



# Spilling *The* Honey

JANUARY 2024

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:  
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

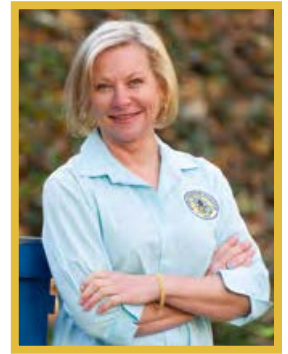
## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I wish you the happiest times in this new year! Our GBA conference planning committee is hard at work preparing for our GBA spring conference which is rapidly approaching. The set up, GBA board meeting, and dinner take place on Friday, February 16th and the conference sessions begin on Saturday, February 17th. Our keynote speakers are **Jamie Ellis, Keith Delaplane** and **Megan Mahoney** who will speak on topics both practical and theoretical. For folks doing bee removals, we will again be providing an opportunity for you to earn a CEU by attending the first keynote on Saturday morning. Our breakouts cover info for both new beekeepers (including hands on instruction in the apiary onsite) and for seasoned folks. **Check out the full program on page 4.** We will enjoy the great facility in Macon, Georgia with a helpful staff and wonderful meals. It's a beautiful place for us to start off the new beekeeping year.

**Registration is open** and we appreciate it if you can register early to help us with planning. We also welcome all the new leadership within our local clubs across the state and look forward to a great Presidents' Breakfast on Saturday morning. Most of us have elected new officers to terms beginning now. Please watch for an email from GBA so that we can gather all the new officers' names and contact information.

This is a wonderful newsletter issue. There are great articles, especially the addition of contributing writers **George Andl** and **Steve Page**. If you are helping a new beekeeper, another way to show them some love is to have them join GBA and receive our newsletter!

- *Gina*



**GINA GALLUCCI**  
*President,*  
Georgia Beekeepers  
Association



Try to spot our mascot Waggle hidden in each issue of GBA's newsletter (no, not the picture above!). **Let us know where you discover her by clicking here.** We will do a random drawing of all the correct answers and award a beekeeping-themed prize to the winner.

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# How to apply for GBA License Plate Funds

The best way to fund your club projects, research interests, or educational programs is through the GBA license plate grant program. A few examples of what beekeepers have used this funding for:

- Beekeeping short course materials
- Displays for clubs to use at events
- Observations hives
- Research projects
- Participation in the BIP Sentinel Apiary Program
- Club speaker fees
- Books for club libraries
- Educational materials to hand out at honey stands
- Equipment for club apiaries

## GBA License Plate Proceeds Committee

Committee Chair Julia Mahood

GBA President Gina Gallucci

Bob Binnie

GBA Treasurer Drew Harvey

Gail Dean

GBA Secretary Mark Shields

Katie Goodman

Applying for a license plate grant is easy! **Click here to access the application** and read more about the process. (Note, since grants are only available to current GBA members, you will have to sign in to access the form.)

**Please follow the instructions carefully so that your request will not be held up.**

If you receive a grant we will ask you for photos of your project (if applicable) so please take and keep lots of pictures. 📷

## The Georgia Save The Honey Bee License Plate Bill reads:

*40-2-86 (m) (14) A special license plate promoting the conservation and protection of the official insect of this state, the honey bee. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Georgia Beekeepers Association and shall be used to increase public awareness of the importance of the conservation of the honey bee and for funding and supporting numerous association programs, including but not limited to the training and education of both new and experienced beekeepers, prison beekeeper programs, grants to beekeeping related nonprofit corporations, beekeeping research facilities in this state, and projects that encourage public support for the license plate and the activities it funds. Such special license plate shall include the phrase "Save the Honey Bee" in lieu of the county of issuance.*





## FEATURED GRANT RECIPIENT:

# Camp Twin Lakes

*By Donna Franklin*

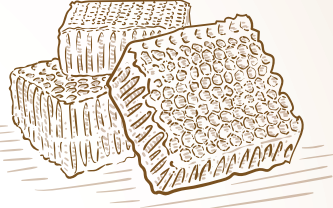
In 1993, Camp Twin Lakes opened to provide camp programs for children with serious illnesses, disabilities, and other life challenges. Camp Twin Lakes is using the license plate fund grant we received to further the beekeeping skills of our campers and staff. When we received the equipment, the campers painted the boxes to get them ready to receive the nucs in the spring. We placed the nucs in the garden area of the camp.

I spent a day with two college students who will be in charge of

the upkeep of the bees. We started with some bee basics, then moved on to hive inspection. We ended with processing honey from a hive already in place at the camp. Daniel Stanley, Camp Twin Lakes director of the programs, took a beginner beekeeping course and now makes sure our bees are well cared for. In the spring, I will be leading instructional beekeeping sessions with the campers. Our goal is to teach the campers, as well as staff, the benefits of honey bees and beekeeping. 🐝



FEBRUARY 16 & 17, 2024 • MACON, GA



2024 SPRING

# Conference

& TEACHING  
HONEY SHOW

MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

ROBERT F. HATCHER, SR. CONFERENCE CENTER

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# Keynote Speakers



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## Dr. Keith Delaplane,

is a Professor of Entomology at UGA and has served as Director of the honey bee program there since 1990. He has a long association with honey bees, beginning when his father bought him a beginner's kit when he was 13. Dr. Delaplane has authored, co-authored, or edited more than 200 publications, books and research articles on honey bees.

**Keynote 3: The Geographic Natural History Of Honey Bees: How We Got The Races We Use In Beekeeping**

## Dr. Jamie Ellis

is the Gahan Endowed Professor of Entomology in the Entomology and Nematology Department at the University of Florida, where he has responsibilities in Extension, instruction, and research. Jamie and his team have over 30 active research projects in the fields of honey bee husbandry, conservation, and ecology.

**Keynote 1: The Science Of Using Pollen Subs**

**NOTE: This program qualifies for one CEU for HBR licenses.**

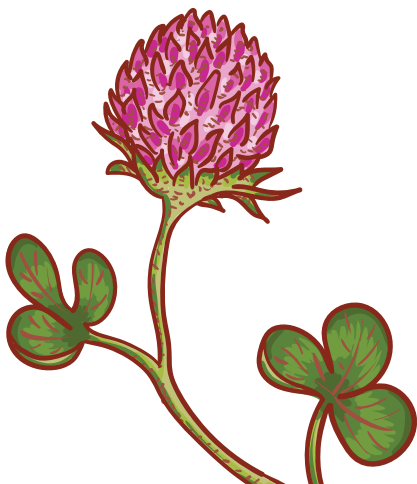
**Keynote 4: Keeping Bees Alive**



## Megan Mahoney

has been fascinated by honey bees ever since being introduced to them in Dr. Marla Spivak's lab in 2003. She has worked in the commercial bee industry, produced queens in Northern California, lead a tech team for the Bee Informed Partnership in Texas, and worked as a technician for the varroa sensitive hygiene (VSH) breeding program in Hawaii. In 2019, she and her partner Ross Klett founded "Mahoney Bees & Queens," a company specializing in instrumental insemination, breeder queens, and cell production. They currently manage a migratory, Carniolan-based breeding population in addition to helping maintain about 2,000 colonies.

**Keynote 2: 50 Shades Of Grey – Carniolan Breeding In A Commercial Operation**



# FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

P.M.	Presentation / Event	Room
3:30 - 4:30	Honey Show entries accepted	132, 134, 136, 139
5:00 - 6:15	GBA Board Meeting	
6:30	Beer & Wine Social	
7:00	Dinner and speaker Megan Mahoney: <b>A Life (So Far) In Beekeeping From A Woman Obsessed!*</b>	

\*You must register and pay for the dinner in advance

# SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

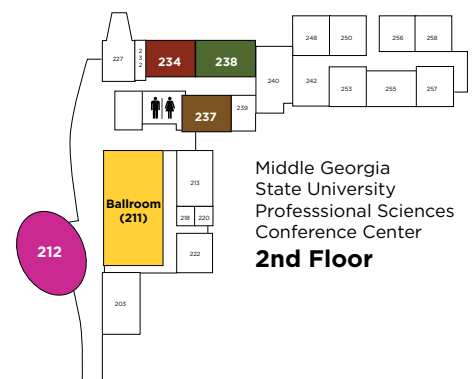
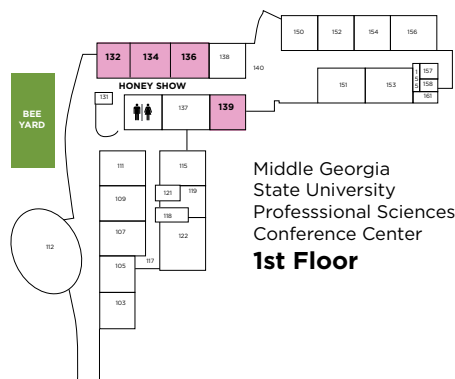
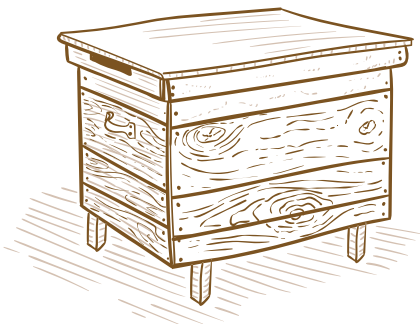
A.M.	Presentation / Event	Speaker	Room
7:15 - 9:00	Honey Show entries accepted		132, 134, 136, 139
8:00 - 8:45	Presidents' Breakfast (For local club presidents and GBA officers)		

## CONFERENCE:

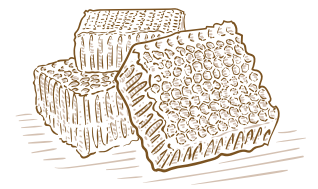
8:50	<b>OPENING REMARKS</b>	<b>Gina Gallucci, GBA President</b>	Ballroom (211)
9:00	<b>KEYNOTE 1: The Science Of Using Pollen Subs</b> <i>NOTE: This program qualifies for one CEU for HBR licences</i>	<b>Dr. Jamie Ellis</b>	Ballroom (211)
10:00	<b>KEYNOTE 2: 50 Shades Of Grey – Carnolian Breeding In A Commercial Operation</b>	<b>Megan Mahoney</b>	Ballroom (211)
10:45	Ad Auction		
11:00	Break		

11:30	MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS		
	How To Properly Set Up A Honey House	<b>Savannah McGuire</b>	234
	Pollinators: They Need Us And We Need Them!	<b>Jennifer Berry</b>	237
	The Buzziness Of Beekeeping	<b>Marcus Pollard</b>	238
	The Hunt For Premium Carniolan Drones In Slovenia	<b>Megan Mahoney</b>	212
	Not Quite A New Bee	<b>Keith Fielder</b>	Ballroom (211)
	Hive Dives	<b>Bobby Chassion</b>	Bee Yard

P.M.			
12:15	Lunch		
1:10	<b>KEYNOTE 3: The Geographic Natural History Of Honey Bees: How We Got The Races We Use In Beekeeping</b>	<b>Dr. Keith Delaplane</b>	Ballroom (211)
2:00	<b>AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b>	Morning breakouts repeat during afternoon session	See rooms above
2:45	Break		
3:15	Honey Show award winners announced		
3:30	<b>KEYNOTE 4: Keeping Bees Alive</b>	<b>Dr. Jamie Ellis</b>	Ballroom (211)
4:15	Raffle Drawings / Closing Remarks	<b>Gina Gallucci, GBA President</b>	Ballroom (211)
4:30	Conference concludes		



# Breakout Sessions & Speakers



## ROOM 234

**HOW TO PROPERLY SET UP A HONEY HOUSE** – Learn all the ins and outs of state regulations regarding facilities that process and bottle honey.

**SAVANNAH MCGUIRE** has been with the Georgia Department of Agriculture since January 2023. She has a degree in Biology from Jacksonville State University. Her background includes 8 years as a Wildlife Technician with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, including 4 years teaching Environmental Education.



## BALLROOM (211)

**NOT QUITE A NEW BEE** – Learn honey bee management tactics and strategies for those that would like to step up their game from the beginner level. Topics include splits, mite management, nutrition and feeding, equipment, supering for a better honey crop, as well as in season and off season management suggestions.

**KEITH FIELDER** is a Senior Welsh Honey Judge and a Georgia Master Beekeeper. He has served as President of the GBA and was named GBA's Beekeeper of the Year in 2009. Keith currently serves as Chair of the Georgia Farm Bureau Honeybee commodity group



## ROOM 237

**POLLINATORS: THEY NEED US AND WE NEED THEM!** – A discussion of the many ways each of us can help support our pollinators.

**JENNIFER BERRY** has been the Apicultural Research Professional and Lab Manager for the University of Georgia Bee Program for more than 23 years. Her extension duties include pollinator protection, and teaching beekeeping to folks all over the world, including those incarcerated in Georgia's medium and maximum security prisons. She is hoping to wrap up her PhD this spring.



## ROOM 212

**THE HUNT FOR PREMIUM CARNIOLAN DRONES IN SLOVENIA** – Megan had the opportunity to travel to Slovenia last summer with a group of scientists from Washington State and helped collect "pure" Carniolan honey bee semen from various beekeeping operations around the country as part of WSU's importation program.

**MEGAN MAHONEY** has been fascinated by honey bees ever since being introduced to them in Dr. Marla Spivak's lab in 2003. She has worked in the commercial bee industry, produced queens in Northern California, lead a tech team for the Bee Informed Partnership in Texas, and worked as a technician for the varroa sensitive hygiene (VSH) breeding program in Hawaii. In 2019, she and her partner (Ross Klett), founded "Mahoney Bees & Queens," a company specializing in instrumental insemination, breeder queens, and cell production. They currently manage a migratory Carniolan-based breeding population in addition to helping maintain about 2,000 colonies.



## ROOM 238

**THE BUZZINESS OF BEEKEEPING** – Starting a bee business can be daunting. Come find out some considerations you may want to consider when starting your business. This course will cover various subjects around business formation, products, and marketing to help you succeed in your business ventures.

**MARCUS POLLARD** is a Master Beekeeper, accounting and finance manager, and the founder and CEO of Pollards Produce LLC, a small farm that produces vegetables, honey and wax products. He enjoys sharing his passion with others by mentoring, teaching, and creating content on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube on his channel "Bee Pimprn."



## BEE YARD

**HIVE DIVES** – Experience a hands on hive inspection with a professional beekeeper. This is an excellent opportunity for folks in their first years of beekeeping. Participants must bring and wear a veil to participate.

**BOBBY CHAISSON** is a Master Beekeeper and the owner of Georgia Bee Removal. A current GBA director, he has been a beekeeper since 2007 and is active in several local clubs. Bobby was awarded the Georgia Beekeeper of the Year in 2019.



# Plants for Bees:



*The Catalogs are Coming! The Catalogs are Coming!*



By **Kathy Bourn**

**W**inter is coming. No, this isn't *Game of Thrones*. In the real world, the arrival of the winter season means the seed catalogs are coming. For me, this time of year is a lesson in self control because I get the same feeling I did when I was a kid and the Sears catalog would arrive. I start looking through my mailbox full of seed catalogs and the "I wants" take over.

As a beekeeper, I'm looking for the plants that serve me (good things to eat or look at), serve my property (added plants) and serve my bees (nectar/pollen producing). If a plant serves all three, all the better.

Almost all the major plant/seed companies have tuned into the desire of customers to provide for pollinators. Many note in the plant description if it is "bee friendly." But what does that mean? Just having a little bee symbol next to a plant doesn't tell you what type of bee the plant attracts, or if it provides nectar or pollen or both, or the quality of that bee food.

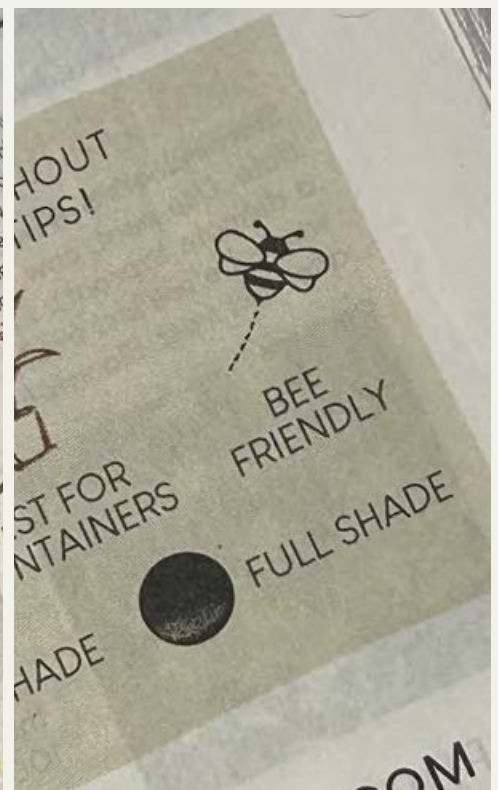
An area I feel the seed catalogs overlook is the fruits and vegetables that provide for our bees. I notice that most of them don't use the bee friendly symbol for the edibles. They even overlook the mints, which our honey bees love. Honey bees pollinate more than 130 types of fruits and vegetables. Some

home garden fruits include apples, pears, apricots, plums, and all of the berries. The bees help pollinate mainly the cucurbits; melons, cucumbers, and squash. They can also benefit from the self pollinating plants like beans, peas, carrots and celery when they are left to go to seed and flower.

Don't forget the trees. One nectar/pollen producing tree can provide the same amount of bee food as acres of flowers. Another thing to consider when thumbing through the catalogs is if a plant provides resources during the dearth. There are usually more than enough nectar producing plants during the honey flow (*that's why it's called the honey flow!*), but consider the nectariferous plants that bloom in the summer. You can even find ones like the Winter Flowering Apricot tree that lives up to its name and flowers in the winter.

Unfortunately, tomatoes are one of the fruits that honey bees can't help. The flower is shaped so that honey bees can't get to its sticky, heavy pollen and tomatoes don't produce nectar. However, many native bees have the ability to pollinate tomatoes, so they are still worth growing for you and the pollinators.

So when all those seed catalogs arrive, *go wild...* but with the needs of your bees in mind. 🐝





## PRODUCT PROJECTS:

# Beeswax Luminaries

By *Holli Kircher*

**Editor's Note:** *Beekeepers know that the products we can make from our honey bee's efforts expand further than just beeswax and honey. Here we will showcase some of the thousands of projects that can be made using anything that honey bees produce. If you have a product you make from the hive or would like to find out how to create a product, please send it to [newslettereditor@gabeekeeping.com](mailto:newslettereditor@gabeekeeping.com).*

**A**nyone who knows me knows that I love all things beeswax. Molded candles, castings, lotion bars, beeswax wraps, lip balm, and salves . . . all of these products can be found in some stage of development at my house. However, one of my favorite items to make and decorate is are beeswax luminaries.

To make beeswax luminaries you will need a pot/vat/double broiler with triple-rendered beeswax. The beeswax must be clean and free from debris. I have found that the best temperature is around 175° F. Fill a balloon with tap water and tie it off. Then slowly dip the water balloon into the vat of beeswax. After about five dips, gently set it down on parchment paper and lightly press it to give it a flat bottom. Continue to dip the balloon using a slow, steady motion about ten more times. You can make it as thin or as thick as you want depending on how many times you dip it. After I have finished the

last dip, I glue on pressed, dried flowers and allow the glue to dry for 24 hours. After 24 hours, I do a final dip to coat/seal the flowers with beeswax. Then, just pop the balloon and remove it. To get a finished look on the rim of the luminary, turn your stove burner on to a very low heat and place a piece of tin foil on it. Gently set and rotate the rim of the luminary on the foil and it will melt, giving it a nice smooth even rim. Remember to use caution as beeswax is flammable.

If the rim of the beeswax luminary is wide enough, you can burn a beeswax tea light in it without melting the luminary. If it is a smaller luminary, I recommend using a battery-operated tea light to preserve the integrity of the wax. 🍯



# 2024 Short Course Guide

Because new beekeepers usually get started with their new hives in the spring, many clubs offer introductory short courses early in the year to give newbies time to order bees and equipment, and prepare a site for their new hobby. **Does your club have a short course coming up in February, March (or bee-yond)?** Let us know about it! Send all the details and information to: [newslettereditor@gabeekeeping.com](mailto:newslettereditor@gabeekeeping.com)

**JANUARY 9, 2024**



## Cherokee Beekeepers Club: Practical Beekeeping Course 2024

Tuesdays, January 9 – February 6, 2024, 6:30 - 9 pm  
Pickens County UGA Extension, 68 D. B. Carroll St.; Jasper, GA 30143

The Cherokee Beekeepers Club (CBC) and local beekeepers (Jason Segers, and BJ Weeks) are hosting a 5-week course on beekeeping for beginning beekeepers. This is a class for beginners who wish to understand and start keeping honeybees. The course will cover getting started, building equipment, understanding bee pests, medications, strategies for keeping bees, producing, and extracting honey. A strong emphasis will be on understanding the bees and processes involved. The class will finish with a daytime hands-on workshop in the bees. Package bees and nucleus hives can be ordered during class for spring 2024. Complete the registration form at:

<https://cherokeebeeclub.com/index.php/2023/12/27/cherokee-bee-club-practical-beekeeping-course-2024/>

- \$80. – Add \$25 for spouse or child (non-beekeeper & same household)
- \$50. – 2022 CBC member keeping bees in 2022 (2023 renewal required)
- \$20. – Student registered as a group (call for requirements)

Fee for virtual and in-person is the same.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EbzpV\\_p38cW817m10JqTwpmpmDx1pt2r/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EbzpV_p38cW817m10JqTwpmpmDx1pt2r/view)

## Etowah River Beekeepers: Introduction to Beekeeping Webinar

January 9, 7 pm, via Zoom

Are you interested in beekeeping? Or just want a refresher before spring? Join us January 9th at 7pm for our free introduction to beekeeping webinar! Zoom information will be sent prior to the event. Registration is free; the event should last about an hour. Questions? Please email **ERB Presenter Laurie Gray**. See you there!

Register at: [bit.ly/intro-to-beekeeping-webinar](https://bit.ly/intro-to-beekeeping-webinar)



**JANUARY 13, 2024**

## Potato Creek Beekeepers Club: Beekeeping Short Course

Saturday, January 13th, 2024, 8 am - 4 pm  
UGA Spalding Co. Extension Office



Come learn about the fascinating world of honey bees and beekeeping at Potato Creek Beekeepers Club's annual Beekeeping Short Course. It's Beekeeping 101 for beginners. Learn everything you need to know to get started with your own colony of honeybees! To register, call the Spalding Co. Extension Office, during normal business hours, at (770) 467-4225. Space is limited, so sign up early!

**JANUARY 20, 2024**

## Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association: Beginners Beekeeping Seminar

Saturday, January 20th, 2024, 9 am - 3:30 pm  
Garden Club of Georgia, Terrace Room, 2450 S. Milledge Ave. Athens, GA 30605

The UGA Bee Lab and the State Botanical Garden of Georgia invite you to join us January 20th for our Beginners Beekeeping Seminar. Jennifer Berry, Dr. Lewis Bartlett and three master beekeepers will cover all you need to know to get started in a full day of presentations. Also included: a copy of *First Lessons in Beekeeping*, lunch and a hands-on inspection with experts in March. This seminar filled quickly last year.

**Register today!**

9-9:15 a.m.	<b>Welcome &amp; Announcements</b> State Botanical Garden of Georgia education department Dan Long, president, Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association	
9:15-10 a.m.	<b>An Introduction to Honey Bee Biology</b> Lewis Bartlett, PhD, research scientist, entomology & ecology department, UGA This talk will cover the basic biology of honey bees. Topics covered in 15% presentation will include honey bee anatomy, behavior, diet and different types of bees in the hive.	
10-10:15 a.m.	<b>Break</b>	
10:15-11 a.m.	<b>Getting Started: Sourcing Your Bees and Equipment</b> Harold Lamber, Georgia master beekeeper Harold Lamber, Georgia master beekeeper, will discuss how to find and purchase honey bees. Additionally, he will provide an overview of the equipment you will need for yourself and the options available for housing your bees.	
11-11:15 a.m.	<b>Break</b>	
11:15 a.m.-noon	<b>A Year in the Bee Yard</b> Olivia Harand, Georgia master beekeeper Olivia Harand, Georgia master beekeeper, will present an overview of a full year with honey bees. Her annual bee-ness plan includes a month-to-month look at what it takes to keep both bees and their hives healthy in Georgia.	
11:15-12 p.m.	<b>Understanding the Diseases and Pests That Infect and Infest Honey Bees</b> Jennifer Berry, research professional and lab manager, UGA Honey Bee Lab Jennifer Berry will provide an overview of major honey bee disease organisms and pests. Her presentation will also cover management methods to keep your bees healthy and alive.	
2-2:15 p.m.	<b>Break</b>	
2:15-3 p.m.	<b>The Bounty of The Hive</b> Dan Long, Georgia master beekeeper When we keep our bees healthy and strong, they reward us with honey and more. We'll discuss traditional honey harvest and bottling, wax rendering, candle making and some interesting hive products you might not have considered.	
3-3:30 p.m.	<b>Closing Remarks &amp; Adjourn</b>	

Register online at <https://t.uga.edu/9xM>

# 2024 Short Course Guide (continued)

JANUARY 20, 2024 (CONT.)

## LEARN THE BASICS OF BEEKEEPING WITH A ONE DAY COURSE

This backyard beekeeping course is taught by Master and hobbyist beekeepers in a classroom and apiary setting.



Saturday, January 20, 2024, 8:30 am - 4 pm

146 New Street, Decatur GA 30030

To register, contact us at  
[tarabeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:tarabeekeepers@gmail.com)

**TARA BEEKEEPERS**  
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[TARABEEKEEPERS.ORG](http://TARABEEKEEPERS.ORG)

### Tara Beekeepers Association: Basics of Beekeeping One-Day Course

Saturday, January 20th, 2024, 8:30 am - 4 pm  
Academe of the Oaks, 146 New Street, Decatur, GA 30030

Ready to learn the fundamentals of beekeeping? On January 20, 2024, Tara Beekeepers Association will offer an introductory beekeeping class at their teaching apiary, located at 146 New Street, Decatur, GA 30030. Taught by experienced beekeepers, the event will include lessons taught in both classroom and apiary settings. The day-long program will run from 8:30 am to 4 pm. For more information and registration, contact [tarabeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:tarabeekeepers@gmail.com)

JANUARY 27, 2024



### Coweta Beekeepers: 1-Day Introduction To Beekeeping

Saturday, January 27th, 2024, 8 am - 4 pm  
UGA Coweta County Extension Center -- Fairgrounds and Conference Center \*  
275 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263

Our one-day beekeeping course is for new beekeepers. Bobby Torbush, Master Beekeeper, will take you through your first year of beekeeping, from preparing for the arrival of your colonies to preparing them to survive winter. This course is also an excellent refresher for beekeepers to gain more confidence in working with their bees. During the day, you will have the opportunity to meet members of the Coweta Beekeeper Association, and there will be plenty of time for questions. Breakfast, snacks, and lunch are included for the day. For more details and to register, see:

<https://www.cowetabeekeepers.org/january-beekeeping-class>

\*Note that this is a different building than in past years -- it is not the same location as our regular monthly meetings. It is in the fairgrounds exhibit hall location which is the building next door to the Extension Office building. We will have signage visible on the day of the class to make sure no one gets lost!

### Lake County Beekeepers: Introduction To Beekeeping

Saturday, January 27th, 2024, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm  
Sparta-Hancock County Library, 8984 East Broad St.  
Sparta, GA

Our Intro To Beekeeping course offers an overview of everything one needs to consider before keeping honeybees. From honeybee biology to equipment and gear, our course will give you the blueprint you need to plan an exciting life with honeybees. Then in April, we will offer an in-hive experience where you will have the opportunity to inspect a live honey bee colony. We also recommend, *First Lessons in Beekeeping* by Dr. Keith Delaplane. This book introduces the prospective beekeeper to the basics of beekeeping through easy-to-understand text and numerous color photos on honey bee biology, beekeeping equipment, management, honey production and processing, as well as disease diagnosis and treatment. Available through the library or for sale at Morgan Apiaries. Registration is \$25 per person/family (includes one year Lake County Beekeepers Association membership). Children under 16 years of age are FREE but must be accompanied by an adult. To register please contact: Lake County Beekeepers Association [lakecountrybees@gmail.com](mailto:lakecountrybees@gmail.com) or Mary Lacksen 478.456.1049 [beecoapiaries@gmail.com](mailto:beecoapiaries@gmail.com) or Bruce Morgan 478.357.4029 [rbrmorgan196@gmail.com](mailto:rbrmorgan196@gmail.com)



# 2024 Short Course Guide (continued)

JANUARY 27, 2024 (CONT.)

## Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association: Introduction To Beekeeping Short Course

Saturday, January 27th, 2024, 8:30 am - 4 pm

Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, 3180 Peachtree Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30305

Learn the fundamentals of beekeeping from MABA's panel of experts. We welcome anyone who is interested in learning about honey bees, even if a hive is not in your immediate future. Since the course takes place in January, our classroom course will not involve live bees. During the spring and summer months, hands-on experience with live bees will be available to all Beekeeping Course students through the MABA Hive Inspection program. Short course participants will receive current information on beekeeping and how to get started, first class presentations by educators in entomology and botany as well as experienced urban beekeepers, a copy of Dr. Keith S. Delaplane's book *First Lessons In Beekeeping*, and a one-year membership to MABA. Continental breakfast, lunch and beverages will be provided. There will also be a beekeeping supply vendor onsite. \$110. [Click here to register.](#)



METRO ATLANTA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

INTRODUCTION TO

**Beekeeping**

ONE-DAY COURSE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2024

FEBRUARY 10, 2024

SCAN  
TO REGISTER

LEARN EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET STARTED IN BEEKEEPING

\$50 INCLUDES LUNCH, ONE YEAR BEE CLUB MEMBERSHIP, AND COURSE MATERIALS

Learn the fundamentals of beekeeping at the

**Tri County Beekeepers**


**ONE DAY SHORT COURSE**

**Saturday, February 10**  
**9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

**Mt Carmel Baptist Church**

# 2024 Short Course Guide (continued)

FEBRUARY 10, 2024 (CONT.)



## Adult Short Course in Beekeeping February 10, 2024

Breakfast/Registration  
7:30-8:00 am  
Course starts 8:00 am -

Registration form can be found on our website:  
[www.westgabeekeepers.com](http://www.westgabeekeepers.com)

Registration includes: "First Lessons in Beekeeping" (one copy per family), handouts, breakfast, lunch and a snack, and an annual membership to West GA Beekeepers Association.

FEBRUARY 24, 2024

## Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association: FUNdamentals of Beekeeping Event

Saturday, February 24, 2024, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Georgia Botanical Gardens, 2 Canebrake Rd.,  
Savannah GA 31419

CEBA will be hosting the Fundamentals of  
Beekeeping at the Georgia Botanical Gardens.

This is an interactive beekeeping short course with some of the top beekeepers in the state. The \$85 registration fee includes access to all the beekeeping seminars from noted beekeepers, including Dr. Lewis Bartlett, Keith Fielder, Bobby Chaisson, David Arnal, Bobby Colson, and Bill Owens. To register, see:

<https://ceba.wildapricot.org/event-5515589>



**SOWEGA 2024 Beekeeping School for Beginners**

Saturday, February 24, 2024,  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Albany State University West Campus, Allied Health Bldg J133,  
2400 Gillionville Road Albany, GA 31707



Students will receive a certificate of completion, book and handouts. Registration cost includes a one year membership with the SOWEGA Beekeepers Club, a club decal and one free hive tool per family. Among the topics students will learn are: history of beekeeping; how to get started in beekeeping; supplies and safety; types of bees and their benefits; pests and diseases and their control methods; apiary establishment; hive inspections; splitting hives; predators; and harvesting honey. Lunch and a drink will be served to students. Anyone with allergies or additional needs may want to bring their own.

Cost is \$50.00 per person. (non club member)  
\$40 per additional family member; \$30 per club member

<https://www.sowegabeekeepersclub.com/event-details/beekeeping-school-for-beginners-2024>

**ETOWAH RIVER BEEKEEPERS  
2024 BEE SCHOOL**



**February 24th 2024**  
(inclement weather make-up date 3/2/24)

Clayton Homestead  
3465 Land Rd  
Canton, GA 30114



**\$55 preregister before 2/24/24**  
includes 1 year membership



**\$65 day of**



FEB  
24TH  
9AM-3PM

# Beekeeping School for Beginners

Get your tickets at:

www.sowegabeekeepersclub.com/upcoming-events

**Registration**  
Includes 1 yr. membership  
SBC Decal, book, hive tool  
Cost is \$50 per person  
(non club member)  
\$40 per additional person  
\$30 per club member

**Topics Covered**

- History of beekeeping
- How to get started in beekeeping
- Supplies and Safety
- Types of bees & benefits
- Pest & Diseases

**Topics Covered**

- Disease & Pest control
- Apiary establishment
- Hive inspections
- Splitting hives
- Predators
- Harvesting & Products

**Breakfast/Lunch**  
Pastries, fruit coffee and drinks provided for breakfast/snacking  
Lunch is included in the registration cost and provided by Hibachi Express

**Bee Labs**  
There will be sign ups for Bee Labs held at the SBC Educational Apiary in Chelaw Park so you can get hands on experience with bees in the following weeks

# How I Challenge My Beekeeping Craft

By *George Andl*

**Editor's Note:** *George Andl keeps bees in the Morningside neighborhood of Atlanta. George works in science and thinks as a scientist does. He is very interested in scientific research on the honey bee. He has worked on the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association project of building swarm traps. Long before that project began, George caught many, many swarms in his neighborhood. He is a prolific reader of bee books, articles, and Internet sites. He also listens to beekeeping podcasts. George keeps a blog about his bees called **BeeSurprised**. George will be bringing us a series of articles about how he gathers information from these and other sources.*

**B**y day, I'm a medical physicist working in the cancer imaging, radiation therapy and radio pharmaceutical space. I'm flattered that Linda Tillman introduced me as a scientist, but I'm compelled to say a little more on this matter. My beekeeping is best described as enthusiastic and financially underwater. My approach to beekeeping science is half observational and half empirical – certainly not theoretical.

With limited backyard space, little spare time, and never more than three hives in my backyard, I'm not positioned to run lots of exciting side-by-side beekeeping experiments. My goals are to accumulate ever more bee experiences and to polish my observational skills. Moments close to my heart occur when my beekeeping hobby becomes a shareable moment for neighbors and coworkers.

In my ongoing beekeeping experiences, I want to share with you how I challenge my beekeeping craft and where I go to listen to other beekeepers and academics. This may include sharing what media I consume and how I mix this media to create my beekeeping ideas that drive me forward. We should probably call these ideas a hypothesis as I might toss aside the idea to be replaced in my mind with a better idea.

Stay tuned to this space where I will ramble on about beekeeping meetings, books, journal articles, podcasts, blogs, web search tools and web-based video. 🐝



*Let us know what's buzzing with you!*

**Please continue to share your stories and photos with us. We appreciate your articles and updates on all your club activities. Thanks for taking the time to contribute to *Spilling the Honey!***



Kathy Bourn



Peter Helfrich

– Your Editors  
**newslettereditor@gabeekeeping.com**



# BEE SHORTS

100-word answers to a monthly question asked by the newsletter. To participate, see the instructions at the end of this article.



**Since the holidays have just passed, we asked GBA members to share with us their best beekeeping gift or bee-themed gift they have received and why? Here are the 100-word answers we received.**

**Olivia Menard** (*Tri County*): My sister, Blair Downey, is an amazing artist. She has always made purses and costumes and other creations from fabric and yarns. A few years ago she masterfully found a way to merge my love of both chickens and bees. She crocheted an apron with a dozen individual pockets each sized to perfectly hold one delicate farm fresh egg. On the upper right corner she added a glittery gold bee embellishment. I wear it often to collect eggs and still smile every time I see it!

**Dan Long** (*Eastern Piedmont*): One spring, I casually mentioned the Merrill Toolbox to my wife. I had seen one in a catalog and thought it would be excellent for organizing all of my equipment to take into the apiary. It's based on a five-frame nuc box but has a hinged lid and places for smoker, hive tool, brush and more. It can also carry frames to and from the yard because it's the right size. That year, my family got it for me for Father's Day!

**Emily Heath** (*Heart of Georgia*): When family and friends discover that you are a beekeeper, you find yourself the recipient of many bee-related gifts. I have received lovely bee-themed apparel, jewelry, kitchen accessories, and décor over the years. Two ornaments, given to me by a family member and a good friend a few years ago are among my most favorite gifts. I display the ornaments year-round because of their uniqueness and how they remind me of the Christmas season. The ornaments provide a constant reminder of the greatest gift ever given.

**Deborah Simmons** (*Coweta County Beekeepers*): The gift that I loved the most as well as the gift that I give the most is the book *Queenspotting*. As a new beekeeper, it was (and still is) a great tool to use to learn to spot the queen. It's amazing how the book helps you begin to train your eye to key in on her. I have given this book so many times and it's always a hit. To make it sweeter, its price point is affordable and, on eBay or other book sites you can find new copies for as little as half the price!



**Drew Harvey** (*Lake Hartwell*): For years I have been sharing honey and talking to friends and family about keeping bees so whenever they want to send me a gift, they find something I can use to support "my habit." I have received dozens of honey pots with the requisite dipping sticks over the years. I love them all and their different sizes, shapes, and colors. Most are from potters and hand made. I can't possibly use them all, but I do enjoy having a colorful collection of honey pots, each with its own unique character and appeal. I proudly display them around my kitchen for everyone to see.



**Peter Helfrich** (*Metro Atlanta Beekeepers*): Like all beekeepers, I've received many bee-themed gifts over the years – some good, some bad. By far, my favorite is one I received from my wife Angie on my birthday one year. It's an old, fabric

*Continued >*





Continued >

classroom teaching chart that shows the honey bee lifecycle and anatomy like the wax glands and proboscis. There's even an illustration detailing the parts of a flower. She found it in a local antique store. It's a little faded and stained with age, but I love it and it hangs in my office, where I see it every day.



**Linda Tillman** (*Metro Atlanta Beekeepers*): Over the years I have received so many wonderful bee-themed gifts, but among my favorites are the three bee-themed mugs that I have gotten from students at a Marietta high school who came (one student per year) to learn about bees with me for their science projects over three different years. As a thank you, they each, unbeknownst to the other, gave me mugs. When I drink tea out of them, I remember how much fun we had in the hives as they were learning to be beekeepers. Each spent four to six weeks with me in my bee yard. 🐝



### This Month's Question:

As you sit warm and cozy in the winter, chatting with friends about your bees, someone is bound to ask you "Have you ever been stung?" For February's issue, we want to know:

### What is your worst/funniest/favorite bee sting story?

Send your answer (and a photo, if you have one) to [beekeeperlinda@gmail.com](mailto:beekeeperlinda@gmail.com) Please include your local bee club's name, if you belong to one. – **Linda Tillman**

**L**ast month for the first time, we introduced Waggle to all of you. Waggle is hiding in these pages and if you can find her, you will have a chance to win a prize!

In December, eight of you entered the contest to find Waggle and seven of you found her. We put the seven names in a randomized drawing. The December winner of *Where's Waggle* who found Waggle hiding at the lower edge of the camellia bush on page six is **Larry Vaughn** of Potato Creek Beekeepers

The people who correctly found Waggle were **Georgia McPeak, Tara Hines, Paula Lane, Mary Sims, Emily Heath, Larry Vaughn** and **William Mead**.

We also want to give a special shoutout to **Bill Norris** who thought that the costumed bee person in the photo on page 12 was Waggle. While that photo did look a lot like our Waggle, we are trying to be much more subtle than that in hiding her, but thanks, Bill, for the good guess.



Larry will be receiving his prize in the mail. You, too, could be a winner. Look for Waggle hidden in this newsletter (*the image of her on this page doesn't count!*) and **click here** to let us know where you found her. 🐝

# *The New Honey Revolution: Restoring the Health of Future Generations*

Dr. Ron Fessenden, MD, MPH

Book review by *David Hinton*

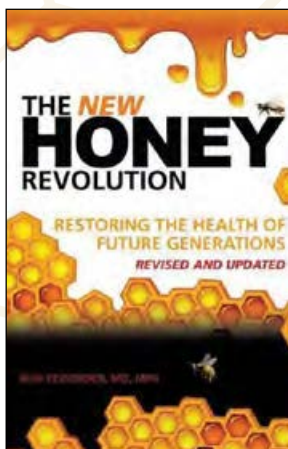
**T**his is the first book that I've reviewed where I recommend that everyone buy a copy to keep at home. Why? If you've read many of my reviews, you know that I am a lifelong honey lover. I am a beekeeper for the love of honey, pure and simple. But except for the common folk wisdom that local honey is good for dealing with allergies, I've never been aware of the tremendous health advantages to be gained from eating honey. This book was an eye-opener for me. For those who commercially market honey, this book should give you some excellent ideas for marketing from the health angle.

The author, Ron Fessenden is a medical doctor (M.D.) and also has a Masters in Public Health. This book is his fourth in a series titled "The Honey Revolution," hence the fourth edition's "New" in the title. As Dr. Fessenden writes in his Introduction to the book, "This book is about honey—a wonderful, miraculous, natural food. It is not a diet book. It is a book about how regular consumption of honey will reduce your risks for many diseases and medical conditions, help you sleep better, improve your immune system functions, and help you experience better health as you age."

Dr. Fessenden supplies overwhelming medical and scientific support for the claims he makes, to which I will allude in this review but not attempt to repeat. The book isn't just medical explanations, Fessenden also supplies case studies from real people such as "Becky's Story" about a woman with a stressful job and chronic low blood sugar.

Here are some of the health benefits that Dr. Fessenden documents in his book (direct quotes):

- *Honey stabilizes (regulates and controls) blood sugar levels. In other words, honey lowers blood sugar as well as prevents low blood sugar.*
- *Honey consumption results in a lower insulin response . . . thus delaying or preventing the development of insulin resistance.*
- *Honey consumption reduces intracellular inflammation associated with diabetes and aging.*
- *Honey consumption reduces metabolic stress thus reducing the risks for many of the diseases and conditions associated with the metabolic syndrome, including obesity, diabetes,*



*and cardiovascular disease.*

- *Daily honey consumption will lower triglyceride and cholesterol levels and increase HDL (good) cholesterol. The fructose in honey actually protects against triglyceride formation.*
- *Honey consumption improves memory and cognitive ability by reducing the amount of cortisol released during metabolic stress.*
- *Honey improves immune system functioning, which is how it helps alleviate allergy symptoms.*
- *Honey consumption before bedtime promotes restorative sleep and improves sleep quality and duration. Restorative sleep reduces risk for hypertension and other metabolic conditions and diseases.*

That last point – that honey can be a kind of natural sleeping pill – particularly intrigued my wife Dolly and me. Dr. Fessenden devotes an entire chapter ("The Benefits of Honey for Sleep") on using honey to enhance sleep and debunks the popular thinking (shared by some medical professionals) "that because no physical activity occurs during sleep, sleep is a process that uses little or no energy." Fessenden argues the exact opposite, that the brain requires significant energy during sleep and "requires an adequate stock of glucose throughout the night."

The following paragraph indented and in bold at the end of his honey and sleep chapter could be used as a powerful marketing tool for selling honey:

***"The simple strategy of consuming a tablespoon or two of honey before bedtime will provide an adequate supply of fuel reserve for the brain throughout the nighttime and ensure that sleep is restful and uninterrupted by metabolic stress."***

While hardly scientific proof, my wife and I tried it and the results were positive. Again, I recommend that all beekeepers get this book and study its analyses and recommendations. 🍯

**David B. Hinton** is a history professor and the author of two books. He and his wife Dolly Carlisle are urban beekeepers in Nashville, TN.

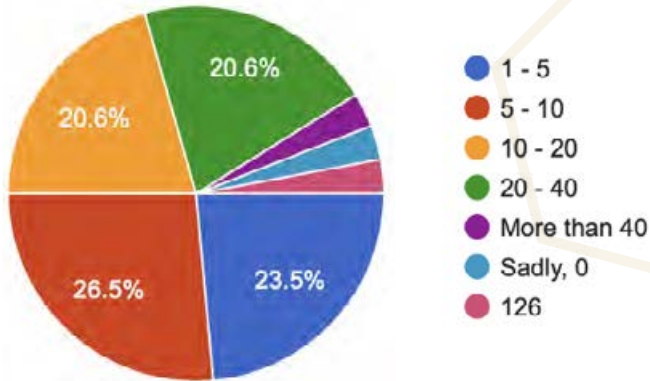


# SURVEY SAYS...

## How Georgians Keep Bees

By *Linda Tillman*

**W**inter is a hard time for bees and this month we are reporting the answers to our survey from last month: **How Many Hives Do You Have Going into Winter?** We had more participants this month - thirty-four beekeepers responded. Here are their answers:



As you can see, about a quarter of our respondents are going into winter with between one and five hives (match the color of the pie wedge to the dot on the right of the chart). The most hives reported by this survey was 126 going into winter.

### FEBRUARY'S SURVEY

In most of Georgia our coldest weather arrives in January and February. Winter has barely arrived when December begins and it takes a while before most of us put on our heavy winter coats, if we do at all.

Last winter was particularly cold and when our bees were faced with barely above zero temperatures, frantically I covered my hives with blankets. While predictions are that this will be a much warmer winter, I am wondering how many Georgia beekeepers have taken different cold weather precautions this year. Please let us know if you insulated your hives this year by answering this **two question survey**. 🐝

Do you insulate your hives in winter? \*

- I don't wrap my hives
- I wrap each hive fully in insulation and put insulation under the top cover
- I wrap my hives with a commercial wrap designed for my sized hive
- I wrap my hives but it's not that cold in Georgia so I only cover the brood area
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Telling the Bees: **Kim Flottum**

1947-2023

A presenter at our conferences on multiple occasions, GBA beekeepers have had several opportunities to hear **Kim Flottum** speak. His last GBA conference keynote was in 2019. If you attended the 2019 spring GBA conference, you got to know him. To hear Kim Flottum speak about honey bees and beekeeping, he opened himself up to you and you felt you really knew this man.

Peter "Kim" Flottum passed away on December 10th, 2023 at the age of 76. Most beekeepers know him as the editor of *Bee Culture Magazine* for 33 years. His accomplishments in beekeeping and in life are touched on here in *Bee Culture*. After his retirement in 2019, Kim went on to author numerous books and **host several podcasts** with his friends Jim Tew and Jeff Ott.

After spending over half his life caring for and learning about honey bees, and witnessing the

changing tides of beekeeping, he came to the management style that he conveyed in *Common Sense Natural Beekeeping*.

This book was his last book. When he talked to Georgia beekeepers in 2019, his sessions raised the question, "What is natural beekeeping?" He covered the areas of housing, health, food and management. His first suggestion was to start with better bees and go from there. Kim volunteered that he thought if he gave this same talk two years earlier he would have been drummed out of the conference. When asked about his own honey bee management style he said, "I aggressively don't treat."

He continued to keep bees at his home in Medina, OH until his death.



*Peter "Kim" Flottum*



# IT'S TIME TO... *Inspect*

By **Steven Page**

**Author's Note:** All beekeeping is local. This article's dates to perform certain tasks and other recommendations are for the Piedmont of Georgia; your dates and recommendations will differ if you are in the coastal plain or the mountains.



## What to look for in a January inspection

### Honey

If your colonies had enough honey in late fall, they probably still have enough to survive until the spring nectar flow starts.

How much honey remains? The most important task early in the year is to check honey and prevent starvation. Don't let your colonies starve. Feed them if they are low on honey. Don't feed them if they don't need to be fed.

Moving frames of honey from the edge of the super to the middle, above the brood frames, is a simple way to keep the colony supplied with honey. Honey from a dead colony can be placed in a colony that needs it.

If there was a shallow super of honey (enough for a Piedmont winter) on the hive last November 1, most of it will be there on February 1. Expect to find about eight frames of honey in a ten-frame shallow super. If there are less than six shallow frames of honey, it's time to feed about one gallon of syrup in a hive top feeder. As the weeks pass and the weather warms, more forage is available, reducing the honey required to survive until the main nectar flow starts about April 1.

### Brood

Finding any brood confirms there is a queen; stop the inspection. The queen will lay in batches initially. Chilling the brood will kill it.

No brood, on the other hand, may indicate the queen has not started laying yet, or she has died. A dead queen can't be replaced until later in the year. One way to resolve a dead queen is to combine the queenless colony with a queenright, overwintered nuc. 🐝

**W**orkers at the entrance this time of year tell you... *nothing!* Bees flying on a warm day in January could indicate the hive is being robbed. However, early inspections can assess honey stores, queen performance, and prevent starvation.

A quick early inspection, about ten weeks before the main nectar flow, in late January or early February is best. The temperature should be 60F (15C) or warmer. I inspect during colder weather, keeping the inspection very brief. Inspect during mid-day, enabling the colony to recluster before late-day cooling. Little or no wind is best; with the cover off, the warm air in the hive will be pulled out by a breeze. Any frame with brood must be immediately returned to the super to keep the brood warm.

Generally, the colony is small, and the weather is cold during early inspections. Keep the brood together and the honey just above the brood. Not following these two rules can kill a colony. Later, in March, when the temperatures are warmer, and the colony's population is larger, these two rules no longer apply. Any overwintered nuc will need to be fed. Don't let your nucs starve.





# CONFERENCE RECAP: COOKIE RECIPES

We will publish cookie recipes from the GBA Fall Conference Friday snack break in upcoming editions of *Spilling The Honey*. Try them, you'll like them!

## Peanut Butter Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookies

By **Beth Arichega** (pictured at right)

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 C Brown Sugar
- 1 C White Sugar (or 2C Brown Sugar)
- ½ C Shortening
- 1 C Peanut Butter
- 2 Eggs
- ½ tsp. Soda in ¼ C cold water
- ½ tsp. Salt
- 2 C Rolled Oats (old fashioned kind)
- 2 C Flour
- ½ tsp. Baking Powder
- 1 tsp. Vanilla
- 1 Bag Chocolate Chips

### DIRECTIONS:

Mix ingredients together. Bake 10-12 minutes at 375°.



## Buzzle Page Answer Key

E	N	O	R	D
K	O			E
O	E	D	I	V
M		D		I
S	K	O	H	

COMB, CREAMED, CUT COMB, EXTRACTED
TYPES OF HONEY
BEEWAX, HONEY, POLLEN, PROPOLIS
PRODUCTS FROM THE HIVE
ADDOON, HEAD, LEGS, WINGS
ALL ATTACHED TO THORAX
RACES OF HONEY BEES CARNEOLANS, CAUCASIANS, DEFORMS, ITALIANS

Honey bees 1  
By Steven Page



# THE BEEKEEPER'S WORKBENCH: Candle Spinners

by Kathy Bourn

In your November issue of this newsletter we published a Tour of Hives featuring Steve Page's apiary. In his honey house he has an efficient way of pouring multiples of candle tapers at once. Steve built two candle spinners – one for round tapers and one for octagonal tapers. Each one holds 16 molds and allows him to continuously thread the wicks. The spinners allow him to pour wax while standing in one spot. A big advantage is that the molds stay level and don't have to be moved until set. Plus, the wicks can be pulled through the molds after each pour without re-threading.

Steve shared **the plans he found for the 12-, 16-, and 20-mold "candle spinners"** [here](#) and a [link to a video of his spinner in motion](#) is here. 📺



***Do you have a beekeeping idea to share?***  
Please send us your submissions for our *Beekeeper's Workbench* column to [newslettereditor@gabeekeeping.com](mailto:newslettereditor@gabeekeeping.com)

# Club News

Send the news about your club (description of a speaker's talk at your club's meeting, short course announcement, photos, events, etc.) to [newslettereditor@gabeekeeping.com](mailto:newslettereditor@gabeekeeping.com)

## Beekeepers of Gilmer County

The Beekeepers of Gilmer County will hold a series of presentations by our own **Robert Gifford**. He'll share his more than 20 years of beekeeping experience, including honey management methods he's used to produce a minimum of four to five gallons of honey per hive, as well as other scientific methods that have been so successful for him. The course will be held on the first and third Saturdays in January at 1 pm, weather permitting (call 706-889-9758 to confirm). Our apiary is located just down the hill from the Chick Fil A in Ellijay, GA. 🐝



## Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

The Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, December 19th at the Argene Claxton Canning Plant. The meeting was our annual Christmas social, silent auction, and announcement of the HOGBA Beekeeper of the Year. Smoke South Catering provided the meal of brisket, pulled pork, smoked mac-n-cheese and green beans. Members brought desserts to share. The silent auction raised funds for the club treasury and members left with some nice items.

A very emotional part of the meeting was awarding the Beekeeper of the Year to **Jesse McCurdy's** widow, **Hazel**. **Jesse**, who was the founder of Heart of Georgia Beekeepers, passed away last month at the age of 91.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 16, 2024. The program will be "Making Splits." You can view our activities at [hogba.org](http://hogba.org). 🐝

## Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers

President Jim Ellis of CVBA spoke at the Kiwanis Club in Columbus on raising bees in November. Jim used one of the table cloths obtained through a GBA grant.

The CVBA participated in the Uptown Tree Trail by decorating a tree with a bee theme (see photos). Thanks to those who decorated our wonderful tree.

Good fellowship was enjoyed by all at the Annual Christmas Dinner. Kevin Weis provided 12 days of Christmas door prizes which included a complete hive. All of the banners and tablecloths that were acquired through a GBA grant were on display for all to see. 🐝



Above: Hazel McCurdy (left) accepts the Beekeeper of the Year in memory of her late husband, Jesse McCurdy. Above right: HOGBA members enjoy a BBQ dinner; a silent auction raised funds for the club.



## Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

Beginning in January 2024, the club's monthly meeting day is moving to the **second Monday of the month**. January's meeting will be held on Monday, January 8. MABA president **Peter Helfrich** will present *Native Bees 101 for Beekeepers*. Mentoring session begins at 6:30 pm with the regular meeting following at 7 pm. 🐝



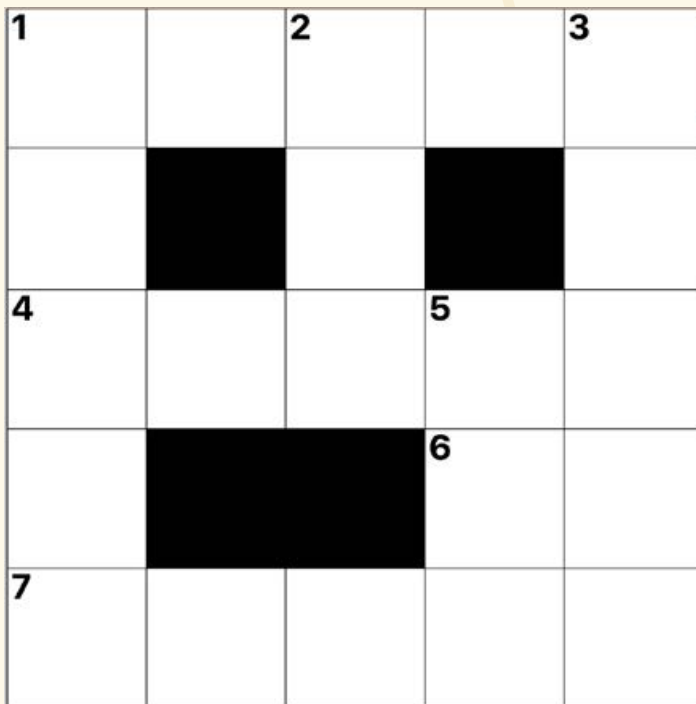


# Buzzle Page



## A Mini Bee Crossword

Click [here](#) to work this month's mini crossword "buzzle" online.



### ACROSS:

- 1 Some beekeepers prefer Italian hive tools because of this feature
- 4 You can get lots of beekeeping information (both good and bad) by watching one of these on YouTube
- 6 Using a Langstroth, a Warre, or a top bar are all \_\_\_ ways to keep bees
- 7 This is the big-eyed boy bee of the hive

### DOWN:

- 1 Sometimes a beekeeper will say that he or she has \_\_\_\_\_ a swarm
- 2 If you see a drone with pink eyes, that is an \_\_\_ genetic anomaly
- 3 What is used to calm the bees during an inspection
- 5 Even though bees may be in decline across the world, we would like to see them stay around for this long a period of time.

### Honey bees 1

by Steven page

CUT COMB	CAUCASIANS	GERMANS	POLLEN
HEAD	ITALIANS	BEESWAX	COMB
EXTRACTED	WINGS	CARNIOLANS	CREAMED
ABDOMEN	HONEY	LEGS	PROPOLIS

Shuffle

Clear

Submit

## Connections for Beekeepers

### How to Play:

Kickstart your game by thoroughly perusing the 16 honey bee-related words in the Connections challenge. Take a moment to understand the nuances of each word and contemplate its potential connection with the others.

Once acquainted with the puzzle's vocabulary, strive to unearth the commonalities weaving them together. Ask yourself: Do these words group under a specific category? Do they share any characteristics? Is there a conspicuous theme threading them? Recognizing patterns or resemblances might just unveil their intertwined bond.

With a clear connection in mind and having chosen the group of words that best fit that bond, you're set to finalize your selection. Seal your choice by pressing the Submit button.

**Click here to play Connections for beekeepers online!**

Stumped?  
The answers  
to both buzzles  
are on  
page 21.





# SAVE THE DATE

## American Beekeeping Federation Conference and Tradeshow

January 9–12, 2024

New Orleans Marriott  
555 Canal Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130



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