

Nashville Area Beekeepers

June 2020

News



Missing a Newsletter?

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<http://nashbee.org>

Next Meeting:

At Home Viewing

**Honey Harvesting Seminar
with**

Gene Armstrong

June 14th, 2020 at 2 p.m.

Please join us!

[ZOOM LINK](#)

In person meetings are cancelled until further notice.

In Memoriam

Nicholas Waggoner, age 35, a former NABA member died on April 3rd, 2020 in Culleoka, TN. Nicholas, a beekeeper since 2015, kept 7 hives in



East Nashville and had recently moved them to Culleoka. After his death, his family requested memorial donations be made to NABA due to Nicholas' love of beekeeping. The memorial donations have been added to NABA's general fund and will be used for the education and training of new beekeepers in the Nashville area. Our sympathies go out to his family in their loss.

Zoom Instructions: The link will become active at 2 p.m. on June 14th. Click the link. If you have used Zoom in the past on your computer, the link will automatically take you into the meeting. If you have not used Zoom the link will take you to a window that will ask you if it is okay to download the program onto your computer and then follow the instructions. It would be nice if you used the video so that we could see each other but please mute the audio so that background noise does not disrupt the presentation. We look forward to being together again!

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

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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: Mentoring in person and following the CDC guidelines is now possible.

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](#)

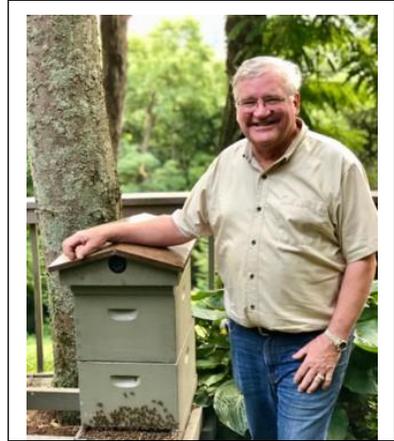
June 14th Meeting Featured Speaker

Gene Armstrong

Our distinguished former NABA president, Gene Armstrong, will provide a presentation on “Honey Harvesting”. Gene was president of NABA for five years and was the 2019 Tennessee Beekeeper of the Year. It is bound to be an interesting and informative talk!

Key topics to be discussed are:

- *How Do Bees Make Honey*---The process and steps used by bees to make honey. What is honey? How is flower nectar converted into honey?
- *Helping Bees Get Started*---How to increase your honey yield. How to assist the bees in making honey.
- *The Steps in Harvesting Honey*---When to harvest. Removing bees from the supers. Techniques and equipment in uncapping. Equipment options and steps in extraction. How to filter. Tips on bottling and labeling. Cleaning the extracted frames. Processing and saving your wax. Storing your comb for next year.



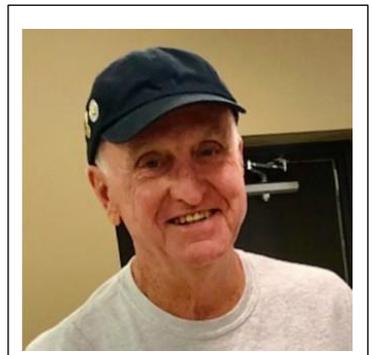
Gene Armstrong

Need to Borrow a Manual Extractor? Thanks to the generosity of Quick Foy NABA is able to provide a 4-frame extractor. Contact Quick by [email](#) or by cell at 615-351-4147 to arrange for the use of the extractor.

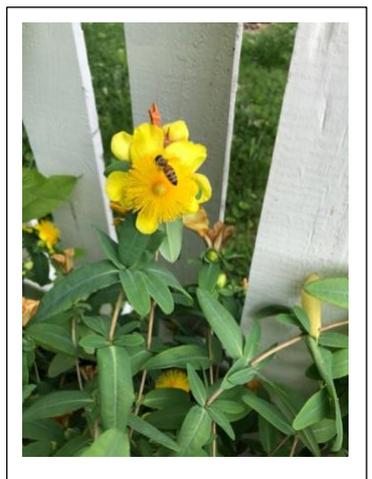
John Benham's June Tips!

Harvest- Colony population build up will be reaching a plateau. Honey supers should be inspected for capping. Robbing behavior will begin this month as the major nectar sources begin to fade and large numbers of scout bees look for more sources, which will include honey stores in smaller colonies. Make sure supers on colonies are not exposed for any amount of time when inspecting or harvesting and always clean up any spilled or exposed honey. Removed supers should be covered and protected until in the honey house. Robbing behavior and its associated frenzy is much easier to prevent than stop. Mite counts should be done in preparation for treatment regimens. Honey super clean up and storage. Many beekeepers harvest their honey in late June or early July as the main (spring) honey flow has ended. You will have to decide if the fall weather is going to allow a good honey flow. You may consider allowing the bees to keep the fall flow to be stored as winter food. Honey is the best winter food for the bees. You will have less winter prep because the bees will more than likely have the food that they need for winter. After harvesting you should consider treating for mites. Use caution due to the temperature restrictions of most mite treatments.

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



John Benham



Honey Bee on Glade St. John's Wort Submitted by Ian Dawe

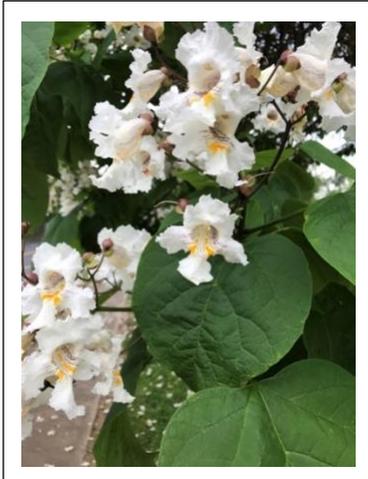
Pollinator Plant of the Month (Submitted by Ian Dawe)

This month features the northern catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*), a deciduous tree, which is native to Western Tennessee. Catalpa blooms in late May to early June with bell-shaped, orchid-like white flowers that can be up to two inches long. Honey bees are able to crawl into the large open flowers. Catalpa is an important plant for honey bees in Tennessee.

Information: [Missouri Botanic Garden](#) and [Shannon R. Trimboli](#)



Ian Dawe



Submitted by Ian Dawe



Source: Missouri Botanic Garden

Introducing NABA Members

Karla Clark, D.V.M.

Karla's interest in beekeeping may have begun while in CA, as she lived next to a commercial bee yard. Many a night the commercial beekeepers loaded the hives on trucks to pollinate the abundant almond orchards in the area. After relocating to TN she attended a 4 day bee school course – and became hooked! She started with one package of bees and became adept at swarm catching and grew to twelve hives. Tragically, after seven successful years she lost them to a farmer spraying their fields next to the bees, and the rest to a bad winter. Ralph Allen helped her obtain a 'bee tree', which survived for 2 years (un-inspectable/untreatable). She has learned much about beekeeping from NABA, WCBA & TBA meetings, as well as fellow NABA members and the "school of hard knocks". Klara is a NABA board member. She is a veterinarian and is currently a laboratory inspector. Her hobbies and work intertwine from time to time through livestock regulatory programs (bees are considered 'livestock') and the recent Veterinary Feed Directive, affecting some bee disease treatments. She wants to encourage beekeepers to ensure the information they obtain is from reputable sources and to also join TBA, as that is the leveraging arm to make things happen in a progressive manner and obtain funding for bees and beekeeping endeavors. Klara does an amazing job each year as the NABA bee booth coordinator for the Nashville Lawn and Garden Show. A side benefit to participating in the show is getting to know other NABA members a little better. Klara also raises Icelandic sheep, enjoys bicycling and gardening, participates in the Disaster Animal Response Team, and has a lengthy history of training and exhibiting horses.



Karla Clark, D.V.M.

NABA Hive Updates

Ellington Apiary Update *(Submitted by Buzz Evans and Quick Foy)*

The NABA apiary at Ellington Agriculture Center provides the Tennessee Department of Agriculture a “showcase apiary” which they use frequently as part of scheduled tours of the Agriculture Center. NABA manages the apiary and uses it to teach hive inspection and management. The proceeds from the sale of the honey it produces goes to support our educational programs. This year we have seven active hives. We installed six Buckfast nucs from Florida on March 22nd. We then added a local nuc that was installed on April 25th. All hives are 8 frame and we run 2 deep brood chambers with medium honey supers. As of Monday, June 1st six of the hives were producing honey. As the apiary picture shows, our two strongest hives have five honey supers and four others have two honey supers each. A seventh (Buckfast) hive lost its queen and we replaced her with a local queen. We expect to have 18 to 20 medium honey supers to extract by the end of June. This is not as much honey as last year, but a good year. The success of the apiary will be measured in how many hives survive the winter. With good mite control we hope to survive them all. We will report again in the fall.



Wild Honey Bees

The bees living in this hollow log section are wild honey bees, also called feral bees. They were moved here by members of the Nashville Area Beekeepers Association.



These bees were previously living in a large tree at the Hermitage, home of President Andrew Jackson.

The dead tree was threatening the tomb of the President and had to be removed. We relocated the bees and their “home” here to the Ellington Agricultural Center.



*Ellington Apiary
Submitted by Gene Armstrong*

Centennial Bee Report in the Pandemic *(Submitted by Seth Cooper)*

One of the joys of beekeeping is, that even during the lockdown with the Covid-19 virus pandemic, most of us could continue to tend our bees in our bee yards, or for many of us, our backyards. With the closure of Centennial Park to the public, and out of concern for exposure to the Centennial NABA team, we ceased regular visits to the island in Lake Watauga, adjacent to the Parthenon in Centennial Park in mid-March. All four hives had survived the winter with good queen activity and plenty of new brood when we inspected them in early March. They had all been treated for varroa with oxalic acid vapor in early December.



We are fortunate to have a world class virologist and immunologist, Andrea Purjissers, on our team working 7 days a week at Vanderbilt in antiviral medication development, testing and vaccine development for the novel Covid-19 coronavirus. In mid-May, with the transmission curve flattening, and the number of cases in Nashville fewer than expected, Andrea counseled that since we would be outside, and if all agreed to wear masks, we could resume our visits. Once the Phase One of re-opening was announced and the park reopened, Larry Wilson and I returned to the island. Upon arrival, we found the situation dire after two months of neglect during a heavy honey flow. We suspect three of the four hives had swarmed, and one successfully re-queened. All the hives were packed with burr comb, honey and brood crammed in every space. The one marked queen that we are certain didn't swarm appeared to be failing due to a very spotty brood pattern and less brood than we have expected. Two of the hives had no queen activity, brood, larvae or eggs, but plenty of bees still making honey. We suspect they swarmed and did not successfully re-queen. We found a number of open queen cells, but no queens.



*Centennial Bee Apiary
Submitted by Andrea Purjissers*

Recovery efforts included a long morning scraping off burr comb, adding additional supers of checkerboarded foundation and drawn comb from last year, and re-queening 3 of the hives. The queen we thought was failing, had started laying better when we returned with her replacement, so it was with sadness we administered royal decapitation and buried her at sea in Lake Watauga with two aging grateful beekeepers as her honor guard. Her regal person was immediately gulped down by a hungry fish. Last week all the new queens had been released, and two had capped brood. We will be checking their progress this weekend.

We do expect a honey harvest this year, but likely not the 230 pounds we got last year that was sold at the Parthenon gift shop to benefit the Parthenon Foundation. Many thanks to all our dedicated volunteers who look after these girls. With regularity, we are engaged by walkers with questions about bees and beekeeping as we launch our Jon boat, or are observed doing our inspections from the viewing platform in

front of the Parthenon. In addition to caring for the Greek Bees, we have been given a platform to educate the public and advance the health of our bee population for the benefit of all.

Beeswax Processing (Submitted by Susan Welchance)

Do you have questions? Email [Susan](#)

Thanks to Susan's generosity in sharing her knowledge we are providing instructions on processing and using beeswax. We are providing this information in installments as part of your NABA newsletter.

Method 2: Slow Cooker (CROCK POT)

Assemble Following Items:

- Slow cooker with lid – I use a 6 quart size.
- Slow cooker liners - Big plastic bags made specifically for slow cooker.
- Plastic coffee canister with bottom cut out for use as wax cappings funnel.
- Nylon panty hose or knee high stockings; I use Queen-size panty hose from a dollar store.
- Water
- Wax Cappings

Wax Cappings Preparation for Slow Cooker:

- Rinse wax cappings outside with garden hose & spray nozzle. Do not skip this step when using slow cooker method. We're working with wax in a smaller scale in a smaller melting device. Cleaner cappings will yield cleaner wax. I rinse the cappings outdoors using an old honey filter & fiberglass sink, then put the drained cappings in a clean 5 gallon bucket until ready for melting.
- Cut legs off panty hose;
- Clean cappings are stuffed into a panty hose leg using a plastic coffee canister funnel.
- When leg is full of cappings, tie open end of stocking into a knot. Double bag this single panty hose leg into other stocking & tie open end into a knot.
- Set up slow cooker:
 1. Place 2 liners in slow cooker.
 2. Fill slow cooker 1/3 full with water.
 3. Add cappings stuffed stocking to slow cooker & cover with lid.
 4. Set slow cooker to medium heat & cook 2-3 hours. Wax will flow out of stocking & float on top of water.
 5. Turn off cooker. Carefully remove stocking & let cool. It can be used as a fire starter later. Let wax cool in slow cooker overnight. It will harden & can be lifted from the slow cooker.
 6. Empty water from slow cooker outdoors. Remove liners from slow cooker pot and throw away. Do not re-use liners.
- Wax Yield Example – I captured 1 lb. 5 oz. of beeswax from 2 lb. 6 oz. of cappings using the slow cooker method.



*On patrol at Abe's Garden
Submitted by Buzz Evans*

NEXT INSTALLMENT IN JULY: BEESWAX PROCESSING – PRODUCE WAX READY FOR CRAFTING

Cooking with Honey

Honey Banana Muffins

Ingredients

- 3 very ripe bananas
- 1/3 cup honey (if bananas aren't sweet enough for taste, increase to 1/2 cup)
- 1/4 cup canola oil
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. nutmeg

Directions

- Preheat oven to 375F
- In a large bowl, mash the bananas with the honey, oil, egg and vanilla. Add the flour, soda and salt.
- Divide the batter among 10-12 paper-lined muffin cups, filling them almost full and bake for 20 minutes or until golden and springy to the touch.



*Honey Bee on Papaver somniferum
Submitted by Ian Dawe*

Recipe courtesy of Chef Michael Folz, Renaissance Hotel, Nashville (submitted by Gene Armstrong)

Do you have a recipe to share? -please send email to Deb Lannigan

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

Bee Science

Siefert and colleagues published in the journal Scientific Reports that larva in hives exposed to neonicotinoids were slow in moving through the developmental stages, which was due to a lack of care by their nurse honey bees.

Would you like to see the entire article?

Email Deb Lannigan

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

Your Newsletter Editor: Hi Everyone – I have been a beekeeper for four years and I got into bee keeping because of my interest in animal behavior. I also do a lot of dog sports with my rescue and rehomed border collies. I like to talk about and do stuff with bees, dogs and science!

If you have anything you would like to share in the Newsletter or make any comments - please send it to Deb Lannigan

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 authorities.