

# Spilling the Honey

## GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman



Photo of bee on dahlia by Christine Fahrnbauer of Canton, GA

### Message from our President: Jerry Edwards

Happy New Year, fellow beekeepers, as 2013 will be an exciting year for us in the bee world. The first scheduled state event is February 8-9 at Lake Blackshear Resort. I must extend a big thank you to Bear Kelley and Mary Cahill-Roberts who have worked diligently to secure the first class facility and several interesting guest speakers.

Plan to attend the meeting and bring at least one friend as we all work together to build our beekeeping community.

I hope to see everyone February 8-9.

Jerry Edwards, President GA Beekeepers  
*Saving the World, One Bee at a Time*

### **Upcoming Georgia Beekeepers Association Spring Meeting!**

Mark your calendars. The Spring Meeting of GBA will take place at the Georgia Veterans State Park at Lake Blackshear Resort on 8 and 9 Feb 2013. The resort has two bedroom cabins available as well as a wonderful RV campground and the Park Manager is offering a 30% discount to GBA attendees that weekend. The resort is located about 8 miles west of Cordele (exit 101, I-75) on Hwy 280. There are also numerous motels and restaurants in the Cordele area for those interested. Reminder: There is no honey contest at the Spring meeting.

The meeting will start with a GBA board meeting at 7 PM on Friday, followed by a reception open to all attendees. The official meeting begins at 8:30 AM on Saturday with the president's message, followed by a day of helpful bee talks. Do plan to come and spend a great weekend with your fellow Georgia beekeepers.

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*"The lark is up to meet the sun,  
The bee is on the wing;  
The ant its labor has begun,  
The woods with music ring.  
Shall birds, and bees, and ants, be wise,  
While I my moments waste?  
O let me with the morning rise,  
And to my duty haste."*

*Wm. Holmes McGuffey, McGuffey's Eclectic Primer; (1848).*

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## What do Bee Clubs Do in the Winter?

We all know that **beekeepers** in the winter spend time getting ready for the next bee season, building and painting equipment, ordering from catalogues, reading bee books. Sometimes beekeepers in the winter make candles and lip balm as a way of being creative with products of the hive.

What can **bee clubs** do in the winter? A couple of years ago, the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers club used the winter months to rewrite the rules for our annual honey contest. Using what some of us had learned from Robert Brewer's talk at GBA at the 2009 fall meeting in Rabun County, and relying on what some of us were learning in training to be Welsh honey judges at Young Harris, we completely rewrote the club's honey contest rules. At least five members of our club contributed thoughts and ideas and researched rules used by clubs across the country.



Our goal was to make our honey contest rules specific and clear. It had been some of our experience that honey contest rules often are not detailed enough to make for a clean and well-judged contest. To enter a honey contest, the entrant needs to know what guidelines will be employed in the judging - it's much easier to prepare your entry for the contest when you know exactly what is expected.

Once our rules were complete, we sent them to Robert Brewer and to Keith Fielder for review and we added their suggestions. Our rules are now more specific and clear than the rules used at GBA for the annual fall honey contest.

If your club wants to revise your honey contest rules this winter, we are glad to share what we developed. You can find the [Metro honey contest rules here](#). If you have any questions about our rules or our process used in rewriting them, feel free to [contact me](#) and I'll be glad to try to help.

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*"Place a beehive on my grave  
and let the honey soak through.*

*When I'm dead and gone,  
that's what I want from you.*

*The streets of heaven are gold and sunny,  
but I'll stick with my plot and a pot of honey.*

*Place a beehive on my grave  
and let the honey soak through."*

*-May's Honey Song, from [The Secret Life of Bees](#), by Sue Monk Kidd (p83)*

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### January Street Cred:

This video came from ApiNews, November 2012

For a fun explanation of bee genetics, watch this You Tube video of Dean Stiglitz, author of [The Complete Idiot's Guide to Beekeeping](#), as he explains genetics and the bee

[CLICK HERE](#) TO VIEW THE VIDEO:

*“Tart words make no friends; a spoonful of honey will catch more flies than a gallon of vinegar. “*

*~ Benjamin Franklin*

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### **A Thank you to GBA**

The Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association (MABA) is developing a junior beekeeping program to be held at MABA hive locations in the greater Atlanta area. In 2013 we will begin to offer one day programs for children ages 9 and up (7 & 8 year olds may attend with a parent). With the financial assistance from the Georgia Beekeepers Association, MABA will purchase beekeeping supplies including bee suits, gloves, hive tools, and smokers for ongoing use in the program.

Bill Owens and Cindy Bee have both offered suggestions for the actual programming based on past GBA Junior Beekeeping programs. Melissa Bondurant, currently working on her Master Beekeeper certification, developed the outline for our new program. Holly Bayendor will be the Chairperson of our new program.

The Junior Beekeeping day will begin with an educational PowerPoint followed by equipment building and hands on beekeeping experience. If time allows, we will have a honey extraction demonstration with each “new” beekeeper taking home a bear of freshly extracted honey.

Thank you to the Georgia Beekeepers Association for helping us with this program.

Cindy Hodges

President-Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association  
770-394-5051

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**GBA Club of the Month**

**Southeast Georgia Beekeeping Association**

The SE Georgia Beekeeping Association is comprised mostly of commercial beekeepers. So unlike other beekeeping clubs, with monthly meetings of novices and experienced beekeeper members, the Southeast club meets only twice a year. Their meetings are more like the two annual meetings of GBA and include a number of speakers, usually well-known beekeepers like Keith Fielder or university folks like Keith Delaplane.

Barry Hart is the president of the Southeast Ga Beekeepers in Clinch, County, one of Georgia's southernmost counties, on the Florida border. Barry says that as commercial beekeepers, his members only have time to gather twice a year to get caught up about current thinking about keeping bees. Then they are on to work, managing their beekeeping businesses.

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***Our GBA spring meeting is Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> and 9th at Lake  
Blackshear Resort***

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**Upcoming Bee Events**

- **Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Short Course**  
January 19, 2013  
Atlanta Botanical Garden  
Atlanta, GA  
<http://www.metroatlantabeekeepers.org/shortcourse.htm>
- **Tara Beekeeping Short Course**  
January 19, 2013

Georgia Power Building

Forest Park, GA

<http://www.tarabeekeepers.org/class.html>

- **North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow**  
January 8-12, 2013  
Hershey, PA  
[www.ABFNet.org](http://www.ABFNet.org)
- **GBA Spring Meeting**  
February 8 - 9, 2013  
Lake Blackshear Resort  
Cordele, GA
- **North Carolina & South Carolina State Beekeepers Associations**  
Joint Spring Meeting  
March 1-2, 2013  
Rock Hill, SC

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## **This is your newsletter**

**Your editors, Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman**

We are really enjoying putting this newsletter together for you every month. Please keep sending in photos, funny stories, and beekeeping articles for us to publish!

Membership in GBA is a real bargain. For just \$15 a year you get the opportunity to meet beekeepers from around the state at the two annual meetings, you can list yourself and your honey business on the GBA website, and you get to read our newsletter each month.

If you are not a member of GBA, consider [sending in your \\$15 and joining the organization](#). We are a great group and as our membership expands, more is possible for our organization to accomplish.

If you are not a member, please let us know what GBA could do to meet your needs. As a beekeeper in Georgia, this is your organization and your needs should be met.

Gina and Linda



Photo by Julie Civitts of Toccoa, GA

**GBA Officers 2012**

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**Vice-President** – Bear Kelley

**Treasurer** – Roseanne Dorn

**Secretary** – Mary Cahill-Roberts

**North GA Director** – Buster Lane

**Middle GA director** – Steve Prince

**South GA director** – Fred Rossman

**Past president** – Steve Nofs

**Newsletter Editors** – Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

**Webmaster** – Bill Owens



# Spilling the Honey

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Photo of hives on pallets by Christine Fahrnbauer of Canton, GA

### Message from our President: Jerry Edwards

I hope all of you are as excited as I am about our "Winter/Spring" meeting next weekend at Lake Blackshear. The Friday night reception at 8:00 should provide a great opportunity for us to socialize and network about our bees. At 8:45 the next morning

the session begins, with a day filled with events and speakers who will be certain to inform and entertain us. Vendor slots are still open so if you know anyone who would be available, please give them the information. I would like to thank Bear Kelley, Mary Cahill-Roberts, and Rose Anne Fielder for their hard work planning the event. See you Friday at Lake Blackshear.

Jerry Edwards, President GA Beekeepers  
*Saving the World, One Bee at a Time*

### **Upcoming Georgia Beekeepers Association Spring Meeting!**

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The meeting will start with a GBA board meeting at 7 PM on Friday, followed by a reception open to all attendees. The official meeting begins at 8:30 AM on Saturday with the president's message, followed by a day of helpful bee talks. Do plan to come and spend a great weekend with your fellow Georgia beekeepers.

Here is our meeting schedule:

#### **Friday, Feb 8**

7 pm: Board meeting

8 pm: Reception/cash bar - an opportunity for networking, gathering with old friends and meeting new ones

(Special door prize at the reception on Friday night!)

#### **Saturday, Feb 9**

8 am: Registration

8:45 am: President's call to order and address

9:00 am: **Carl Webb**: Update on Russian bees in Georgia  
9:45 am: Break  
10:00 am: Break-out Session one  
**Virginia Webb**: Beeswax in all its Glory  
**Buster Lane**: Nuc installation  
10:30 am: Break-out Session one (repeat of above two presenters)  
11:00 Break  
11:30 **David Kelton**: Nosema in Hives "Don't Forget about Me"  
12:15 Auction of website  
12:30 Lunch/vendors  
1:30 State Inspector: What's Happening with Bees in Georgia  
or  
1:30 **Keith Fielder**: How are the Commercial Beekeeper and the Small Scale  
Beekeeper Intertwined in Georgia?  
2:00 Break-out Session Two  
**David Kelton**: Queens  
**Lori Bean**: Georgia Jams Local Products  
2:30 Break-out Session Two  
Repeat of the above two presenters  
3:00 Break  
3:15 **Linda Tillman**: What I Did for Love or Why Go for Certification at Bee  
School?  
4:00 **Jerry Edwards**: President's Address: Where is GBA Headed?

Our vendors will be glad to take orders ahead of the meeting and you can pick your items up at the meeting, thus saving delivery charges.

Vendors for the GBA Spring meeting:

Georgia Jams  
Walter Kelly  
Rossman Apiaries  
Busters Bees  
Dadant  
Mann Lake Bee Supplies

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*"The privilege of being a beekeeper is not to generate as much honey as possible. We keep bees so that we can contribute to pollination. And*

*actually the future of beekeeping is not in one beekeeper with sixty thousand hives, rather it's in sixty thousand people with one hive; all of them approaching the art and the craft of being a keeper of bees as a holistic practice."*

Simon Buxton: [The Shamanic Way of the Bee](#)

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## **I am a CCD baby boomer beekeeper!**

**By Mary Cahill-Roberts**

As I was reading the news in 2007, I learned that the beekeeping industry was experiencing this mysterious event: *Colony collapse disorder*. I was disturbed by the implications of a species being decimated by a "virus" that beekeepers were unable to identify.

I am in healthcare and it reminded me of when HIV first started in the 80's. Now, 30 years later, there are treatments for HIV but no cure. And, 5 years later we may have identified factors of colony collapse, and may have an inkling of the cause, but there is still concern and still, I think, worry.

You can keep bees in your back yard? What! I had never heard of such a thing.

I would become one of the **CCD baby boomer beekeepers**. I started my journey by going to an Atlanta community garden and spending two hours with a man who discussed bees and keeping them. I learned about hives and how to put the boxes together. There were three students in the class. One of them made the comment that it might be too late to get bees for the coming April, since this was already February.

I didn't realize one had to buy bees and order them. How did that happen anyway? I wasn't sure of how the whole process started. My own process started by going to the two-hour class and reading a couple of books. I

then ordered some supplies, including the bees, picked them up on April 21, 2008, and brought them home.

I listened to Mike, the guy who sold me the bees, describe how to put them into the new hive. How hard could that be? I drove home the 60 miles to my house with 2 nucs of bees in the front seat of my Prius, listening to them hum. It was 8:30 pm and I was really excited. I brought them around back to my yard, put them on top of their respective hives that were all ready for the new girls, opened the nuc boxes and RAN.

I waited two days before I went out and moved them. After my introduction to the business end of the girls (**four times**) they were settled into their new homes. I had bought some equipment from PN Williams and he gave me the low down on what to do with the hives. Talking with him was really my first short course on how to take care of the bees. I spent two hours, one on one, asking him all sorts of questions. He was very patient and helpful. He told me that if you open the hive up a lot, you'll kill the bees. I took his advice and did not open those hives up very much.

Sometime in May, a bee stung me on my arm and it became swollen to twice its size. My family told me that I was allergic and I needed to stop with the bees already. "That is what happens when you get stung and have a reaction," I told them; "No big deal." Five years later, you can't tell where I have been stung half hour after the event.

Now I am involved with a local club and at the state level. I attend all sorts of bee conferences, Young Harris Institute, Georgia Beekeepers Association, and Eastern Apiculture Society. Now there are more new people involved with bees than ever: the people are younger, and this group includes more women. I have made a ton of friends and met a lot of nice people.

Overall, I think as a CCD baby boomer, CCD may have been one of the best things to happen to beekeeping since the Varroa mite.

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### February Street Cred:

This video came from ApiNews, January 2013

For an interesting look at neonicotinoids, [here is a video](#) that appeared in Apinews in a recent issue. ApiNews writes: “In this 27 minutes video you will find the report about the Environmental Protection Agency, who allowed neonicotinoids on the market without adequate tests to determine their toxicity to bees and the environmentalists who want neonicotinoids banned until needed safety tests are done.”

When you go to the link, click on “LinkTV” to see this video. It is educational and well-worth your viewing...share it with your friends

**“All the bee books are fine, but the first bee hasn’t read a single book.”** P.N. Williams

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### Who’s got the Best Honey?

by Jay Parsons

Who’s got the best honey?

If this is your question and you are marketing your honey for sale or show, the correct answer and state of mind is “My honey is the best.” Anything less will provide you with much less in return for your expectations. Whether you are selling honey or entering a honey show,

proving that your honey is the best may take a little extra work and some special preparation of your end product, but the effort will be worth it.

You need to help your honey speak.

If you are marketing honey, the first thing to consider is what jars and labels you will use. There are many jar styles and sizes available as well as a plethora of label designs. What you put on the label is important and should showcase your endeavors and beekeeping practices. You will have to choose from large labels versus small. You may want a hangtag with recipes.

Is it raw? Put that on the label. If it's really local, whether from Folkston, Flowery Branch or Fulton County, then it should be highlighted on your label.

Pricing and venues are important too and may take some searching and evaluating. There is a handy six-page pamphlet available that puts all these aspects and more into perspective put out by [Certified Naturally Grown](#) called "Help the Honey Speak."

On the other hand if you aren't looking to sell your honey, but are just seeking some recognition and glory, then a honey show may be in your future. Although you won't have to worry about the labels and marketing, you will have to pay attention to some very fine details. Cleanliness of the honey container is paramount, especially if you are in a contest officiated by a Welsh Honey Judge. The outside of your bottle will be first. No fingerprints allowed! Is there a smudge? Well, you're out of luck if there is.

The rules will vary slightly based on the category of honey being evaluated, but fill lines, neatness of packaging, and "cleanliness" of the honey all count. Make sure there aren't any dust specks in the honey, under the lid, or in the jar threads. These will surely make for a downgrade or disqualification. You want the blue ribbon!

What about the rules? Well, there aren't too many published. The Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association has a [list of rules](#) as well as [suggestions](#) for showing honey.

A unique honey show is coming up in March. The Welsh Society of Georgia is sponsoring a honey contest in Rockmart and will be awarding slate medallions instead of ribbons. The honey contest website is <http://welshfest.vpweb.com/The-Honey-Show.html> . It's the first Welsh sponsored Welsh Honey Show I know of in Georgia and probably in the U.S.. The winners will be able to covet and hold precious those unique Welsh slate medallion prizes!

Maybe you can brag about having one this spring since you have the best honey, right?



Editor's note: This is a spelling bee medal – couldn't find a picture of a Welsh Slate medallion!

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#### GBA Club of the Month

### The Coweta Beekeepers Association

The Coweta Beekeepers Association is a growing group of beekeepers in the Newnan, Georgia area. Currently we have over 100 members.



Our motto for 2013 is “a year of learning” which includes educating the public and beekeepers. We will offer numerous classes this year including an **Introduction to Beekeeping** class on January 26 and a **Top Bar Beekeeping Weekend Intensive** class on March 9 and 10. More classes covering other subjects will be announced soon.

We also speak at various community meetings educating the public about the fascinating ways of honey bees, the importance of honey bees and how to be an educated honey purchaser.

Our monthly meetings cover topics of interest including: apitherapy, marketing honey, swarm traps, nectar sources and winter preparations. Speakers include local and regional experts. Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black spoke at our August 2011 meeting.

We have started a network of Internet based hive scales in the area. Data containing weight, inside temperature and outside temperature is collected every five minutes and uploaded to servers. The data allows non-invasive observation of a hive and can be accessed by any Internet connected device.

The Coweta Beekeepers Association  
website [www.cowetabeekeepers.org](http://www.cowetabeekeepers.org) Hive scale  
information [www.hivetool.org](http://www.hivetool.org)

Submitted by: Steve Page, Webmaster for Coweta Beekeepers

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## Upcoming Bee Events

- **GBA Spring Meeting**  
February 8 – 9, 2013  
Lake Blackshear Resort  
Cordele, GA

- **Queen Rearing and Breeding Class Workshop**

March 1 – 2 Foley Alabama

Roger Bemis, Fee \$50 Starts at 9 AM. Bring your hat, gloves and coveralls. You will be working in the bee yard most of the time. No meal provided. For more information call: 251-213-0168 or email: [bemisroger@yahoo.com](mailto:bemisroger@yahoo.com) or write to PO Box 353, Bon Secour, AL 36511. Nice door prize!

- **North Carolina & South Carolina State Beekeepers Associations**

Joint Spring Meeting

March 1-2, 2013

Rock Hill, SC

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### **Help Us Help You**

Your editors, Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

We are grateful for the opportunity to be the GBA newsletter editors! Please know how important it is for us to receive your contributions, whether it is a bee photo, a silly story or a beekeeping trick or technique. This sharing with one another is what makes us the Georgia Beekeepers Association and connects us!

Membership in GBA is a real bargain. For just \$15 a year you get the opportunity to meet beekeepers from around the state at the two annual meetings; you can list yourself and your honey business on the GBA website; and you get to read and add to our newsletter each month.

If you know a beekeeper who is not a member of GBA, please encourage them to join us. If you are a member, please let us know what you would like to see GBA do to better our club. As a beekeeper in Georgia, we need your ideas and help in building our organization.

Gina and Linda

Note: You can read this newsletter and all of our newsletters online at:  
<http://spillingthehoney.blogspot.com>



Photo of bee in cucumber to make us all wish for bee season by Julie Civitts of Toccoa, GA

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### **GBA Officers 2012**

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Georgia Beekeepers Association

Issue #5 February 2013

**Webmaster** – Bill Owens

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## GBA Monthly Newsletter

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Members meeting and gathering at the reception at GBA's spring meeting. Photos by Linda Tillman

### Message from our President: Jerry Edwards

It was good to see all of you who attended the state meeting at Lake Blackshear and a hearty **Thank You** to the officers who worked so hard to put it together. The location was lovely, the resort comfy, and program informative. Plan now to attend the September conference which will be held in the North Georgia area. Our goal is to meet at various locations throughout the state to optimize attendance and interest in the state organization. Presently, we are reviewing the surveys and will use them as the basis

for the next meetings. If you have any suggestions, please email ideas to any officer or board member, as we welcome your input as we strive to strengthen our organization.

Jerry Edwards, President GA Beekeepers  
*Saving the World, One Bee at a Time*



More photos from reception. Photos by Linda Tillman

We have many other fun photos from the spring meeting. To see them, [click here](#)

### **A report from the front**

The "Spring" meeting of the Georgia Beekeepers Association was in a lovely location at the Lake Blackshear Resort in Georgia Veterans Memorial Park near Cordele, Georgia on February 8 and 9. About 120 people attended the conference which began with a reception and “pay as you go bar,” as Bear Kelly said, following

the board meeting on Friday night. Chatting with other beekeepers from all over the state was lots of fun.

Saturday was filled with talks by Georgia beekeepers and Dave Kelton (an Alabama beekeeper). We heard about Russian bees, nosema, raising queens, making candles, making jam. Keith Fielder spoke philosophically about the relationship of the small beekeeper to the bigger picture and Linda Tillman spoke about the importance of working on certification at bee institutes like Young Harris. Jerry Edwards, our president, said what we need is for all of us to educate people about honey bees.

The meals were delicious at the Lake Blackshear Resort. Breakfast and lunch were opportunities to share ideas with fellow beekeepers and reconnect with old friends. The vendors had tables full of beekeeping items and seemed busy throughout the day. Some of us had ordered ahead from vendors and were able to pick up items at the conference rather than pay for shipping.

All in all, people seemed to enjoy the meeting and the venue. There were lots of laughs and good visits with fellow beekeepers.

*"The Russians are stronger than Italians bees because they have stronger mandibles because of their diet - they eat bones and Italians eat a diet of pasta."  
Sergey Volzhskiy*

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John Wingfield (on the right in the photo below) shared this story:

At the GBA Meeting, my door prize number was called. I went to the front of the room to claim my prize, a cap. On the return to my seat the gentleman in the photo complimented me on my new cap. I asked him if would like it. "Yes," was his immediate and very pleased answer. I handed the cap to him and took my seat. Later at the breakout session on queens I sought him out and we made this photo. I do not know his name.



You see, my wife does not like me to wear a cap. Never has, never will, at least in her

presence. So I could keep my wife happy and make some stranger happy too.

Editors' note: The "stranger" is Chris Pahl who was attending his first GBA meeting. He is a member of Metro Atlanta Beekeepers.

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The ongoing message at the conference was that GBA needs to increase its membership. Many local Georgia club presidents are not members of GBA and each of them should be to strengthen the organization. So in that direction, instead of a beekeeping quote, we offer this:

***"People who work together will win, whether it be against complex football defenses, or the problems of modern society."***

***.....Vince Lombardi***

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Note about the GBA meeting from MABA member, Chris Pahl:

I really enjoyed attending the 2013 GBA meeting at Lake Blackshear Resort. I drove down from Atlanta and it was really nice to get out of the city and see another part of our beautiful State. I made some really great new friends but also saw familiar faces from my local bee club. As a small beekeeper and not having a woodshop, the various vendors who attended helped me get stocked up on my seemingly endless need for various beekeeping supplies. I think one of the benefits of attending beekeeper meetings is keeping up on the newest hive management techniques and learning the actual science behind the honeybee and beekeeping. We had an excellent presentation by David Kelton on Nosema and a basic scientific technique for identifying the spore within the colony, and how to identify under a microscope. I look forward to the next meeting.

Chris Pahl

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## Understanding Swarms

By Steven Page Certified Beekeeper GMBP

Colonies of bees and humans have some of the same goals. The primary goal is to survive. A secondary goal is to perpetuate the species, which for honey bees requires a colony to produce a reproductive swarm typically just prior to deciduous tree leaf-out.



The timing of the swarm at the beginning of the main nectar flow offers the best chance for swarm survival.

Not all colonies swarm. This can be explained by understanding the phase of maturity of the colony and the strength of the colony. A weak colony will not produce a swarm because a swarm would threaten the colony's survival.

- First year colony – getting established
- Second year colony (one of the following)
  - Still getting established, great honey producer
  - Gets established early (mature) – produces a swarm
  - Starts the year mature – produces a swarm
- Third and subsequent year colonies – produces a swarm

So what can a beekeeper do to reduce the chances of swarming and increase honey production?

The beekeeper needs to understand the mature colony's goals and functions during the late winter, in the Atlanta area this is January 20 to March 31. It would be earlier in South Georgia and later in the mountains.

The mature colony's goal in late winter is to swarm. The colony spends the winter under the honey cap. In January the queen starts laying eggs and the colony consumes honey opening up comb in the bottom of the honey cap for brood rearing and nectar storage.

If the colony has adequate stores of honey, feeding syrup will only help the colony prepare and successfully produce a swarm. However it is very important that a colony

with little stored honey be fed to prevent starvation prior to main nectar flow. This does not require feeding continuously. The syrup will be stored along with nectar and after an adequate number of frames are full, stop feeding. The amount to feed will depend on; the honey remaining, weather and time remaining until late March.

The colony must shut down queen laying in preparation for swarming weeks before swarm cells are started. This is accomplished by filling cells of emerging brood at the top of the brood nest with nectar or pollen reducing the size of the brood nest.

Opening up the honey cap can help prevent swarming. Only supers of drawn comb will work. Foundation will not work because the colony cannot make wax yet. Adding empty drawn comb prevents the colony from completing all the preparations to swarm. The large area of empty comb is used by foragers to store all the nectar they can find and the queen uses it to lay many more eggs than would be possible otherwise. If the colony is unable to fill the entire hive with nectar by early April, they will abandon the goal of swarming for the goal of winter survival. The colony will collect nectar and store honey until the nectar flow ends in May in preparation for the coming winter.

Two cautions when working in a hive in late winter.

1. Keep the honey near the brood.
2. Keep the brood frames together.

The following is a method to open up the honey cap while observing the cautions above.

A few assumptions.

- The hive consists of a deep and a shallow super.
- The deep super has some combination of brood, pollen, honey and empty drawn comb frames.
- The cluster and brood are in the deep super which is on the bottom board.
- The shallow super is mostly full of capped honey and is on top of the deep super.

- It is late January and the weather is sunny and warm enough to inspect the hive.
- Two extra shallow supers of empty drawn comb are available.

Open up the hive and check that the cluster is in the deep super. Leave the deep super on the bottom board. With the super of honey nearby, place a shallow super with no frames on the deep. Add frames to the super by alternating a frame of capped honey then a frame of empty honeycomb. Place another empty shallow super on the hive. Add alternating frames of honey and empty comb just like the first shallow super but alternate the empty and honey frames from the bottom shallow super. For example, if the bottom shallow has an empty frame of drawn comb on the left, the second shallow super will have a frame of honey on the left. Add another super of empty drawn comb.

See the graphic below.

This is a front view of the hive. You're looking at the ends of each frame.

Each letter represents a frame and its contents.

Brood = B, Honey = H, Empty = E, Pollen = P

Before

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |               |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| H | H | H | H | H | H | H | H | H | H | shallow super |
| E | H | P | B | B | P | H | E | E | E | deep super    |

After

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |               |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | shallow super |
| H | E | H | E | H | E | H | E | H | E | shallow super |
| E | H | E | H | E | H | E | H | E | H | shallow super |
| E | H | P | B | B | P | H | E | E | E | deep super    |

Notice how the empty and full shallow frames alternate both vertically and horizontally.

I successfully used this method last year on two hives; each produced 100 pounds of honey. Last year's main nectar flow was early and intense. Many hives swarmed because of the continuous availability of nectar from early February all the way into the main nectar flow.

This method of swarm control was developed by Walt Wright. It is named Nectar Management or Checkerboarding.

Many of Walt's writings including Nectar Management can be found on the Bee Source website: <http://www.beesource.com/point-of-view/walt-wright/>

~~~~~  
*Dear Aunt Bee,*

*Lucky me, I got a swarm call. When I went to the call the bees were a little high up in the tree. I bent the branch down and clipped it off but when I did, it split and some of the bees fell onto the ground. I crawled around and tried to get the little buggers, but sometimes I couldn't tell the bees from the leaves.*

*I'm a big guy but I wanted to cry partly because I think I lost about 1/3 of the swarm and partly because the stings on my knees hurt like HE-double hockey sticks. I do think I got the queen because the bees stayed in the nuc box I brought.*

*What should I have done? I wished I had had a net like those trapeze people use in the circus.*

*Signed,  
Scattered and Blue*

*Dear Scattered and Blue,*

*I always have a bed sheet in my swarm kit. When I get to the site, I spread the sheet on the ground under the swarm. That way if part of the bees don't make it into the box I brought, then I can see them on the sheet and they are relatively easy to collect. I also carry a plastic milk carton, with the pouring spout cut off. I use this to scoop any bees that fall onto the sheet.*

*Good luck with the next time - and I hope you get a next time,*

*Signed,  
Your Aunt Bee*

(This tip was originally shared by Cindy Bee in a talk she gave to MABA on how to catch a swarm)

*Aunt Bee will be a semi-regular feature of our newsletter. Chris Pahl suggested we try this type of column. If you have a tip for beekeeping, send it to us and we'll turn it into an Aunt Bee letter.*



**March Street Cred:**

This is an interesting [audio and article](#) about bees and electric charges. You can read more about it [here](#) on National Geographic as well.

Another humorous take on bees from NPR can be [found here](#).



**GBA Club of the Month**

**The SOWEGA Beekeepers Association**

The SOWEGA Beekeepers Club is a relatively new organization which began in 2011 in Albany, Georgia. Our mission is to provide members and the community with technical beekeeping information and an awareness of bee and beekeeping habitat, biology, and safety. We have very diverse experience levels from beginner to 70+ years. Our members live throughout the southwest Georgia area. We have several members who have completed single and multiple levels of certification from the UGA Beekeeping Institute and 2 certified Welsh Honey Judges. We also have a member beekeeper/videographer, who has made the best beekeeping DVD on the market! "My Hive Tool" is sold at Rossman Bee Supply.

The SBC has a unique relationship with Chehaw Wild Animal Park. We maintain a training apiary of 4 hives, which will increase to 10, supplying Chehaw with honey for sale in their gift shop. The apiary provides honey bee educational opportunities for SW Georgia. Long range plans are to build an observation hive for the park visitors.

We have members who appear on our local TV stations to promote honey bee education. Also, we have members who speak to schools, civic clubs, and at public events. Our annual Honey Show occurs in conjunction with the Exchange Club Fair in November each year. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> bee school is scheduled for April 6, 2013 at Chehaw Park. Details can be found at our website at [www.sowegabeekeepers.org](http://www.sowegabeekeepers.org).

We meet at 6:30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at the Chehaw education center in Albany Georgia. New members and visitors are always welcome. Thanks, GBA, for highlighting our club.

Kent Simmons, President

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## Upcoming Bee Events

- **Queen Rearing and Breeding Class Workshop**

March 1 - 2 Foley Alabama

Roger Bemis, Fee \$50 Starts at 9 AM. Bring your hat, gloves and coveralls. You will be working in the bee yard most of the time. No meal provided. For more information call: 251-213-0168 or email: [bemisroger@yahoo.com](mailto:bemisroger@yahoo.com) or write to PO Box 353, Bon Secour, AL 36511. Nice door prize!

- **North Carolina & South Carolina State Beekeepers Associations**

Joint Spring Meeting

March 1-2, 2013

Rock Hill, SC

- **Macon County Beekeepers Bee School**

Saturday, March 9 8:30 - 12

Tuesday, March 12 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Thursday, March 14 6:30 - 9 PM

Saturday, March 16 8:30 - 3 PM

Location: Macon County Extension Office, Thomas Heights Rd, Franklin, NC

To register: Contact Janet Hill 828-369-9819 or [janet28734@gmail.com](mailto:janet28734@gmail.com)

- **SOWEGA Bee School**

April 6, 2013 Chehaw Park

Details: [www.sowegabeekeepers.org](http://www.sowegabeekeepers.org)

- **Young Harris Beekeeping Institute**

May 9 - 11, 2013

Young Harris College, Young Harris GA

Registration opens March 4, 2013 - and fills up quickly - register early

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**Grow our Membership!**

Your editors, Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

Gina and I had a great time at GBA. As co-editors, we actually occupy only a single voting position on the board. At the board meeting on Friday night, we solved that problem by voting together, raising two hands as one on each issue. Luckily we agreed on everything on which we voted!



*Gina and Linda at GBA February 2013*

If you are receiving this newsletter, you are probably a member of GBA. Please pass it on to a friend who is not and encourage them to join. If the leadership of your local club is not a member, find out why and let us know. If GBA is to serve the members, we need to know what they would like from us in order to keep people motivated to be a part of the organization.

Gina and Linda

Note: You can read this newsletter and all of our newsletters online at:  
<http://spillingthehoney.blogspot.com>

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### **GBA Officers 2012**

**President** – Jerry Edwards

**Vice-President** – Bear Kelley

**Treasurer** – Roseanne Dorn

**Secretary** – Mary Cahill-Roberts

**North GA Director** – Buster Lane

**Middle GA director** – Steve Prince

**South GA director** – Fred Rossman

**Past president** – Steve Nofs

**Newsletter Editors** – Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

**Webmaster** – Bill Owens



# GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman



Spring in N Carolina - in many of the last few years, March has been our coldest month in the South  
Photo by Deborah Palmer on 3/26/2013 at her apiary near Asheville, NC

## Message from our President, Jerry Edwards

Ah, spring has arrived! Nature has responded by introducing new lives, and with this thought in mind, I visited my hives. Instead of thriving colonies, I found several with no bees. The situation must be similar for many, as I have received numerous calls from other beekeepers, many of them strangers, voicing the same woes. Is this the plight of the modern day beekeeper? As most Georgia beekeepers are aware, researchers at UGA, among others, are working to resolve this problem. Hopefully a solution will be forthcoming soon.

On another note, it's time to "super up" and prepare for the fall meeting, which is scheduled for Gainesville, September 21. It's a great opportunity to meet fellow beekeepers.

### **Jerry Edwards, President GA Beekeepers**

Saving the world, one bee at a time



## 2013 American Beekeeping Federation Annual Convention

by Virginia Webb, ABF Director for Georgia



The American Beekeeping Federation met this year at the historic Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA for their annual convention. Over 700 individuals attended this four day event that included one of the largest industry vendor show in the US. The convention began with the keynote speaker, May Berenbaum, professor and entomologist at the University of Illinois, and with an update on the legislative issues from Washington, DC. Along with a new Congress, this year we also have to work with the Farm Bill.

The first day offered afternoon breakout sessions that highlighted queen rearing by Sue Cobey; fungicide effects on honey bees and breeding better queens by David Tarpy; importance of drones, report on bee losses, and pesticides and bees by Maryann Frazier; and a wonderful cooking demonstration by the head chef at the Hershey Lodge.

Each of the beekeeping labs gave reports and updates on specific research being conducted at their lab, which included updates on CCD outbreak by the USA-ARS lab in Beltsville, MD.

Many of the talks given highlighted the shortage of bees in California for the upcoming almond pollination season. Some of the largest attended sessions were held in conjunction with the Serious Sideliner Symposium, sponsored by Dr. Larry Conner. The focus was on queen management and improving the small scale beekeeper.

At the American Beekeeping Federation, members are invited to enter the American Honey Show. This is a prime opportunity to showcase your bees' ability to produce the purest honey, the best beeswax.

The annual Honey show includes 12 classes for honey, four for beeswax and a gift basket class. Over 80 entries were entered at this year's event, held in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Each first place winner receives a ribbon and a crystal bowl for their entry.

From Georgia, Virginia Webb won three first place awards: First place for "White Honey," "Artistic Beeswax Candles," and "Artistic Beeswax." Entries in the honey show are auctioned to benefit the American Honey Queen Program.



Each year the ABF holds its American Honey Queen contest, and this year saw four beautiful young ladies competing for the title. Our new American Honey Queen is Caroline Adams, from Plano, Texas, and our American Honey Princess is Emily Campbell from Aitkin, Minnesota.

If you have not had the opportunity to attend an ABF National Conference, the next meeting will be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Baton Rouge River Center from January 7 - 11, 2014. For more information on the ABF or to

become a member or to learn more about the annual honey contest, go to [www.ABFnet.org](http://www.ABFnet.org).

The ABF voted to increase membership dues in 2013, but you still have the opportunity to become a member before the dues increase takes effect. Small Scale Membership is \$50. After July 1, it will increase to \$60.



Photo by Clay "Bear" Kelley, VP GBA

*"The only reason for making a buzzing-noise that I know of is because you're a bee...The only reason for being a bee that I know of is making honey....and the only reason for making honey is so I can eat it. "*  
~ Winnie the Pooh in A.A. Milne's 'The House at Pooh Corner'

***Dear Aunt Bee,***

***I was inspecting my beehive and talking on the cell phone at the same time when a bee flew into my mouth. Needless to say, I got stung. Now my lips are so swollen, they look like I've just had cosmetic injections. What is the best remedy for this?***

***Painfully yours,***

*Colla Jen*



*Dear Colla Jen:*

*Get tobacco inside your mouth as soon as you can. If you get a sting anywhere else on your body, put ammonia or a new penny on the bee sting as soon as you can.*

*And seriously, don't you know that cell phones cause CCD?*

*Your concerned Aunt Bee*

contributed by Chris Pahl



**"Rex non utitur aculeo!** This Latin phrase translates a "The king has no sting". It was used by Louis XII of France in 1506, appearing on his breastplate, which was edged with golden bees and beehives. " (Taken from THE SHAMANIC WAY OF THE OF THE BEES. )



## **A Challenge to All Georgia Beekeepers** by Clay "Bear" Kelley, GBA Vice President

I want to pose a challenge to all Georgia Beekeepers. And that challenge is....to start beekeeping programs in every state park in Georgia.

Not so long ago (about a century), a lot of folks kept bees in their yards, farms, ranches and wherever they could produce honey. It wasn't as available in stores as it is today. Then honey became available in supermarkets on a year round basis, many communities set rules barring beekeeping, family farms started to shut down and beekeeping came to a slow down. The folks who

knew the importance of honey bees dwindled to a few hobby keepers and commercial pollinators. Now with being "green" becoming the in thing, more and more people have become interested and concerned. You members of GBA are part of that new generation of people who care.

Our state parks are great examples of green areas with outdoor education programs that are open to the public. What better platform to use for beekeeping education? I have worked with Georgia Veterans State Park for two years, developing their beekeeping program and training their Rangers and management. We have solved the legal problems and the funding problems. We also have started a program at CheHaw Park in Albany, thanks to the members of the Southwest Georgia Bee Club. We have just received permission to place bees at President Jimmy Carter's boyhood farm in Plains, which is now a National Park. Special thanks go to De Wayne Pitts for his generosity and time. We are also preparing to start a program at Reed Bingham State Park, south of Tifton. Their management is excited and stands to get started.

There are several ways to go about starting a program. This is a club project, so appoint a committee. First, of course, identify your local State Park, approach the management and Friends Group President for that park. Every state park has a separate group called "Friends." These are a cadre of volunteers who conduct fundraisers, volunteer labor, and assist the park in any way they can. It is a very large statewide organization. The Friends can do things for the park that the management does not have the funds or manpower to do.

Marybeth and I are members of Friends and we just had our annual meeting at the Jekyll Island Club. While there, I met with many of the Presidents of various Friends groups and discussed the idea of putting bee hives in state parks with them. All with whom I spoke were in agreement that this was a great idea and were willing to support it.

Once your park management is on board, select a location and you can discuss the logistics.

We suggest these possible ways to do it:

1. Provide at least two hives. You manage the hives in the park and keep the honey harvested.
2. Donate the hives, assist the Friends group with managing them and they can sell the honey as a fundraiser for the Friends Group.

3. (we think this one is **the best**) Convince the Friends group to purchase at least two complete hives, bees, smoker, hive tool and suit with veil. As you all know, that can be done at Rossman's for less than \$500. Train the park personnel on beekeeping and invite them to join your club. Let them keep all the honey, create their own label and sell it through the Friends group as a fundraiser.

We have allowed our park manager to join the Heart of Georgia Club at no cost to him. We feel that one membership will not break the bank and it is sort of his duty. He attends our meetings, is very enthusiastic, and has learned a lot. He actually keeps three hives of his own these days. I worked with him a lot in the beginning, but not as much now. They have created their own label and have recouped the funds of their initial investment. And I might add, they are very proud of every bottle of the golden stuff.

Georgia Veterans State Park has had a number of education programs since their beginning, instructing the public on the importance of honeybees. Scouts, 4-H Clubs, school groups and the general public have benefitted from their efforts.

### **That's the whole idea!**

I declare the program there a sonderful success. The Parks at CheHaw have also had public programs. Ladies and Gentlemen, there's no reason why we can't make this work across the state. We all know that Georgia has a wonderful beekeeping program. Let's tell everyone.

If anyone needs more information, I am available to discuss this with you. Call me, email me. If your park manager seems skeptical, ask them to call Randell Meeks, Manager at GA Vets. If you need the point of contact to the Friends group in your area, call me; I have that information.

Let's volunteer to share what we know. It costs nothing but a small space in your heart and a little time!

I also want to ask Gina and Linda ("Glinda" since they are one!) our illustrious editors, to add a block in the newsletter to shwo the state parks that are up and buzzing and the parks that are coming soon. So far we have Georgia Veteran's State Park and the The Parks at CheHaw who are up and buzzing, and President Carter's farm and Reed Bingham State Park coming soon. As these parks get

complete, we'll move them up to the "up and buzzing" column. Finally, if anyone knows that a state park or historic site is already keeping bees, let us know and we will add them to the list.



As editors, we are definitely compliant with good ideas, so here goes:

### **State Parks with Beekeeping Programs**

#### **"Up and Buzzing"**

**Georgia Veterans State Park**  
**The Parks at Chehaw**

#### **"Coming soon"**

**President Carter's Farm**  
**Reed Bingham State Park**



### **April Street Cred:**

If you keep bees, please participate in the survey being conducted by the Bee Informed Partnership. The survey is being collected between March 29 and April 15. You can participate [here](#).



### **GBA Club of the Month** **Cartersville Beekeepers Guild**

The Cartersville Beekeepers Guild is a new group in Bartow County. We are growing at such a fast pace. We have already had our first bee school and are looking forward to another one on May 11th at Tractor Supply in Cartersville. Our meetings are held at Tabernacle Baptist Church, downtown Cartersville, Georgia. We have a website with all of our meeting times.

We have a teaching hive as well as several observation hives. We teach our members the pros and cons to all the different hives that are available in the



US. We are also planning on teaching about our native bees: how to save them and how to create bee gardens.

Since we are in the growing stages of our guild, we don't have any guest speakers planned yet, but are looking forward to having them in the future. We are also working out the final stages of having a location for our field day which will be for members only.

We have built the guild differently than most bee clubs. We don't charge dues and instead of having a president and vice-president, we have directors. I'm one of the founding directors and the other one is Tony Segura.

Stephanie Brown  
[www.cartersvillebeekeepersguild.com](http://www.cartersvillebeekeepersguild.com)



### Upcoming Bee Events:

Note: Send us your upcoming events so we can list them here!

- **SOWEGA Bee School**
  - April 6, 2013, Chehaw Park
  - Details: [www.sowegabeekeepers.org](http://www.sowegabeekeepers.org)
- **Young Harris Beekeeping Institute**
  - May 9 - 11, 2013
  - Young Harris College, Young Harris, Georgia
  - Registration opens March 4, 2013 - this fills up quickly so register early
  -

## *Your Newsletter, Your State Association*

We are thankful for this beautiful spring day and thankful for all of your contributions to our newsletter, no matter how great or small. This sharing is how we are together in between our meetings. Tell a story or pass a picture - we can use it all.

Thank you also for including others in our newsletter and helping to increase the membership in GBA. For just \$15 a year you get the opportunity to meet and learn from beekeepers from around the state at the two annual meetings; you can list yourself and your honey business on the GBA website; and you get to read and join us in our newsletter each month.

As beekeepers in Georgia, we need and value your ideas and help in building our organization.

Gina and Linda

[ginag@mindspring.com](mailto:ginag@mindspring.com) and [linda.tillman@gmail.com](mailto:linda.tillman@gmail.com)

**Note:** You can read this newsletter and all of our newsletters online at:  
<http://spillingthehoney.blogspot.com>

# GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman



Photo of Bee on Blueberry by Steve Esau, MABA member

## *Message from our President, Jerry Edwards*

Spring, a busy and hectic time for beekeepers, opens nature's window which enables us not only to observe our energy driven girls, but also to work in sync with the natural world. This is the most satisfying time of my beekeeping life and I hope your apiary pursuits offer you the same type of solace.

Message is short this month, as I want all of us to have sufficient time to enjoy our bees!

**Jerry Edwards, President GA Beekeepers**

Saving the world, one bee at a time

~~~~~  
In this issue we present two articles on how to improve your bee club.

## **The Components of a Good Bee Club**

by Bear Kelley, Vice President, GBA

In preparing this topic, I researched other organization's websites, bylaws, and operating manuals and found the following topics that are important to making yours a good bee club:

- Meeting time and location
- Conduct and content of the meeting
- Publicity
- Recruiting drives
- Newsletter or website submissions
- Recognition of achievement

### **Meeting time and location:**

Club officers should attempt to accommodate the majority of the "regular members" at your meetings. Find out what time and location would work best for them. It's difficult to find one perfect meeting time or place. You might be fortunate enough to have your own building, but you still have to find the right time. It can be beneficial periodically to change the meeting time and/or location. Clubs often set up special meetings several times a year. Arrangements are made for a guest speaker who will interest a diverse group. Successful clubs widely advertise this meeting. Often they invite spouses and provide childcare. Experience shows that at such special meetings, you will get not only an excellent turnout of your regular members, but also other beekeepers who do not attend your regularly scheduled meetings. Make sure you have plenty of membership applications on hand.

### **Meeting conduct and content:**

Our members expect and deserve organized, professionally conducted club meetings. The meetings must provide value to the members. They want to learn something, not just hear "how it was," war stories or gossip. Shortly before club meetings, many successful club officers go to the GBA and other beekeeping web sites and review "hot topics" for discussion during the meeting. As a Club President or officer, you must guide the discussions in a productive manner, without stifling the expression of opinions or ideas from the members.

### **Club publicity:**

Many communities have a newspaper or some form of paper or electronic method of advertisement. Contact the individual responsible for such publications to learn what's needed to publicize club meetings and events. Send them material and photos about club activities and individual achievements - toot the clubs' horn. The publicity will gain members and appreciation within the community. Use the GBA website and the *Spilling the Honey* newsletter as a tool for publicity.

Successful clubs contact each new arrival and/or new member to welcome them to the area and the club. Many clubs use a committee or volunteer individuals to make the first contact. Personal contact is particularly important in the case of new beekeepers. Contact the members that have let their membership expire. Professionalism is very important during this contact. Ask them to renew, but don't pressure them to do so.

### **Club recruiting drives:**

Successful clubs hold periodic membership drives, typically once a year, of about 90 days. In some cases, clubs will reduce the membership fee for people joining during the drive and make up the difference from club funds.

### **Newsletter and/or Website submissions:**

Clubs are encouraged to submit material concerning club events, individual and/or club recognition, and beekeepers or "members in action" for publication in the club newsletter or on the club website. You've got to be able to communicate effectively to the masses, and using the newsletter or a website are excellent ways to do that.

### **Recognition of Achievement:**

Many clubs develop "Club-unique" certificates. With the common availability of high-quality laser printers and special paper, it's quite easy to do this. It is always a good idea to recognize members for their contributions to the club or for their contributions to beekeeping.

When I was President of the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Club, I believe some of the reasons for our club's success, in addition to GBA's good guidance, included good communication, professional development, dedication and the faithful few. I am by no means an expert on the subject, but one thing we did was communicate via email to all club members and beekeepers in our surrounding area. After each meeting I would send out an email, so those who couldn't make the meeting were aware of what went on. I also recognized in

the email those beekeepers who showed up for the first time to our meeting and I thanked them for coming. In this email I also tried to thank those members who had donated time in support of the club. I believe everyone needs a pat on the back, and I like to pat people on the back in a public forum. We then attached this email to our website in order to reach a larger audience. The website was a new addition to our club during my time as the President. During our members we would recognize the new members and those members who had performed volunteer work within the club. It really goes without saying that it is also important to have professional development briefings at meetings.

**Identify your "dirty dozen":**

The last item is about the faithful few - that "dirty dozen" (or half dozen) people who make things happen in the club. These individuals have a deep passion for the beekeepers association. This is not to say all beekeepers don't, but there are always a special few who are willing to undertake any task required to support their club and be productive members of our professional organization. It's the dedication of the faithful few that have helped make our club successful and we try to thank them as often as we can for their support.



## **Treat Your Speakers Well**

by Linda Tillman

**Note:** This article was first published in [Bee Culture](#) in the February 2013 edition.

The mission of most bee clubs is education. While short courses and discussions among club members serve this function well, the speaker who offers the program at a bee club meeting is a very valuable resource that a bee club offers its members. Treating the speaker with care and nurture really makes a difference.

In Georgia, once the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute is over and the list of new Master Beekeepers is posted on the UGA website, bee clubs all over the state start calling. Every bee club wants new energy and ideas so the Master Beekeeper list offers possibilities for new and different speakers. As soon as my name went up on the list, I began getting calls from bee clubs in Georgia and the surrounding states. Now that I've given at least thirty talks in the last two years to bee clubs and other groups, I've become very aware of the importance of nurturing the speaker.

Generally when a speaker comes to talk to your members, much energy has gone into the speaker getting to your club. People like to see what you are talking about so I always put effort into packing "show and tell" equipment to demonstrate my topic. When I talk about harvesting honey without an extractor, I bring the simple objects involved in crush and strain so the club members can see how easy it is. When I talk about making lip balm, I bring the items needed because each ingredient is interesting to know and see. When I talk about using foundationless frames, I bring my quilting rotary cutter, a cutting board, pressed foundation wax, and wax tube fasteners.

Your speaker has driven to your meeting site, usually at the end of a busy day. This represents cost to the speaker in time, energy as well as money. For me that sometimes means a two to three hour drive to the speaking site, gas for the car both ways, and leaving work early (which as a self-employed person means I lose pay for the hours I am not in my office working).

While many speakers (including me) have talks on Power Point that they have given more than once, I always revise the talk before each presentation and often write a completely new one to fit a topic. As those of you who have made PowerPoint presentations know, this is a lot of work: making slides succinct; finding just the right photos to illustrate your points; creating a talk that is the right length.

Recognizing all of the effort and time put in before a speaker gets to your meeting, bee clubs should and often do try to nurture the speaker.

Some clubs take the speaker out to dinner ahead of the meeting. Every club doesn't have the budget to do that, but I would gladly buy my own dinner and get to eat with other beekeepers before the meeting than eat alone, as I have in many a town on a night when I am speaking to a club. Having dinner with members of the group allows the speaker to enjoy some personal connection to those particular people. The pre-meeting dinner usually includes mutual sharing about philosophies about beekeeping and the art of hive management. For me, the added bonus is that I love having a familiar face or two to look at when I am speaking.

Because your speaker is an important source of input for your club, treat your speaker well. Make sure the budget for your club puts a high priority on funds to pay your speakers. Even your own club members who are asked to do the program for a meeting have put a lot of effort into sharing their

information. Recognizing this, the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers pay their own member speakers as well as visiting speakers.

When the talk is over, have someone in your club walk the speaker to their car. It's a way to give the speaker some positive support ("I can tell that our members really enjoyed your talk.") And when all is said and done, write your speaker a thank you email or note to give him/her feedback. It's really special when you can say, "The members are still talking about your example of XXXXX."

Now that I've spoken at bee club meetings all over Georgia as well as in North and South Carolina, I can say that every club takes a different approach. My worst experience occurred at a club two hours away from Atlanta. I arrived on my own, drove through a fast food restaurant's pick-up window, and carried in all my own equipment. The person introducing me said, "Our speaker tonight is....what is your name, Hon?" When I was done, as I gathered up my things to go to my car to drive the two hours back home, a member handed me a tube of lip balm that one of their members had made as their sole gesture to thank me for my time and effort.

Driving home tired and worn out, I felt frustrated with myself for not asking for an honorarium when I agreed to speak there and promised myself that I would not go there again.

My absolute best experience occurred when I was invited to speak to the Macon County Beekeepers Association in Franklin, North Carolina. Tom Hill, the president, and his wife Janet invited me, along with Bob and Suzette Binnie, to his mountain home to enjoy his delectable mead before dinner. This was lovely after my 2 1/2 hour drive. Afterward we went to a nearby Thai restaurant where any member of the bee club was welcome to join us for dinner. About ten of us had dinner together and chatted about bees. When the meal was over, I stood up to pay my check, but the club had treated me to dinner! And at the end of my talk, they gave me a cash honorarium. Later Tom wrote me an enthusiastic "thank you" email.

I felt very valued and knew it was worth the effort to go there.

We have so many ways to learn from each other as beekeepers. The bee club provides a forum for discussion, a resource for beginners, and most importantly, speakers to bring direct knowledge and beekeeping experience to



your members. Treat your speakers well and your club will be a group where good speakers love to present their talks.



**"My heart goes out to the little queen, living out her days in darkness, laying all those eggs, the only one of her kind in the hive with no peer to confide in and, in the fertility exhausted, to be ruthlessly dispatched. The queen business isn't all it's cracked up to be. It is true that she has attendants who look after her needs, but it sounds like a public relations scam to extract the last egg out of her. I wonder if, along the way in her cheerless life, anyone ever takes her aside, pats her on the back and says, 'You're doing a great job!'"**

--William Longgood in The Queen Must Die



*Dear Aunt Bee,*

*My cowhide leather gloves that I use when working my hives have gotten really dirty with propolis, wax, and other debris. Do you have recommendations on the best way to clean, or should I just leave them the way they are?*

*---Dirty Paws*

*Dear Dirty Paws,*

*I'm sure your mama told you to wash your hands - well it's about the same with your gloves. Here's one way to get them clean:  
With the gloves on your hands, wash your gloved hands with mild dishwashing liquid in the sink under warm ->hot water. When your gloves are as clean as you can get them, dry your "hands" or at least your gloved hands.*

*The finishing touch? While still wearing your gloves, take vegetable oil and work it into the leather as if you were rubbing hand lotion into your hands. Do this at least once, maybe twice.*

*Then instead of Dirty Paws, you could sign your name Clean Hands (and you will have soft supple clean gloves for your next hive visit!)*

*Signed,*

*Your Aunt Bee*

*For photos of the process, click [Cleaning beekeeping gloves](#)*

*(Chris Pahl and Linda Tillman, contributing)*



Photo by Linda Tillman 4/27/2013

**Student:**

Vajrrang Kamat examines a frame at a MABA hive inspection. Vajrrang was one of the winners of an essay contest held by MABA. His prize was free attendance at the MABA short course in January 2013. He is continuing to pursue his interest in bees by learning how to do a hive inspection at the Chastain Conservancy inspection site.

"What is sweeter than honey?  
What is more pure or more nourishing?  
It is the milk of the aged, it prolongs their existence, and when  
they descend into the tomb, it still serves to embalm them."  
~~~Alexis Soyer: The Pantropheon 1853

~~~~~  
**A Swarm Story**  
by Tom Watson

I drove up to Pete's house (Pete and I, formerly total strangers, are on a first name basis now!) with no problem. While I drove, I was participating in a conference call with my work. When I got to Pete's house, the gate was open and I was able to locate the swarm fairly quickly. So I parked my SUV close to their locations and left the SUV on, but not running so that I could continue to hear the conference call while I captured the swarm.

I got out my ladder and climbed up to the swarm that was about eight feet off the ground. Having not done this before, I took a five gallon bucket and a bee brush, and proceeded to sweep the bees into the bucket. All in all, they were some of the most mild-mannered girls I have ever dealt with. The bees that were not swept in and still flying had either gone back to the tree or landed in the bucket after five or ten minutes. I knew I had the queen when the bees on the tree started marching to the bucket I was holding next to the tree.

Within 30 minutes I had all but about 50 bees in the bucket. I then covered the opening of the bucket with what used to be a sheer table cover that has lacework small enough to contain bees, but still allow them to breathe. I then put a sawed off bucket inside the 5 gallon bucket to seal the bees in.

As I went back to the truck, I was still getting some stragglers on top of the cover and had another of the table covers to cover them after putting the bees in the back of the SUV.

Then it got interesting.

Once I had everything stowed, I jumped into the SUV and when I turned the key it moaned and groaned and then stopped. It was my battery. I texted Ed Hoehn so that he could share my pain and called my wife so she could bring my car to allow me to jump my battery from hers. Ed was not terribly

sympathetic and it is a 45-minute drive from my house to Pete's, so I took the bees out of the SUV (so that they would not overheat).

So here I am sitting in Pete's driveway, thinking of all the inconvenient times for the battery to die, this was definitely one. After about 20 minutes of watching the remaining bees fly around the bucket and me, all of a sudden the gate starts beeping and then closes. Great - now my wife cannot get inside so now I can't jump my SUV. I sat there thinking that for what should have been about a 30 minute job has now turned from bad to worse. Only the police showing up to arrest me for trespassing could possibly be worse.

OK, so I need to call Pete.

Being the efficient note taker that I am, I left the notes at home with Gina's number (Gina called me, as the person in charge of MABA's swarm calls, to alert me to go get the swarm) as well as Pete's number. No problem. I will text Ed for Gina's number but by this time, Ed was not responding to text. OK, I will call him. No answer so I left a desperate voicemail. No problem. I will call home since my two boys are there with my mother-in-law. No answer. No problem. My 13 year old has a cell phone. No answer. My whole family appears to have a problem answering phones. My wife, when she finally answered the phone, says she is still fifteen minutes away and the police have yet to show up.

Finally my son calls me back and is able to sort through the mess on my desk to find my notes and gives me Gina's number and more importantly, Pete's. So out of the blue, I call Pete who also let the phone ring for a while. I introduce myself over the phone to a skeptical sounding Pete. Finally he believed my comical story and gave me a gate code for my wife to get in so I could start my car.

Thankfully on the way home, the girls were well-behaved and seemed content. To top all of this off, when I got home to hive the swarm, I heard some buzzing and there was a swarm on the gate post to my bee yard - two swarms in one day!

~~~~~

### *May Street Cred*

To watch a funny video (*watch* is the key word here - the video is in Portuguese) about a donkey in a bee suit, [go here](#). If you'd like to read about

this donkey who has his own bee suit, [here is an article](#) that you might find interesting (and it includes the link to the video).



***New Feature section - articles by beekeepers about beekeeping practices:  
Ask 10 Beekeepers a Question and You'll Get at Least 11  
Answers***

## **A Colony's Desire to Draw Comb**

by Steve Page

A colony must build honeycomb on foundation to provide space for pollen, honey and to raise brood. This article will discuss various ways to help a colony draw comb on foundation after installing a nuc and when adding supers of foundation. This can be especially difficult for a new beekeeper with limited resources and all new equipment.

A colony will draw comb during a nectar flow. A beekeeper can simulate a nectar flow by feeding syrup made of cane sugar and water at a 1:1 ratio by weight. A new colony will need to be fed until it has enough honey stored to survive winter. An established colony may need feeding if it is low on honey

stores in later winter or in the fall. If you're planning on harvesting honey from an established colony, don't feed syrup during the main nectar flow. At this point the "honey" is no longer honey, but a combination of nectar and cane sugar; therefore it is unethical to bottle this as honey.

Plastic foundation is very tough and durable; however the colony tends not to accept plastic foundation as readily as wax foundation. Wax foundation is delicate and time consuming to install in frames. Plastic foundation arrives with a microscopic coating of beeswax. Adding more wax to plastic foundation will increase the colony's acceptance and the colony will quickly draw out comb on the foundation. Extra beeswax can easily be applied by using a 4-inch foam paint roller.

When a nuc is installed in an eight or ten frame deep super, the colony may be reluctant to draw out comb on the frames of foundation. The colony considers a frame filled with honey to be the outside of the nest. Frames of foundation outside a honey frame tend to be ignored by the colony. The colony will accept and draw out comb on a frame of foundation if it is moved inside a honey frame. As a colony draws out comb and becomes established, the frames of foundation can be moved inside the honey frame on each side of the nest, one at a time.

Honey supers containing frames of foundation should be added one at a time as needed. The colony will draw out the comb starting in the middle. When the middle six frames in a ten frame hive or five frames in an eight frame hive have drawn comb, move the remaining frames of foundation to the middle and the drawn comb to the outside, and add another super of foundation. Repeat as the colony draws out foundation in each super.

A strong colony can make a shallow super of honey in less than a week during the main nectar flow. Check your hives once a week during the main flow.



## **Interview with a Professional Beekeeper** **Georgia Beekeeper: Bobby Colson** **owner of B&G Honey Farm**

**Gina:** How many and where are your hives?

**Bobby Colson:** We have about 100 colonies in four or five locations near Bluffton

**Gina:** What is your primary purpose for your bees?

**Bobby:** We do pollination and honey production

**Gina:** What do you see as the biggest changes over the last several years?

**Bobby:** The price has gone up and interest has gone way up. People really want to get involved. They are mostly hobbyists. Our bee club (Coastal Empire Association) went from about ten to 120 members!

**Gina:** Why did you begin keeping bees?

**Bobby:** My dad had about 50 hives when I was younger. My wife and I went to visit my cousin in Florida for a vacation. He kept bees and while we were there, I helped him. When we got home, we wanted our own bees. Bees are just like eating potato chips - you can't have just one.

**Gina:** What races of bees do you prefer?

**Bobby:** We have Italians, Carniolans, and Russians. Each has its own traits. Right now we have a lot of cross between Italians and Carniolans. That is a goo general bee. We are doing this as natural as we can, using strong bees.

**Gina:** What crops are you pollinating?

**Bobby:** We do watermelons, cantaloupe mostly, but there is zucchini, squash. we go out about 50 miles.

**Gina:** We thank you for your time and sharing a little bit about what you do for our newsletter

**Bobby:** Thank you for asking. I've been a member of GBA for a while.

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## **Bee Club of the Month** **Forsyth Beekeepers Club**

Forsyth Beekeepers Club, FBC, which started in 1998 with fewer than 15 members, now boasts an active membership of over 55 individuals. We have a core group of beekeepers who have stuck with it since the beginning, and every year we have an increasing number of new beekeepers that we get pointed in the right direction to enable them to become experienced beekeepers. One of our claims to fame is that several years ago a member of our club became and still is the youngest Welsh Honey Judge in the world.

FBC meets on the fourth Thursday of every month at the Sawnee Mountain Preserve Visitor Center. Members of our club built, donated and maintain an observation hive inside the center and it is quite an attraction. Every month we have a guest speaker, who is an expert on a topic relating to honey bees. With subjects ranging from hobbyist beekeeping, to beekeeping for profit, from

apitherapy to africanized honey bees, from bee biology to rearing hygienic queens, the speakers are always informative, and often entertaining.

FBC has several schools throughout the spring, starting with our short beekeepers course, which as of this year was increased from a one day to a three day school. The first day is a Saturday in February or March and is all in the classroom. Nucs or packages, and wooden ware are ordered for new beekeepers during the class. The second day is on a Saturday, one month later, and is conducted in a member's apiary. It is hands on, and very successful at getting new or timid beekeepers used to handling bees. The third day is the package installation demonstration and is specifically for the new beekeepers who have ordered packages or nucs. The date of this class is dependent on when the nucs are ready. We eagerly stand by with our hives ready, waiting for their delivery. This year we had only a 3 day advance notice before their delivery. Can you imagine over 100 nucs being installed on one day in one apiary, all by new beekeepers?

FBC has been preparing for two years, and has earned the distinction of being authorized to administer the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute exam for the certified beekeeper level. We just administered our first exam, which consisted of a written test, a practical test, and an oral exam. FBC would not be able to be a testing facility if we didn't have several Journeyman beekeepers to run the program. Any beekeeper meeting the minimum criteria will be able to take the test with our club.

The next big thing on our calendar is our annual queen rearing class. One of our very experienced beekeepers who is a long time member of our club has volunteered for several years to conduct this class. It is open to the public, but space is limited and like all of our other programs, it is a hands-on class. In addition to learning how to create queens, each participant may take home up to 4 queens of their own, that they created, for a fraction of what it would cost to purchase them.

Our mission as a beekeepers club is not only to educate all levels of beekeepers, but also people who are simply interested in learning about bees. Through a variety of fairs, festivals, and demonstrations throughout the year, we strive to educate the public about how the honey bee is essential to life as we know it, and how it is being threatened.

Our biggest accomplishment in educating the public occurred in 2012 when the Forsyth County Commissioners were considering altering the county code to



prevent honey bees in all but the most rural settings. After a lot of work and several FBC presentations to the commissioners, the end result is that there are no restrictions on where an individual can keep bees in Forsyth County. That being said, it is also a responsibility of our club to educate new beekeepers on best beekeeping practices to prevent honey bees from becoming a nuisance to our neighbors.

As FBC continues to grow in membership, and activities, so too does our communities' awareness of the benefits of the honey bee to our ecosystem.

Sue Conlyn  
Editor, FBC Buzz  
<http://www.forsythbeekeepersclub.org>



### ***Upcoming bee events:***

Note: Send us your upcoming events so we can list them here

#### **Young Harris Beekeeping Institute:**

May 9, 10, 11 Young Harris College, Young Harris, GA, [Registration details](#)

#### **Honey Bee Queen Production School:**

Tentatively scheduled for June 21, 22, Georgia Bee Supply in Chula, GA Contact information: [www.gabeesupply.com](http://www.gabeesupply.com) or call 229-386-0123



### **The Final Buzz**

The nectar flow is in full swing and we are full of ideas for the newsletter, but we need to hear from you and get your contributions.

In this edition, we are introducing a new section called: ***Ask 10 Beekeepers a Question and You'll Get at Least 11 Answers.*** This is a place where you can write articles about beekeeping practices that are important to you or that you think would be informative for other beekeepers - so please send us

articles. We also need questions for Aunt Bee, your photos, your favorite bee quotes, your funny bee stories.

This is your newsletter so jump in and participate like all good worker bees do!

If you like the newsletter, pass it on to other beekeepers to encourage them to join GBA for only \$15 a year. And, of course, you can read all of the editions that Gina and I have edited at [www.spillingthehoney.blogspot.com](http://www.spillingthehoney.blogspot.com)

Hope everybody is having a good bee season and let us hear from you.

*Linda and Gina*



# Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

June 2013



Queen on newly drawn wax in foundationless frame  
photo by Linda Tillman, March 16, 2013

## *Message from our President, Jerry Edwards*

This month has been a busy one in the world of GBA! I am pleased to announce that Paul Vonk, an attorney and electrical engineer, has accepted the chairmanship of the GBA Legislative Committee. Two of the issues he plans to address are researching regional zoning codes concerning honey bees and encouraging the state legislature to develop a legal definition for honey. If you have other suggestions, his email is <mailto:Paul@hivetool.org>

According to our by-laws, only members of GBA have voting privileges at the general state meeting. State officers and local club presidents or club representatives can vote in Board of Directors meeting. However, some of our local presidents are not members of GBA and thus, would not have voting privileges at a state meeting. We encourage all of you to join for obvious reasons.

Please contact Roseanne Dorn, Treasurer, if you are a local club president and have not paid your state dues.

If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee for officers, please contact any GBA officer by email.

It is now necessary for GBA to maintain a list of all Georgia Certified Welsh Honey Judges. If you have these credentials, please contact Bear Kelley. He is putting together the list. Criteria for continued honey judge certification is changing, and Robert Brewer and Keith Fielder have this information.

**Jerry Edwards, President GA Beekeepers**

*Saving the World, one bee at a time*

## *Bee\*Con 2013: A worker bee's perspective of the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute*

*by Julia Mahood, Master Beekeeper, Atlanta*

This was my fourth year attending the Beekeeping Institute and like previous years, I went home inspired to be a better beekeeper. The keynote speakers were Tom Seeley, PhD, from Cornell University and David Tarpy, PhD, from North Carolina State University. It's always captivating to hear about honeybee research—not just what they are studying, but also how they collect their data.

Dr. Seeley's persona is very Zen. He speaks calmly and candidly. He presents his knowledge in a way that is interesting and matter-of-fact. Great photography and humorous stories embellished his lectures. Dr. Seeley is known for research regarding how bees make decisions. His book Honeybee Democracy is a fascinating read.

Dr. Tarpy has an energetic and entertaining lecture style. He had some great Power Point skills and was gracious enough to answer questions during his talk, not just afterward. His field of expertise is honeybee genetics and queen quality.

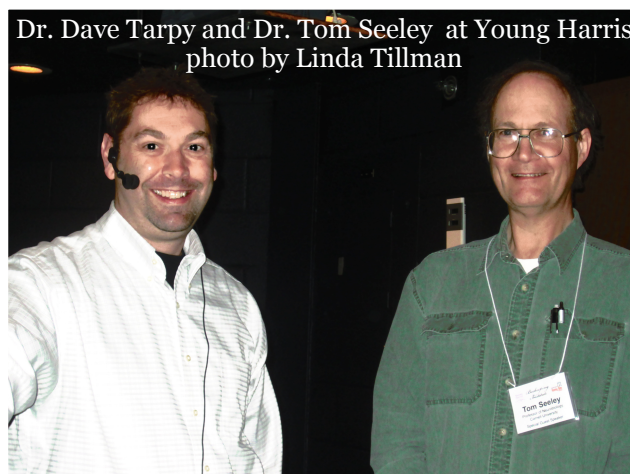
Here are some highlights from their lectures:

- Queen quality matters, so when you allow your bees to make a new queen as needed, the workers will make queen cells from larvae that is three, four, or five days old. The best queens will be made from three day old larvae, newly hatched from eggs and fed only royal jelly. The queens made from five day old larvae will hatch out first and will be inferior to the queens made from younger larvae, but they'll go rip open the younger queens' cells, kill the potentially better queens, and step up to the throne. Dr. Tarpy suggested that when you give a queenless colony a frame of brood and eggs, you open the colony after five days and cut out any queen cells that have been capped—these cells were made from older larvae and won't make the healthiest queens. Brilliant!
- We work hard to promote ventilation in our hives in the South, but there are advantages to mimicking the hollow tree cavity that bees prefer when given the choice. In winter months, condensation that occurs in tightly sealed hives can provide a much needed source of

water to the bees.

- Along the same lines, bees in the wild prefer one small entrance to their home, making it very dark inside. When we put swarms in hives with screened bottom boards, the added light may be a deal breaker and incite them to seek another home. So when installing a caught swarm, slide a board under the screened bottom board to keep it dark until the bees have settled in.

- Dr. Seeley recommended a book called [The Bee Hunter](#) by George Edgell. He has used Edgell's method to find feral bee colonies. He first located eleven wild colonies living in a forest in Ithaca, NY in the 1970's. A follow up study in recent years shows that there has been no significant change in bee populations in the same forest—great news for those of us concerned about bee loss. I ordered the book and can't wait to spend days wandering the forest this summer, in search of *bee trees*!



- Queen bees are “curiously promiscuous.” By mating with an average of 13.2 drones, genetic diversity enables colonies to have workers who are strong in differing areas of healthy behavior, all contributing to a colony's survival. Sounds kind of obvious, but the experiment to prove this was interesting. Queens were inseminated with just one drone's sperm in one apiary, and with multiple drones in another. They were monitored for honey collection, diseases, population buildup, and other things, proving that the colonies with more daddies were more superior in every way. For example, one drone may pass on genetics that promote uncapping unhealthy brood, and another may pass on genetics to pull out the unhealthy brood. Working together, the differing strengths contribute to overall colony health.

This is just a small sampling of the many things I learned at the Beekeeping Institute this year. In addition to these two scholars, there were many other brilliant and accomplished beekeepers, all with much to teach. We are fortunate to have such an amazing program available in our state, where beekeepers can get together for education and inspiration.

Since the queen bee was quite the subject of talks at Young Harris, we wanted to share with you this wonderful poem about the queen bee by E.B. White. White wrote the poem in reference to the stock improvement work of Harry H. Laidlaw, Jr, known as the father of honey bee genetics. E. B. White's poem appeared in a 1945 edition of the New Yorker Magazine. Dr. Tom Seeley had several quotes from this poem in his Young Harris talks.

*"Song of the Queen Bee"*

*"The breeding of the bee," says a United States Department of Agriculture bulletin on artificial insemination, "has always been handicapped by the fact that the queen mates in the air with whatever drone she encounters."*

*When the air is wine and the wind is free  
and the morning sits on the lovely lea  
and sunlight ripples on every tree  
Then love-in-air is the thing for me  
I'm a bee,  
I'm a ravishing, rollicking, young queen bee,  
That's me.  
I wish to state that I think it's great,  
Oh, it's simply rare in the upper air,  
It's the place to pair  
With a bee.  
Let old geneticists plot and plan,*

*They're stuffy people, to a man;  
Let gossips whisper behind their fan.  
(Oh, she does?  
Buzz, buzz, buzz!)  
My nuptial flight is sheer delight;  
I'm a giddy girl who likes to swirl,  
To fly and soar  
And fly some more,  
I'm a bee.  
And I wish to state that I'll always mate  
With whatever drone I encounter.  
There's a kind of a wild and glad elation*

*In the natural way of insemination;  
Who thinks that love is a handicap  
Is a fuddydud and a common sap,  
For I am a queen and I am a bee,  
I'm devil-may-care and I'm fancy-free,  
The test tube doesn't appeal to me,  
Not me,  
I'm a bee.  
And I'm here to state that I'll always mate  
With whatever drone I encounter.  
Mares and cows. by calculating,*

*Improve themselves with loveless mating,  
Let groundlings breed in the modern fashion,  
I'll stick to the air and the grand old passion;  
I may be small and I'm just a bee  
But I won't have science improving me,  
Not me,*

*I'm a bee.  
On a day that's fair with a wind that's free,  
Any old drone is a lad for me.  
I've no flair for love moderne,*

*It's far too studied, far too stern,  
I'm just a bee---I'm wild, I'm free,  
That's me.  
I can't afford to be too choosy;  
In every queen there's a touch of floozy,  
And it's simply rare  
In the upper air  
And I wish to state  
That I'll always mate  
With whatever drone I encounter.  
Man is a fool for the latest movement,*

*He broods and broods on race improvement;  
What boots it to improve a bee  
If it means the end of ecstasy?  
(He ought to be there  
On a day that's fair,  
Oh, it's simply rare.  
For a bee.  
Man's so wise he is growing foolish,*

*Some of his schemes are downright ghoulish;  
He owns a bomb that'll end creation  
And he wants to change the sex relation,  
He thinks that love is a handicap,  
He's a fuddydud, he's a simple sap;  
Man is a meddler, man's a boob,  
He looks for love in the depths of a tube,  
His restless mind is forever ranging,  
He thinks he's advancing as long as he's changing,  
He cracks the atom, he racks his skull,  
Man is meddlesome, man is dull,  
Man is busy instead of idle,  
Man is alarmingly suicidal,  
Me, I am a bee.  
I am a bee and I simply love it,*

*I am a bee and I'm darn glad of it,  
I am a bee, I know about love:  
You go upstairs, you go above,  
You do not pause to dine or sup,  
The sky won't wait ---it's a long trip up;  
You rise, you soar, you take the blue,  
It's you and me, kid, me and you,  
It's everything, it's the nearest drone,*

*It's never a thing that you find alone.  
I'm a bee,  
I'm free.  
If any old farmer can keep and hive me,*

*Then any old drone may catch and wife me;  
I'm sorry for creatures who cannot pair  
On a gorgeous day in the upper air,  
I'm sorry for cows that have to boast  
Of affairs they've had by parcel post,  
I'm sorry for a man with his plots and guile,  
His test-tube manner, his test-tube smile;  
I'll multiply and I'll increase  
As I always have---by mere caprice;  
For I am a queen and I am a bee,  
I'm devil-may-care and I'm fancy-free,  
Love-in-air is the thing for me,  
Oh, it's simply rare  
In the beautiful air,  
And I wish to state  
That I'll always mate  
With whatever drone I encounter.  
--E.B. White*



Bear Kelley trying to weld queen cups in Queen School.

Miss Scarlett, the finished product!



## Queen School

by Bear Kelley, VP, GBA

I recently had the privilege of attending the **Honey Bee Queen Production School** presented by the folks at Georgia Bee Supply in Chula, Ga. Presenting the course was Chuck Hester, the owner of Georgia Bee Supply and H&L Bee Farm, and his very capable assistant Rick Ringo. There were 18 students hailing from South Carolina, Michigan, Indiana, and Florida and of course Georgia.

The class was presented in two days. The subjects on the first day were the

- General Scope of Queen Breeding,
- Queen Production Tools,
- Making a Queen Production Calendar,
- Breeder Queens,
- Breeder Frames,
- Starter Hives,
- Grafting,
- Cell Cups and Bars,
- The Wax Melter,
- Making wax cell cups and welding them onto bar frames and finally
- Making Queen Cages and the candy that goes into them. Every student had an opportunity for a hands on experience at six work stations very well laid out with all the necessary equipment on hand.

## Street Cred

Our June street cred is about the promiscuous queen bee! Please [watch and enjoy](#).

And here's an [article about queen pheromones](#).

*Dear Aunt Bee,*

*When the colony swarms and the workers march the Queen around to lose weight, what weight is she losing? Water weight, or is it strength training or is she being kept from food or what? I know this is silly but inquiring minds want to know.*

*Perplexed about Pounds*

*Dear Perplexed,*

*I've wondered too - it's not like she is going to fly particularly far, but to fly at all, she can't be as cumbersome as she is day to day in the hive.*

*Dr. Tom Seeley is an authority on swarms and the queen, so I asked him about this at Young Harris. He said the majority of the queen's weight consists of the eggs waiting to be laid that occupy her abdomen.*

*In preparation for a swarm, when she is being run around the hive and is not being fed, she stops producing those eggs and that is the "weight" she is losing. So she isn't losing water weight and although they are not feeding her, the amount of weight lost due to the lack of food is negligible compared to the lack of eggs in her abdomen.*

*When she arrives at her new home, she is fed again, produces eggs again, and begins laying again, no skinnier than before.*

*To fat and happy Queens,*

*Aunt Bee*



Contributed by Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

Day two opened with the presentation on how to remove the Queen larvae from the Breeder frame and install them into the cell cups.

The practical exercise was the scariest part as this is probably the most critical stage. My big Bear paws are not conducive to itty bitty work like that. It will be interesting to know if anything grows out of the bar cells that I grafted.

Afterward we all went to Chuck's Apiary. I must say, that the bee yard was very clean, and well laid out for Queen Production. Rick had the hives organized so that each step could be easily demonstrated. Most of the day was spent in the bee yard installing newly grafted bar frames, transferring virgin queens to the mating yard and finally marking the mated queens that were ready to be shipped to the customer.

Both days began with a continental breakfast and a prepared lunch that caused all of us in attendance to gain weight. Chuck offered Queen rearing kits at a reasonable rate and everyone received a DVD on Queen rearing. Certificates were presented upon completion and all in attendance seem to enjoy the course very much. I did and I really appreciate the hands on experience and education.

**June 21 and 22** are tentatively set as the next class dates, and they will be posting this on the website soon, so anyone who wants to sign up can visit the website at [www.gabeesupply.com](http://www.gabeesupply.com) or call the office at (229) 386-0123.

***Did you know that three out of two beekeepers are dyslexic?***

Joke contributed by Jim Moyer of Tara Beekeepers



## This year's crop of new Georgia certified Welsh Honey Judges



In the center are the judging staff: Robert Brewer, Michael Young, Keith Fielder. The other five are our new Welsh Honey Judges. Can you find our VP Bear Kelley in his "cap and gown," as his wife, Marybeth, says?

Photo by Linda Tillman, Young Harris 2013

### *Calling All Honey Judges*

If you are a Certified Welsh Honey Judge, please provide the information below to Bear Kelley ( <mailto:beecat108@gmail.com>) with the following items included:

- Name
- City and State
- Telephone number
- Email Address
- Class number (year certified by Young Harris Beekeeping Institute)

GBA is in the process of developing a list of Judges that will appear on the GBA web site. In addition there will be a newly established Judges Group (not a public list, but one managed by the GBA VP) that will receive information, updates, changes in policy, show information, etc.

Please send this information to Bear as soon as you can so that we can get the list up and running. From this list we will choose Judges and Stewards for the Fall

# *Bee Club of the Month*

## *Lake Country Beekeepers Association*

The Lake Country Beekeepers Association (LCBA) was a vision of a few beekeepers to fill a void in our area for a beekeeping club. During October and November of 2012, several meetings were conducted to see what kind of interest there was in forming a club. In January of this year (2013) we officially started our club with election of officers, adopting by-laws, and finding a name for our club.

In March we conducted a Beginners Beekeepers Course with 28 people attending. Presentations were conducted by member, Mr. Keith Fielder, Master Beekeeper and other club members.

Monthly meetings have covered an array of topics: honey extraction, marketing your honey, utilizing nucs in your bee operation, swarm control, catching swarms, package bee installation, and general hive maintenance. Future meetings will include making splits, pest control, and fall management.

LCBA has 31 member families with a total of 62 family members. members are from the following counties: Hancock, Putnam, Glascock, Warrenk Jones, Morgan, McDuffie, Jasper, Baldwin, Jefferson, and Johnson. We continue to bring new members aboard each month. We have a good number of members of our club who also belong to GBA and attend the spring and fall meetings of that organization.

LCBA meets the third Monday of each month at 7 PM in downtown Sparta, Georgia, at the old Drummers Home next to the Court House.

Bruce Morgan, LCBA President

***Let's Learn  
About Our  
Beekeeping!***

Take this one question survey:  
[Click here!](#)

## **State Parks with Beekeeping Programs**

**"Up and Buzzing"  
Georgia Veterans State Park  
The Parks at Chehaw**

**President Carter's Farm  
Reed Bingham State Park**

## Ask Ten Beekeepers a Question.....

### Are you Limiting Honey Production with Queen Excluders?

by Steven Page

Queen excluders are one of the most controversial subjects beekeepers debate. I will not try to convince you one way or the other concerning the use of queen excluders. I will offer some insight to what I see in my hives with no queen excluders that you can use on hives with queen excluders.

I do not use queen excluders. This allows me to see how a hive builds up in the late winter without any limit to the size of the brood nest. I use one deep super and many shallow supers on each hive. My strong colonies will have a deep and 3 or 4 shallow supers of brood in the hive by March. If you are inserting a queen excluder too low in the stack of supers you will limit the area the queen can lay in, reducing the population and honey production of the colony.

If I used a queen excluder I would insert it with a deep and 3 or 4 shallow supers below it. I would install it in late March or early April and the super above the queen excluder would have already been on the hive with workers building comb and storing nectar.

Right now as we near the end of the main nectar flow. My strong hives have seven to nine shallow supers and I add more as needed. The strong hives will produce more than 100 pounds of honey.

Once the honey is harvested the queen excluder can be removed. Prior to winter you must remove the queen excluder to prevent the queen from being left behind as the colony moves up during the winter.

### The Final Buzz

*We appreciate all your contributions and hope to have everyone send at least one item each year. That will make the newsletter more interesting. Sincere thanks to those of you who have already given a story, photo or question for Aunt Bee- please continue to do so.*

*We are in particular need of your photos showing anything to do with your beekeeping practice. We would love to do a page showing the huge variety of our apiary settings throughout Georgia. Happy summer to all and best wishes to your bees!*



*Gina and Linda*

# Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

July 2013



The hive to which we all aspire! Look at all those honey supers!  
Hive owned and managed by Jerry Wallace, member of Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Photo contributed by  
Jerry, who manages Metro Atlanta Beeks Facebook Page

## *Message from our President, Jerry Edwards*

Looking forward to a fun-filled Fourth of July with family, friends, and my girls. Another event I am anticipating is our state meeting in September in Gwinnett County. In order to make our organization more vibrant, let's all try to bring two friends in hopes that they will join our club.

Beekeeper of the year will be announced at the state meeting, so nominate your favorite beekeeper. Send your nomination before August 1 to Cindy Hodges (details in this newsletter). Her email is [DunwoodyHoney@Bellsouth.net](mailto:DunwoodyHoney@Bellsouth.net)

The statewide honey show is scheduled for the Georgia National Fair in Perry in October so start cleaning those honey jars.

**Jerry Edwards, President GA Beekeepers**

## Nominate a GBA Beekeeper for 2013 Beekeeper of the Year

Every year GBA awards Beekeeper of the Year to an outstanding beekeeper in our state. It's now time to send in your nominations for this award. The nomination deadline is August 1, 2013.

Do you know of someone who exhibits qualities that inspire others in beekeeping? Have they been supportive of our Georgia Beekeepers Association as well as the beekeeping industry? Honor them by nominating them for this award.

We are looking for a GBA member who:

- **Exemplifies good beekeeping practices**
- **Demonstrates leadership**
- **Promotes Georgia's beekeeping industry**
- **Creatively solves problems of industry wide concern**
- **Actively participates in local, regional, or national beekeeping organizations**

Beekeeper of the Year for 2013 will be awarded at our fall GBA meeting to be held on September 20, 2013, at the Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center in Buford, Georgia.

Please send your nominee's name, address, and reasons they should earn this honor to Cindy Hodges at [dunwoodyhoney@bellsouth.net](mailto:dunwoodyhoney@bellsouth.net). Remember the deadline for nominations is August 1, 2013.

Thank you,

**Cindy Hodges**

2012 GBA Beekeeper of the Year



Cindy Hodges: 2012 GBA Beekeeper of the Year with Fred Rossman, 2011 GBA Beekeeper of the Year

Photo by Bill Owens

Who would you like to see honored  
as Georgia Beekeeper of the Year  
for 2013?

See article on left for how to send  
in your nominations.

### Honey Play Clay

from Honey: from flower to table by  
Stephanie Rosenbaum

1 cup peanut butter  
1/2 cup honey  
2 cups dry powdered milk

Mix peanut butter and honey together until smooth. Add the powdered milk gradually until the clay is thick and no longer sticky.

Have fun with kids or grandkids!

## Interview with Curtis Gentry

by Gina Gallucci - interview done by telephone

### How long have you been keeping bees?

"Since 1975. My Grandfather had a farm in upstate North Carolina and he had bees. He was in the process of switching over to fixed hive boxes. He passed away before I was born but I found a few of the colonies had survived. I was always fascinated by bees. I went off to Clemson to be an engineer but decided I didn't want engineering after all and went into biology instead. I took some entomology classes. Then I joined the Peace Corp and went to Liberia to teach. There was fellow teacher and we went out on a number of honey hunts where we took cut down a bee tree, took the comb and honey and brood and brought it all back to eat. The kids loved the brood too- it was good protein. That was a real treat. They didn't really keep bees but they did hunt honey bees. One time I tried to get a swarm and fell out of a mango tree.

Later, I went back to grad school at Clemson and they had a little apiary which I worked with a fellow grad student. I always loved bees."

### What's the best part of practicing beekeeping?

"It's the connecting with nature, being outside, honing your observation skills."

### How many people have you mentored over the years?

"Probably about 200. After grad school I taught various beekeeping and agriculture programs and workshops for the Peace Corp. I was sent Nicaragua but then the war brought me out so I went to Guatemala, Costa Rica, Paraguay, Ghana, Mali and Zaire."



### What's the hardest thing for a new beekeeper to understand?

"I think that it has the cycle and you have to go with the cycle of beekeeping. You can't take honey anytime you want. It's seasonal and you have to go with the cycle. Its not up to you- you are a slave to the season and their cycle."

Curtis Gentry at Metro Atlanta Beekeepers' Short Course  
2009  
Photo by Linda Tillman

### **What's the hardest thing for experienced beekeepers to understand?**

"Change, it's hard in anything to change. I am thinking of industrial beekeeping -it hit a wall with Varroa and small hive beetle around here. There is just a lot more you have to do now to keep bees. "

### **Curtis, you have a certain way with your smoker. What do you do?**

"I have lots patience. I light a little bit (of material) at a time at the bottom and then get it going, slowly packing in more until it's really lit from the bottom up. When I am finished I plug up the smoker and lay it on its side to let it go out."

### **What changes have you made in your beekeeping?**

"I am kind of passing the smoker. Due to a number of circumstances I have slowed down a bit and work some beginner classes at the Metro Atlanta Beekeeping Short Course, Atlanta Botanical Garden Beekeeping , and I ran the Oakhurst Community Garden bees for three years. That is enough for me. I am doing more mentoring than beekeeping. I really get a kick out of other people getting a kick out of keeping bees."

\*\*\*Note from Gina: While investigating beekeeping as a hobby back in 2004, I looked online and the first thing I found was Curtis Gentry's book: [Small Scale Beekeeping \(Appropriate technologies for Development\)](#). It was published by the Peace Corps in 1982. Little did I know then that he would become a personal beekeeping mentor! Although now out of print, you can [read the book in its entirety online](#).

**How doth the little busy bee  
Improve each shining hour,  
And gather honey all the day  
From every opening flower.  
~ Isaac Watts, Against Idleness**

### **Bees in the Parks**

State Parks with Active Beehives  
that are Up and Buzzing:

Georgia Veterans State Park  
The Parks at Chehaw  
President Carter's Farm  
Reed Bingham State Park  
Fort Yargo State Park

## Results of Last Month's Survey

### Where are your hives located?

Thanks to the 22 of you who participated!

| Number of hives     | 1 - 5 | 6 - 10 | 10 - 20 | More than 20 | Rating Count |
|---------------------|-------|--------|---------|--------------|--------------|
| My own backyard     | 37.5% | 25%    | 31.3%   | 6.3%         | 16           |
| A friend's backyard | 100%  | 0%     | 0%      | 0%           | 6            |
| Park or nature      | 100%  | 0%     | 0%      | 0%           | 2            |
| Community Garden    | 100%  | 0%     | 0%      | 0%           | 4            |
| Farm                | 44.4% | 11.1%  | 22.2%   | 22.2%        | 9            |
| Answered Question   |       |        |         |              | 21           |
| Skipped Question    |       |        |         |              | 1            |

Other: Forest Land (2) Personal property 60 miles away (10 - 20), university, bed and breakfast inn, large tracts of forest land

### Street Cred

[Free App for Mobile phones to help with](#)

[Disease Identification](#): The Disease

Identification section with its photographs and descriptions is already proving very useful in alerting beekeepers to potential problems – and with their smartphone they will even be able to take photographs to compare later or send to fellow beekeepers. The main sections of the app cover disease identification and treatment, where to buy treatments, plus sections on a photo gallery.

This month's survey is about critters in the hive. It's only one question - please [click here](#) to take our one question survey!



*Dear Aunt Bee,*

*A while back I was consolidating my bee equipment and left some frames with plastic foundation sitting in an open environment in my bee yard for several months. A lot of the wax was scraped off, but they looked pretty cruddy.*

*I wanted to clean the frames so I removed the plastic foundation and threw it away. Then I put the frames in a heated oven at about 300 degrees for 45 minutes over a cooking pan that would collect any drippings.*

*When I removed the frames, I was able to wipe off the wax and crud that remained. Is this method of cooking the frames an acceptable method to clean the frames for re-use?*

*Signed,  
Pot Luck*

*Dear Pot Luck,*

*Sounds like a great plan. I've tried that myself and found the disadvantage to be the time it takes and that you can only do a few frames at a time.*

*I have also cleaned frames by filling a stewpot with water and bringing it to a boil. Then I hold one end of the frame in the water for about 12 seconds and then the other end of the frame for another 12 seconds.*

*Wax and other crud can easily be wiped off while the next frame is dropped into the water. Since it takes less than 1/2 minute per frame, then many more can be done in 45 minutes than half a dozen in the oven.*

*This method does not warp the frames because they are in the water for such a short time.*

*Either way will work to clean your frames for reuse.*

***Aunt Bee***



Contributed by Chris Pahl and Linda Tillman

“I shouldn't think even millionaires could eat anything nicer than new bread and real butter and honey for tea.”

~~Dodie Smith, [I Capture the Castle](#)

## ***Upcoming Bee Events***

**July 11 - 13 NC State  
Beekeepers Summer  
Meeting, Sandhills  
Community College,  
Southern Pines, NC**

**July 11 - 13 Heartland  
Apicultural Society HAS  
2013, Tennessee Tech  
University, Cookeville, TN**

**July 20 Queen Workshop,  
Foley, AL library,  
[bemisroger@hotmail.com](mailto:bemisroger@hotmail.com)  
\$75, includes lunch**

**August 5 - 9 Eastern  
Apicultural Society, West  
Chester University, West  
Chester, Pennsylvania**

**September 20 - 21 GBA Fall  
Meeting, Gwinnett  
Environmental and  
Heritage Center, Buford, GA**

## Ask Ten Beekeepers a Question.....

### *Creamed Honey*

*by Noah Macey*

First of all, if you've never had creamed honey before, go buy some and taste it; the newsletter will still be here when you get back.

Now that that's been taken care of, we can get down to the nitty-but-hopefully-not-gritty (you'll understand that joke in a minute) business of making creamed honey.

#### ***Wait, what is creamed honey?***

Creamed honey is simply honey that has crystallized so finely that the granules are imperceptible and the final product is smooth, without a gritty feeling. This creates a honey that spreads like butter and doesn't run. As anyone who's tasted an jar of old honey that has crystallized on its own will attest, such a thing doesn't happen without a little help.

#### ***How on earth do I make such a thing?***

Harnessing the forces behind honey crystallization isn't difficult. The two main sugars in honey are glucose and fructose, and the ratio of the two sugars determines how eager the honey is to crystallize. The dusty jar of sourwood honey that the house came with is still liquid because sourwood honey has a very low ratio of glucose to fructose, whereas the cotton honey that crystallized in the extractor has a very high ratio of glucose to fructose. Creamed honey turns out better when you use a honey with a high glucose to fructose ratio, so it's wise to use honey that has already crystallized in its jar.

We can control the size of the crystals as well. When sugars form crystals, they like to follow an example by replicating already-existent crystals. So, by introducing very smooth creamed honey (called "seed honey," often bought from the grocery store) to your future creamed honey, you can control the size of the crystals. Of course, this means heating the honey to melt any naturally-occurring crystals that could conflict with the seed honey.

### ***Give me step-by-step instructions.***

Fine, pushy...

1. Heat your soon-to-be creamed honey to 120 degrees, stirring gently while avoiding introducing air bubbles. Strain the honey through a fine strainer to remove possible contaminants (the final product will be very light, so any debris will be painfully visible. Not to mention crystals could form matching the size of the debris, which would make the crystals gritty).
2. Heat the now-strained honey to 150 degrees, still stirring gently. Hold it at that temperature for 15 minutes.
3. Rapidly cool (think: ice bath) the 150 degree honey to between 60 and 75 degrees (between these temperatures, your seed honey won't melt, but it's still easy to stir).
4. Once the honey has reached the correct temperature range, add your seed honey at roughly 10% of the total weight of the soon-to-be-creamed honey (I suggest your first batch be 10 lbs of honey, which entails 1 lb of seed honey). Stir the seed honey in gently, careful not to add extra air.
5. The honey is now ready to be placed into its final container. Said container should be wide-mouthed as creamed honey is spread, not poured. Overfill slightly because as it sets, the creamed honey will contract.
6. The best temperature for crystallizing honey is 55 degrees, so use your fridge. Leave it alone for one week.
7. Clean-up

### ***Where does the 'creamed' come in?***

I'm not sure why it's called creamed honey—there's no actual cream in it. Other names include whipped honey, spun honey, churned honey, and honey fondant.

### ***I don't like to heat my honey. Is there a way to keep it raw?***

Nope, sorry. Even if you could keep it raw, as honey crystallizes the liquid component (which, while hard to detect in creamed honey, is still there), becomes more watery, leading to fermentation. Such fermentation happens in honey that crystallizes normally as well.

Our author, Noah Macey, won Best In Show for his creamed honey at the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers' honey show in 2010. At 16, he is also the youngest Master Beekeeper in the state of Georgia.

## Meeting tomorrow's beekeepers

By Holly Bayendor,  
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association Junior Beekeepers Program Chair

Despite the threatening weather on April 28, twelve participants showed up for the first daylong beekeeping course offered by MABA for children ages 7 – 12. Everyone gathered for the class at Melissa Bondurant's veterinary office in Alpharetta. Melissa has beehives there as well as a good facility for the educational slide show, games and activities that were all part of teaching these kids about the importance of bees and how to keep them.

Twelve children arrived with their parents and first saw a presentation by Cindy Hodges and Melissa Bondurant. The children learned about ancient beekeeping and honey bee communication dances. They were able to look at specimens of dried bees, honeycomb, and other pollinator samples. They also learned about the roles each bee plays in the hive and had a fun dress-up segment.

During lunch the children got to see a fully assembled bee hive. All the components were labeled and they could touch all the parts. Then they looked at an observation hive where they saw the bees working, spotted the queen bee, found honey and brood. Keeping dry on the porch, the children enjoyed using hammers, nails and glue to make their own hive frame. Some of the children chose to keep their frames, while others offered theirs back to MABA for use in a real beehive.



Thanks to a grant from the Georgia Beekeepers Association, we had purchased child sized bee suits to use in this course. Each child found a suit to put on and we headed for the beehives. Melissa demonstrated lighting the smoker and we opened the hives. The children held frames of live bees and each child got to hold a drone in his/her hand.

Honey was the final feature of the course. The children got to taste different honeys and Melissa showed them how to extract honey. The children got to use the capping scratcher and also got to spin the extractor.

Each child took home a packet of material including a small jar of honey, a bee-bookmark, a bee cookie, a packet of wildflower seeds, an informative honey bee coloring book, honey recipes, and a certificate of participation.

In addition to the funds from Georgia Beekeeping Association which made possible the purchase of bee suits to use for years to come, we owe thanks to Cindy Hodges, Melissa Bondurant, Lula Banks-Moore, Jeff McConnell, and Realm Advertising for their help in making the course happen.

Club of the Month:

## The Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett

by Diane May, co-secretary

[The Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett](#) is a young and growing club. The club was started by Tommy Bailey, current president of the club, by hosting an exhibit at the [Gwinnett County Fair](#) in September of 2010 to educate the public on honey bees and to encourage new hobbyist, backyard beekeepers. Thirty interested beekeepers attended the first ever meeting of the club at Hebron Baptist Church in Dacula, GA in October. Today the club has approximately 225 active members and regular visitors with an average of 80 attending each month.

Our first purpose is to educate the public on the benefits of the honeybee and to help them realize it is not a dangerous, but a beneficial insect. We attend the Gwinnett County Fair yearly with an observation hive, educational materials, and eager members ready to answer questions. Club members also volunteer in the communities by presenting demonstrations for school, community or scout groups. We worked with Whole Foods in John's Creek as part of a [Share the Buzz Honeybee Awareness](#) event including foods and drinks made with honey as well as roasted vegetables pollinated by honeybees.

Gwinnett's second purpose is to encourage and educate beekeepers. Members share their triumphs and challenges in their hives. Speakers and hands-on opportunities each month also further this important purpose. We maintain an extensive library of educational material and equipment that paid members are free to check out month to month. Members are encouraged to attend educational events like the [Young Harris Beekeeping Institute](#). Through this continued education, the club can boast of several members that are Certified or Journeyman level beekeepers.

Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett hopes to further the cause of the honeybee and to see more hives in and around the county. We welcome visitors each month and enjoy having seekers and beginners visit to learn and have their questions answered and to glean new information from the experienced keeper. Please feel free to stop by on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 at [Hebron Baptist Church](#), Building A, third floor and join the discussion.

### *The Final Buzz*

We appreciate all the contributions to our newsletter - Please have fun with our surveys and keep letting us know if there there's something you'd like to see here! Keep your articles and photos coming - we love them.

*Gina and Linda*



# Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

August 2013

Editors: **Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman**



Mr. Bobby Colson of B&G Honey in Statesboro, teaching Thomas Lariscy about beekeeping. Photo by Denise Lariscy

Fall is approaching and bringing exciting activities for all members. The topics of the recent board meeting in Macon centered on the fall club activities. The state meeting, which is scheduled for September 20th & 21st, in Gwinnett County and is hosted by several north GA clubs, promises to be an informational and busy weekend for beekeepers of all levels.

Note: All clubs have one vote at the GBA state business meeting in Gwinnett county. The representative, who is usually the club president or the designated voting member, **MUST be a member of the state club**. If the club president is not a GBA member and thus unable to vote, the name of the designated member must be sent to Mary Cahill-Roberts ( [maryc7@aol.com](mailto:maryc7@aol.com)) two weeks prior to state meeting. Make sure that your club president is a GBA member so that your club's voice can be heard at the state meeting.

Two separate opportunities exist this fall for placing honey in a juried show. The first is the state meeting with cash awards being given in several divisions. The other contest, which will be held at the Georgia National Fair in Perry in October, will not include cash awards but ribbons will be earned. Hope you are able to participate.

***Jerry Edwards***

President, GA Beekeepers Association

## Membership Report

by Roseanne Dorn

Thanks to everyone for promoting GBA! We currently have over 200 paid memberships, of which a little over thirty percent are family memberships. That gives us a total of 277 members!

If everyone will encourage their local club members to join GBA, we can easily reach 300+ members by the fall meeting. (Don't forget to renew your own membership!) Memberships can be renewed online at [www.gabeekeeping.com](http://www.gabeekeeping.com) and the printable mail-in registration for the fall meeting is also available. We hope to have online registration available soon.

Early registration will end Sept 14<sup>th</sup>, registration at the door will be \$10 per person higher so don't wait!

*Life is the flower for  
which love is the  
honey. Victor Hugo*

*Your editors are lucky to receive a number of newsletters from Europe every month. Here's an article from the Nottinghamshire Beekeepers Association newsletter that we thought would be of interest to all:*

### COULD A BEE SURVIVE A FALL FROM A SKYSCRAPER?

by Stuart Ching (adapted from BBC Focus magazine)

A bee (presuming it cannot fly for some reason) can survive a fall from any height because it is very light. Although Galileo demonstrated that gravity accelerates bodies at the same rate, irrespective of mass, this will only continue indefinitely in a vacuum.

When falling through air any falling object – in this case a bee – is subject to friction and this increases the faster it falls. At a certain point the deceleration from air resistance exactly balances the acceleration due to gravity and the bee stops getting faster. This is what's called terminal velocity for that object. The terminal velocity of a skydiver is about 55m/s; a diving peregrine falcon can reach about 90m/s. A bee, on the other hand, will stop accelerating by the time it has reached 1-2m/s. Not only is this much slower but the bee's slight mass also means that it's kinetic energy at a given speed is much lower. So a bee hitting the ground at terminal velocity only has to absorb a miniscule fraction of the energy of a human falling from the same height.

In fact, anything up to the size of a mouse can survive a fall of any height without injury and cats regularly survive falls from tower block windows with only minor injuries.

However, if the bee is inside a hive then a different end result will occur. The hive having a large mass will hit the ground with considerable terminal velocity and smash to smithereens. According to Einstein, the bee, being part of this bigger system, will be crushed to a pulp!!!

## **Interview with Jennifer Berry**

Research Professional III and UGA Bee Lab Manager

Done with Gina Gallucci by telephone

### **How long have you been involved in beekeeping and how did you get started?**

About 17 years ago I took a class with Dr. Delaplane at UGA. By the second day I knew honey bees were going to be apart of my graduate work. Then the next week, when we opened our first hive, I knew honey bees would be apart of my life forever.

### **You have done a tremendous amount of teaching beekeeping. What are the hardest question new beekeepers ask?**

It's hard in the beginning for new beekeepers to even ask the right questions because they don't have a solid base yet. This understanding comes with time and experience; trust me I know, I was a beginner once. Yet, the hardest concept to get across to beekeepers is the seriousness of Varroa mites; how to control them, how to manage them and understanding the whole mite/bee relationship. There are some people who think they can purchase a hive of bees, put them in the backyard, and leave them be. Months later, when they finally do check in on their bees, they are confused as to why they're dead. There's simply more to keeping bees now than before mites came ashore.

### **There was a time when that approach was common, how long ago do you think that was?**

I'd say anytime before the 80s. The 80s brought in Tracheal Mites and Varroa. Also since that time, bees have had a whole array of things to deal with: destruction of natural habitat which leads to lack of natural forage which leads to nutritional deficiencies, compound that with diseases, and a toxic environment inside and outside the hive.

### **What is your favorite part of teaching beekeeping?**

Overall, the whole process, especially teaching new beginners; but I focus so much on Varroa IPM. Now I am really working toward encouraging "realistic" natural beekeeping. What that is in a nutshell, is keeping your bees alive, which means one day, you may have to feed or treat for mites. But let's try as many "natural" approaches as possible first; purchase resistant Queens, use screen bottom boards, do drone brood trapping, and brood cycle disruption all to keep the Varroa mites below the threshold level. (the threshold being 40 mites in 24 hours). But if the mite levels become too high and are threatening the life of your colony, you have to do something, and treatment is usually our only option. I believe when you become a beekeeper, you must take on the responsibility for those bees: their care and welfare It's just like taking on the responsibility of any pet you take home: dog, cat. And if need be, you would treat your dog or cat for fleas and ticks, so why not your bees?. If you don't want to take care of the bees



then you shouldn't be a beekeeper. This may be a strong statement, but it is not fair to the bees.

### **How do you compare teaching at beekeeping clubs and the Young Harris Institute?**

I really enjoy Young Harris because I get a lot of down time with individuals. I get to really talk with them. At the clubs, I'm usually driving home after the meeting is over and don't have as much time to talk with them.

### **Who are your beekeeping mentors?**

Bob Binnie! Let me see, did I mention Bob Binnie! I call upon him numerous times during the year to ask questions and he always makes himself available. Also, Carl Webb, Jerry Hayes, Dr. Marla Spivak, and Dr. Tom Seeley.

### **What is your favorite book or movie about beekeeping?**

For books, I recommend several, *Biology of the Honey Bee* by Mark Winston. *Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping* By Dewey Caron and Larry Connor, *The Beekeepers Handbook* by Diana Sammataro, *ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture*, and *The Hive and the Honey Bee*.

Plus **All** of Tom Seeley's books, (*Honeybee Democracy*, *Honeybee Ecology*, and *The Wisdom of the Hive*.)

No movies, well maybe Ulee's Gold (1977). I have seen several documentaries which I have found disturbingly incorrect and not addressing the seriousness of what honey bees are truly facing today, but instead highlighting silly beekeepers, rubbing their mustaches on bees to show how cool they are.

### **Where do you see beekeeping in the next 10 years?**



We have some serious issues ahead. It's going to be rough for our bees, yet I am optimistic. There is no single answer; there are layers upon layers of complexities that we need



## *Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Speak to Master Gardeners on Beekeeping*

Jesse McCurdy and Steve Prince, both GBA Members, spoke to the Master Gardeners (MGCG) on June 4<sup>th</sup> in the Old Perry Courthouse hosted by the South Chapter MGCG. According to the July Weeders Digest this was “a very entertaining presentation on beekeeping”.

From the National Honey Board:

### *Recipe for Honey Rosemary Lemonade*

12 lemons, to make about 2 cups of juice

1/2 cup sage honey or a local variety

Fresh rosemary

1 cup + 8 cups water

Make a simple syrup. Combine the honey with 1/2 cup water in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil. Turn off heat. While the syrup is still hot, add whole rosemary sprigs and leave in the syrup.

Squeeze 12 lemons. Combine the lemon juice with the rosemary syrup. Add water to syrup/juice mixture. Add more water if needed, remembering that once you add the juice to ice in a glass, the ice will melt and dilute the mixture to some degree. Put a spray of rosemary in the glass and serve!

*P.S. If a Georgia beekeeper you know is on TV or in the news, pass that on to us so we can share it in **Beekeeper Bytes***

In another article they reported it “the meeting was a-buzz ...were treated to all things bees...” by local beekeepers Jesse McCurdy who has been beekeeping for over 70 years. He explained the importance of bees for propagation, the precarious state of the bees. He also had an empty hive with a super and described how each part was used in the production of honey. And, the main occupants queen, drone and workers. Plus, their function and how they interacted with each other.

Steve Prince discussed some of his beekeeping experiences and both Jesse and Steve took many questions about bees, including “Killer Bees”, honey extractions, Chinese dumping contaminated honey on our markets. The audience asked many questions and the meeting ran longer than usual. Jesse also discussed why a growing number of homeowners wanted to have bee hives in their back yard.

### *Beekeeper Bytes*

GBA member Linda Tillman was featured in a Weather Channel video shown across the country in early August. If you'd like to see the video, [click here.](#)

## Ask Ten Beekeepers a Question.....

### When is a Swarm not a Swarm?

by John Wingfield

Before answering, read my story! Got a visit from a neighbor I had never met. She lives about five blocks away in our subdivision. Her first words were "do you keep bees?" Well she told me about her friend who had a swarm of bees at her house. Could I help? After getting the friend's number I called and headed to her subdivision about four miles east of Perry, Georgia.

The friend was in her yard, waiting for me. Her home was a very nice two story brick constructed in the last ten years. The swarm was in the corner where two walls met on the west side. It looked like the bees would fill a five gallon bucket. I told her I could remove them. So, I called Jesse McCurdy, local beekeeper guru, asking him to loan me his bee vac system. He said "yes".

Returned home and collected a deep hive with ten frames and a matching super as it looked like a at least five gallons lot of bees to me. Then I went by Jesse's to get his bee vac and advice. This would my second swarm this year. Last time Jesse captured the swarm for me. This time I was alone. Rain began pouring while picking up the bee vac. Drove to the swarm location.

Raining again, this time with lightning! Going to sit in my truck until this storm moves away. Kept checking cell phone weather maps to see when it would stop. Must have spent over 45 minutes waiting. Beginning to clear. Set up the equipment and the ladder. Ready to capture the bees. The lady of the house and her daughter are watching from the yard at a safe distance.

Climb the ladder and start vacuuming bees into the deep hive. Then, I see it. Comb, big comb hanging from the metal soffit. Some comb hanging down greater than 12 to 15 inches and lots of it. I need to stop as I expected a swarm of happy bees who would not be defensive. Did not have on veil or gloves. Better put them on as these girls are not in a swarm mood.

From the coloration of the brood comb I estimate that at least two or maybe three generation of brood have emerged. Maybe more. This colony has been here for at least several months. So, the colony got started late May or early June. Borrowed a long PVC pipe and dislodged most of the comb which fell to hurriedly spread plastic bags on the ground.



So I suit up and start collecting bees again until I have most of them. Still have a couple of combs that I have not been able to dislodge. Will return tomorrow and remove the comb and pick up my ladder.

This colony was in the open under the eave. Since it was a working colony, it is not a swarm. All though it first look like a swarm, it is really a hive without walls....a colony that had been thriving for months. It may look like a big swarm, but it just may turn out to be something else. It could be a colony masquerading as a swarm.

**LESSON LEARNED.** When you go to capture a swarm, take a tool for removing comb, plastic bags or other containers for storing comb with brood and comb with honey. You might even want to bring a smoker.

*Dear Aunt Bee,*

*My wife is angry and I need your help. The first thing I did wrong was to borrow her best apron to wear while I harvested honey. The second thing I did wrong was that I harvested my honey in her kitchen and afterwards everything was sticky, even the doorknob. The third thing I did wrong was to tell her we were lucky to get such a large honey crop.*

*I think I'll be sleeping on the couch for a while. Can this marriage be saved?*

*Signed,  
Sticky Footprints*

*Dear Sticky Footprints,*

*What a mess! Next time try putting flattened cardboard boxes under your hive boxes that are in the kitchen waiting to be harvested. Also you can put flattened cardboard on all the counter tops and over the floor surfaces.*

*When you are done, take the cardboard, covered with sticky honey, out to the yard so the bees can clean it up (they will, enthusiastically).*

*Good luck moving back into the bedroom,*

*Signed,  
Your Aunt Bee*



(contributed by Linda Tillman)

Luna Moth hanging on a beehive (an unusual critter on rather than IN the hive) Photo by Linda Tillman near Emory on 6/14/2013



### *Survey Results from July*

**29** people answered our survey about critters in the hive.

- 27** have found small hive beetles
- 23** have found ants
- 19** have found roaches
- 16** have found wax moth larvae
- 13** have found earwigs
- 4** have found mice

Others reported lizards, spiders, wasps, tree frogs, and a luna moth. Oh, and varroa mite - can you believe we left it off of the list - I suppose because they are in everyone's hives.

This month our survey is about ***how you learned to keep bees.*** It's fun and only will take a minute. To participate in this one question survey, [just click here.](#)

## Club of the Month:

# Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

by Curt Barrett, Vice President

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association is a thriving club of over 200 members living in and around the city of Atlanta. The club promotes public awareness of the value of honeybees and hive products, provides learning opportunities through meetings, classes and the Internet and assists its members and others with beekeeping. MABA is the state's oldest beekeeping club and its members range from 1st year "newbees" to veteran masters with decades of experience.

MABA's monthly meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Featured speakers include top domestic and international scientists, local and regional experts and seasoned club members. Topics run the education spectrum from beekeeping basics to hive products to the latest in scientific research news.

Each January the club offers a full, one-day "Short Course" for those contemplating beekeeping. This popular event taps out at 110 attendees and sells out every year. Bee biology, colony dynamics, hive components and integrated pest management are among the lecture topics. Attendees enjoy a nice lunch, honey ice cream and adjourn with a goody bag full of helpful information and a one-year club membership. Attendance to the Short Course is free for 5 student scholarship winners.

Club members enjoy access to free, frequent hive inspection clinics in several locations around the city while seasoned members safely remove swarms in the metro area during swarm season. The club maintains honey extraction equipment and makes it available to members for a reasonable rental fee. New members learn from mentors and through the club's "Bee Neighbor" program.

In the Summer the club puts on a Junior Beekeepers Program where fully suited children ages 7 to 12 participate in a live hive inspection, put together a beehive frame, view presentations about honeybees and help with honey extraction.

Summer is also a time when the club, in conjunction with the University of Georgia Master Beekeeper Program, offers a review and testing for the program's "Certified Beekeeper" level, the first of four. Instruction and testing for the remaining levels of certification is done at the Young Harris – UGA Beekeeping Institute.

Each September the club holds its annual Honey Contest and Auction fundraiser and hosts a Holiday Party in December.

[Visit the MABA website](#) to learn more about us.

**Curt Barrett,**  
Vice President

## ***Bring your Friends and Come to the GBA Fall Meeting:***

The theme of the conference is ***Interconnection***.

Speakers include Bob Binnie, Jennifer Berry, Patty Parsons, Jay Parsons, Bill Owens, Keith Fielder, Robert Brewer, Dave Miller, Mary Cahill-Roberts, Bear Kelly, Chris Wiley, Tom Hill and Serge Vohlzhskiy. The meeting will be held at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center in Buford. There's a honey show, silent auction and the award of Beekeeper of the Year. Do come and support your state organization. It all happens on September 20 and 21.

You can register and pay your annual dues online by [clicking here](#).

Lodging is available at a rate of \$89 per night (including breakfast) at the Holiday Inn Express in Buford, GA 30518. Tell them you are with the "Bee Group." Their phone number is **678-318-1080**

***"The reality today is that we are all interdependent and have to co-exist on this small planet. Therefore, the only sensible and intelligent way of resolving differences and clashes of interests, whether between individuals or nations, is through dialogue."***  
- ***The Dalai Lama***

### ***Upcoming Bee Events***

#### ***August 5 - 9:***

Eastern Apicultural Society,  
West Chester University,  
West Chester, Pennsylvania

#### ***September 20 - 21:***

GBA Fall Meeting,  
Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage  
Center, Buford, GA

#### ***September 27 - 28***

Alabama Beekeepers Association  
Taylor Road Baptist Church  
Montgomery, AL

### ***The Final Buzz***

Linda and I get really excited to share with you what you all share with us and all of GBA. Kudos to John Wingfield for telling us his "not swarm" story this month and his photos. In the electronic newsletter of today, we make use of color and shape to better communicate with each other. Please get a friend to help document your beekeeping life and share some pictures with us for the GBA newsletter. Pass along the joys and knowledge.

***Gina and Linda***



# Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

September 2013

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman



Randy Ingram, Supervisor, Jimmy Carter's Farm National Park and DeWayne Pitts, Heart of Georgia beekeeper who is providing bees for the park Photo by Bear Kelley

## *Message from the President*

It's National Honey Month so let's all honor our passion for bees and beekeeping by attending the state beekeeping meeting in Gwinnett County.

Scheduled for the state meeting are the annual Honey Show, in which the winners receive monetary awards, and the election of state officers. One of the highlights of the event is recognition of Beekeeper of the Year, an honor given to one of our deserving members. Fourteen vendors have registered to sell beekeeping related items at the meeting.

Later this fall in October an additional honey judging event is scheduled for the Georgia National Fair in Perry . Please encourage your fellow bee keepers to join our organization and attend the state meeting as we continue to grow.

Jerry Edwards, President

## National Honey Bee Day

by Bear Kelley, VP GBA

Saturday, August 17 was National Honey Bee Day and many places around the country celebrated the day with honey shows and bee presentations. Not to be outdone, the management of the Jimmy Carter National Historic site put on a show as well with the Heart of Georgia Beekeeping Association at President Jimmy Carter's boyhood farm, now a national park. Bryan Payne, President of Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association along with several other members, set up displays, an observation hive and a Power Point presentation in the old barn. Visitors were treated to two presentations by Bryan, Jesse McCurdy and Dewayne Pitts on the importance and benefits of beekeeping and how to get started.

Jimmy Carter's Farm is a National Park and one of the parks in Georgia that now has a beekeeping program. The public education available through this program is invaluable. We should all be pushing and supporting the program to have beekeeping in your local national park. If your club has not contacted your local park, form a committee and go to work!



Jesse McCurdy teaching about bees at the Jimmy Carter National Historic site on August 17.

### Street Cred:

#### USA- STUDY TO CHECK THE HONEY ANTIOXIDANT PROPERTIES

Sunday, 04 August 2013 08:30

Written by Analia Manriquez

In the study, 25 men took a drink of four tablespoons of honey in a 16 ounce glass of water daily for five weeks. This made the levels of antioxidants in their blood increase dramatically. Other research from this lab has shown that the darker the honey, the better it was at increasing antioxidant levels.

“ Finally, the theory and practice of beekeeping is dynamic, not static. Our knowledge of bee biology and management grows exponentially with the passing years.

Read, attend bee meetings, share your knowledge and strive to be a good citizen in the fraternity of beekeepers. “

Dr. Keith Delaplane

*First Lessons in Beekeeping*



## Ask 10 Beekeepers a Question.....

### *A Non-invasive Technique for Monitoring Colonies*

by Tom Rearick

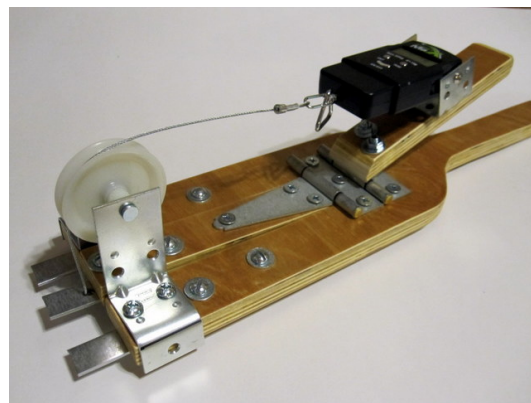
It would be nice to have a device that could tell you about the health of any honey bee colony in your bee yard. The perfect device has not been invented yet, but there is a non-invasive, hand-held device that you can build for less than \$50 that can tell you quite a lot:

- which colonies are thriving and which are not
- which colonies require feeding and how much - Note: more colonies perish from starvation than CCD.
- when major nectar flows start and stop
- when to add supers during a nectar flow
- how colonies & seasons compare from one year to the next
- the population of the swarm that just flew away

By understanding the processes that account for weight gain and loss and knowing that 3500 bees weight roughly a pound, a hive scale can provide objective evidence of what is going on in your colonies.

I purchased a cast iron platform scale from Craigslist a few years ago, refinished it, and placed a hive on it. It is great for taking lots of measurements in one day but the platform scale is expensive and only practical for weighing a single hive. Over time, mud dabbler wasps, rust, and critters reduce the accuracy and precision of platform scales. I like to put my hives on screened bottom boards and on stands that lift them off of the ground – but you can't do that easily with a platform scale.

Then I discovered a \$16 electronic luggage scale on eBay and wondered if I could use it to weigh a hive. The result is my original pry scale design – a contraption that would make Rube Goldberg proud. It is basically a 3 prong fork that is inserted into a slot in the back of a hive. The outermost two prongs push down while the middle prong lifts and tilts the back of hive upward perhaps half an inch. That lifting force is measured by the luggage scale and is approximately one half the total weight of the hive. That enables my luggage scale with its normal maximum load of 125 lbs to weigh a 250 lb. hive.



Calibration of the pry scale shows precision to be within 1.4 lbs. of the correct weight 68% of the time. It may not be as accurate as a newly calibrated platform scale but it does not lose accuracy over time and is accurate enough that plotting the relative change in daily hive weigh provides valuable insights.

The pry scale was built for \$47.22 and weighs about the same as a bathroom scale. The luggage scale came from eBay and just about everything is found in Home Depot or Lowes. The parts list and building instructions are available online at my BeeHacker blog, [http://www.beehacker.com/wp/?page\\_id=55](http://www.beehacker.com/wp/?page_id=55) or at <http://www.instructables.com/id/Build-a-scale-to-weigh-bee-hives/>. Beekeepers have used these plans to build pry scales from as far away as France.

To use the pry scale, I approach a hive from the rear. I don't wear a veil because this is an entirely non-invasive, non-intrusive event. I insert the three prongs into a slot in the back of the hive, zero out the luggage scale, then push down on the lever. A bubble level and a set screw insure that my measurements are made the same way each time – this improves precision from measurement to measurement. I then write down the gross weight which is entered into a spreadsheet later. The operation takes about 20 seconds and the bees are no



wiser. I try to take measurements at the same time every day. This is because a hive in the evening can weigh several pounds more than it did in the morning.

Also on the BeeHacker blog is an interactive and annotated timeline of hive net weights throughout the year (<http://www.beehacker.com/apiary>). To calculate net weights, woodenware is weighed before it is stacked on the hive and then that weight is subtracted from the gross weight. A spreadsheet makes this easy. However, what counts is change in weight so you can make really good use of the pry scale even without having the weights of the equipment before bees, wax, honey, etc. were added.

Dear Aunt Bee,

My bees have run away from home. They were happy one minute with honey and brood. Then the next time I looked at my hive, they had packed up everything and gone completely away. I mean they didn't leave a single thing - no dead bodies on the bottom, no honey, only three or four capped brood cells in the whole hive - gone, gone, gone. Was I a bad bee mama? What should I have done?

Signed, Gone but Not Forgotten

Dear Gone but Not Forgotten,

Sometimes bees abscond. This is different from swarming. They completely leave the hive and take as much in their honey stomachs as they can carry. We can't ask them but the assumptions are that they might leave for different reasons. Sometimes if the hive is overrun with small hive beetles, the bees will leave. Sometimes if the nectar flow has dried up and they can't find any stores anywhere, they will leave. In most cases absconding takes place when there is no nectar flow and the bees just go somewhere and die...instead of dying at home.



Signed, Your Sad Aunt Bee (contributed by Linda Tillman)

***Interview with Linda Tillman, Julia Mahood, and Noah Macey, all Master Beekeepers, on their Beekeeping Trip to Lithuania***

Done with Gina Gallucci by email and phone

Linda, what made you say, "Yes" to this emailed travel advertisement?

Going to Lithuania on a beekeeping tour sounded like a great adventure. And I love doing just about anything with Julia and Noah, so when they wanted to do it, I was all in. We had no idea until we got to the country how significant bees and beekeeping are to the Lithuanian culture.



Julia, were you interested in going right away and did you have any reservations about have your son Noah join you?

I thought it sounded a little off the beaten path, which always interests! No reservations about Noah going, quite the opposite in fact!

Noah, had you traveled internationally and if so where?

Have you been to any former Soviet block countries? I'd traveled internationally a few times before, but never to Europe and never to any former Soviet countries.



All three, please tell us anything you were expecting from Lithuania in terms of beekeeping practices or honey production?

**Linda:** I assumed they kept bees pretty much like we do but we found the traditional boxes they use are not Langstroth boxes but instead are like huge trunks to hold the beehive and keep it warm during the winter. On top of the colony inside the trunk-like hive box, they keep a stuffed pillow like you'd find on a sofa. I asked if they picked these up on the side of the road and they said they made them just for the "family" which is what they call the bee colony.

**Julia:** In addition to the old fashioned hives, they had more US like Langstroth hives, but they were built with thick walls and insulated to help with the harsh winter. They also put food grade plastic wrap over the top of the top box, before the top goes on. In most ways, though, it was pretty much like the US way of beekeeping.



Linda, tell us about what kind of Lithuanian food you had and if you got any recipes?

The food in Lithuania wasn't remarkable. They eat a lot of potatoes and fatty meat. But I loved a "beetroot soup" that we had several times - it was like a cold cucumber soup with beets in it and was PINK! I came home to the US, found a recipe for it online, and made it for myself within a day or two of coming back.



Noah, how were you received regarding your being a 16 year old Master Beekeeper?

Our credentials didn't impress anyone much--the people we spoke with assumed anyone who would embark on a beekeeping tour of a country only slightly larger than West Virginia would already have ample bee knowledge. Also, I'm crotchety far beyond my years, so they probably thought I was older.

Linda, how many apiaries did you visit and what was your biggest surprise or impressions?

We visited three apiaries and a beekeeping museum with live hives. The most interesting apiary was set up in an historical park to demonstrate ancient beekeeping. The beekeeper there shinned up trees using a hand-braided rope and a homemade wooden seat and pulley apparatus so that he could inspect beehives that were fifteen feet up. We also visited two beekeepers - one commercial with apiaries near Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, and the other, a sideliner with hives near the Latvian border. Both of these different beekeepers invited us into their homes at the end of our apiary tour and fed us Lithuanian cheese, honey, mead and other treats. The beekeepers in Lithuania face the same issues of varroa that we do, and the issue of safe nectar sources for their bees.



Julia, what is their treatment approach? Did you speak to anyone regarding your thoughts regarding chemical free beekeeping and if so, what was the response?

The beekeepers we visited treated for Varroa. One used oxalic acid and drone foundation to cull the mite population. The other used something in a fogger, Amitraz, I think. Lucky Lithuanians don't have small hive beetles! The first beekeeper we met seemed indignant that we didn't use chemicals in our hives.



Noah, what did you think about this exchange?

I think words like "spirited" and "lively" are the politically correct terms. It was a conversation between a very traditional beekeeper and a very non-traditional beekeeper, and I assume that both parties must have sounded more hostile post-translation.

Noah, what can you tell us about Lithuanian beekeeping history and culture?

People have been beekeeping in Lithuania since prehistory. As in most areas, honey hunters slowly coaxed the bees down from the trees over thousands of years as technology improved, first in the form of carved-out logs and then in the more modern box hive. At one point, Lithuania was the biggest producer of beeswax in all of Europe.

Lithuanians had two bee gods, Babilas and Austeja, whom they worshipped for thousands of years before the country converted to Christianity. For many years, the beekeeper served as the village mediator as he was assumed to have the most calm, patient demeanor, and during that same time period, it was customary for villagers to take off their hats as they passed an apiary.

Julia, are you able to see more similarities or differences between U.S. and Lithuania Beekeepers?

Beekeeping in general is more prevalent and respected in Lithuania. We traveled the country from North to South and saw beehives everywhere.

All three, could you envision hosting beekeepers from around the world for a Georgia area beekeeping tour - you know, in your spare time?

Part of the reason the tour was so interesting and so much fun was that the countryside was just gorgeous in Lithuania. Every village had a pair of storks, for example and there were wildflowers everywhere.

We just don't have that to show people, although I think visiting beekeepers might be interested in how we manage bees in an urban area.

All three, what is the most important or interesting thing you learned because you said yes to this opportunity?

**Linda:** I loved learning about how beekeeping affected the culture and language of Lithuania and I loved communicating with the local beekeepers. One night in a spa town, Julia and I each had a honey massage! With real honey! That was a first for me.



“The Biology of the honeybee is constructed around using energy and material from the environment, and organizing these to ensure the propagation daughter colonies of the highest quality. This insight is the key to understanding the amazing achievement and performance of honeybees.”

Dr. Jürgen Tautz

*THE BUZZ ABOUT BEES*

**Noah:** I found learning about the methods of early honey-hunters to be especially fascinating.

**Julia:** It was interesting to visit a country that had been occupied by the Soviets, and to learn about their history. Seeing a different way of life, living with beekeeping as an important part of the community, was really nice.

Note from Gina: For those who don't know, Linda Tillman keeps [Linda T's Bees Blog](#) and has several pages devoted to this experience. Just search Lithuania on her blog.



### Bee Club of the Month

Because everyone should come to GBA's Fall Meeting in Gwinnett, we are not featuring a club of the month. All of our Georgia clubs are the clubs of this month and should be represented in Gwinnett at the fall meeting.

### Upcoming Honey Shows Ordered by Date

**Metro Atlanta Beekeepers: Picnic, Auction, and Honey Show on September 15. [Details here.](#)**

**GBA Honey show at GBA Fall Meeting at Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center in Buford, GA Sept 20 - 21. [Details here.](#)**

**South Carolina Foothills Heritage Fair, Oct 1 - 5 in Westminster, SC. Honey entries due 9/28 or 9/29. Details [Contact Jeff Blackwell](#)**

**WELSHfest and Honey Show, March 15, 2014. Rockmart, GA [Details can be found here.](#)**

### Survey Results from August

We wanted to know how you learned to keep bees.

**21** of you answered our survey. Of those who answered:

**63.2%** of you read a lot of books and articles

**47.4%** of you took a short course

**42.1%** of you studied web sites, blogs and forum sites on the Internet

**21.1%** of you found a mentor

**10.5%** of you learned from a family member who is a beekeeper

**5.3%** of you took a certified beekeeping course

**Other:** Joined local and state bee clubs. One person said they learned by "a wing and a prayer!"

This month our survey is on [How Do You Harvest Your Honey: Inquiring Minds Want to Know???](#)

Please have fun and participate in this monthly one question survey by clicking on the link in blue.

### *Recipe of the Month*

The featured recipe this month can be entered into the Honey Contest at the fall meeting of GBA. It must be made **by this recipe** and submitted by noon on the first day of the meeting (Sept 20):

#### *Plain Honey Cake*

2 cups self-rising flour  
8 oz honey by weight  
9 1/2 Tablespoons butter  
2 eggs  
Pinch of salt

Cream together butter and honey. Beat eggs well and add alternately with sifted flour and salt to the honey/butter mixture. If needed add a little milk.

Bake in a greased 8 inch round cake pan at 325 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes or until a tooth pick comes out clean.

**No additions to the Honey Cake Recipe Please!**

#### *Beekeeper Bytes*

Georgia Beekeeper Christine Fahrnbauer was featured in Enjoy! Cherokee. You can read the article about her [here](#)



*Steve Page sent us [this very interesting link](#) explaining the long shelf life of honey (think Egyptian tombs!). Thanks, Steve, for your ongoing contributions to this newsletter!*

### *The Final Buzz*

This newsletter is at its best when we get lots of contributions. Please send us your stories, your photos, your beekeeping news. We love to share your material with beekeepers all over the state. We also publish this newsletter online [here](#). People are coming from other places to read it. Since Gina and I began editing it, there have been 3352 visits to our web publication of Spilling the Honey! Although most people who visit our page are from Georgia, we've had visitors from Virginia, Alabama, California and even Australia in the last month. We'd love to put your news and information in the newsletter to share with others as well. Let us hear from you.

Linda and Gina

# Spilling the Honey

Co-editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman



Our new president, Bear Kelley, judging the honey show at the September meeting

photo by Marybeth Kelley

## *The President's Message*

I would like to thank all of you for the confidence in me in choosing me to be State President. I will endeavor to continue the professionalism of this office and uphold the responsibilities that are expected of me. We all know that any leader is only as good as the people around him. I want to thank those who have chosen to stand with me this year:

- Mary Cahill-Roberts as Vice President;
- Rose-Anne Fielder as Treasurer,
- Andy Bailey as Secretary,
- Brutz English as North GA Director;
- Steve Prince as Middle GA Director and
- Steve Cobb as South GA Director.



And let's don't forget Linda Tillman and Gina Gallucci who Spill the Honey and Bill Owens, our link to the outside world as the Webmaster. I also want to thank all those who worked so hard at putting the fall meeting together. The sponsoring clubs, the Heritage Center, and everyone else who committed so much time, money and effort; please accept everyone's gratitude.

Also thanks to all who attended our annual meeting this year at the Gwinnett Heritage Center. Your attendance there is the life blood of our organization. I met so many new folks and visited with members whom I have met before. One of the highlights of this year's meeting was that we approved three new clubs for inclusion into the GBA. Those were Lake Country; East Metro and Ogeechee Beekeepers in Statesboro. We welcome them and all their members. We encourage them to get involved with Georgia Beekeepers Association.

We discussed The GBA membership quite a bit at this meeting and with 24 clubs throughout the state, we have approximately 1200 individual club members, but less than 200 of those are actual members of GBA. Only about 16% of Georgia's known beekeepers are involved with GBA. Club presidents, let's go to work and help our numbers grow. Your GBA officers are willing to help out anyway we can. I would like to report at our next meeting a much greater number. My contact info as well as the other officers is listed on the GBA website. Again, thank you all for your support and I hope to see and hear from you throughout the year.

**Bear Kelley,**  
GBA President

### ***From our outgoing president:***

As I end three years of combined service as President and Vice President of GA Beekeepers, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported the club and projects during my tenure and wish Bear Kelley success as he becomes the new president. Initiating a newsletter; welcoming three new local clubs; encouraging more member participation throughout all areas of the state; appointing a proactive legislative committee; developing a rapport with national agricultural lobbyists; extending the relationship with the Georgia Farm Bureau; and promoting unity and camaraderie among members help define my tenure. I will continue to be an active member in our club as we all strive to improve life for the "girls" as we save the world, one bee at a time.

**Jerry Edwards,**  
Past President, GBA



Honey show entries at September state meeting

photo by Marybeth Kelley

### Honey Show Photos from the Fall Meeting



### Georgia Beekeeper of the Year

Bruce Morgan is our 2013 Georgia Beekeepers Association Beekeeper of the Year. Bruce began beekeeping in 2006 after his son-in-law, Dr. Jamie Ellis, asked him to build some cypress hives for him. He found that his woodworking skills and beekeeping went hand in hand, and over the years built his apiary up to about 60 colonies.

He respects his bees, and willingly shares his experience, knowledge, and even his extractor when needed. He is a welcomed mentor to anyone in need.



Bruce, father of Dr. Amanda Ellis who is also a beekeeper, started the Lake Country Beekeepers Association last year. They already have over 50 supportive members representing an eight county area. He is the current President and has already been an instrumental part of the club's first beekeeping short course held earlier this year. Beekeeping is a labor of love for him, as he does bee removals, moves bees to Sourwood, sells honey, and builds and sells beekeeping equipment in the Sparta area. His club members admire and respect his skills and willingness to help educate others.

Congratulations to Bruce Morgan

**Try this at home or right this very second:**

**If you have a smart phone and a scanning App, scan this QR code (made for us by our own Bear Kelley) and see where it takes you!**



**If you need a scanning App, find it free from your phone App Store**



At this year's Fall 2013 Georgia Beekeeper's Association Meeting, Jay Parsons won the 6/3 frame honey extractor which was donated to the raffle by Mann Lake Bee Supplies.

Jay has been very fortunate to have won a number of the GBA raffles over the last few years and would like to share this fortune with his home club, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers.

He said that he would like to have this extractor made available to other club members over the next year who may not otherwise have a way to process their honey. At the end of this next bee year the extractor may have to give up its communal duties and be offered up for a new owner at MABAs next fall auction.

## Another State Park Beehive!

Rozalyn M. Todd just received a grant from Beautification Environment Education (BEE) to place a beehive near the lake at Panola Mountain State Park in Lithonia, Ga. The Busy Buzz Club of DeKalb Elementary School of the Arts in Atlanta, Georgia will place the beehive at the park in March, 2014. Rozalyn received her certification with Bear as a honey judge in May, 2013.

## *The one that got away:*



## Survey Results from September:

We wanted to know how you harvest honey. **Thirty-four** of you answered our question about honey harvest. Here are the results:

- 82.4% of you use an extractor
- 29.4% of you harvest by crush and strain
- 17.6% of you make cut comb honey
- 17.6% of you make chunk honey
- 8.8% of you make creamed honey

Our October topic is about the meeting at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center on Sept 20-21. If you didn't go, we want to know why you didn't go. And if you did, we want your feedback. To participate in this month's survey, [Click here.](#)

*This swarm (probably a hive that absconded) was hanging at the Atlanta Howard School. As Vince arrived to capture it, climbed the ladder and was two steps away from it, the swarm took off. Well, you know what they say: a swarm in May is worth a load of hay, a swarm in June is worth a silver spoon, a swarm in July isn't worth a fly....but this was September. Hmmm.*

## Beekeeping with African Bees in

### Malawi

by John Wingfield



Mr. Tom Columbus

At our August meeting of the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association, Mr Tom Columbus spoke about his experiences in Malawi, Africa with African bees. These bees were the original African bees. The strain we deal with are a hybrid of European and these African bees.

He introduced people of Malawi to beekeeping while there originally as a Peace Corp volunteer. His presentation was most interesting and very informative. Yes, the African bees are aggressive and have a tendency to swarm more than their European cousins. When they swarm they seek a home similar to the home that they just abandoned.

He also mentioned that there are no glass production facilities in Malawi so they used tin cans and old bottles to deliver their honey. Hygiene was also a problem. He stayed in Malawi for an extended period of years before returning to the USA.

He had some very interesting ideas about the future of beekeeping. According to him we will all be raising African bees in the future. He has a website. The link is: <http://www.africanbees.net/index.html>. Be certain to visit his page "Scutellata" found at the top of the page. In fact you might want to visit all of his web site pages. They make you appreciate that you live here in the USA.

*Dear Aunt Bee,*

*This year I decided to enter creamed honey in the honey contest. Some of my honey from last year was crystallizing so I used that to make the creamed honey. I thought it was delicious, but the judges said it tasted like last year's honey. I was bummed.*

*How did they know? How can I use last year's honey without it tasting like last year's honey?*

*Signed,  
Down and Disappointed*

*Dear Down and Disappointed,*

*Keep your bottled honey in the freezer to maintain its freshness and flavor. All honey begins to ferment a little under the lid after a while, but in the freezer this process is kept at bay. While it is still last year's honey, honey that has been stored in the freezer can be used to make this year's creamed honey without the last year's taste.*

*Good luck in the next contest.*

*Signed,  
Your Aunt Bee*



(hint contributed originally by Jim Ovbey and expanded by Keith Fielder)

**"That which is not good for  
the bee-hive cannot be good  
for the bees."  
Marcus Aurelius**

*"Tart words make no friends; a spoonful of honey will catch more flies than a gallon of vinegar."*

*--Benjamin Franklin*

## Why a honey face mask?

Did you ever try a honey mask or use honey in your skin care regime? Honey is a humectant, which means it will attract and keep moisture inside your skin. This hydration makes that your skin supple, elastic and silky soft. Honey also has anti-oxidant properties which play an important role in protecting your skin against damage from UV (ultra violet) sun light. The darker the honey the stronger the anti-oxidant effect



### How to do it:

Warm up the honey until it becomes liquid (not too hot!) by putting it in a small glass or metal bowl which is immersed in hot water. This way you have more control and it doesn't burn. When it is nice and warm smooth the honey gently and equally with a facial mask brush or spatula on your clean face and neck; keep the eye area clear. Now lie down, relax and leave the mask on for 15-20 minutes. Wash it off with warm water, end with a splash of cold; pat your skin dry with a clean towel. Finally apply a moisturizer, this way you "seal" your skin to keep the water inside.

## Ask 10 Beekeepers A Question:

### Checking for Varroa

A basic varroa trap: Beneath the screened bottom board, put a white piece of corrugated board spread with something sticky like Vaseline or use contact paper. Leave this trap in the colony for 2 days and then take it out to count the mites. In Georgia, the threshold to treat was set at 40 mites per day.

**Jay Parson:** I like to keep my in-box time to a minimum, as do the bees. I'll stay with the sticky board. You can give it a quick spray with "Pam" or Vaseline. Slide the lightweight panel in under the screened bottom board and you're done. Come back in 24 hours or 3 days and do a quick count. Three days is nice because you can do a count and then average to get your 24 hour rate. I like using the sticky board during a miticide treatment as then you get a big visual of how effective the treatment is.

**Virginia Webb:** The sticky board drop and count is the easiest.

**Bill Owens:** Varroa count? Huh? I can see how they are if the hive survived!

### Street Cred:

A really informative article on the Small Hive Beetle can be [found here](#)

### ***Current Georgia Beekeepers Association Officers:***

President: Bear Kelley  
Vice President: Mary Cahill Roberts  
Secretary: Andy Bailey  
Treasurer: Rose-Anne Fielder  
Past President: Jerry Edwards  
North Georgia Director: Brutz English  
Middle Georgia Director: Steve Prince  
South Georgia Director: Steve Cobb  
Newsletter Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman  
Webmaster: Bill Owens

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### ***Upcoming Bee Events:***

#### ***October 4: Georgia National Fair Honey Show***

Georgia National Fairgrounds, Perry, Georgia

GBA Members Free; non GBA Members \$15 (includes 1 year GBA membership)

[More Information, click here](#)

### ***The Final Buzz***

# Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

November 2013



Ribbons at GBA Honey Show: Photo by John Wingfield

## *Message from the President:*

### *Show Me the “Honey”*

Once again, our wonderful newsletter hits the streets, airwaves and desktops all over Georgia. I can't begin to tell you what a great experience it is working with “Glinda”. That is Gina and Linda. Since they took over the ‘Spilling the Honey’ Newsletter, we have been communicating much, much better with our membership.

This month, I want to highlight the Honey Shows we sponsor. For the most part, Honey is the reason we mess around with bees. I know, a lot of you will say, No Bear; we appreciate watching nature and learning about the wonderful way our bees pollinate plant to plant, flower to flower. The education I have received since I started keeping (or try to keep) bees has been better than any college program.

But in the end it's the honey that is the ultimate payoff to all of our work. We know how proud we are on extraction day when we see the golden flow filling our buckets and our honey jars. Whether you are Bob Bennie filling 55 gallon drums or

Marcy Cornell filling some of her first jars, seeing the sweet golden sticky stuff is a wonderful feeling. In jarring honey, beekeepers learn the high standards of packaging a food product. Done right, you can feel pride that your customers are receiving the best product you can give them.

Every fall, the GBA Honey Show is hosted at the GBA member meeting. Cindy Hodges took home “best in Show” for 2013. Congratulations to Cindy for all her hard work. There were a lot of good entrants in a lot of categories, and we encourage even more participation next year.

The newest Honey Show that GBA sponsored this year was the Georgia National Fair Honey Show in Perry, GA this past October. This was the first that Honey was judged. I challenged all to participate. Since it was the first year, we limited the categories to extracted honey. We had 13 entrants, 3 judges and 1 steward participating. The contest was organized by Steve Prince and Brutz English with some help from Jessie and Hazel McCurdy. Thank you to the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association for hosting the show. In the future, the GBA Directors will have the responsibility of organizing and putting on this show.

The winners were:

Light Extraction:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: M. Bondurant

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Slade Jarrett

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Jay Parsons

Amber Extraction:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Cindy Hodges

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: RoseAnne Fielder

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Brutz English

Dark Extraction:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Marcy Cornell

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Cindy Hodges

Black Jar:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Slade Jarrett

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Q. Plemmons-Wilke

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Brutz English

And a little drum roll please. The Best in Show winner was Cindy Hodges again.



I want to thank all of the participants, workers, judges and stewards who helped out with both shows this year. Going forward, we are posting all the known honey shows in Georgia on our web site now so that you can participate. In addition, we have started listing all the certified judges and their contact info on the web site. If you need judges, you can contact them directly. If you are a judge or are having a honey show and are not listed, send us the info and we will make sure your info gets out there.

As you know we don't usually have a honey show at the Spring GBA meeting, but we are going to start having the **Mead and Beer** show at the gathering this spring. So if you are bottling this winter, set some aside for the show. The rules will be posted soon. Again, thank you all for your support on these programs and I hope to hear from you throughout the year.

**Bear Kelley**

GBA President

*"The sweetest honey is loathsome in his own deliciousness And in the taste confounds the appetite."  
William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616), Romeo and Juliet*

***Good Beekeepers Make  
Good Neighbors***

***If you are friends with one of our few members who doesn't access the computer well, consider printing out the newsletter and sharing it with them!***

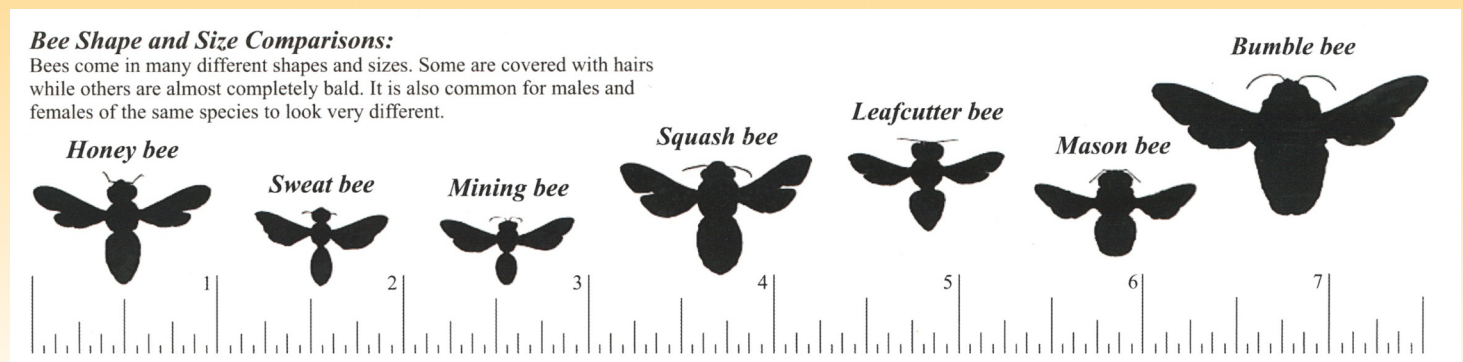
### ***Scarecrows in the Atlanta Botanical Garden***

The Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association meets monthly at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Each October one of our members volunteers to create a "scarecrow" to show in the annual Scarecrow in the Garden show. This year's entry was created by MABA member, Melissa Bondurant. She called it "A Beekeeper's Dream" because it is such a large queen – this queen bee is seven feet long!



(photo by Florence Love)

Kevin Baker shared with us an interesting comparative chart from the [Bee Friendly Farming Initiative](#). There are 4,000 species of bee in North America. This chart provides measurements of a few you might know:



Thanks, Kevin

### Club of the Month:

#### *The Ogeechee Area Beekeepers Association*

When I started keeping bees a few years ago, I was interested in becoming part of a local club. So I logged on to the GBA site and found that in Emanuel County, dead center of the southeastern portion of the State, there were no GBA affiliated clubs. Macon, Savannah and Burke County were all too far away. But today there is a new dot on the GBA map: the Ogeechee Area Beekeepers Association.

Dr. Brent Tharp of Georgia Southern University Museum and others stepped up to the challenge of creating a bee club to fill the need in our area. The first meeting was in February, attended by 14 people. We officially organized during our July meeting. We are currently at 21 individual and family memberships, with approximately 50 other interested individuals on our email list who have yet to join. Our members come from various backgrounds and levels of experience. A highlight comes at the end of our meetings when we all discuss what's going on in our apiaries, ask each other questions, and listen to various opinions offered.

As we continue to grow, one thing we want to do is be a resource to our community. Individual members have been representing and promoting the club at area events such as Greenfest, the Ogeechee Kiwanis Fair, and at the Georgia Southern University Botanical Garden. We look forward to working with these and other partners in the future to educate the public on bees and beekeeping.

Our website is [OABees.com](#). Member John MacDonald serves our webmaster. He set up the site with a vision of building an online community for the OABeeA. One of the unique benefits of membership with the OABeeA is the opportunity to have your own page on the OABeeA site. Members can use it as a blog, a place to post photos, or even build their own webpage dedicated to their apiary. This is a great benefit for members who do not already have a website for their apiary. As more and more members set up their sites, it gives everyone the chance to learn more about each other and the respective apiaries in the OABeeA.



*Dear Aunt Bee,*

*I was recently at the local country fair where I saw an observation hive, which was amazing. But it got me to wondering, and I didn't have time to stay there and watch them all night long, but do bees EVER sleep? Don't they need to rest from all that hard work?*

*Signed,  
Too sleepy to watch*

*Dear Too Sleepy,*

*We work hard at "Spilling the Honey" to research your questions. This one took us to a similar question posted on BeeSource in 2002. Michael Bush, a well-known speaker and author from Nebraska, answered with a quote from the New Observations on the Natural History of Bees by Francoise Huber:*

*"When the workers penetrate the cells, and remain fifteen or twenty minutes motionless, I have reason to believe, it is to repose from their labours. My observations on the subject seem correct. You know, Sir, that a kind of irregular shaped cells, are frequently constructed on the panes of the hive. These, being glass on one side, are exceedingly convenient to the observe, since all that passes within is exposed. I have often seen bees enter these cells when nothing could attract them. The cells contained neither eggs nor honey, nor did they need further completion. Therefore the workers repaired thither only to enjoy some moments of repose. Indeed, they were fifteen or twenty minutes so perfectly motionless, that had not the dilation of the rings, shewed their respiration, we might have concluded them dead. The queen also sometimes penetrates the cells of the males, and continues very long motionless in them. Her position prevents the bees from paying their full homage to her, yet even then the workers do not fail to form a circle around her and brush the part of her belly that remains exposed."*

*So rest easy, bees do take a break in their busy days!*

*Your Aunt Bee*



Note: Thanks to Christine Farnbauer for the question and indirectly to Michael Bush for the answer! Michael has Huber's Vol. 1 and 2 translated in full [on his website](#). Huber wrote and researched in the late 1700s.

### **Virginia Webb**

continues to represent Georgia well all around the world. At Apimondia this year she won one gold, three silver and one bronze medal at Kiev. Congratulations. We could all learn a lot from your ability to present your honey.



Globs of Goldenrod on bee's leg -  
photo by Christin Farnbauer

## Computers, Beekeeping and Nectar Management

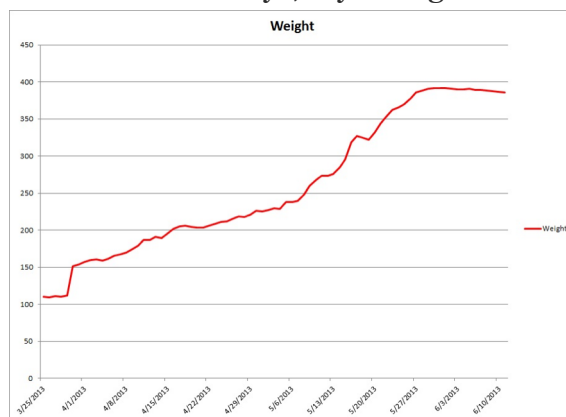
by Steven Page  
September 2013

When June arrives each year I am already looking forward to and planning on the spring nectar flow arriving in nine months.

This article addresses my observations and the results of nectar management of my hive scale hive. My hive scale hive sits on a scale with a temperature sensor in the brood area and a temperature sensor on the outside of the hive. The three readings are recorded every 5 minutes. The hive scale has been operating since April 2012. More information is available at <http://www.hivetool.org/> my hive scale is GA005.

My hive scale is located in Coweta County southwest of Atlanta. Our spring was late with cool and rainy weather. We had snow flurries on March 27.

On March 29 our main nectar flow started and continued until May 31. With the exception of bad weather days, my hive gained weight every day for two months.



Some days the bees added ten to twelve pounds. During the main nectar flow the net increase in weight was 220 pounds topping out at 392 pounds.

I harvested 144 pounds of honey off this one hive. At \$8 per pound, the total retail sales from this one hive is over \$1,000.

How did I get this hive to produce so much honey? Nectar management...

This hive started the year weak. In February I added three frames of capped brood and fed the hive to get the population up to a critical mass. They responded accordingly and started raising brood preparing for the nectar flow. After the population grew I started nectar management manipulations of the brood and honey frames. The nectar management manipulations should have been done about February first but the hive was too weak. Due to the late start I accomplished the manipulations multiple times opening up the honey cap allowing the workers to store nectar and giving the queen unlimited comb for eggs.

The bees responded by growing the colony well past 50,000 workers. There was brood in the deep and three shallow supers. After adding multiple supers during the main flow the hive ended up taller than me with one deep, eight shallow supers and one medium super. The top super was not used for honey storage. Inspecting this hive was a joy as every super was full of bees. Forget about finding the queen, she was somewhere in four supers. If I found eggs I knew she was there and viable.

It is important to stay ahead of the bees. For each ten pounds of nectar collected the colony produces five pounds of honey. If the weight increases by ten to twelve pounds each day, they can make a shallow super of honey in as few as five days. Considering that the nectar flow in the piedmont of Georgia last for six to eight weeks adding supers before the bees run out of storage is important.

I have been working on perfecting nectar management for a few years now. Based on my climate with apple trees blossoming in early April, **the first manipulation** should be completed about eight weeks prior or about February first. The hive will require a deep and three shallow supers for this manipulation. One of the shallow supers should be full of honey. All frames must have drawn comb. The deep super with the cluster is moved to the bottom board. The next two shallow supers each have five frames of honey and five frames of empty comb. The frames alternate full and empty both horizontally and vertically. The last super of empty drawn comb goes on top. The colony no longer has a honey cap and plenty of empty comb for eggs and nectar. No honey was removed from the hive it was just repositioned.

The colony continues to prepare to swarm but with so much empty comb they should not be able to completely prepare and hopefully abandon the goal of swarming in April.

As spring advances add supers to stay ahead of the colony.

In late April or early May a shallow super of capped brood is moved to the bottom of the hive with the deep just above. After the brood emerges the colony will store pollen in this bottom super. The pollen will be used to raise the fall workers resulting in an empty super for the following February.



### Glazed Baby Carrots

1 pound young organic carrots  
 1 T unsalted butter  
 1 T local honey  
 1 T squeezed lemon juice

Wash and peel carrots. Cut into 1/2 inch slices. Place carrots in nonreactive saucepan. Put water in pan to cover the bottom and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover, and simmer for 5 minutes or less until carrots are tender to your liking. Drain carrots and return to saucepan. Add butter and heat enough to melt the butter. Then add the honey and lemon juice. Toss carrots to coat, add salt to taste and serve.

Adapted from [The Fresh Honey Cookbook](#) by Laury Masterton

## God, Friends and Honeybees

**By Bruce Morgan  
Georgia Beekeeper of the Year 2013**

For years I have tried to plant seeds with fellow beekeepers and customers of my honeybee supply business about starting a club in my area of Georgia. With the help of fellow beekeeper Mary Lacksen, a meeting was held in October 2012 to see what kind of interest there was about forming a club. There was enough interest to schedule a meeting for November with Dr. Jamie Ellis, my son-in-law, as our speaker. This got the club started and we held our next meeting in January.

At the January meeting the requirements for establishing a club were brought forth to those attending. We elected officers, board members, approved by-laws, selected a club name, and set annual dues. I was elected President of the Lake Country Beekeepers Association.

Back in June 2012, I injured my shoulder in a bee removal. I continued in pain for the rest of the year. In January 2013, I made an appointment with a doctor to look at my shoulder. He gave me a quick fix with a cortisone shot and some medication. About two weeks later I started having chest pains that eventually resulted in my going to the ER. While the medical tests did not show a heart problem, the doctor ordered a CT scan to see if I had any blood clots. The CT scan did not show any problems in my chest area but it did show a mass on my right kidney that the doctor said appeared to be cancer. I was released to go home, not knowing what the future would hold for me. The pain in my chest was being caused by a side effect of the medication I was given for my shoulder. Word spread pretty fast of my condition through several beekeeping clubs and my previous place of work. I started receiving cards, was placed on prayer lists and got supportive calls from people I did not even know.

So at the January start-up meeting of our new bee club, I told the members about my condition and told them that I did not know what was ahead for me. We decided that a Beginners Beekeeping Short Course on March 8, 2013, would be a good way to encourage beekeeping in the area and build up club membership, but I was concerned about my ability to participate. I had contacted Mr. Keith Fielder in the neighboring county the previous week, told him of my condition, and asked for his help. He came to the meeting and was very helpful with the start-up. He also agreed to help teach the short course with me doing what I could to help.

In early February, my wife and I made the trip to Atlanta to consult with a doctor at Emory. After the doctor reviewed the CT scan, he said he would just go in and remove the mass and save my kidney. We left feeling a whole lot better about the situation. I was scheduled for surgery on March 15, a week after our short course.

Unexpectedly I received a call that my surgery had been moved up to March 1, 2013. I immediately contacted Mr. Keith Fielder who assured me that he could handle the whole day. I also had ordered 24 packages of bees to be picked up on March 7 and be installed. This health problem was happening at the busiest beekeeping time for me.

I reported to Emory for surgery on March 1. The doctor removing a small lemon sized mass from my right kidney. In my follow-up with the doctor on March 7, I heard that while the tumor was cancer, the margins were clear and no further treatment would be

needed.

I was free to head south to Jackson and pickup the 24 packages of bees. I had already set up the hives for the bees before my surgery. Another good friend, David Beville, helped me to install the packages. David did most of the work and drove me around.

The next day was the short course. With a lot of help from friends, we were able to pull it off. There were 28 people attending to learn more about beekeeping. I was even able to teach a segment of the course and install a couple of package bees for the host, Elm Street Gardens, and the attendees. Within a couple of weeks I was back in the bee yard and shop.

God works in ways sometimes we do not understand. Was it hurting my shoulder with the chainsaw to remove the honeybees and having side effects of the medication that caused the chest pain? Was it the doctor that ordered the CT scan that found my cancer in an early stage? Was it all the prayers that were sent my way?

As an update, the Lake Country Beekeeping Association is doing well with the best members anyone could ask for. My checkup at three months did not reveal any problems.

I would like to thank God, my wife, my family, my church and all my friends that have supported me throughout the year. It is a great honor to be named Beekeeper of the Year and I will continue to promote the art of beekeeping.

Some of the Oldest Beekeepers in Georgia:

**Fred Rossman:** Since 1987

**Hardeman Apiaries:** For over 30 years

**Wilbanks Apiaries:** Since 1948 - 65 years

**Amanda Zeiler's Honey:** Since 1935

Let us know about long term operations in your part of Georgia!

Last month's survey became dysfunctional so we only got a few answers before the web questionnaire quit working. Our results are not meaningful!

Help us do better this month. Click [HERE](#) and go take our one question survey about *honey that has crystallized*.



## *Upcoming Bee Events:*

### *January 18, 2014*

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Short Course, Atlanta Botanical Garden.  
8:30 - 4:30 \$95 If you know someone who'd like a good start in beekeeping, suggest our short course. [Information, click here](#). Or give it to someone you love for a holiday present!

XXXX, XX, 2014

**Your beekeeping event here** - just send them to us - in Georgia, Alabama, or Tennessee - even N or S Carolina and we'll be glad to post your event - no charge.

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## *The Final Buzz*

We are so thrilled that so many of you responded with ideas and write-ups for our newsletter. The newsletter belongs to all of you, beekeepers of Georgia. If something interesting has happened to you in the world of beekeeping, consider sharing it with us - a photo you like of your bees, something you have learned, something the bees have taught you, an idea for a survey, a question for Aunt Bee, a favorite honey recipe, a beekeeping joke/humor.

We want it all! Thanks for all of you who read this by email or [online at our blog site](#).

Your editors,

*Gina and Linda*



# Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

December 2013



***Is this what our winter will look like? Does starting out so cold in Georgia predict a hard winter?***

Photo credits upper right going clockwise: Linda Tillman, Gina Gallucci, Bruce Morgan, Linda Tillman

## ***Message from our President:***

Season's Greetings to all our members! I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and that most of your traditional recipes were splattered with local honey instead of all that processed sugar. Now that Turkey day is over with, it's time to say Merry Christmas! Natural Honey products make the best darn gifts and certainly sweeten up the season.

As we prepare for the New Year, let's reflect on 2013. The year opened with a wonderful spring meeting down at the Lake Blackshear Resort in February. Then everyone went to work waking up their bees and getting them used to working

hard as the weather warmed up. A lot of Nucs and package bees were sold by our local distributors and placed in their new homes. The programs at Young Harris were in full swing in May with new Honey Judges getting their cap and gowns, and Newly Certified, Journeymen and Master Beekeepers were sent off to work. Our fall meeting in September had a change of association officers with new ideas and hopes that we can keep this wonderful organization together by generating new interests, membership and rewarding meetings. The fall Honey Show recognized Cindy Hodges and many others for their work in producing a fine product with very high standards. October saw the first ever Honey Show sponsored by the GA Beekeepers Assn at the Georgia National Fair in Perry. Cindy Hodges once again reigned as her entry earned "Best in Show".

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The first part of November brought us the following mess that was bound to happen and one for which perhaps we as an association should be better prepared.

### **GBA Members Swarm to Assist When Semi of Honeybees Overturn**

Early on the morning of November 3, 2013, a semi-truck loaded with honeybees overturned at exit #185 on I-75 in the City of Forsyth, GA. Several hundred colonies of honeybees came off the truck and were strewn for hundreds of feet along the southbound lanes of I-75. As many as three southbound lanes of traffic had to be shut down as hundreds of thousands of unhappy and confused bees clouded the sky. Local fire and police were ill-equipped to handle this type of situation.

GBA Northern District Director, Brutz English, of nearby Barnesville, GA, was among the first beekeepers contacted by the Forsyth Police Department for assistance. English got the call for assistance out to a number of local beekeepers in the area, and responders from the GBA and the Henry County Beekeepers Club were soon on the scene helping to sort out and clean up the mess. The salvage and clean-up took over 14 hours.

As I said, maybe we should have a state wide plan similar to any "Hazmat" plan anywhere. With I-20, I-85, I-16, I-95, and I-75 crisscrossing our state, this was bound to happen. We are considering this issue at board meetings. Our local clubs and individuals must cooperate in the face of such an event. So Presidents, this may be something you want to add to your agenda for the coming year. I want to say "Kudos" to the folks who stopped what they were doing and responded to this accident. Your heart was in saving the orphaned bees and giving them a chance. The fire department was seen "hosing" them down so that the traffic could resume and public safety was restored.

I understand about 200 colonies were saved out of about 350 hives that were on

the truck. Thank you Georgia Beekeepers....Job well done!

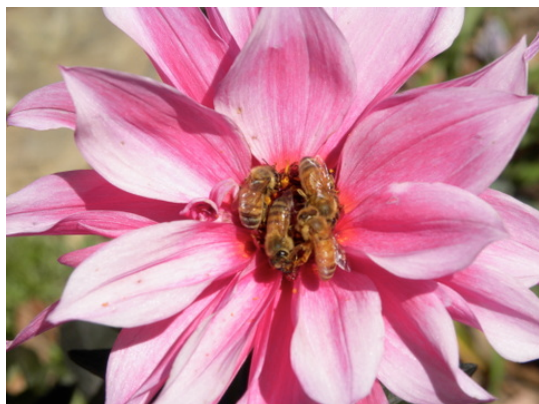
So that brings us to December and time to settle back and prepare for next year. I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a sa-weet, honey-filled New Year.

**Bear Kelley**  
GBA President

### More from Bear:

I want everyone who hasn't seen the [new Facebook page](#) to check it out. Brutz English has worked hard on it and it looks wonderful. Thanks Brutz for all your hard labor. In addition, the Ga Beekeepers web site is also lookin good these days thanks to Bill Owens. Bill has been working hard to keep it up dated with all the changes we keep throwing at him. Thanks Bill and Brutz for keeping us in this new century of technology.

***Hope for Spring!***  
***a photo from Christine Fahrnbauer***



### ***Beekeepers are educators for the public. Here's a tribute for one of our members who educated some Atlanta students:***

Mr. Tom Bonnell (Former President of the Henry County Beekeepers Association) gave an EXCELLENT presentation for National Honey Month to ninety-four gifted/enrichment students at DeKalb Elementary School of the Arts in Atlanta. He demonstrated beekeeping equipment, showed slides, and answered the questions: "Why honeybees are becoming extinct?" "Why are honey and cinnamon a powerful combination?," and he shared his stories of bees.

The students were able to:

- \*Describe the lifecycle and lifestyle of honeybees.
- \*Participate in a variety of activities that demonstrated, utilized, and helped to construct their knowledge of honeybees.
- \*Recognize honeybees as organisms that serve an important purpose in the environment that is helpful and necessary to man.
- \*Increase their vocabulary and celebrate the efforts of America's beekeepers.

### ***Why teach about honeybees?***

- A) Bees make honey.
- B) Honey is the only food consumed by humans made by an insect.
- C) Bees help pollinate over 80% of fruits, vegetables and other crops.

Thank you Mr. Bonnell, for taking the time to help us celebrate the **extraordinary** HONEYBEES!

Mr. Bonnell's presentation was written about in The Champion News. Most importantly, the students, teachers, parents, and administrators enjoyed the presentation and in the process I became popular at my new school as the Bee Guardian and Honey Enthusiast! Thank you again, again, and again, Mr. Bonnell. Another invitation will be extended to you in 2014!!

Sincerely,  
Rozalyn M.Todd  
Discovery/Gifted Teacher  
Certified Master Gardener  
Certified Welsh Honey Judge

## Call me a Fermenting Fool

by Dan Harris  
Booger Hill Bee Company

I've been making meads for a number of years. I don't like meads. Yet I keep trying, convinced that one day I'll find the secret. I've sampled blue ribbon meads. I've tried commercial meads. I just don't like 'em. I don't make bad meads. Any number of mead lovers have tried my various meads and given most of them high marks. It is just that my palate isn't tuned to meads. I've got 5 plus year old meads. I've made dry meads. I've made sweet meads. I've fermented fruits with honey. I've fermented honey, then added fruits. I've stopped the fermentation of honey then added fruits. I have an apple cider mead in mid brew. I have a gallon plus of sourwood honey from my NC hives that is earmarked for a mead as soon as one of the fermenters gets freed up. At age 62....I'm running out of time. But I keep trying.

A friend from South Africa had always given onions pickled in malt vinegar for Christmas gifts. But...in the US she couldn't find malt vinegar by the gallon. Knowing I did some fermenting and knowing that vinegar was a product of



fermentation, she asked me if I could make her a batch. After a bit of research, I decided that I could and undertook the task. About the same time I came across a manuscript on [gutenberg.org](http://gutenberg.org) written by an Englishman in 1905. The author stated *for table use, for sauces and salads, where delicacy of flavor is appreciated and for medicinal purposes where pureness and wholesomeness are essential, I venture to say that no vinegar can be compared to that produced from Honey.* Having read this....I realized....I knew how to make vinegar....and I had honey....and the rest is history.

I like my honey vinegar! I have my basic 'original'. I have blueberry honey vinegar. I have strawberry honey vinegar. I have honey vinegars in all stages of fermentation. I've started an apple cider honey vinegar alongside my apple cider mead. There'll be about thirty gallons of it come late spring 2014 (vinegars take about a year to complete). I've never tried an apple cider honey vinegar....but if it tastes good I'll bottle and sell it and if it doesn't, I'll have thirty gallons of a smelly household cleaner. We shall see.



Go ahead...call me a fermenting fool....see if I care.

Note: Dan has shared his recipe for making honey vinegar. You can find it on our [website](#).

**Steve Prince** sent in these photos of a hive removal. He wrote:

Last Sunday, Jessie McCurdy, Tim Smith (President of the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers) and I removed an exposed hive from an oak tree. The hive was about thirty feet up in an oak tree in Tim's yard. It had been there for awhile but was not visible until the leaves started falling. The bees were very gentle and are now located in their new home. If Jessie can keep the hive beetles in check they should be fine and will make an impressive display.



## **Honey-Pecan Chicken Thighs**

from Southern Living magazine

Crispy, [crunchy chicken](#) drizzled with a spicy honey mustard sauce is soon to become a favorite chicken dish. Baking the chicken provides a satisfying crunch without the added [fat](#) from frying. Yield: 4 servings



Ingredients:

- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon ground red pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 8 skinned and boned chicken thighs
- 3/4 cup honey, divided
- 3/4 cup Dijon mustard, divided
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 cup finely chopped pecans
- 1/2 teaspoon curry powder
- Garnish: Italian parsley sprigs

Combine first 4 ingredients; sprinkle evenly over chicken in a shallow dish. Stir together 1/2

cup honey, 1/2 cup mustard, and garlic; pour over chicken. Cover and chill 2 hours.

Remove chicken from marinade, discarding marinade. Dredge chicken in pecans; place on a lightly greased rack in an aluminum foil-lined broiler pan.

Bake at 375° for 40 minutes or until chicken is done.

Stir together remaining 1/4 cup honey, remaining 1/4 cup mustard, and curry powder; serve sauce with chicken. Garnish if desired.

*Dear Aunt Bee,*

*I was advised to put an entrance reducer on the front of my hive to help the bees make it through the winter. I have a devil of a time getting it back out or changing which entrance is open. When I reach in to move it, I disturb the bees and man, a sting on the fingertip is a real killer. Do you have any suggestions?*

*Signed,  
Stung on the tips*

*Dear Stung on the Tips,*

*Some people put push pin tacks on the outer facing side of the entrance reducer when they put it in the hive. This in effect gives you a handle to grab without intruding on the bees. Try that for less finger pain.*

*Signed,  
Your Aunt Bee*



(contributed by Chris Pahl)

*"I rub a mixture of honey and salt all over my body to moisturize and exfoliate. You wash it off and your skin is gorgeous!"*

**Catherine Zeta-Jones**

**Steve Page**, always an eager and helpful contributor to this newsletter, sent us [the link to this interesting article](#) on source-certified honey.

**Street Cred**

Evelyn Williams sent us [this link to a wonderful article](#) in the Costco Connection about bees and their current crisis status. Thanks, Evelyn.

### ***Moment of Zen - What happens to keep the bees alive in winter?:***

Tom Seeley says in [Honeybee Democracy](#):

"A colony of honeybees is, then, far more than an aggregation of individuals, it is a composite being that functions as an integrated whole. Indeed, one can accurately think of a honeybee colony as a single living entity, weighing as much as 5 kilograms (10 pounds) and performing all of the basic physiological processes that support life: ingesting and digesting food, maintaining nutritional balance, circulating resources, exchanging respiratory gases, regulating water content, controlling body temperature, sensing the environment, deciding how to behave, and achieving locomotion. Consider, for example, the control of body (colony) temperature. From late winter to early fall, when the workers are rearing brood, a colony's internal temperature is kept between 34 and 36 C (93 and 96 F) - just below the core body temperature of humans - even as the ambient air temperature ranges from -30 to 50C (-20 to 120F). The colony accomplishes this by adjusting the rate at which it sheds the heat generated by its resting metabolism and, in times of extreme cold, by boosting its metabolism to intensify its heat production. A colony's metabolism is fueled by the honey it has stored in its hive. Other indicators of the high functional integration of a honeybee colony include *colonial breathing*: limiting the buildup of the respiratory gas CO<sub>2</sub> inside the hive by increasing its ventilation when the CO<sub>2</sub> level reaches 1 - 2 percent; *colonial circulation*: keeping the heat-producing bees in the central, brood-nest region of the hive properly fueled with honey carried in from peripheral honey combs; and *colonial fever response*: mounting a disease-fighting elevation of the nest temperature when a colony suffers a dangerous fungal infection of the brood bees. I suggest, though, that the single best demonstration of the superorganismic nature of a honeybee colony is the ability of a honeybee swarm to function as an intelligent decision-making unit when choosing its new home."

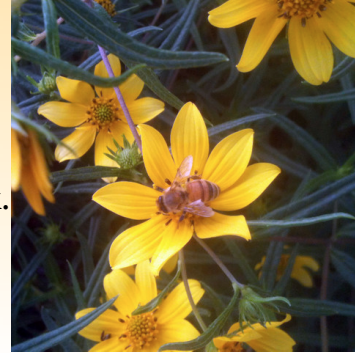
from Seeley, Tom. [Honeybee Democracy](#). pp 26 - 27.

## *Honeybees Come to the Mountain*

*by Beth Rothermel*

The Yellow Daisies are swarming with honeybees! Stone Mountain Park is the latest in a series of Georgia parks to introduce honeybee hives into their ecosystem.

Two years ago, after visiting my sister in Minnesota and being impressed with her new beekeeping hobby, I became interested in becoming a beekeeper myself. As an environmental educator and naturalist with Stone Mountain Park's education department, my mission and passion is protecting and managing the park's natural district, and educating students about the natural areas of the park. In the past few years, we have provided habitat for pollinators in the form of pollinator gardens and native wildflower meadows throughout the park to attract butterflies, bees and other insects. The obvious next step seemed to be to bring in the pollinators!



In 2012, I made a proposal to the non-profit organization I work for, the Stone Mountain Memorial Association (SMMA), to install one hive. The SMMA is the authority that manages, maintains, and protects the park, and they gave "the Honeybee Project" an enthusiastic thumbs up!

After reading and studying about everything honeybee, I attended the Metropolitan Atlanta Beekeepers Association short course in January and ordered my equipment and supplies. I installed our first hive in April of 2012 in the Education Annex, an area of the park not accessible to the public.



The bee yard is positioned in a wildflower meadow - we call it "The Bee Field" - in full sun, and adjacent to a beaver pond for water. The bees thrived in this location, feeding on nectar from the many native trees and wildflowers throughout the park. In 2013, we added two more hives. With three hives, it was time to give them names so we wouldn't confuse them. Our first hive became Diamorpha; two and three became Yellow Daisy and Snorklewort - all three endemic wildflowers to granite outcrop ecosystems like Stone Mountain.

We had decided not to harvest any honey the first year, so the bees would have plenty of stores for overwintering. We harvested our first honey at the end of June this year from the Diamorpha hive, ending up with 8.5 gallons. *Stone Mountain Honey* will not be for sale, but will be given as gifts to our volunteer naturalists who lead programs for our annual Naturalist Rally in September and to park friends and employees.

My first experience with a swarm came last July when I returned from a 2-week vacation to find Diamorpha greatly diminished. I discovered a swarm of my Diamorpha bees fully



established in a swarm trap I had installed nearby – exactly where I had hoped they would go! Not knowing how to recover them, I called my beekeeping mentor, Larry White, a longtime beekeeper, fellow church member, and member of the East Metro Beekeepers group. After much consultation, I was able to extract the bees and reintroduce them into the Diamorpha hive. Larry has been a tremendous help every time I have questions as a new-bee.

Unfortunately, I also had my first loss this year. Wax moths infested my weakest hive, Snorklewort, and it had to be dismantled. There are new lessons to learn every day, and I never get tired of watching these hard working, fascinating creatures.



Stone Mountain. Photo sent in by  
Beth Rothermel

### **Club of the Month:**

### ***Henry County Beekeepers***

Henry county is somewhat of a misnomer as we have members far and wide across the south Metro area and well into central Georgia but we had to call ourselves something and we do meet in Henry County. Our membership of over 100 includes beekeepers from Palmetto to Stone Mountain east to west and Smyrna to Byron north to south. We are equally broad in what we have to offer our members in experience and breadth of knowledge, with beekeepers as young as five (my own Serah) to oldsters who can still get around a bee yard.

We meet once a month on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the Public Safety Building at 116 Zack Hinton Pkwy in McDonough, GA. We hold a quick business meeting then go straight into a featured presentation on various beekeeping topics.

We also hold twice annually a beekeeping short course held in March and October for aspiring beekeepers to learn as much as they can in an eight hour session that covers everything from acquiring and installing bees (swarms, nucs and packages), basic equipment needs, how to use assemble a hive, how to inspect and manipulate, harvesting honey plus as much else as we can reasonably squeeze into the day.

We do not meet in May when we have our Annual Picnic at the home of our past President Tom Bonnell and in December when we hold our Annual Christmas Party at a local church. Both of these events are our big social events of the year,

with food, fellowship and a host of activities.

In addition to these regular scheduled events the Henry County Beekeepers Association has been a regular attendee at Inman Farm Days each September in Inman, GA where we have a booth, complete with observation hive. Several of our members volunteer as well at many other local events and support observation hives in many other areas such as Panola Mountain State Park and Grant Farms.

Other volunteers have participated in community outreach and school programs and it is fairly common for our local newspapers to have a write up each month on one of our distinguished members. Several of our members were involved in the clean up of a semi truck load of bees that crashed in Forsyth. Many of our members are active in the state organization.

I'd like to extend an open invitation to all to please come join us for a meeting and feel free to drop in on one of our special events like the picnic or upcoming Christmas party. (Please contact us to RSVP for those two events). All of our scheduled events and meetings can be found on the web at [www.henrycountybeekeepers.org](http://www.henrycountybeekeepers.org)

David R McLeod  
President, Henry County Beekeepers

### *Parks in Georgia with Beekeeping Programs*

“Up and Buzzing”

Georgia Veterans State Park  
The Parks at Chehaw  
President Carter's Farm  
Reed Bingham State Park  
Fort Yargo State Park  
Panola Mountain State Park  
Stone Mountain Park

The Board of Directors has established a new designation for the GBA. We're going to call it the "**Ambassador's Club**". The purpose of this is to recognize folks who have worked so hard with the Georgia Beekeepers Association, either as an officer, administrator or public representative. To be selected for this honor, you must have dedicated much time and personal sacrifice to the public education of the importance of Honey Bees and mentored beekeepers throughout Georgia. There are no official duties with this position, just continue to be the "Ambassador" you have always been by representing Georgia Beekeepers with professionalism, pride and enthusiasm.

Congratulations to the Following Plank Holders:

Fred Rossman  
Keith Fielder  
Bob Binnie  
Jesse McCurdy  
Evelyn Williams  
P.N. Williams

## ***Survey***

Last month we asked you about crystallized honey. Only a few of you (17) answered the survey. Most of you heat up crystallized honey by setting the jar in hot water. A few of you cook with it and a few of you make mead or lip balm/lotion with it.

This month the survey is REALLY IMPORTANT. Please participate. The topic came out of a board meeting. The board is making a real effort to make GBA meet the needs of its membership. This survey concerns where we hold our meetings in the spring and fall.

Your participation really matters. [To participate in the survey, click here.](#) The title of this month's survey is: ***Location of Spring and Fall Meetings***

## ***Upcoming Bee Events:***

### ***January 18, 2014***

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Short Course, Atlanta Botanical Garden.  
8:30 - 4:30 \$95 If you know someone who'd like a good start in beekeeping, suggest our short course. [Information, click here.](#) Or give it to someone you love for a holiday present!

### ***February 7-8, 2014***

GBA Spring Meeting at Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center, 3535 South Lumpkin Road, Columbus, GA 31903 The hotel is the Hampton Inn on Lumpkin Road in Columbus. The room rate for the meeting is \$83 a night. Make your reservations now.

## ***The Final Buzz***

This issue is filled with items sent to us by YOU, our readers, the beekeepers of the Georgia Beekeepers Association. Our deadline each month is the 25th of the month. Please send us the holiday gift of your article, photo, bee joke, recipe, beauty secret, favorite bee poem or quote - we love it all.

Your editors,

***Gina and Linda***

