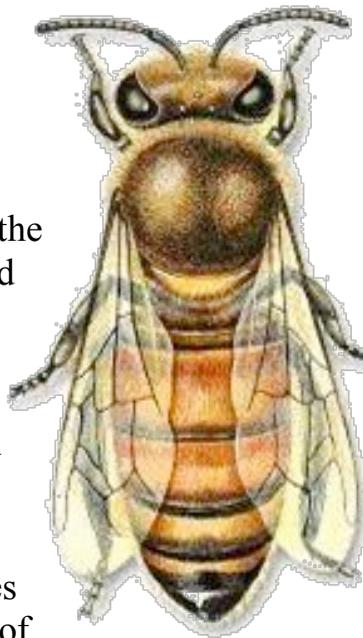


The Honey Bee

State Insect of Arkansas

The Great Seal of the State of Arkansas was first adopted in 1864, and featured a bee hive among other symbols of our state's agricultural wealth and heritage. The present form of the seal, modified in 1907, retained these symbols.

The honeybee was designated as the state insect of Arkansas in 1973, primarily because of the important role honeybees play in agriculture. Throughout history, honey bees have been traditional symbols of wisdom, industry and organization.



Honey Bee Facts

A honey bee colony is composed of one giant family. The queen bee is the mother of all the other bees in her hive! One hive may contain 20,000 to 60,000 bees, all living and working together.

A queen bee can lay up to 2500 eggs per day. She must eat many times her own body weight each day to produce eggs continually.

A honey bee can fly up to 15 miles per hour. Its wings beat about 180 times per second, producing the familiar buzzing sound.

A honey bee can travel up to 3 miles from its hive to collect food. One colony of bees can forage across more than 18,000 acres.

An individual honey bee will take an average of 10 trips from her hive each day, visiting 50-100 flowers on each trip from home.

A honey bee will only visit a single species of flower on each trip, ensuring that pollen is transferred to the correct type of flower.

A worker bee who finds a good source of nectar will communicate its location to the rest of her hive by performing a unique dance.

A pound of honey is about 1 1/3 cups. Bees must gather nectar from about 2 million flowers to make a single pound of honey.

Together, the bees in a hive must fly about 55,000 miles to collect all of the nectar for just 1 pound of honey. By comparison, the earth has a circumference of about 25,000 miles at the equator.

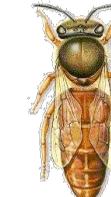
A colony of bees working together can produce between 50 and 200 pounds of honey each year. A single honey bee will only produce about 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey in her entire lifetime.

Since a worker honey bee will die soon after she stings, honey bees are not naturally aggressive. They sting to defend themselves or when they feel their colony is threatened. Males cannot sting.

During their busy spring and summer, a worker honey bee will only live for about 6 weeks. Workers may live up to 6 months in the winter, during which the bees cluster together to stay warm.



WORKER



QUEEN



DRONE

Delicious Honey

Honey is the natural sweet substance produced by honey bees from the nectar of plants. It's a complex blend of naturally flavored sugars and trace enzymes, minerals, vitamins, and amino acids.

Honey varies in color and flavor depending on the varieties of flower that the bees have visited. Usually honey with a darker color has a stronger flavor. Bee hives in one location may produce completely different varieties of honey from year to year.

Honey is one of the safest foods to eat. Most harmful bacteria cannot survive in honey for very long. Pure honey never spoils, but it may crystallize over time. Gently heating a jar of honey in a pan of warm water will restore it to its liquid form.

Importance of Bees

Honey bees do more than just make honey! Most flowering plants cannot produce seeds or fruits without the help of pollinators, and bees (including *honey* bees) do most of this work. Honey bees pollinate over 90 important crops in the United States. We can thank these industrious insects for about 1/3 of our diet. This includes many of the fruits and vegetables we enjoy, as well as many nuts, greens, herbs, spices and oil-seed crops. Bee pollination is also necessary for some of the crops grown for animal feeds and forage, medicinal plants, and many ornamentals.

The importance of bees goes beyond our own farms and gardens. The tireless efforts of these tiny creatures helps to maintain the diversity of practically all terrestrial ecosystems. Many wild plants rely on bee pollination to produce seeds, fruits and nuts. These plants in turn form the foundation of the food web for our state's many birds and other wildlife species. Bees benefit everyone!

SWABEC MEMBERS WHO MAY REMOVE BEES FREE OF CHARGE

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MEETINGS

2nd Monday Monthly
6:30 pm
Extension Homemakers' House
(425 North 2nd Street directly behind Howard County
Courthouse in Nashville, Arkansas)

OFFICERS

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Treasurer - Thomas Wesche
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DIRECTORS

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COMMITTEES

Hospitality - Kim Johnson
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Mentor Program
[Experienced beekeepers are assigned or work
with new members as requested]

Junior Beekeeper Program - Robert Stuart
(870) 451-1396, restuart@swat.coop



Our organization was formed in 2010 and our members are beekeeping hobbyists and enthusiasts. We hold monthly meetings, beekeeping courses, workshops and field trips for member beekeepers and the public.

Workshops and Events - SWABEC holds a number of educational workshops and social events throughout the year. Participants have the opportunity to learn and share information at these events and do not have to be members to attend.

Junior Beekeepers Program - This one year training program for young beekeepers provides training workshops and guidance from an experienced beekeeper to young individuals through age 19. Junior Beekeepers do not have to be members, but are welcome to join SWABEC if they choose to do so.

Mentor Program - SWABEC's mentor program is for beginning beekeepers or those who have been keeping bees and need a little help. In the program, an experienced beekeeping mentor will work with individuals to provide guidance and assistance as needed.