture). This can be obtained on most phone GPS apps. **Start 2021 with a registered apiary!**



*Gene Armstrong Apiary Location*

## Pollinator Plant of the Month (Submitted by Ian Dawe)

This month:

### Witch-Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)

A native small tree or large shrub with fantastic fall attributes. Yellow, fragrant flowers bloom from October through December. Attractive foliage in all growing seasons with leaves bright green in the spring.

The yellow, 1" strap-like flowers of this native shrub are among the last blooms to appear in fall but are often hidden by the leaves. The shrub will bloom for 2 – 3 weeks, occasionally blooming through frosts. Common Witch-Hazel is a large shrub with a picturesque irregular branching habit that naturally grows along woodland edges. The large, rounded, dark green leaves often hang onto the winter branches.

Its landscape uses include shrub borders, woodland gardens or a screen or tall hedge. It grows 15 to 25 feet high and 15 to 20 feet wide with a irregular form at maturity. In part shade it will have more habitat than in full sun.

It performs best in moist, well-drained soil high in organic matter, but can tolerate clay soil. Also tolerant of alkaline soils and road salts. It may be necessary to mulch to keep soil moist and avoid dry conditions.

Witch Hazel attracts birds & butterflies and the seeds are eaten by several species of birds. It serves as a host plant for the larvae of the spring azure butterfly and provides a source of pollen and nectar for bees.

Photo courtesy of [Morton Arboretum](#)



Ian Dawe



Witch-Hazel

## 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
- December: -not on video-

### IMPORTANT LINKS

1. [tiny.utk.edu/apiculture](http://tiny.utk.edu/apiculture)
2. [utextension.tennessee.edu/](http://utextension.tennessee.edu/)
3. [agresearch.tennessee.edu/filed\\_day/S](http://agresearch.tennessee.edu/filed_day/S)
4. [Facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension](https://Facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension)

To access the recorded ZOOM presentations, go to [nashbee.org](http://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.

## All Dues Will Renew Annually on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

The NABA Board recently voted to change the renewal date for annual dues from monthly (the date you joined) to annually as of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. This was done to simplify the work of our volunteer Treasurer who was processing 25 to 30 dues renewals each month.

Annual dues were increased to \$25 for family membership and \$12 for a senior family (over 65) in April of 2020. To make the transition to an annual dues renewal of February 1<sup>st</sup> both equitable and administratively simple, the following renewal process will take place.

1. If you renewed a \$10 family membership in early 2020, your dues will be renewed for \$25 on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. You will receive a renewal notice.
2. If you renewed your membership or joined as a new member in 2020 and paid \$25, you will NOT be billed on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Your next dues payment will be on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.
3. All senior family dues will be billed for \$12 on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.
4. New members joining after February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 will pay prorated dues that go down \$2 per month based on the month they join.

**Dues notices will go out by e-mail in early January. You can pay on-line or mail in a check. Go to the [NABA website](#) to pay on-line.**

If you have questions about your dues renewal, please e-mail [ian Dawe](mailto:ian.dawe@naba.org), Treasurer.

## Introducing NABA Members

### Paula Morton

Paula is a third-generation beekeeper as her family runs Johnson Honey Farm in Goodlettsville. The farm, currently run by her brother Robert Johnson, is on property that has contained bees since 1918. She grew up learning beekeeping from her father, Ed Johnson, and soon learned that other beekeepers also needed a mentor. She became a NABA mentor 22 years ago and then qualified as a State Hive Inspector two years later. For the last 20 years she has inspected hives, teaching beekeepers how to keep healthy hives, find queens (or eggs) and treat for varroa mites. She views her job as an inspector as an opportunity to train new beekeepers. Last year, she inspected over 50 hives. She also manages 25 pollination hives in 10 locations in middle Tennessee. On weekends you will find Paula at the Franklin

Farmers Market every Saturday morning from 9:00 to 12:00. Please come out to the Factory parking lot and say hello. Paula lives in Greenbriar, Tennessee and you can reach her at [golfcrazed@outlook.com](mailto:golfcrazed@outlook.com).



*Paula Morton with Bee Mascot*

## NABA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the lifeblood of charitable organizations. NABA is no exception. While beekeepers in Middle Tennessee appreciate the numerous benefits of being a member of the organization, these benefits would not exist without the dedicated efforts of a handful of beekeepers who love the bees and wish to spread their appreciation to new beekeepers while sharing their enthusiasm with other beekeepers.

We would really like two NABA volunteers Immediately.

1. Barry Richards manages the NABA website and describes his responsibility as keeping the website up to date including meeting information, uploading post-meeting videos and handouts, and maintaining the swarm catcher and local honey lists. Barry also maintains NABA's Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts. ***Barry's website committee needs a volunteer with web experience, particularly with Wordpress***, who could work with the NABA leadership and consistently make updates. Barry notes that the new volunteer, assuming there is a certain level of expertise, should not expect to give any more than an hour a week.
2. Hope Woods is in charge of the NABA mentoring program. Her main responsibilities are making sure new beekeepers have a mentor and recruiting new mentors. Because of the restrictions mandated by the coronavirus, her committee started a Facebook mentoring group earlier this year as a way for new beekeepers to continue their beekeeping education. Hope needs a volunteer who will manage this Facebook group. The new volunteer's responsibility would



*Dolly Carlisle, Volunteer Coordinator*

include accepting or denying new members and new posts, as well as finding and posting educational material. ***This volunteer would need to know how to post to Facebook and can expect to spend about one or two hours a week keeping the NABA mentoring group page updated.***

If you have an interest in volunteering for the above duties, please contact [Dolly Carlisle](#), NABA's Volunteer Coordinator. If you have other interests and would like to throw your hat into the NABA volunteering ring, let her know.

## IAN DAWE RECEIVES THE CHARLES COWELL AWARD

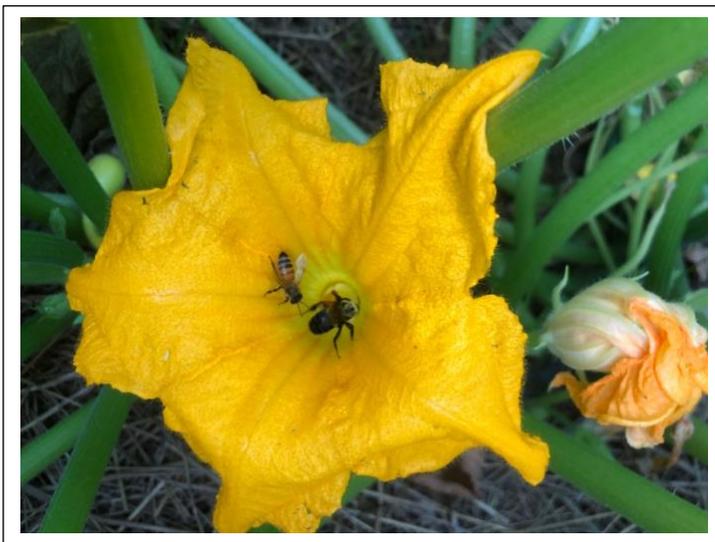
Ian Dawe has been named the 2020 Charles Cowell Award recipient. The award is given annually to the NABA member who made the greatest contribution to beekeeping within Nashville and NABA. The award is named for Charles Cowell, a founding member of NABA in the '50s, who passed away in 2018. Charlie was President of NABA three times and attended every NABA meeting and event for over 60 years.

Ian, a member of NABA since 2014, is a current Board member and mentors 3 to 4 new beekeepers each year. As a member of the pollinator committee, he provides monthly information on pollinator plants and trees to the newsletter and meetings. Ian and his wife Deborah were also featured last year in a TV segment of Volunteer Gardner that highlighted their beautiful English garden and bees. Most importantly, he volunteered to be NABA Secretary in early 2020.



*Ian Dawe, 2020 Charles Cowell Award Winner*

## CONGRATULATIONS IAN!



*Bees on squash bloom  
Submitted by Roger Sanders*

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

### “The Beekeeper’s Problem Solver: 100 Problems Explored and Explained” by James E. Tew

Dolly, my partner in life and in beekeeping, and I have a game we play when faced with a question we can’t answer. “Let’s ask Swami” one of us will say, and we pull out the iPad and ask the question on Google. As a historian, it works well for me in asking simple fact questions like “Who were the grandparents of Charles V?” but for beekeeping questions—it’s not advisable. One thing you will regularly hear at NABA meetings is “Don’t trust everything (anything?) you read on the Internet.”

This is a problem, since even seasoned beekeepers run into puzzling situations and need to seek further, reliable information. So---what to do? You can ask a helpful mentor in NABA’s mentoring program, but maybe it’s not something you want to bother another person about. In that case, the best solution is to consult a book written by an authoritative, qualified expert.

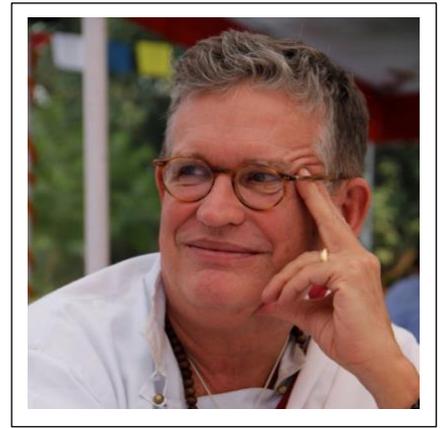
“The Beekeeper’s Problem Solver: 100 Problems Explored and Explained” by James E. Tew is by far the best that I have come across. Tew has a Ph.D. in entomology and is currently a consulting professor at Auburn University. More important, he has been keeping bees for more than forty years (!). Besides his book, I can also recommend his [website](#)

The book divides its one hundred questions into nine topical chapters. Just to give you a feel for the questions, Chapter one (Beekeeping Basics) deals with questions such as “I don’t know where to get my first bees” and “My new bees arrived during a cool, rainy period.” Chapter Three—Biology and Behavior of the Colony” addresses “There a few eggs and larvae in the brood nest” and “There are two Queens in the brood nest.”

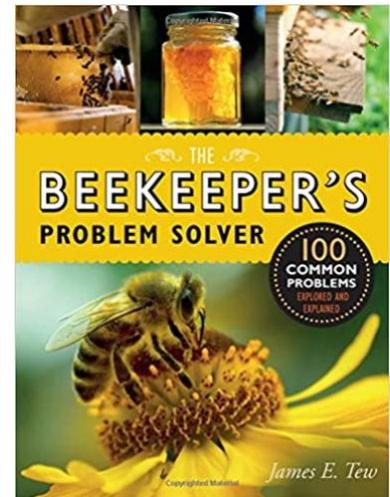
And so you will know the breadth of the book, the remaining chapters are: Managing and Manipulating Hives; Queen Protection and Maintenance; Diseases and Pests of Honey Bees; Pollen and Pollination; Producing and Processing Honey; and the final chapter is Beeswax, Propolis, and Specialty Issues.

Inevitably, some answers are disappointing, such as the vague and general discussion of treatments given in answer to “Varroa mites have overrun the colony.” But the balance of the book is helpful and instructive. I found the answer to #80, “The bees are struggling to find good forage” particularly insightful when it pointed out the importance of location and flight time. Tew observes that “Food source location plays an important role. The further the bees must fly, the more expensive it is for the forager. The average bee has been estimated to only have about a 140 mile flight lifetime with a maximum of 500 miles. While it is true that bees can forage as far as five miles from the food source, these distances push the limits of efficiency and productivity within the colony.

“The Beekeepers Problem Solver” by James Tew. I recommend this book for beekeepers at all levels.



David Hinton



## Cooking with Honey

### Honey Spice Bread

*(submitted by Deb Lannigan from [cooking.nytimes.com](http://cooking.nytimes.com))*

#### Ingredients

- 1/2 cup honey
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1/2 cup whole wheat flour
- 1/2 cup rye flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon ground anise
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 extra large egg
- 3 tablespoons milk

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Butter a small (8 x 4-inch or smaller) bread pan and dust lightly with flour. Line with parchment if desired. Alternatively, use buttered and floured mini-muffin molds or silicone mini muffin molds.

Place the honey and sugar in a small saucepan, insert a thermometer and heat to 158 degrees while stirring with a rubber spatula.

Sift together the whole wheat flour, rye flour, baking powder, spices and salt and transfer them to the bowl of your mixer.

In a small bowl whisk together the milk and whole eggs. Turn the mixer on low and slowly add the milk and egg mixture. Stop the mixer and, using a rubber spatula or a plastic bowl scraper, scrape up any flour sticking to the bottom of the bowl. Add the warm honey mixture and mix on medium speed until incorporated. Scrape into the bread pan or spoon about 1 to 2 teaspoons into each mini-mold, filling them 3/4 full.

Bake mini-cakes for 15 to 20 minutes, loaves for 40 to 45 minutes, until deep brown and a tester comes out clean. Remove from the heat, unmold and cool on a rack. If making a loaf, for best results, once cool wrap tightly in plastic and allow the cake to rest for a day.

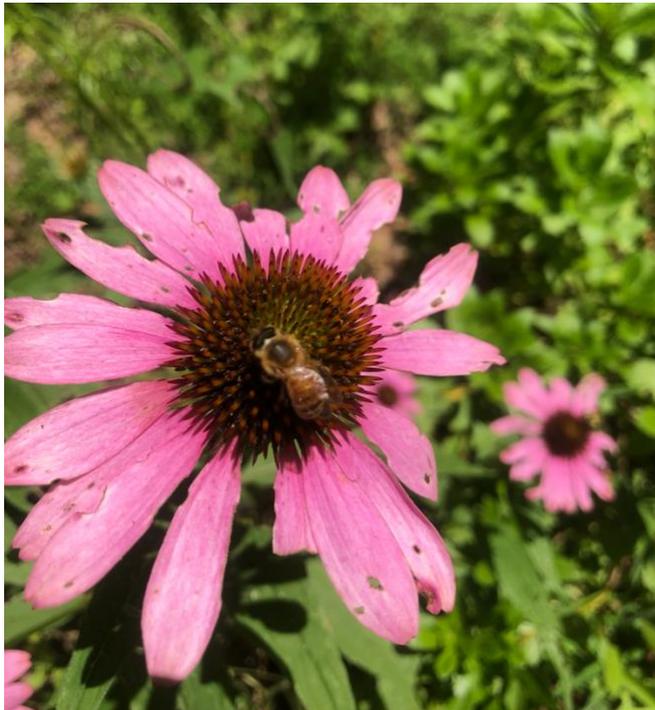
Do you have a recipe to share? -please send email to [Deb](mailto:Deb)

## Bee Science

The authors Yi and others in the December 2020 issue of the Journal of Economic Entomology have presented a very nice study evaluating queens developed from worker cell larvae at different times up to 3.5 days old. They found that queens reared from older larvae developed slower, weighed less and had fewer ovarioles than queens raised from eggs. I really found the differences in gene expression between these comparisons interesting because it clearly showed that the queens reared from the older larvae was compromised in reproduction, longevity, immunity and metabolism. If you would like to read more please contact [Deb](#) and I'll send you a PDF.

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

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



*Bees on cone flower  
Submitted by Roger Sanders*

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!