



Spilling *The* Honey

FEBRUARY 2024

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our GBA conference planning committee is hard at work preparing for our next meeting scheduled for February 16th and 17th in Macon, Georgia. We're looking forward to working with Middle Georgia State University and again enjoying the Hatcher Conference Center. **Please register soon**, the price goes up after Feb 10th. If you are the president of your club, please join us for the Presidents' Breakfast at the conference on Saturday morning.

Conference Time Table:

- **Saturday, Feb. 10** – Last day of reduced conference registration pricing
- **Friday, Feb. 16** – Sponsor and Vendor set-up, 3:30-4:30 p.m.; Honey Show Entry, 3:00-5:00 p.m.; Board Meeting 5:00-6:15 p.m.; Social, - 6:30 p.m.; Dinner with guest speaker, 7:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, Feb. 17** – Honey Show Entry 7:15-9:00 p.m.; Presidents' Breakfast 8:00 a.m.-8:45 a.m.; General Conference with speakers - 8:50 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

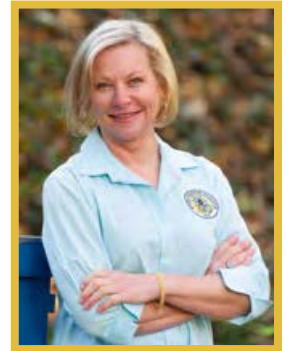
Most of our local GBA clubs have a new slate of officers for 2024. To better serve your club, GBA needs an updated list of these new leaders. If you are a current officer, either president, vice president, secretary or treasurer of your club, please log into the GBA website and update your member information (click on the little orange person and edit your profile) This allows GBA to efficiently help our local clubs. You can also contact your GBA regional director with this information or with any questions you have:

- **Bobby Chaisson** – Northeast northeastdirector@gabeekeeping.com 706-540-4166
- **Olivia Menard** – Metro Atlanta metroatldirector@gabeekeeping.com 770-313-2829
- **Brutz English** – Central brutzenglish@gmail.com 770-843-2110
- **Emily Heath** – Southwest Emilyheath@windstream.net 478-951-0879
- **Stephanie Scott** – Southeast southeastdirector@gabeekeeping.com 912-667-6679
- **Ray Jones** – Northeast northeastdirector@gabeekeeping.com 770-598-6671

We have another great edition of *Spilling the Honey* this month. This highly credible publication is brought to us by co-editors **Kathy Bourn, Peter Helfrich** and Editor Emeritus **Linda Tillman**. Please read it and let them know what you would like to contribute.

As always, please remember to apply for GBA license plate funds for your club's educational initiatives and special projects. 🍯

- *Gina*



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association

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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
- Observation 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

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. 📷

GBA License Plate Proceeds Committee

Committee Chair Julia Mahood

GBA President Gina Gallucci

GBA Treasurer Drew Harvey

GBA Secretary Mark Shields

Bob Binnie

Gail Dean

Katie Goodman

FEATURED GRANT RECIPIENT:

Chattooga County Beekeepers Association

We are a poor rural county in north Georgia and our bee club is small but we work hard to make an impact with our beekeeping. We used the funds granted by the license plate committee to build a display booth at the Chattooga County Fair. During the fair, CCBA members answered attendees' questions about honey bees and educated them with our craft entries. We entered nine different classes in the local arts and crafts section of the fair. Members passed out literature from the National Honey Board and from the Pollinator Partnership. The CCBA booth provides an opportunity to inform and to network with the general public about beekeeping and the importance of pollinators in our lives. 🐝

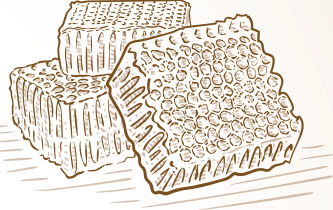


The Georgia Save The Honey Bee License Plate Bill reads:

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.



FEBRUARY 16 & 17, 2024 • MACON, GA



2024 SPRING

Conference

& TEACHING
HONEY SHOW

MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

ROBERT F. HATCHER, SR. CONFERENCE CENTER

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TODAY!

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Keynote Speakers



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Stephanie Scott

Ex-Officio Director

Jennifer Berry



Dr. Keith Delaplane,

is a professor of entomology at UGA and has served as the 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 in the Department of Entomology and Nematology 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.

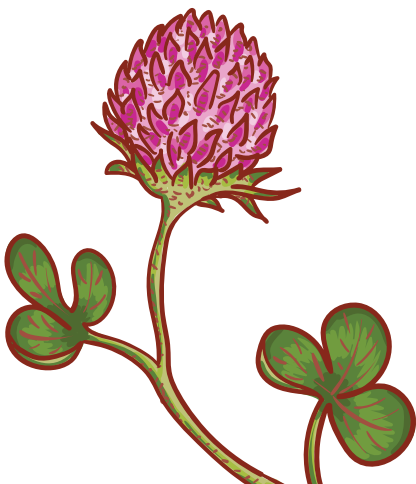
Keynote 4: Keeping Bees Alive



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, led 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: A Life (So Far) In Beekeeping From A Woman Obsessed!*	

*You must register and pay for the dinner in advance

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

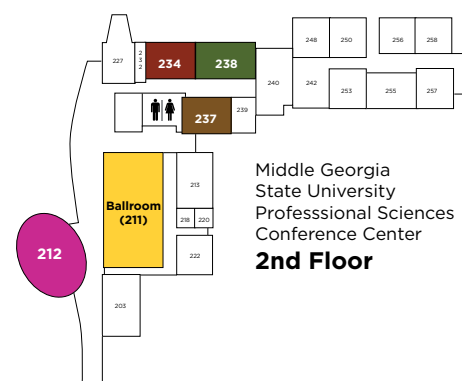
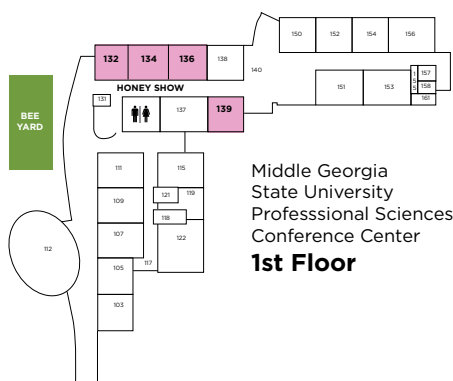
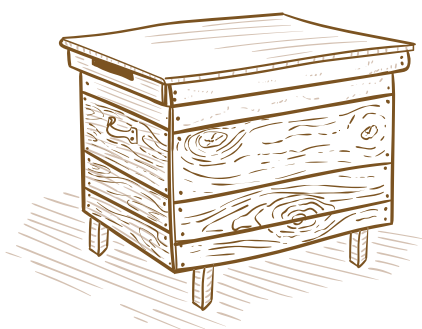
A.M.	Presentation / Event	Speaker	Room
7:15 - 9:00	Honey Show entries accepted		132, 134, 136, 139
8:00 - 8:45	Presidents' Breakfast (For local club presidents and GBA officers)		

CONFERENCE:

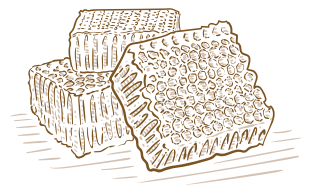
8:50	OPENING REMARKS	Gina Gallucci, GBA President	Ballroom (211)
9:00	KEYNOTE 1: The Science Of Using Pollen Subs <i>NOTE: This program qualifies for one CEU for HBR licences</i>	Dr. Jamie Ellis	Ballroom (211)
10:00	KEYNOTE 2: 50 Shades Of Grey – Carniolan Breeding In A Commercial Operation	Megan Mahoney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

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

P.M.			
12:15	Lunch		
1:10	KEYNOTE 3: The Geographic Natural History Of Honey Bees: How We Got The Races We Use In Beekeeping	Dr. Keith Delaplane	Ballroom (211)
2:00	AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS	Morning breakouts repeat during afternoon session	See rooms above
2:45	Break		
3:15	Honey Show award winners announced		
3:30	KEYNOTE 4: Keeping Bees Alive	Dr. Jamie Ellis	Ballroom (211)
4:15	Raffle Drawings / Closing Remarks	Gina Gallucci, GBA President	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 eight years as a Wildlife Technician with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, including four years teaching environmental education.



BALLROOM (211)

NOT QUITE A NEW BEE – Learn honey bee management tactics and strategies for those who 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. Discover some matters you may want to consider when starting your business. This talk will cover subjects relating to business formation, products, and marketing to help you succeed in your beekeeping 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.





2024 SPRING Conference

Interviews With Our Keynote Speakers

By **Linda Tillman**

We are privileged to have some outstanding speakers for our GBA Spring Conference. Each speaker wrote answers to questions that were posed to them.

Dr. Keith Delaplane

In addition to his expertise in beekeeping, many of you know that Keith Delaplane is also an artist and a writer. His lyrical, poetic way of writing influences his answers.

I know you have been keeping bees for years and years. What brings you delight about keeping bees? What sustains your interest? Three things:

Sensual: *I loved the smells of beekeeping, beginning with the fresh-sawn lumber and beeswax foundation that wafted out of my beginner's kit. The smells that greet you when you crack open a lid, the aroma in the apiary when honey is ripening, the pungency of propolis when you walk into a beekeeper's honey house, the smoky smell of a beekeeper's truck, the fragrances of harvesting and melting beeswax, the nutty smell of the bees themselves, the banana smell that tells you you're in trouble. What would beekeeping be without the smells?*

Natural: *I love how bees can be anyone's passport to the natural world. One can keep bees only so long before it starts sinking in that bees are indicators of "what's going on out there." Bees can be that one thing that elevates one's eyes from the practical world of to-do lists to the miraculous Mother Earth.*

Existential: *At every step the lower biological units have to "agree" to subsume their own genetic interests for the sake of the group. When they don't agree in the beehive, we call it laying workers. Bees can cure us of the delusion that we are somehow Outside Nature Looking In.*

You have been a dependably entertaining and knowledgeable speaker at GBA conferences and at local clubs. We all love to hear from you. What do you like about speaking to groups or sharing your beekeeping knowledge in the speaker format? *I love speaking to beekeepers. It's (almost) always a friendly crowd and I enjoy the challenge of converting complicated ideas into the clearest narrative I can. It's like storytelling: there's a story inside my head and I want to get it into yours. Every choice of word along the way can either help, or get in the way.*

Do you harvest honey yourself? If so, or even if you use the honey of other beekeepers, what is your favorite use for honey? *Yes! My wife Sonja and I produce honey from four to eight hives in our backyard in Athens. My favorite honey of all is what we make right in Athens. But of course, it's the spring honey common to all the Piedmont regions of Georgia. My second-favorite is sourwood, and my third is sweet clover because that's the honey I made as a boy in Indiana. You can't beat honey for tea and toast and pancakes. I've also used it as a wound dressing under band-aids.*





2024 SPRING Conference

Interviews With Our Keynote Speakers

Dr. Jamie Ellis

Jamie is a familiar face at GBA, having spoken to multiple GBA conferences over the years. Because we know him well, I tried to ask him some different questions than the usual, "How did you get started in beekeeping?" Here are the questions and his answers:

You and Amanda have, I believe, five kids. Are any of them budding beekeepers? How do you and your beekeeping interests connect with the kids? *At the moment, none are budding beekeepers. However, one (or more) of my kids always accompanies me when I travel within the US and around the world. They get considerable exposure to honey bees and beekeeping through those activities. Beekeeping allows me to give my kids opportunities (travel, for example) that most other kids never get.*

Do you keep colonies of bees at home or on the University of Florida campus? *I kept colonies of bees at my house in Florida for 15 years. Then I stopped for the last two years. As it turns out, I miss bees in my yard so I am going to restart some colonies this spring.*

What is your favorite use for honey - please don't say to eat it - what I mean is, do you have a favorite recipe for using your honey? Do you or Amanda use it for facials or wound care or something else unusual? *Well, it's "Eat it." I'm not sure what else to say here. I guess one of the things I really like to do is to try honey from all around the world. My team and I are given honey from everywhere and we enjoy taste-testing it. Beyond that, I know honey is a great topical wound dressing, though I have never used it for that purpose. I was in Cuba years ago and my host put honey on ice cream...and it was amazing. Who knew?*

Audiences always enjoy your energy and way to connect with them. What do you like most about speaking to conferences and bee groups? *I enjoy getting folks as excited about honey bees/beekeeping as I am. I feel that communication is powerful: it changes behavior; it makes folks happy; it sparks interest. If you are a communicator, it is worth trying to do it well. I try hard to make my talks worth hearing...by everyone in the room.*

Your two topics at the conference - using pollen substitutes and keeping bees alive will be of great interest to everyone. I'm looking forward to hearing what you have to say. But what are your favorite topics to share with others when you speak? *I love talking about honey bee biology and ecology. Honey bees are so fascinating that I feel folks need to hear about their nests, what they do, etc. When given the choice, I always choose to speak on some topic of honey bee biology.*





2024 SPRING Conference

Interviews With Our Keynote Speakers

Megan Mahoney

Megan runs a queen rearing operation, Mahoney Bees and Queens, that operates in Texas and North Dakota. She will be speaking to GBA for the very first time.

You've been keeping bees for ten years. What inspired you to do this and how did you get started? *I was always interested in the outdoors/nature/insects. I was taking an introductory entomology course at the University of Minnesota and stumbled into Marla Spivak's honey bee lab. The first time I saw inside a beehive, at the age of 19, it opened up a whole new world to me, and I have been studying/working with bees ever since. (22 yrs)*

Your bio for the program says that you manage a "migratory Carniolan-based breeding population." Where do you take your bees? Do you move them for the purpose of pollination or breeding? If for breeding, what does that mean, exactly? *We travel between SE Texas and South Central North Dakota. In Texas we primarily raise queen cells and split our outfit, then run for a honey crop in the summertime in ND. Although we have sent bees to CA for pollination in the past, we have stayed in Texas for the past few years to focus on queen production.*

The Carniolan-based population are run as production colonies as well, but are also used to provide a selective drone pool for instrumental insemination to maintain desirable Carniolan traits.

What is the most delightful part of beekeeping for you? *So many things, queen and drone related, but mostly I love how beekeeping allows me to experience wild, natural places.*

What is the part of beekeeping that you are most curious about? *Improving insemination success and the future of marker assisted selection.*

Do you come from a beekeeping family? If you are the first beekeeper in your family, what is that like for you? *I think my parents were a bit suspicious at first when I told them I wanted to be a "beekeeper" for a living! However, my dad grew up on a farm in rural Kansas, so agriculture was kind of in the Mahoney blood. Growing up, I never imagined that there was a honey bee "industry," and it has been and continues to be a fascinating and challenging journey in pursuit of learning to be the best beekeeper I can be, in addition to having financial security.*





2024 SPRING *Conference*

Teaching Honey Show



You asked for it ... *you got it!*

You wanted to see honey show judging in action. Here is your chance to learn what our judges are looking for in your honey show entries. You'll be able to watch live judging. You can learn tips and tricks to make your exhibits earn those prizes. This is a teaching show with awards in knowledge, not cash.

Click below to download the 2024 Spring Honey Show Rules:

2024 Spring Honey Show Specifics.docx

ARRIVAL TIME: Exhibits will be accepted on Friday evening, February 16, 2024, from 3:00 PM until 5:00 PM; and, again on Saturday morning, February 17, 2023, from 7:15 AM until 9:00 AM. Exhibits will not be accepted after the posted deadline.

LOCATION: Hatcher Conference Center, Middle Georgia State University, Macon, GA

JUDGING: Commences at 10:00 AM, on February 17, 2023.

RELEASE TIME: Exhibitors may pick up their entries on Saturday February 17, 2023, between 4:15 PM and 5:00 PM. Entries not picked up by the deadline will be disposed of by the Honey Show Committee.



GBA Wants You!

One way to make the spring GBA conference better for you and your beekeeping friends is to volunteer. When you help out, you become part of the action. Our conferences, and everything GBA does, are all powered by folks who are willing to freely put in their time, ability and effort for the benefit of all.

If you would like to be part of the action this fall, please **register for the conference** and contact **Emily Heath**, the GBA volunteer coordinator, at emilyheath@windstream.net. She'll get in touch with you ahead of the conference and let you know where your help is needed.

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

FEBRUARY 10, 2024



SCAN
TO REGISTER

LEARN EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET STARTED IN BEEKEEPING

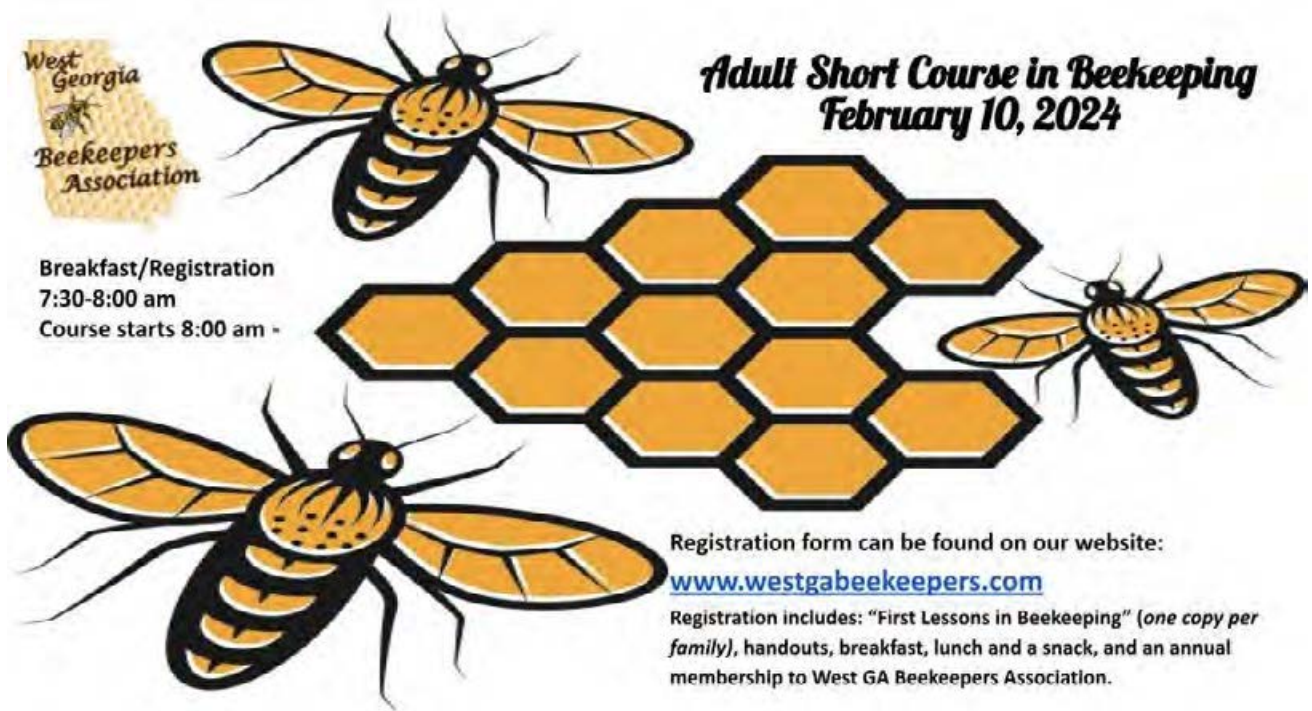
\$50 INCLUDES LUNCH, ONE YEAR BEE CLUB MEMBERSHIP, AND COURSE MATERIALS

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

West Georgia
Beekeepers
Association

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

Adult Short Course in Beekeeping February 10, 2024



Registration form can be found on our website:
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.



2024 Short Course Guide (continued)

FEBRUARY 24, 2024

Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association: Fundamentals of Beekeeping Event

Saturday, February 24, 2024, 9:00 AM - 4:00 P.m.

Georgia Botanical Gardens, 2 Canebroke 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>



Spring Beekeeper Course 2024

Want to BEE a beekeeper?!

Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers Association is presenting a six-week course that will take you from a beginner to a beekeeper!

WHEN:
Saturdays
February 24 until
March 30, 2024
2:00 - 4:00 PM

HOW MUCH:
Cost is \$100 per person,
and \$50 for immediate family

INCLUDES:
Classes, textbooks,
handouts, one year
membership with CVBA

WHERE:
Oxbow Meadows
3535 South Lumpkin Rd
Columbus, GA 31903

REGISTER NOW!
Call Oxbow Meadows
at 706-507-8550
<https://oxbow.columbusstate.edu>



OXBOW MEADOWS ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY



Beekeeping Short Course

Saturday, February 24th
8:00 am – 4:00 pm

To be held at the Walker County Ag Center
10052 US Hwy 27 N
Rock Spring, GA 30739

Registration is \$40 before Feb 19 OR \$45.00 the day of the program at the door. Children under 18 with an adult are free. To register, go to www.nwgabeekeepers.com/short-course

This course covers all the topics to get started with this rewarding hobby!

Etowah River Beekeepers 2024 Bee School

Saturday, February 24, 2024, 8:00 a.m.

NOTE: The inclement weather date is Saturday, March 2, same time and location.

Clayton Homestead, 3465 Land Rd, Canton, GA 30114

Get started in beekeeping in 2024. This full-day class will provide plenty of information and hands-on opportunities to familiarize yourself with the basics. You will have the opportunity to order your bee packages. The registration fee includes a light breakfast plus lunch.

Pre-registration is not required but is strongly encouraged as same-day pricing will be higher.

If you are not yet a member of the ERB club or have not yet paid your 2024 dues, **please register here.** This fee includes 2024 annual ERB club membership.

If you are an existing paid member of the ERB club and have paid your 2024 dues, please register here. This fee recognizes that you have already paid your club 2024 dues.



ETOWAH RIVER BEEKEEPERS 2024 BEE SCHOOL



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



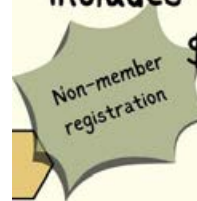
Clayton Homestead
3465 Land Rd
Canton, GA 30114



\$55 preregister before 2/24/24

includes 1 year membership

\$65 day of



SOWEGA BEEKEEPERS CLUB

Beekeeping School for Beginners

Get your tickets at:
www.sowegabeekeepersclub.com/upcoming-events

Registration
Includes 1 yr. membership
SBC Duesal, 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
- Pests & Diseases

Topics Covered
- Disease & Pest control
- Apiary establishment
- Hive inspections
- Spawning bees
- Predators
- Harvesting & Products

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

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



2024 Short Course Guide (continued)

MARCH 9, 2024



Saturday, March 9, 2024
8AM—5 PM

East Metro Beekeepers Beekeeping Short Course

The East Metro Beekeepers Association will be hosting a Beekeeping Short Course! The course will include a club membership for 2024. There will be an hour break for lunch on your own. Fee will be collected during registration via cash or check.

\$30/INDIVIDUAL
\$40/FAMILY

Rockdale County Extension Office
1127 West Ave SW
Conyers, GA 30012

Registration will begin at 7:30 AM

Please send an email to: EastMetroBeeks@gmail.com if you plan to attend so we can make sure to have enough materials for everyone.



MARCH 16, 2024

BEEKEEPING 101



Saturday March 16, 2024
Argene Claxton
Canning Plant
1701 Houston Lake Rd.
Perry, GA
From 9:00am to 12:00pm
Then 1:00pm to 3:30 pm
in the Apiary.

Cost \$35 per person
To register for the class use the link or QR code:

<https://forms.gle/tfQMCKgih35goeBXA>



**Heart of Georgia
Beekeepers
Association**



MARCH 16, 2024

Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County

March 16, 2024, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Hebron Christian Academy, 775 Dacula Rd, Dacula, GA 30019

The 2024 Bee School of the Beekeepers of Gwinnett County will take place on March 16th. The class is geared to the beginner beekeeper, but anyone is welcome. Included in the cost is the presentation material, *First Lessons in Beekeeping* book, one-year club membership, vendor catalogs, lunch, and gifts from the hive. We will also have door prizes and a chance to win a nuc.

We will have a live bee demonstration, so please plan to wear protective clothing.

\$65 for non-members and \$40 for additional family members.

\$40 for members and \$40 for additional family members

We are limited to 40 attendees. Payment is due by March 2nd.

Please scan the QR Code at right or email us at gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com for more details.

Beekeeping School for Beginners

Presented by the Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County

Have you ever wanted to learn the art (and science!) of beekeeping? Join us on March 16th for our 1 day beekeeping school to learn all the basics of beekeeping!

Registration ends March 2nd!

When: March 16, 2024 8:30 am - 4:30 pm	Cost: Members: \$40 Non-Members: \$65 <small>Add additional family members for \$40!</small>	Where: Hebron Christian Academy 775 Dacula Road, Dacula, GA
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To Register: Email gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com or attend the February 13, 2024 meeting at 7pm (Hebron Christian Academy, 775 Dacula Rd).

OR
Scan the QR Code to Register:



Plants for Bees:

🐝 Hellebores (*Helleborus*) 🐝

By **Kathy Bourn**

This is my least favorite time of year. The leaves are gone, the winter holidays are over and it's cold and bleak outside. I really start itching for spring. The best preview of spring I get in northeast Georgia is in my backyard. The wooded slope away from my house is filled with hellebores. This late winter/early spring flower fills this area with thick green leaves and rose-like flowers.

Hellebores are hearty perennials that have long been grown for their medicinal properties as a laxative, yet every part of the plant is toxic to wildlife and humans. It is because of this alkaloid toxicity that they are prized for their deer, rabbit, mole, and vole resistance. That was the main reason I planted them years ago. That and the fact that the plant spreads 18" to 24" and forms a nice ground cover which helps reduce soil erosion on a slope.

The wildlife may hate hellebores but our honey bees love them as a very early source of nutrition. On warm days the bees can get to this good quality nectar and pollen. The plants are evergreen in southern climates but deciduous up north and grow in zones 5-8. The flowers come in single or double varieties. The doubles look amazing to us but they cause difficulties for the bees. Stick with the singles if you can. Most hellebore flowers are white, cream, pink, peach, lilac, burgundy, or dark purple.

Each pollinated flower will produce a seed and fall near the mother plant. This is why hellebores nicely fill a woodland garden. They are tolerant of drought and neglect. You can feed them with organic mulch or compost but if they are planted in a wooded area that gets covered with leaves each year, there is little they will need except moist well-drained soil.

You'll rarely find hellebores at the big box stores. Because they flower so early, most people don't know of their value unless they go to serious nurseries. Hellebores belong to the buttercup family and the two basic groups are acaulescent, that is without stems, and caulescent, which have 12" to 18" stems. The genus name comes from the Greek words *helein*, meaning inures, and *bora*, meaning food. There are more than twenty species or *Helleborus*. The most common are *Helleborus orientalis*, the Lenten rose; *H. niger*, the Christmas rose; or *Helleborus x hybridus*.

Be patient with hellebores. They won't fully flower until their third or fourth year and even though they don't look like much most of the year, the early scratch for that itch for spring makes them well worth it. 🍯



PRODUCT PROJECTS:

Beeswax Food Wraps

By **Julia Mahood**, Georgia Master Crafts Beekeeper

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.

Beeswax food wraps are really fun to make, use, and sell. Like most things in beekeeping, there's a simple way and a more complex way. I'll start with a simple method.

What you'll need:

- Beeswax—because these will be used on food, use your clean, pretty light wax, not the old brown stuff
- Kitchen grater
- Jojoba oil- It's helpful if it's in a spray bottle. (If you want the really easy method, you can skip the oil.)
- Brush with bristle hairs, NOT PLASTIC
- Thin cotton or bamboo fabric, pre-washed and dried (The thinner the better, but not gauze-thin. Quilting fabric works fine; cotton shirting material is amazing.)
- Cookie sheet dedicated to wax (Because it will be very hard to clean, even if you use aluminum foil.)
- OR an electric griddle, which will also become dedicated to wax products (unless you like pancakes flavored with a whisper of burnt beeswax).
- Wire coat hangers
- Clothes pins



SIMPLER VERSION

1. Cut your fabric into the size pieces you'd like. Rounds are really handy, and an easy way to cut them is to use plates and bowls and cut around them with a rotary cutter. Rounds in small (like to cover a cut lemon half), mediums (to cover a measuring cup) and larger sizes (to cover your bowls) are a good place to start. Squares are also quite useful, in small (~7"square), medium (~10"square), and large (~11"x14"). Some people use pinking shears, but once the wax is on, the fabric won't unravel anymore, so it's not necessary. If you have a sewing machine, it's easy to make a pouch for sandwiches or snacks. Just pull the opening apart while drying.

2. Grate your wax



Continued on next page >

To make a snack bag, sew it before waxing

> **Continued from previous page**

3. Put your fabric on the cookie sheet lined with tinfoil
 4. Spray with some jojoba oil- not enough to saturate by any means
 5. Sprinkle beeswax on the fabric
 6. Place into your oven set on low (~170°)
 7. **WATCH IT LIKE A HAWK**, don't walk away. As soon as it's melted, pull out the rack and use your bristle brush to evenly distribute the melted wax. This is where you'll get a feel for how much wax to use on each fabric you try. It should all be saturated with wax. You might need a little more wax if it's not covering all the fabric. If you've got too much wax on it, there will be puddles on top. (If that's the case put one of your smaller pieces on there to sop up some of the wax.) **NEVER LET THE WAX GET SO HOT THAT IT SMOKES.** This super harmful to your precious lungs.
 8. I use kitchen tongs to lift it out and quickly get it pinned on a hanger. Yes, it's hot and it's really fun to try to not burn your fingers. It will dry super fast, so by the time you've got another one ready to come out, you can take off the one that's drying. The dripping wax will inevitably end up on your floor and those you live with might not love that, so some strategically placed cardboard can help your domestic relationships.
 9. If you decide to hit the Goodwill and get an old electric griddle, you don't need to grate the wax, just rub it across the heated surface until you've got enough melted on there (after doing a few you'll know what "enough" is). Spray the oil on your fabric, then put it on the griddle and use your bristle brush to make sure it's covered but not puddled. Also, remember from #7 above, never let the wax get so hot that it smokes! And while I'm touching on safety issues, you should always have a fire extinguisher handy when you're melting wax. Using the griddle is really preferable. If you don't need the oven you can make these in a workshop space where dripping sticky wax won't be as much of a problem.
 10. Once they are dry you can use scissors to trim off the odd thread from the edges. They won't fray any more.
- These wraps will work fine, (and you might want to try a few this way just to see the difference if you want to go full Martha Stewart and make the more complicated version).

MORE COMPLICATED VERSION

Commercially produced beeswax food wraps list jojoba oil and tree resin on the labels, along with beeswax. I have made them with damar resin (used for oil painting) and

Continued on next page >



Grate your clean wax, then line a cookie sheet with foil before putting your fabric on it.



Spray jojoba oil on fabric, then sprinkle on the wax



Melt wax in the oven on low heat; Use bristle brush to make sure wax is evenly coating the fabric without puddles of wax anywhere

> **Continued from previous page**

with pine resin. Food grade pine resin is now easy to buy in powdered form on Amazon, thanks to all the crafty folks out there making beeswax food wraps! Adding the tree resin makes for a stickier wrap, so the edges stick together more easily at any temperature. They will also last longer. You will need all of the above ingredients, plus food grade pine resin and a Pyrex cup and pot to make a double boiler.

1. In your double boiler (pot of water with Pyrex cup fit in it so that the water doesn't get in your wax), melt your beeswax, then when melted add your pine resin and jojoba oil. (Using a Pyrex cup in a small pot as a double boiler is nice because the Pyrex cup is pretty easy to clean compared to a typical double boiler pot.) The ratios of the three ingredients are somewhat flexible. Start with 1 part resin, 4 parts wax and 1 part jojoba oil. I have read recipes online for this mixture where people recommend 1 part resin, 2-3 parts wax and one part oil, but this is way too sticky for me. Feel free to experiment with your ratios.

2. Once it's all melted, pour into some kind of molds. You can use a cupcake tin or cleaned food carton if you don't have wax block/soap molds. Anything will do, really.

3. Now you can go back to the simple method, but since the oil is already mixed with the wax and resin you don't need to spray the fabric. It will be harder to grate, so if you're doing the oven method you can pop the hardened wax/resin/oil block in the freezer to help things along. You can also use a carrot peeler to shave off pieces. If you have an electric griddle it does go much faster. Just put your block on the griddle and move it around to get enough melted for your fabric size, then use the brush to move it around and get the wax soaked up. You will notice that using the resin-wax combo makes everything super sticky, so have some oil handy to help get the sticky off your fingers after hanging them up to dry.



Using an electric griddle is easier and can be used in a place where messes are better tolerated; Use the brush on the fabric to make sure it's saturated.



Be careful where you hang up your wrap to dry. Getting wax off this cabinet wasn't fun

CARING FOR YOUR WRAPS

I usually just rinse them with cold water to clean the wraps, and pat or air dry. You can also use a few drops of mild dishwashing liquid, but not Dawn or other grease-cutting detergents. (If you use them your wraps won't last as long.)

Don't use these on raw meats because you need to be able to sterilize them to get off the bad bacteria, and super hot water will just melt off all your lovely wax.

After lots of use you can re-apply wax if needed. A new wrap using resin will seal off a glass of liquids so tight that you can turn it upside down. Not so much when the wrap is worn out. 🍯



In my studio I have an old display rack that was perfect for drying the wraps



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.

Thank you, Linda Tillman, for explaining what's in your ear while dog walking in your neighborhood: a bee podcast! I feel that I'm the last beekeeper to discover podcasts. With reflection, I realize bee-themed podcasts scratch my itch in between beekeeping meetings or conferences. My own preference is to consume beekeeping podcasts, not while dog walking, but rather while sitting in front of my computer where I can read the episode summary and follow web links. Typically, the sound quality is superb as this audio media allows the hosts to re-record portions of their podcast. While podcast information is less dense than a beekeeping book, the short length of a podcast episode is very digestible and current.

In episode 93 of **Two Bees in a Podcast**, Dr. Jamie Ellis and Amy Vu interview Dr. Michael Smith from Auburn University about imperfect comb construction. **This link will take you to Michael Smith's research.** I'm interested in this topic as I no longer use foundation and have become vaguely familiar with natural cell construction... or so I thought.



My foundationless beekeeping results in comb with a gentle wave across the frame where bees 1) merged distinct regions of top-bar-attached comb like a clothing zipper, or 2) transitioned comb construction between worker and drone sized cells. **I've dabbled with measuring cell size with OpenCV software**, measuring each cell size, but I did not appreciate until now that the cells are not all hexagonal. Michael's research shows that bees in the absence of foundation created four, five, seven, eight and nine-sided cells. I asked Michael in an email, "What are the four-sided cells used for?" Well, it's not known; these cells are too tiny for bees to enter. If you have a copy of the book, *The Buzz about Bees*, take a look at page 165 or **click here**.

You can find many beekeeping podcasts wherever you get your podcasts – Apple, Spotify, etc. There are many from which to choose and you may find you learn exciting information from them as I often do.

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 *Spilling The Honey's* monthly question.

As beekeepers warm themselves by the fire in the coldest part of our Georgia winters (January and February), often the best sting stories are part of the ongoing chat. We collected sting stories from our GBA beekeepers as well as our keynote speakers for the GBA Spring Conference to share with you.

Sophie Raburn (*SOWEGA*): Last year I thought I was getting to know my bees. I went to the hives to replace their sugar water during a very windy day with no veil and to my surprise one of my girls landed on my forehead and gave me a natural Botox injection. My forehead was wrinkle free for several days and I got a nose job or at least the swelling from a procedure. Needless to say, now unless I go at night time I always wear my veil.

Kelley Campbell (*Forsyth Beekeepers*): I got popped at 4:30, peeking under the hive lid, then went to my dog's vet appointment. Nobody noticed my slightly fuller lip at first, but as it quickly grew, it could not be denied. The entire clinic enjoyed watching the progression of swelling. My top-heavy lip was too funny so I joined friends at a busy Mexican restaurant after leaving the vet. Every staff member topped off my water after each microsip to get a closer look, and most guests found a way to walk by my table at least once! (Always wear at least a veil.)



Wayne Hughes (*Metro Atlanta Beekeepers*): The Golden Rule is a beautiful principle I try to live by. But one spring afternoon, I learned that isn't true of everyone I know. I popped the lid off an aggressive colony, and bees instantly covered my head and shoulders. Thankfully, I had a full suit on, but the people with me didn't. Out of the kindness of my heart, I walked away to spare them the worst of the bees' ire, but it turns out that wasn't necessary. They both high-tailed it to my truck and drove off without so much as a second glance.

Kevin McCraney (*Lake Hartwell*): After giving an evening bee presentation. I thought, lit by my truck's red tail lights, I could return the single frame of bees from the classroom hive to their home. But angry bees attacked, driving stingers through my jacket. I couldn't risk unzipping it to remove the pumping stingers in my arm. Covered with bees, I retreated to my truck. Going inside was not an option as my wife's sting would be much worse with this angry mob in tow! I sat in my truck with the door open until the bees left. I was finally able to go home. Those girls will spend the night in the classroom hive next time!

Edward Morgan (*Metro Atlanta Beekeepers*): My first swarm happened in my own apiary. I read that you could insert your hand into the swarm to feel the heat that is created and you wouldn't get stung. After feeling the heat they create and building up the nerve, I tried it. But when I inserted my hand a



second time, I was stung several times in the face. Fifteen minutes later, my forehead and eyelids became puffy and swollen. My wife panicked, demanded I take benadryl and go to the hospital. I took the benadryl but refused to go to the hospital. Eventually, I did get an Epipen from my family physician. and it hangs in my office, where I see it every day.

I had the occasion to ask each of our keynote speakers about his/her worst/funniest/most amazing sting story, so here are their answers:

Dr. Jamie Ellis (*University of Florida*): My record for stings in one day is probably close to 450. I've been stung on every continent (except Antarctica!).

Megan Mahoney (*Mahoney Bees & Queens*): When I used to catch swarms in Albuquerque, NM., I had a really challenging swarm about 30 ft or more up in a tree. I built a telescoping pole with a five gallon bucket attached, threw a rope up over the branch and tried to shake the swarm into the bucket. While many of the bees did fall into the bucket, the rest fell on me! And because of the distance, I received dozens of stings on impact. Driving home that night was hard because my hands were so swollen from the "bee shower"... but I was able to successfully hive the swarm.

Dr. Keith Delaplane (*University of Georgia*): I had an apiary as a boy alongside one of my dad's wheat fields. The bees were really wound up. I retreated hastily through the wheat. What I thought were wheat stalks pinging my gloved hands was in fact the bees. Those bees were actual German black bees which are today virtually extinct as identifiable populations in North America. We had them in the 1970s in Indiana as they still do in Europe. They were quite mean and I always tried to replace them with an Italian queen, not knowing (nor even caring) that I was contributing to their decline. 🐝

This Month's Question:

By the time the March newsletter comes out, many people will have finished their short courses and the world will be full of new beekeepers. For our March issue, we want to know:

What would you have done differently as a new beekeeper if you knew then what you know now?

Send your piece of advice in 100 words or less (and a photo, if you have one) to beekeeperlinda@gmail.com Please include your local bee club's name, if you belong to one.

– Linda Tillman



IT'S TIME TO...

Reduce Swarming and Increase Honey Production

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.

Honey production requires swarm prevention. More honey, more money, more success. Every colony aims to produce an offspring (swarm) every spring just before the main nectar flow. **Congestion** does not cause swarming; the worker population gets large preparing to swarm. Swarming is procreation.

Requirements and Timing

Nectar management, developed by **Walt Wright**, requires three shallow supers of empty drawn comb (EDC) per hive, with more EDC supers added later. In the Piedmont of Georgia, this is performed in early February. The cluster is not disturbed, enabling this manipulation to be performed during cold 40F (4C) temperatures. Don't do it during rain.

In this example, the cluster is in a ten-frame deep super with a shallow super of honey above.

Remove five frames of honey from the shallow super.



(If you look close at the frames in these photos, they do not contain empty drawn comb. They are for demonstration only. Empty, drawn comb must be used.)

Add five frames of empty drawn comb from the supers brought from storage. Alternate honey and empty drawn comb frames.



The bottom shallow super is complete.

The second shallow super is configured like the first using the remaining five frames of honey. The frames must alternate vertically, too. In this example, the bottom shallow super has a honey frame on the left. In the next shallow super, place an empty drawn comb frame on the left and continue to alternate honey and empty drawn comb frames filling up the super.



Add another shallow super with only EDC completing the process.

Continued on next page >



IT'S TIME TO...

Continued from previous page >

The hive is now configured with a deep and three shallow supers. The bottom two shallow supers have alternating empty drawn comb and honey frames. The honey cap has been opened, making backfilling next to impossible for the colony. The empty drawn comb will be used for brood production and nectar storage.

Inspect periodically and add additional supers of EDC before the workers store nectar in the top super. If they fill up the top super, they will backfill the brood nest and swarm. "Stay ahead of your bees."

Opening the honey cap with EDC offers thousands of cells

for egg laying and nectar storage, preventing **backfilling** if additional supers of empty drawn comb are added as needed.

When the colony starts making white wax (new wax), its new goal is to collect nectar and make honey. This change of goals happens as the main nectar flow begins and deciduous trees leaf out. White wax indicates that they will not swarm. Add two or three supers to give them plenty of honey storage area.

The next *It's Time to...* will cover swarm prevention splits. 🐝

Sign, Sign, Everywhere a Sign

By Bobby Colson

There are now two 4' x 8' signs showing the Georgia Beekeepers Association Save the Honey Bee license plate in central Georgia. One is located on Hwy 301 South at the entrance to Ogeechee Tech in Statesboro and another one will be along Hwy 301 South and Hwy 17 of Sylvania. These were made possible by the work of the Ogeechee Area Beekeepers Association and more importantly by the GBA license plate fund.

The idea began at the 2023 fall GBA conference when I saw the Save The Honey Bee billboard in Atlanta. I came home and mulled it over then discussed it with our OABA club. Then I started getting property owners' permission for the signs. It really was not hard to talk one person into putting a sign up and the second person was a club member. I tried to get the required permits from the county office but there were too many hurdles to cross. At this point it was best to turn the project over to Whitfield Signs who was very good to work with.

For a full story about Bobby and the billboards **click on this article by Grice Connect.** 🐝





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!

Diane's Oatmeal Cookies

By **Kathy Bourn** (pictured at right)

I am not a chef by nature so whenever I'm called upon to make something, I turn to my mother's black folders. They contain all her hand written recipes for everything from cookies to soups. When Linda Tillman put a call out for bakers to make cookies for the Fall GBA Conference, I only had the confidence that I could make edible cookies because I had Diane's folders. Here is her favorite oatmeal cookie recipe.

Heat oven to 350 degrees and use parchment paper on cookie sheets.

Bake 18-20 minutes

INGREDIENTS:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 ½ C. Butter Flavored Crisco
(Crisco is the key) | 2 C. Flour |
| 2 C. Brown Sugar | 1 tsp. Coriander |
| ½ C. Sugar | 1 tsp. Cinnamon |
| 1/3 C. Milk | 1 tsp. Baking Soda |
| 2 Eggs | ½ tsp. Salt |
| 1 T. Vanilla | 6 C. Rolled Oats |
| | 1 ½ C. Raisins, plumped
and well drained |

DIRECTIONS:

- Cream Crisco and sugars one minute. Set aside.
- Whisk together flour, coriander, cinnamon, soda, and salt.
- Finish creaming Crisco/sugar mixture and add milk, eggs, and vanilla. Mix to combine well.
- Stir in flour mixture until well combined.
- Transfer to large bowl and stir in oatmeal and raisins.
- Drop by 2T scoops. 12 to a sheet (with parchment paper).
- Bake 18-20 minutes or until light brown.
- Cool on sheets 5-10 minutes before removing to cooling racks.



Buzzle Page

Answer Key

S	■	C	■	E
V	E	I	L	S
O	R	T	I	E
L	U	N	A	R
G	L	A	N	D



Buzzle Page

A Mini Bee Crossword

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

Stumped?
The answer
is on
page 25.



1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				

ACROSS:

- When you have a swarm, some bees stand on the edge of the collection box, raise their rear ends into the air, open their nasonov _____ and send out a pheromone to say "The queen is here."
- Bees care a lot about the solar calendar but not the _____ one
- A veil can zip to your jacket, _____ around your waist
- Beekeepers wear these to protect their eyes and face.

DOWN:

- Beekeepers wear two of these to protect their hands
- If you want to catch a swarm, you can rub swarm _____ on an old previously occupied hive box.
- The waggle dance can look like some kind of _____ in which the bee is engaging.
- Constructing a hive box often involves glue, a hammer, and lots of these.
- It's important to do this with your bee clothing before approaching the hive.



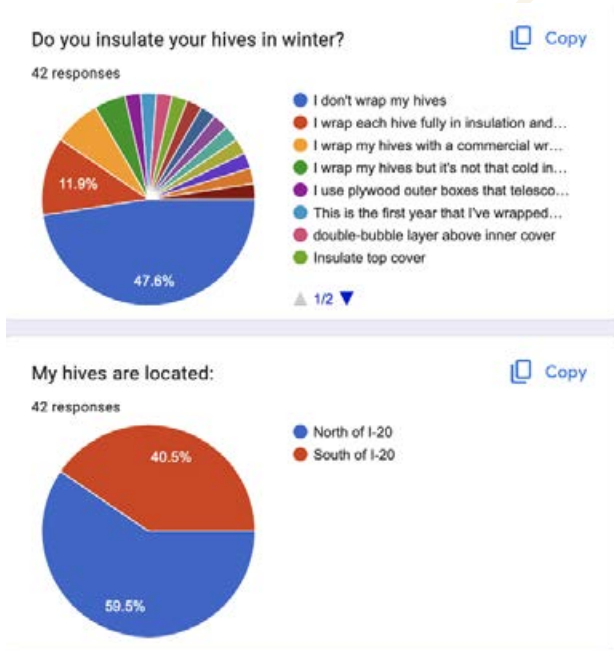
SURVEY SAYS...

Do You Insulate Your Hives In Winter?

By *Linda Tillman*

Since January is the coldest month in Georgia and we, indeed, faced some pretty cold temperatures during January this year, we asked: **Do You Insulate your Hives in Winter?** We assumed the answers would reflect the part of the state in which you lived.

We received even more answers to our survey this month. Forty-two of you responded. Here are the results:



As you can see, most of the respondents do not wrap or insulate their hives. **If you'd like to see the detailed results in a spreadsheet, click here.**

We began this feature because our survey showed that you wanted to know more about how Georgia beekeepers manage their hives and apiaries. We're hoping our samples get larger and larger, so please participate so we can learn more about Georgia beekeeping as it actually happens. 🐝

MARCH'S SURVEY QUESTION

For next month's survey, we want to know: **How do you approach swarm season?** - Do you put up traps? Bait old empty hives? Keep your car loaded with collection gear? Click here to answer our one-question survey. 🐝

How Do You Prepare for Swarm Season?

Please check all answers that apply and answer other if there is something additional that you do.

- I hang swarm traps in areas where I think I'll get bees
- I leave old empty hives set up hoping the smell of previous tenants will attract a swarm
- I make swarm lure or buy it and rub it on my swarm traps or old equipment
- I put my name on my club's swarm call list and cross my fingers
- I post on NextDoor, Facebook, and other places to say call me for a swarm
- I put my swarm catching gear in the back of the car and keep it there
- Other:

Your GBA Officers, Directors & Board Members

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Julia Mahood	Vice President	vicepresident@gabeekeeping.com	678-448-2576
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Linda Tillman	Past President	pastpresident@gabeekeeping.com	404-447-1943
Jennifer Berry	Ex-Officio Director	jbee@uga.edu	706-247-2575

GBA & Farm Bureau

Julia Mahood and Bobby Chaisson worked hard to represent GBA at the annual Farm Bureau Conference. Each December the members of the Georgia Farm Bureau meet at Jekyll Island to talk about everything concerning agriculture in the state. GBA is invited to represent the issues and progress of beekeeping in Georgia. 🐝



Julia Mahood and Bobby Chaisson working the GBA booth that they created



The honey straw giveaway is popular with these young folks.



The GBA booth included a viewing of the video How To Inspect a Beehive.

WHERE'S WAGGLE?

WINNER

It's not easy to find Waggle's hiding place in the newsletter but in January, fourteen people found her hiding on page 23 at the bottom of the Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers Christmas tree. We had a total of 17 entries. Three people thought she was in the Where's Waggle article on page 17, but the image on that page was to show you what you are supposed to look for in your search.

We took the 14 winners and asked the Internet for a randomized number between one and 14. The winner of this month's prize is **Trey Kircher**, son of **Holli Kircher**, GBA member and treasurer for Lake Hartwell Beekeepers. Trey is an active LHBA member and often wins the club's raffle drawings. For finding Waggle, Trey wins a beautiful hive tool. **Larry Vaughn**, last month's winner, received a wooden honey bee toothpick holder. If you win, you too will receive a bee-themed gift.

These are the names of all of you who discovered Where's Waggle in the January issue:

Joy Wallace, Claire Sirmans, Elizabeth Gingle, Trey Kircher, Kevin McCraney, Bambi Griffis Conner, Annie Cheatham, Emily Heath, Larry Vaughn, Ryun Forsman, Annika Lundberg, Karen Miller, Gerald Collins, and Charles Olsen. Congratulations on all of your sharp eyes.

Watch for Waggle as you read this newsletter. **When you find her, click here to enter our monthly Where's Waggle contest.** 🐝



Trey Kircher and his mother Holli at a GBA conference.

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

Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers

The Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers Association won the "Rockefeller" Award at the Uptown Christmas Tree Trail. This award is given to the tree with the best representation of their business.

Prathiba Prasanna Chandran, a graduate student from Auburn University, spoke to the club in January on "How Do Honey Bees Store And Organize Pollen In Their Nest?" This is the topic of her doctoral dissertation. 🍯



Lake Country Beekeepers Association

The Lake Country Beekeepers Association kicked off 2024 with our monthly membership meeting and an introduction to beekeeping event. LCBA welcomed **Anne Frey** (right) as the guest speaker



at the January meeting. Anne is an EAS Master Beekeeper and Head Beekeeper for Better Bee (www.betterbee.com) in Greenwich, New York. She manages over 400 hives, teaches classes, and creates beekeeping instructional videos for Better Bee. With over 30 years of beekeeping experience, Anne shared tips on how to work smarter, not harder in the beeyard. Her beekeeping approach is methodical, diagnostic, and disciplined.

On Saturday, January 27th, LCBA hosted 30 guests at the club's 11th annual introduction to beekeeping program. The Sparta-Hancock County Library is the club's host site. LCBA members, President **Millie Reeves**, **Keith Fielder**, **Bruce Morgan**, **Dan Adams**, and **Mary Lacksen** covered bee biology, sourcing beekeeping equipment and bees, and an overview of a year in the bee yard. These club events are possible with experienced beekeeping volunteers who share beekeeping success and challenges with new beekeepers. In addition, the Sparta-Hancock County Library offers a variety of beekeeping books for check out for all ages. 🍯

Commerce Beekeepers Club

GBA wants to welcome a new beekeeping club in the Northeast Georgia region. The **Commerce Beekeepers Club** meets the first Thursday of the month from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Commerce Public Library, 1344 S Broad St, Commerce, GA 30529.

Angle Jones, CBA Secretary/Treasurer, says they are working on the website, but in the meantime they are using their facebook group as the website... [facebook.com/groups/commercebeekeepersclub](https://www.facebook.com/groups/commercebeekeepersclub)

The CBA president is **Shawn Jones**, and can be reached at commercebeekeepersclub@gmail.com 🍯

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

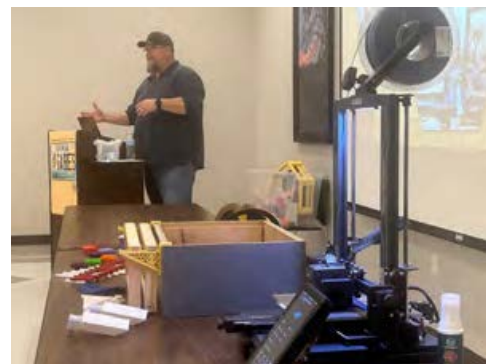
The Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, January 16th at the fellowship hall of Perry United Methodist Church as the Argene Claxton Canning Plant suffered damage during the recent storms. The program, "Making Splits" was presented by **Jared Gibson** of Gibson Honey. Jared got his start beekeeping with **Jesse McCurdy**. Jared discussed his method of making splits as he sells 60-70 nucs each year. It was a very informative program and there was a Q&A session afterwards.

Members were encouraged to attend the upcoming GBA Spring conference that will be held in Macon on February 16 -17. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 20, 2024. Members, please check your email for the meeting location. The program, "Every Beehive Tells a Story," will be presented by **Linda Tillman** (right), past GBA president. You can view our activities at hogba.org. 🍯



Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association

If you've always wondered how you can make beekeeping items with a 3D printer, **Ryun Forsman** (right) has the answers. As a self-described serial hobbyist, Ryun taught



himself how to make products with 3D printers. He set up one of his printers at the LHBA January meeting and demonstrated how it works. Some of his favorite items combine his hobbies of printing and beekeeping to make things like magnetic hive tool holders and frame rests. He told LHBA members how to turn their ideas into useful products. **Check out some of his items on his Etsy site.** 🍯