

Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

January 2014



Photo by Brutz English.

Beekeeper in photo is Wayne Hughes of Upson County, GA

This is the cover photo of the GBA Facebook page. Have you visited? The page run by Brutz English is full of helpful posts and information. Bear often posts - you can, too! Please use the Facebook page as a way to share information about bees and beekeeping. [Here's a link to the page.](#)

Message from the President

Happy New Year to all. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and you're ready to move on to 2014. (Oops! it's too late, we're already in it!)

I would like to dedicate this year to the new member: those who may not be members yet or those who have just joined our association. A potential new member may very well be an experienced Georgia beekeeper. As I have moved about the state since September, I'm finding that we have so many beekeepers in Georgia that they can't all be counted.

I recently had a meeting with Mr. David Williams, The Supervisor of Beehive Inspectors for the Georgia Department of Agriculture. He assured me that there are well over 2,000 beekeepers in our state. Hobbyist, part timers and commercial apiaries are

in almost every county throughout the state. But when you look on our “Club” map on the website, there are many areas that don’t reflect any activity. As far as current membership, we have a little more than 300 members in the Georgia Beekeepers Association. That is less than 15% of the beekeepers in our state. What have we been doing wrong? Our Spring Meeting is next month and sadly we only expect about 100 members to attend.

We now have four regional Directors, and I have asked them to canvas their areas and beat the bushes to round up these wayward folk and bring them in to the colony. **Club Presidents, we really need you to make it a priority to encourage your club members to join GBA as well.** Dues are only \$15 for the year.

Do things that encourage membership in GBA. Have a raffle to earn money to send a member or two to Young Harris to become certified. The tuition is only about \$150. And then encourage those beekeepers to join GBA. Beekeeping classes for the public certainly work to gain local club membership, so continue the encouragement and encourage the participants to join GBA. Be creative.

We are looking at our administrative practices at the State Level searching for improvements and bouncing around new ideas that may make a difference. We are looking hard at the speaker program and intending to bring in quality speakers at our state meetings. We are searching for the best meeting sites to encourage state beekeepers to attend our two annual meetings.

Why join GBA, you may ask? There is power in numbers. I am attending the American Bee Federation annual meeting this month in Baton Rouge, LA. And Mary Cahill-Roberts is attending the EAS Meeting this summer. When we go to national meetings, we are representing our state and our GBA membership. It makes a big difference when someone is representing 2000 beekeepers rather than 200.

It makes the same difference when we visit our own state Agriculture Dept or talk with a State Representative about GMO products, Honey and such. We can make a difference. On the local level, we recently took on one particular city in central Georgia when they tried to ban beekeeping within the city limits. About 30 of us showed up for the City Council meeting. After we said our piece, the Mayor excused us. As we were all leaving, he was quite surprised that there were that many beekeepers present when he asked someone, “Are all those people beekeepers?” The power of many changed the law. Let’s all work together to make the Georgia Beekeepers Association a true representation of all Beekeepers in our wonderful state.

So “**Each one, get One!**”

Bear Kelley

President, Georgia beekeepers Association



On Tuesday, November 19th Dr. Jamie Ellis, University of Florida Associate Professor of Entomology, gave an interesting talk about the status of the bees to the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association. Dr. Ellis is a UGA graduate and studied under Dr. Keith Delaplane.

Dr. Ellis stated that about 10% of our hives have two working queens. He went on to say that when we do a queen search, that we stop looking after finding the first queen. If we continued our search to all the frames and hive body, we will sometime find the second queen. The possibility that a hive might have a "spare" queen is something to think about when you need a queen in a hurry.

Dr. Ellis also described the Cape Bee (a subspecies of the *Apis Mellifera* known as *Apis Mellifera Capensis*) found only in the southern tip of Africa. We should hope that they stay in South Africa. We may sometimes have a hive with a few laying workers, but the Cape bee worker's biology and egg laying ability is quite surprising. Cape worker bees can lay both workers and drones without the

need of a Queen or the worker being mated. The Cape Bee also will take over a conventional European or Asian bees colony if available.

Dr. Ellis travels to South Africa and brings back dead Cape Bees. These dead Cape Bees are studied to determine methods to readily identifying this bee sub specie. We do not need this Cape Bee to expand to other parts of the world.

Dr. Ellis encouraged the members of the club to visit [his informative video site](#) for more information about other aspects of beekeeping. Everyone enjoyed his presentation.

Contributed by John Wingfield

Note: **Dr. Jamie Ellis** will be a speaker at the GBA Spring Meeting in Columbus, GA on February 8, 2014.

Another featured speaker at the Columbus meeting will be **Billy Davis**, noted beekeeper and teacher from Virginia.

The program should be very good - plan to come and bring a fellow beekeeper who isn't yet a member of GBA to hear these fine speakers.

Nectar Management

by Steven Page

Nectar management or checkerboarding is a simple two manipulation method to prevent swarming and increase honey production. It was developed by Walt Wright in Tennessee in the 1990s. I have used nectar management for a few years and have had some good results with the technique. It's easy, effective and not time consuming. I have had numerous hives produce more than 100 pounds of honey per year when the average yield in my area is 50 pounds per year.

Required Equipment

A hive consisting of a deep with the cluster and a shallow super of capped honey above. Two shallow supers of empty drawn comb are required also. Nectar management requires drawn comb as the colony will not make wax until later in the spring.

Timing

The first manipulation is done eight to nine weeks before apple trees blossom. For my area 35 miles southwest of Atlanta the date would be about February first. The second manipulation is performed in late April or early May.

The First Manipulation

The weather is not much concern because the cluster is not disturbed. About February first (for my location) open up the hive and remove five frames of capped honey. Insert in the super five frames of empty drawn comb alternating empty and full frames. Using the five frames of honey removed add a second super alternating the frames again. The frames should alternate both horizontally and vertically. Simply put, if the bottom super left side frame is empty then the next super left side frame will be full. A third super of empty drawn comb is placed on top then close up the hive.

Pretty confusing.... The graphics on the following page will help.

Each rectangle represents a frame in the hive. The deep super on the bottom is represented by the taller rectangles. Think of this as if you are looking thru the front of the supers at the end of the frames. The colors represent the contents of each frame. This example uses ten frame equipment.

Yellow – capped honey

White – empty drawn comb

Green – pollen

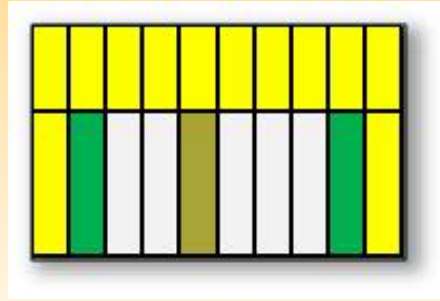
Brown - brood

Walt Wright, whose work is described in Steve's article, has written many articles for *Bee Culture* and *American Bee Journal*. His articles include Nectar management and can be found at this link. <http://www.beesource.com/point-of-view/walt-wright/>
To view the articles, click on the titles on the left below Walt's name.

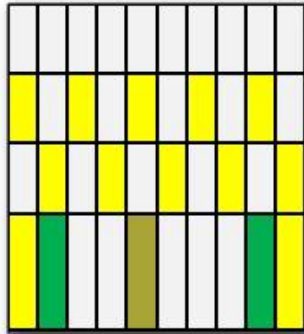
One of his articles "Is It Congestion"

<http://www.beesource.com/point-of-view/walt-wright/is-it-congestion/>

Below you'll see **the hive before the first manipulation.** The cluster is in the deep and the queen has started to lay eggs. The shallow above is full of capped honey.



Below you'll see **the hive after the first manipulation.** The deep was not touched. The super of honey is now spread out into two supers with frames of empty drawn comb separating the frames of honey. A super of empty drawn comb is placed on top. The honey frames alternate both horizontally and vertically. The two supers look like a checkerboard. Prior to the main nectar flow add supers as required so there is always empty comb for the foragers to store nectar.



Why does this work?

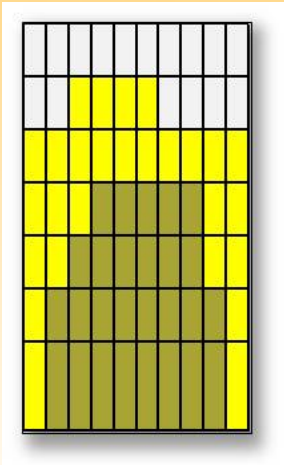
The honey cap has been opened up allowing the queen to lay more eggs as the colony prepares for spring. The foragers can collect and store all the nectar they can find and not fill up all the empty comb. The workers are unable to backfill the brood nest to shut down queen laying in preparation to swarm. As swarm season arrives the colony is unable to achieve all the goals required to swarm and their goal changes to collect nectar and make honey for the coming winter.

The second manipulation

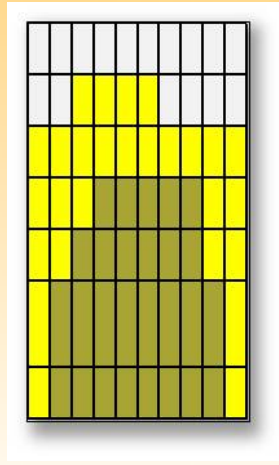
In late April or early May, move the shallow super just above the deep which is full of capped brood to the bottom of the hive.

Walt Wright wrote a 61 page **Nectar Management** manuscript which may be purchased for \$8. It is a PDF file. If you have a PayPal account, send the email address associated with the account to waltwright_@hotmail.com (note the underscore) and Roy (Roy is Walt's son-in-law) will send you an invoice from his PayPal account (it is NOT associated with that email, so please do not send a payment there). If you do not have a PayPal account you can mail a check or money order for \$8.00 U.S. (personal check is OK, we are trusting souls) to Roy A. Kesmodel, P.O. Box 338, Ardmore, TN 38449. Be sure to request an electronic copy and provide an email address you wish it sent to.

Before the second manipulation.



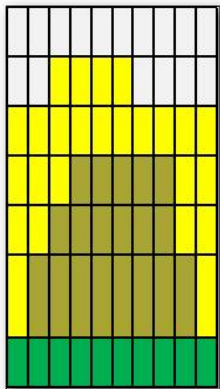
After the second manipulation.



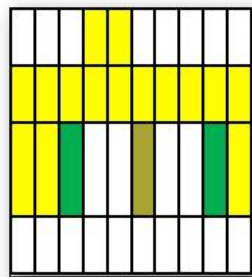
Cindy Bee:
“The bees themselves are all that really matter.”

The shallow super is now on the bottom and will be used to store pollen after the brood emerges. The pollen will be used to raise the bees in the fall.

The bottom super full of pollen

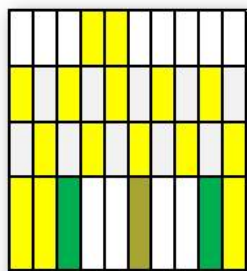


The hive on Nov. first.








The bottom shallow super is empty and will protect the cluster from drafts during the winter.

Finally on February 1, when it’s time to perform the first manipulation again all the required supers are on the hive. The deep is placed on the bottom. The bottom empty shallow super is used with the honey super to “checkerboard” the honey. The top super stays on top. You could even separate the two frames of honey in the top super.....



5 Tips for Your Bee-Friendly Garden

-  Select a mix of pollen and nectar providing plants which bloom during the entire growing season, particularly in late winter and fall.
-  Select low maintenance plants, especially drought-tolerant natives; avoid invasive or nuisance species.
-  Set mower height to allow for bee food plants, such as clover and dandelions.
-  Apply any needed pesticides after dark when pollinators are less active, and eliminate those with extended residues.
-  Leave some areas mulch free, wild, and undisturbed to provide habitat for ground nesting bees.

Some bee-friendly plant lists:
www.xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center/
www.nature.berkeley.edu/urbanbeegardens/
www.groups.ucanr.org/sonomamg/Statewide_Master_Gardener_Websites/
www.pollinator.org/guides.htm



www.pfspbees.org/

YellaWood® in your bee yard?

By Bruce Morgan

In December *Bee Culture* magazine was an article about a person who used treated wood hive stands and wondered if the treated wood might be causing queen problems, losing colonies and so on. I have had similar problems in the last few years.

I started in 2006 with a few colonies and I placed them on treated 2 X 4 hive stands treated with the green preservative. Several years ago my building supply started selling the YellaWood® treated wood and I have added more hive stands with it.

Was this when I started having problems? Or was it my management skills?

After reading the article in *Bee Culture*, I did a quick search on the Internet for YellaWood® and within minutes I found this statement: **"Do not use preserved wood under circumstances when the preservative may become a component of food, animal feed, or beehives."**

There does not seem to be a problem with the green treatment of wood for hives, since the bee supply companies have been selling it, and beekeepers have been using it for years to preserve all hive components. All of my hives are made from long lasting cypress wood with screened bottom boards sitting on the hive stands.

I do know I will be eliminating the hive stands that were made out of the YellaWood® treatment.



photo of Bruce Morgan's hive stands made of YellaWood®

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.)



Steve Esau, MABA member, shot this photo of his system for weighing his hives

Marybeth Kelley's Beehive Cookies

4 T honey
 1 egg beaten
 1 teaspn vanilla
 16 oz. shredded coconut
 8 oz. walnuts coarsely chopped
 8 oz. dates chopped
 2 T plain flour.

Mix together the egg, honey & vanilla. Beat until well blended and stir in the coconut and nuts. Coat the dates with the flour and add to the mixture. Drop tablespoonfuls onto a greased baking sheet (or parchment paper covered baking sheet). Bake at 325 for 13 minutes or until slightly brown. Makes approx. 30 cookies.

Club of the Month

Tara Beekeepers Association

Our club meets in Forest Park near the Atlanta Farmers market. The club has a lot of active members who reach out and help other people in other clubs. We offer a year round education program to our members, a bee school in October and last year we started a kid's beekeeping class.

Our membership is a mixed group of people who have had over 30 years of experience and people with less than 1 year of experience. The "older" folks are always willing to listen and lend a hand to anyone who needs help. I really enjoy our club and the camaraderie of all of our members. We stay after our meetings to drink coffee or a soda and chat about our bees. We have members who give talks to other clubs because of their vast knowledge of beekeeping. This gives other clubs in the area a chance to meet our members and also learn.

I am especially proud of our officers and directors as they are very active in our club and other clubs around the area. It is very easy to be president of a club when everyone pitches in to do the work. It is very nice when the officers are always willing to do something.

Tara Beekeepers is a club that has been around a long time, spun off from the Metro Atlanta club way back when. The club has had members that served in various positions

of the Georgia Beekeepers Association. A few clubs have spun off of the Tara club. Beekeeping is contagious and when you get stung the numbers kind of swell up!

I think for our club, technology is the biggest hurdle to pass. Since some of members are older they are unfamiliar with the computer and the Internet. I am more comfortable, but feel less familiar with smart phones, iPads and tablets. My son plugged our blu ray into the TV the other day just like a computer and we were, to say the least, flabbergasted. [The Tara Club has a website](#), but our

webmaster is 20 years old. He says it is so easy to take care of but, it seems like cracking safes to me. I tell our club members to get their grandchildren or teenage neighbors to help them out.

Fran Lane is the Vice-President of the club and she has moved our newsletter into email delivery which works for everyone except 3 people, since they do not have computers. Email allows us to be able to communicate more rapidly when there is a problem or a change in location.

Our annual May picnic this year was rained out so we moved it to October. We communicated with a lot of members by email. That was really new and exciting for us!

Tara is a great club to belong to and the people are really dedicated to education of the beekeeper and the public.

Mary Cahill-Roberts

President, Tara Beekeepers

www.tarabeekeepers.org

Survey: Last month we asked (to help the Board) about the location of our spring and fall meetings. Only 27 people out of the over 300 who get our newsletter responded. Those powerful voices fell out this way:

- 75% wanted the Spring meeting to be in the same location every year and the Fall meeting to be in a different location from the spring meeting, but also to be in the same place each year.
- 25% of you wanted the meetings to occur all over the state in different locations.
- Two people suggested that the spring meeting be in the same place each year and the fall meeting be in different locations.

Of course, 27 is only 9% of our GBA membership, so please participate in our surveys if you want your voice to count!

This month we are curious about smoker fuel. Please give us your input:

[Just Click Here](#)

[Thanks to Rodney Garner for this idea](#)

As we work in GBA to increase our membership, one of our goals is to make our list of clubs and club presidents current and up to date. We don't have a complete list of the Georgia bee clubs on our website and we would like to fix this. Many officers change at the beginning of a calendar year. To help us get ***every bee club*** listed on the GBA website, please send

- the name of your bee club,
- its location (city or county),
- your club's website address if you have one
- and the name and contact information of your bee club president

Send this information to: [Andy Bailey](#).

Come to the GBA Spring Meeting February 7 - 8 in Columbus, GA

The Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers Association is excited to welcome the Georgia Beekeepers Association to Columbus for the Spring Meeting on February 7 - 8. We hope you will plan to spend a little time in our town while you're here. The meeting is going to take place at our home meeting location, [Oxbow Meadows Environmental Center](#), a division of Columbus State University. Along with the indoor observation hive, we keep several outdoor hives right outside the door, behind a screen wall, allowing the general public to get safely "up close and personal" with our girls.

Oxbow also keeps snakes, alligators, turtles and other reptiles, native to the area, on display. It is an active wetland area, open to the public. An interesting thing to note, Oxbow was built about 10 years ago, directly on top of the old Columbus Landfill (Garbage Dump). Because of that, you will see methane gas vents in the ground in several locations.

Across the street from Oxbow is the [National Infantry Museum](#). It an experience you do not want to miss. If you are a golfer, there is a [beautiful public golf course](#) next door to Oxbow, also built on top of the old Columbus Landfill.

Columbus is also home to the [National Civil War Naval Museum](#). In addition to housing Confederate Ironclad Warships that were removed from the bottom of the Chattahoochee River in downtown Columbus, many other Confederate and Union artifacts are on display. The museum houses the largest collection of American, Union and Confederate flags in this country.

Columbus also boasts the longest urban [whitewater rafting course](#) in the country. The course runs from North Columbus for two and a half miles, ending in the middle of downtown. An old bridge joining Columbus and Phenix City, Alabama has been converted to a pedestrian bridge, allowing spectators to stand almost directly over the end of the whitewater course. If the weather is warm, you might be able to purchase a rafting trip down our whitewater course.

We have an extraordinary [Softball complex in Columbus](#) which was built for the Atlanta Olympics a few years back. The Softball Olympic competition was held here at this complex.

Downtown Columbus has some really great LOCAL restaurants, one of which is the [Cannon Brew Pub](#), where you can purchase local beer, brewed right on the premises. Further north in Columbus are the huge shopping centers which make Columbus a

popular regional shopping hub. Every national restaurant chain in the country can be found there among all the huge national retailers.

In short, there is a lot to see and do in Columbus while you're here. We've even arranged a special rate at the Hampton Inn, next door to the National Infantry Museum, so you can stay as long as you like. Our club is excited to have you here! If we can help you in any way, please call us or [visit our website](#).

Paul Berry, President

Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers Association

A Word from Mary Cahill-Roberts

Vice-President of the GBA

What does that mean? For me, it means working for the organization to make it better. I have had the pleasure to serve on the GBA board for 3 years. I have served twice as secretary and now this year I am Vice-President. I do a lot of work behind the scenes to support the President and other board members. My main job, over the past two years has been to help organize the GBA educational meetings. Most people don't understand the amount of work it takes to be able to get people together to educate a group over a one or two day event. I didn't until I started doing the job.

How do you get speakers to meet the many needs of our group? We have very new beekeepers and we have very old beekeepers. We have beekeepers with one or two hives and we have beekeepers with hundreds of hives. As a beekeeper with a few hives, I can use my hive tool to kill a few hive beetles. However, someone with more than 20 hives, not so much. You would be out in the beeyard for hours just killing the beetles, not really doing anything else.

So it is a real challenge to organize the meetings. Some people say that the meetings are only for the commercial beekeepers and others say that the meetings are only for the hobbyist!! Imagine how to fix that?

We have listened to the comments from our attendees and have brought in several people who speak throughout the country and have an academic background. We have included people to give some basic beekeeping instruction and intermediate instructors.

We will have a smaller but more focused vendor group. We are hoping to feature a young artist who will have various artistic beekeeping items for view and sale. Rossman Apiaries will be a vendor so call on your order ahead and pick it up at the February meeting to save delivery charges. We also are offering some great raffle prizes.

I hope you enjoy the February meeting and learn something new there. At our GBA meetings, I love getting to know new people, seeing old friends, learning something from our speakers, seeing new beekeeping gadgets, looking hopefully at my raffle tickets and overall immersing myself in Bee Talk!!

Dear Aunt Bee,

I always want my bees to be full and happy through the winter, so I feed them like Jennifer Berry told me to. This year, because I was a little worried about them, I left an extra super of honey on each hive. Are there risks to leaving too much honey on the hive?

Please reassure me,

Worried About Weight Watchers

Dear Worried,

The best food for the bees to have available to them in winter is their own honey. Bravo! You have fed them well. The natural food produced by the bees is the right pH for them while sugar syrup has a pH that is just right for the growth of some bee pathogens, so leaving the bees their own honey is the greatest holiday gift you can give to them.

The bees treat their honey like you might food stored in your own pantry. It's food storage so you don't run in and eat everything in sight, right? The bees look at their honey as back-up for meeting their needs, so just because it is there, they won't necessarily gobble it up unless they need it.

I have often opened hives in the spring to find honey still in the frames that they did not need to survive the winter.

Good job!



Aunt Bee

Contributed by Eddi Minche



Photo by Linda Tillman, July 2012

"I love working with big flavors like chiles and smoke. Honey is perfect for softening the edges, mellowing them out a bit. I put it in everything - vinaigrettes, soups, stocks, salsas, so I'm always on the hunt for great honey." - Bobby Flay

Honey Butter

1 1/4 stick softened butter to 1 cup honey. Blend together until thoroughly combined. Store in closed container in fridge.

This makes a nice gift accompanied with small loaves of specialty breads. Contributed by Marybeth Kelley

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!

January 25, 2014

8:00 - 4:00 Lake Country Beekeepers Association Beekeeping Short
Course. Hancock Extension Service, 12534 Augusta Hwy, Sparta, GA
\$40 for pre-registration, \$10 each additional person. Children under
18 with paying adult are free. Includes lunch and a textbook.
Registration contact Bruce Morgan 478-357-4029
rbmorgan@hughes.net

January 25, 2014

8:00 - 4:00. Coweta Beekeepers Association: Introduction to
Beekeeping Course. Coweta Extension Office, 255 Pine Rd, Newnan,
GA 30263 \$50 pre-registration, \$10 each additional person. An
introduction to beekeeping, topics include honey bee biology,
functions of a colony, assembling a bee hive and much more.
Registration: www.cowetabeekeepers.org

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



Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

February 2014



This gorgeous photo was taken by Annora Ayer, a relative of Gina's. Certainly makes a beekeeper wish for spring! Annora lives in the state of Washington.

Message from the President

I recently attended the American Beekeeping Federation annual conference at Baton Rouge, LA and was quite pleased to see the work being done around the United States to aid in the “Plight of the Honey Bee”. Our legislative team positioned in Washington DC reported that all the ABF interests were tucked snugly into the latest Farm Bill. The president of ABF was happy with the results of that work. Of course the speakers were some of the best in the business giving us up to date research information on CCD, and all the “bugs” we can have in our colonies.

A spokesperson from Bayer Corporation described the new Bee Team and research lab in North Carolina that they have created to help us figure out some of the bee problems. We look forward to seeing the results of their work. I also learned that there is a *Honey Transshipping** Class Action litigation regarding the illegal influx of transshipped Chinese honey into the United States. Through
(Continued on Page 2)

SPRING MEETING Columbus, GA Oxbow Environmental Learning Center February 7- 8 COME!

that litigation, they are actively seeking to recover damages on our behalf from the perpetrators of those crimes. As I gather more info about the details, I'll keep you posted.

The conference was 4 days long and there was too much on the agenda to list everything, but some other topics were: Flight and Foraging Dynamics of the Honey Bee; True source Honey update; Honey Bees and Soybeans; Pollinator Habitat; National Honey Board Marketing and Research Update; A wonderful Kids and Bees program; Bee Nutrition; Factors affecting Colony Mortality; Honey bee Plants; Bee Keeping Business Practices and getting Younger Beekeepers involved.

One of the most interesting aspects of this conference was the American Honey Queen Program. Many of you know that we have on several occasions hosted the queens from other states in the past few years and these young women have been very impressive. There are about 12 states that actively support the program and actually produce their own queen.

Why don't we have a Honey Queen program in Georgia? What better way to spread the word throughout the state about bees and honey than to have this kind of ambassador speaking on our behalf to schools, civic groups, and public forums and possibly representing us on the national level? So in light of that, I have asked one of our members to do a feasibility study and report on it at the fall meeting. If anyone out there would like to help, it would be much appreciated. Call me. By the way, the Florida Queen won the title of American Honey Queen this year and I intend to try to schedule her for our fall meeting.

Bear Kelley,

President, Georgia Beekeepers Association

*Editor's note: I had no idea what **transship** meant, so I looked it up on Merriam Webster. Here's the definition: **to transfer for further transportation from one ship or conveyance to another.** Here's a [link to an article](#) about the bill.

From a distance, it will look like a big painting you might see in a museum, but museums can't capture the sound. Fifty feet away, and you will hear it, a humming that sounds like it came from another planet....Your head will say don't go further, but your heart will be swallowed by it. You will stand there and think, I am in the center of the universe, where everything is sung to life." **Sue Monk Kidd- The Secret Life of Bees**

An April Fool - My First Swarm by Steve Esau, MABA Member

April 3, 2013 - Atlanta Georgia: A nice spring day with temperatures hovering close to 70 degrees. I was working from home that day and had just shut down the computer when my phone rang. The red phone on my desk, you know: the swarm phone! Doesn't everyone have a swarm phone? This was it: the call I had dreamed of; the call that would catapult me into the ranks of a true beekeeper or so I thought.

6:19 pm: I answered the phone and heard those wonderful words, "We just got a swarm call. Are you interested?" With as much calm as I could muster in my voice and in an effort to not disclose my swarm virginity, I responded "YES" and promptly wrote down the address and phone number of the surely terrified homeowner. I quickly ran to the basement to grab a ladder and my swarm gear and went out to the pickup with all in tow. I tied the ladder down, placed the gear in back, and off I went.

6:34 pm: The clouds were starting to roll in and there was definitely a chill in the air. Ugh, rush hour traffic in Atlanta! Seriously, raindrops?

7:15ish pm: I arrived at the location of the swarm. A steady drizzle was setting in and the temperature had dropped to 45 degrees. I knocked on the front door, which was promptly answered. I introduced myself and let the homeowner know I was responding to her swarm call. The homeowner calmly gave me a detailed account of how she and her neighbor were working in their yards planting flowers when a swarm came over the top of the trees and circled three times before settling into a tree in her back yard. She told me that for 18 years while living in California she would get on average a swarm every third year. ($18 \div 3 = 6$) Are you kidding me? Six swarms? I wasn't about to tell her this was my first. She took me back and showed me the swarm. It was beautiful. Picture perfect. The swarm was bigger than a basketball and positioned into a V crotch of a small maple tree about 25 feet in the air.

7:30 pm: I backed into the driveway and got everything ready. Catch bucket attached to a telescoping fiberglass pole. Deep brood box complete with used brood comb set up to accept my new prize. Now all I needed to do was capture the swarm. The cold rain was coming down steadily now and I was in a hurry, as it was getting darker by the minute. The homeowner decided this was going to be worth watching and took up residence on her screened porch for a front row view, with her little dog in her lap and a cigarette in her hand. The backyard was heavily wooded yet nicely landscaped so I carried the ladder and placed it in position, careful not to step on any newly planted flowers. I was representing MABA and on "official" business. I donned my veil and headed back towards my ladder with catch bucket in hand. Wow, it was dark out. I looked up and could barely see that beautifully shaped oblong mass

Steve Esau with his swarm catcher - taken by himself!



silhouetted against the cloudy nighttime sky. I climbed the ladder and carefully positioned my catch bucket under the swarm and just off to the side of the branches which were supporting my prize. Was this the best angle to go at the swarm? Steady! Steady! I was really struggling to see due to the darkness so I lifted up my veil just to make sure I was positioned absolutely perfect.

Ready - One - Two - SQUIRREL!

Yes a squirrel. Just as I was about to bucket the swarm a squirrel jumped out of what appeared to be the center of the swarm landing on the rung of the ladder directly across from my face. In my panic as the squirrel decided to exit the situation, I must have hit the swarm with the bucket knocking a good fistful of bees directly onto my unveiled face and down the inside of my shirt. I thought of my audience watching from the safety of her screened porch. With as much professionalism as I could gather, I slowly climbed down the ladder trying not to spill any bees from my bucket. I hoped to salvage some gain from the pain that was being inflicted upon me due to my rude interruption of a planned and choreographed natural occurrence. I walked around the house to the driveway where I performed a beekeepers rendition of the Gangnam Style Dance in an effort to get the situation under control (also known as strip a down to get the wet, angry, and defensive bees off of my body).

{Some of you have figured it out but others may be asking, "Why in the world was a squirrel in the middle of a swarm?" Upon closer observation, the swarm had settled on an occupied squirrel's nest taking on the appearance of a much larger swarm.}

After I gained my composure, I hived the bees in my bucket into the waiting brood box. I went back to the scene of the crime and found a softball size cluster of bees on the ground. I scooped up the wet ball of bees and placed them into the brood box. I grabbed my bucket and pole and again went up the ladder. I jammed the bucket up against the squirrel's nest three or four times in hopes of getting any stragglers into my bucket - bee stragglers that is, not squirrels. I put all of the proceeds into the hive box and closed it up. By then it was pitch black and raining hard and about 40 degrees. I walked to the door of the screened porch where I told the homeowner that I had done about all the damage I could do for the night. She then asked how much she owed me. I said "Ma'am, this is a service MABA offers the public and we appreciate your calling to report the swarm." I asked her if she wanted me to remove the brood box that night or if it would be all right to leave it there until the next day. I explained that I would leave the entrance open to try and attract the stragglers but there was the chance that they may leave and be up in her trees the next day or leave altogether. My hope was that if I did by some luck get the queen into the brood box the stragglers that were strung out from the squirrel's nest to the driveway would find their way into the box or at least back to their original hive. Worst case scenario, I would come back the next day to an empty box.

I returned the next day in a cold rain to gather and claim my prize. I again knocked on the front door of the house to deliver a pound of honey as a thank you gesture for calling to report the swarm and to let the homeowner know I was retrieving the hive box. The backyard would again be safe for her little dog to re-claim as its domain. I was a little apprehensive though as it was no longer dark and it was very evident I had been stung multiple times on my face - **twelve** to be exact and that was just my face. As I closed up the front door to the hive body and strapped the lid down tight, my little friend, the squirrel came out of its nest long enough to check me out.

I learned a lot that rainy spring day in April.

- 1.) Always wear a veil.
- 2.) Bees in a swarm will sting.
- 3.) Swarms do smell like lemon pledge.
- 4.) Squirrels actually live in squirrel nests.
- 5.) I love bees.



[Photo by Tony Northrup](#)

Dear Aunt Bee,

After all this bitter cold, finally we had a warm day and my bees were flying. I was so thrilled....at first. Then I realized that they were carrying out TONS of dead bees. At first there were only a few scattered beside the hive but by the end of the day, there was a big pile of dead bodies. Does this mean my hive won't make it through the winter?

Frozen Stiff

Dear Frozen Stiff,

The bees can't fly when the temperatures are as low as they have been. While the bees are generally good housekeepers, they can't keep a clean hive while it's too cold to fly. So when the temperature rises, finally they have the opportunity to carry out the dead.

Whether your hive makes it through the winter depends on how strong it was going into winter, how much honey they had stored, and the impact of any diseases they may have, but carrying out the dead when it's above 50 is a normal part of bee housekeeping.

*Keep warm,
Your Aunt Bee*



Mary Lou Blohm, Cherokee Beekeepers member, wrote:

In 2013 my husband and I traveled to Slovenia and discovered an incredible little country where one in every 250 people is a beekeeper. Beekeeping is deeply embedded in their history and culture.

This is an AZ hive, the type which is used by Slovenian beekeepers. Access to the inside of the hive is through a back entrance, and frames pulled toward you.

If anyone is interested in seeing the hive and learning a little about the gray bees and beekeepers, I will have it on display at the GBA Spring Meeting in Columbus, Georgia on February 7th and 8th.



GBA Spring Meeting
Columbus, GA Oxbow Meadows Environmental Center
February 7 - 8

Hey folks, it is almost time for the Winter/Spring meeting in Columbus, Ga. We have not met in this part of the state as far back as I know, that is going 6 years now, so I for one am very excited about going down and meeting new people.

The Spring Meeting begins with a board meeting and reception on Friday night, February 7. The board meeting and reception will be at the Hampton Inn. We will have a good program.

Dr. Jamie Ellis is the main speaker and he is going to have a fabulous discussion on honeybees - what else right? But, he is also going to give us the updates on all the latest and greatest academic research going on with "our girls".

Keith Fielder, is going to present a seminar on "How to Present your Honey for Competition". This should be very enlightening for those of you who have never entered the honey show. The idea for a honey show is to help beekeepers learn how to put out the best product that we can present to the public. You can have lots of product to sell, but if it is in a sticky dirty jar, you probably aren't going to have a lot of repeat customers. Better yet, if you win a ribbon, you can "brag" about your accomplishment to your customers and actually charge a little more. Learn how to put your best honey forward from Keith.

Come to the meeting, hang out with your fellow beekeepers from across the state, and let's all dream about spring together!

See you there!

Mary Cahill Roberts,

Vice-President, GBA

***A huge THANK YOU to Paul Berry and the
Chattahoochee Beekeepers Club for hosting
the Spring Meeting!***

Two special forum opportunities at the February meeting:

****There will be a Club Presidents' Forum** to brainstorm ideas about local clubs and increasing member participation

****There will be a Newsletter Editor Forum** during the breakout sessions - this is a time for club newsletter editors to meet with Gina and Linda and share reactions to the GBA newsletter and ideas for enhancing local club newsletters.



This is a bird feeder being used by Bruce Morgan to feed his bees dry pollen bee pro. Photo by Bruce, taken in December.

Strange Winter Behavior

By Bob Grant

Bob's Bodacious Bee Bordellos

AKA: Turning Creek Artisans

As many of you know, my bee bordellos are located in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, not that far from the Appalachian Trail, which, by the way, is a good place for bordellos. Last winter from December through March, we had a particularly cold winter with temperatures that could change from sub-freezing to a balmy 50F to 60F in the course of 24 hours. This radical change in temperatures brought about a strange problem. When I checked my ladies on the warmer days I sometimes found small clusters of bees (6-10) frozen around honey comb, but away from the main cluster. This continued until the weather moderated or the colony died with numerous little clusters of bees on patches of honeycomb even though there was plenty of honey in the double hive-body boxes. I spoke with other mountain beekeepers who also experienced the same phenomenon.

Now I'm seeing this occurrence at several of my field feeders as well, but generally it seems to be limited to only one or two bees. Prevailing wisdom is that the bees should return to the cluster before freezing occurs. In other words, the bees know it's getting colder and can feel their temperature dropping, and head home to the warmth of the cluster. So...what is causing this strange, in-hive, out of character behavior in our ladies?

- Are the ladies so intent on collecting food that they lose a sense of the rapid temperature change?
- Are the queen's pheromones weak or weakening during the winter months?
- Are the temperature changes too rapid and the ladies can't react quickly enough?
- Are there additional stresses within the hive contributing to this strange behavior?
- Is it some combination of the above?

This is potentially a significant issue for the mountain beekeepers and possibly others as well. I would really like to hear from other beekeepers who may be having this experience, particularly from the Piedmont and mountain areas of the state. More importantly -- how can we prevent it from occurring inside the hive during the winter? There is a lot of research going on at a number of universities, but this topic has not been covered to my knowledge. We need practical solutions to help us reduce the extraordinary losses we face annually.

So far this year, the temperature swings during the sub-freezing nights and warmer days have been limited to 20-30F deltas*, not quite as bad as last year. I have only seen traces of this problem, but the winter is young and February is fast approaching. I am hoping that the elimination of Varroa mites and small hive beetles, from the November oxalic acid vapor treatment, could significantly reduce the overall hive stress levels to the point that the bees behave is not severely impacted and the ladies act in a more normal manner.

***Delta T** is the change in temperatures over a given time period. The formula for **Delta T** is the final temperature minus the initial temperature.

Note from your editors: This article and others have inspired us to begin a new section of the newsletter starting with the March Edition: *Letters to the editor*. If any article or anything in the newsletter triggers a reaction in you or if you have a comment on any article in the newsletter, send your thoughts and comments to gbanewsletters@gmail.com with "Letter to the editor" in the subject line.



Christine Fahrnbauer inspecting her bee hives - Christine is vice president of the Cherokee Beekeepers Association

Street Cred:

This is a very interesting article about how honeybees, humans and other creatures forage – it is typical to follow what is understood as the Lévy walk. To read the article in full, [click here](#).

[Our newsletter website](#)

gets visits from all of you and all over the world. Since we started, we've had almost 4,900 hits, 320 this month (January) Yesterday we had visitors from Germany, Greece and Russia (Moscow).

Club of the Month

Cherokee Beekeepers Association

The Cherokee County Bee Club meets in downtown Canton at 7pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month, except in March for the spring field trip, in June for the summer workshop & picnic and our annual holiday dinner in November. The club had an earlier presence, but died out in the 80's. Spring of 1994 the club was re-established with emphasis towards practical beekeeping and promoting the education and understanding of bees. Club membership for 2013 was approximately 145 and our monthly attendance ranges from 40-70 people. It has always been the statement of the club that "if members do not go home a better beekeeper, the club is not doing its job."

This spring on February 15th the club will host its 20th annual Beeschool which typically draws 120+ attendees plus workers. Cost is \$45 and includes catered barbecue lunch and a year membership in the club. Morning workshops will be teaching the basics of getting started and the understanding of bees. The afternoon is hands-on with walk-by stations and beehives.

What is unique about our Beeschool is that we bring 8-10 working colonies (weather permitting) and in the afternoon, we do several "how to" workshops, and workshops identifying potential problems. We allow the students hands on with each of these workshops and then time at the end of the sessions to go into the hives and experience: pulling frames, looking for/ identifying brood, queen, etc. It is quite amazing to see many first time students going into the hives! The club really tries to promote an atmosphere of helping the students establish a comfort level with the bees. We feel that our Beeschool is thoroughly able to equip first time beekeepers with the most pertinent of skills and information necessary to ensure a favorable start. Many attendees

have stated there is no comparison to other bee schools they had attended previously:)

Cherokee Bee Club is also very excited to begin a pilot program this spring that will allow small groups to gather into Bee groups and meet for a set period of time to do whatever the group decides they would like to do. These group members will set an agenda, contribute information and get to know bees and each other for a set time period. At the end of the period, the group can open up, accept new or different members and start anew. This is in addition to our monthly meetings to give members, especially new beekeepers, a venue to gather advice and information and even set up possible field trips to each others bee yards to learn and grow in their hobbies.

The Club is also excited to implement the 1st Year Beekeeper Colony Loss Assistance Program. This a very unique idea which pairs first year beekeepers who have suffered a winter bee loss with an experienced beekeeper to host a doubling of the brood chamber and grow bees to make a spring split. Both beekeepers benefit from the cooperation. We already have several signed up for this and are looking forward to its implementation.

We welcome anyone to attend our meetings, sign up for Beeschool, or join our club. Our website is www.Cherokeebeeclub.com
Feel free to visit our Facebook page as well :)

Christine Fahrnbauer

VP Cherokee Bee Club

*Bees work for man, and
yet they never bruise
Their Master's flower,
but leave it having
done,
As fair as ever and as
fit to use;
So both the flower doth
stay and honey run.
~ George Herbert, The
Church-Providence*

Honey Raspberry Glazed Salmon

(Yield: 4 to 6 servings)

1 whole side of salmon, or 4, 6 oz. salmon fillets
1 tablespoon fine sea salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1/4 teaspoon dry mustard
3 tablespoons honey
1 1/2 tablespoons raspberry balsamic vinegar
extra virgin olive oil (for brushing salmon)
Preheat oven to 400 degrees F

If using a side of salmon, cut about halfway through the flesh about every 2 to 3 inches so there are some spaces for the glaze to sink in. If using salmon fillets, slice about 8 to 10 sliced angles into flesh, to help flesh more completely soak in the glaze.

In a small bowl or cup mix the salt, pepper and dry mustard.

In a medium glass bowl, heat the honey in the microwave for 30 seconds to liquefy further. Remove from the microwave and mix in the raspberry balsamic vinegar.

Brush both sides of the salmon with olive oil. Season the flesh side with the spice mixture. Brush the flesh generously with the honey-balsamic mixture.

Bake the salmon for 10-15 minutes or until done to taste.

(The recipe which can be found on [Taste of home](http://Tasteofhome.com), garnishes the salmon with fresh oregano - see photo)



Photo from [Taste of home](http://Tasteofhome.com)

Recipe from [Deborah DeLong](#), speaker at the 2014 American Beekeeping

Jennifer Berry has offered us an article she has written for Bee Culture. The article because it was for a magazine is too long to print here, so we are putting it in full on a "page" on our Spilling the Honey website. You can [click here](#) to read Jennifer's article.

The Beekeeper's Bucket

By Julie Civitts
Mountain Sweet Honey

You're ready to go out in the bee yard to inspect your hives. You choose the tools you think you may need and then toss them in a cardboard box, an old milk crate or in the back of the pick-up truck, and off you go, hoping you have not forgotten anything.

You arrive at the bee yard, fumble through the box to find your hive tool. After uncovering your first hive, you realize that you forgot the new frame perch that you wanted to try. You cover up the hive to prevent robbing. You go back to the pick-up truck and reach for the frame perch which has now slid to the back of the bed of the truck, because you never put it in the cardboard box or milk crate at the house.

You then walk back to the hive and proceed to inspect. As you start to jot down a note about the condition of that colony, you realize that you don't have a pen in the pocket of your jacket as you thought you had. You walk back to the truck, go through the box or milk crate that contains all the tools that you thought you had and, not finding a pen, even in the cab of the truck, you say to yourself, "I need to get more organized".

Have you ever found yourself in that predicament?

Well, a "Beekeeper's Bucket" may be just what you need, especially for someone just starting beekeeping. One day while in our local hardware store, I spotted a "75 Pocket Bucket Tool Organizer that fits most standard buckets." With excitement, I showed it to my husband and we decided to give it a try. On the way home, I was thinking of all the neat little gadgets to go in all the neat little pockets and I looked forward to my next bee yard adventure.

The bucket organizer turned out to be a great cheap (around \$7.00) investment. It holds so many tools and our smoker even fits inside the center of the bucket. Here is a list of we usually keep in our bucket: a smoker, cardboard, utility lighter, two hive tools, frame lifter, frame cleaner tool, queen marker, queen marking tool, entrance reducer, frame perch, frame grip, frame spacing tool, bee brush, Gorilla tape, rags, screwdriver, scissors, stapler, staples, pliers, utility knife, wire cutter, three pens, and clipboard with paper.

Having our Beekeeper's Bucket loaded with tools makes life as a busy beekeeper a little simpler by being a little more organized. We just grab it and go!



Want to See your Bee Photos on the GBA Web Page? Read This!

I hope everyone is keeping warm this winter!
Brrrrrrrr!

After speaking with Bear (well emailing) we have decided to put different pictures on the front page of the website. So instead of just using photos I have taken, I would like to request photos from our members for our website.

I'll need about 10 pictures and of course I'm looking for a beekeeping theme in all of them. I suspect that I'll take entries until the end of February and then pick the 10 I need and have them posted around March 1st. I intend to keep all entries for future use on the website so any photos submitted, if not use initially will have the potential to be used in the future on the website. Photos will not be used in any other way unless I/we get the owner's permission. You can submit as many entries as you wish. This is NOT an awarded contest except for having your photo placed on the GBA website.

What will I be looking for?

Bees, of course but interesting pictures of things that people don't generally get to see with bees/beekeeping. Anything with Georgia and bees/beekeeping is a plus. I'm a fan of nature shots and bees on flowers and various hive activities are always fascinating. I'm not a people person but there's something about seeing little children working bees that really captures everyone's attention.

Rules...we've got to have rules.

- Please, please please **no business names, logos, web addresses or any type of "free" publicity in the photos!** Simply put if I think you are trying to get something out of this other than having your personal photo placed on the site, I'll not accept them.
- File format can be just about any type however jpeg is the simplest for everyone. Oh, and for the tech savvy folks no imbedded info please (you know what I'm talking about). I'll delete it as soon as I see it.
- Photos should be self-explanatory; I don't have room for text except for name and location. This last one isn't really a rule but it helps me...If you are sending multiple photos (more than 2 or 3) placing them in a zip file is much easier for me.

Entries can be sent

to: webmaster@gabeekeeping.com

Title the subject line: GBA photo entry

Please provide the name of the person who took the photo and location if applicable, i.e: "Bill Owens Atlanta, GA."

I'm looking forward to seeing what everyone has in their photo albums. See you at the Spring Meeting!

Bill Owens

Webmaster

Survey

Last month our survey was about smoker fuel. About 28 of you participated. Most of you (79%) use pine straw. Other fuels mentioned were cardboard, wood shavings, wood chips, wood pellets, sumac, and one person used compressed cotton.

In January and February, many bee clubs offer short courses to help new beekeepers get started. Our survey this month is to find out how many of you got started with a short course. This is a very short survey - just three quick questions, so [click here to participate](#).

Beekeeping in Sri Lanka: a Traveler's Story

By Chris Pahl, MABA Member

Sri Lankans have two sources for honey— managed honeybees and wild, forest bees. That's what I learned on a trip last year to Sri Lanka, which is an island nation located in the Indian Ocean. Although the purpose of my trip was unrelated to honeybees, I was able to track down a local beekeeper on my travels and learn a little bit about the customs and practices of beekeeping in Sri Lanka. Since only ten percent of the population speaks English, we communicated through an interpreter. The interpreter received both an education in beekeeping, while also learning some new vocabulary words!

On the drive to the apiary, the temperature inside our minivan peaked at 105, but aside from the persistent heat and humidity, honeybees were on my mind. We eventually pulled into the driveway of a house where beehives sat inconspicuously behind some vegetation in the front yard. From a distance, this looked just like a bee yard one would see in Georgia. When the beekeeper (who was not the owner of the property) arrived from the village, I was able to get a close up look at the hives.

These hives were diminutive in size and had square proportions compared to the larger, rectangular shaped Langstroth type. I also noticed the hive stands, which looked like old chairs, that seemed to be sitting in liquid filled cans below grade. Through the interpreter I was able to get a few questions answered by the beekeeper.



Q: In the bottom [below the hive] there is a hole with liquid; is that just water to keep the bugs out?

A: The water, ants come...Yes. This is water and engine oil. Many flies come.!

Any Georgia beekeeper would understand the problem with ants. However, regarding “flies,” I am unsure whether this is a mistranslation, or perhaps some other insect pest. Perhaps he was referring to some sort of winged beetle? Small hive beetles came to mind. As the hive inspection began, the beekeeper began to remove the rock and some metal scrap atop the hive and suddenly a giant, hearty, fast moving snake slithered out from under the cover. Everyone darted from the hive and had to be coaxed closer again, but the beekeeper promised the snake was harmless and not poisonous. !

Q: The kind of bees that I have, they are called “Italian honeybees.” Do these have a name?

A: Bee honey. Honey Bee [only].

Q: Does it have a special name?

A: This one is big one.

Q: So there is a smaller bee than this?

A: We have another bee. This is the big size. Another bee—no honey.



While shopping, I had noticed lots of insects resembling honeybees which appeared to be foraging for nectar and pollen on the cut flowers being sold in the market. The bees did not seem to be too aggressive, and at about the size of a queen bee, they were noticeably larger than my Italian honeybees back home.

At this point I became perplexed because *Apis cerana* is known to be a smaller bee when compared to *Apis mellifera*. These bees did look noticeably smaller than the *Apis mellifera*, yet the beekeeper was describing his bees as the “big” variety. If these were in fact the large honeybees, what type of bee had I seen in the market? In reviewing my

photographs, I noticed that there appeared to be a much smaller, mystery insect foraging alongside the market bees. Perhaps these were the small bees the beekeeper was referring to.

When the beekeeper removed the outer cover, I noticed he was also using an inner cover, similar to what would be found inside a Langstroth hive. And when the top hive box was removed it was clear that the beekeeper was using wooden frames without foundation.



Q: How many times per year can you get the honey?

A: One year, 12 months, two times

Q: Is that in the rainy season?

A: Yes. But we won't take honey on moon time. Moon time sleeping. Day time, bee go out. That time to take honey.

Apparently neither Western nor Eastern honeybees like to be disturbed at night. Despite their size and geographic location, I learned that there are tremendous similarities between the two bee species.



Meet the Press:

We have been editing this newsletter for GBA since October, 2012 and have now put out seventeen issues. We realized that we have never actually introduced ourselves. In the photo, Gina is on the left, Linda on the right.

A little bit about *Gina:*

I began keeping bees 9 years ago. It seemed so interesting- I read [The Secret Life of Bees](#) by Sue Monk Kidd, and toyed with the idea for a couple of years before contacting PN Williams. Once he told me it would be good thing for my neighborhood's environment, I was hooked. I joined Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association and learned what I could. I was scared and in awe every time I looked in on the bees. After a number of years on the MABA board I accepted the position of President and currently serve as Past President. I am a Certified Beekeeper. All 5 of my colonies survived this winter where I keep them at my home in Buckhead, a very green neighborhood in Atlanta. Most of my honey becomes Christmas gifts - I am truly a hobbyist. I feel blessed and lucky to have developed the relationships I have with the people at MABA, Tara and the GBA clubs. My personal life includes my husband, Philip Dreger, and our two dogs, Shamrock and Blarney. We have a small business consulting in the construction industry. Other hobbies I enjoy are yoga, painting, reading and as much travel as I can. These things continue to fascinate me just as the bees do!

And a little about *Linda:*

I began beekeeping in 2006 after taking the MABA short course. I had wanted to keep bees for 20 years and finally took the steps to do it. My first bee colonies lived on the deck of my house, just outside my sunporch door. I loved watching them fly in and out all day. And I love honey - both for eating and for cooking! When I began beekeeping, I started my blog: www.beekeeperlinda.com so I would have a way to share my experience with my family in Mississippi. Over time, the blog has gained quite a following and now gets about 1000 hits a day in bee season. I've felt surprised to find that it is listed on club websites all over the country as a good site for beginning beekeepers to visit. I've continued to post about all my experiences: successes and failures. Along the way I've done the training levels at Young Harris and earned my Master Beekeeper in 2010. I'm a member of MABA, Tara, and GBA. In real life when I am not a beekeeper, I am a clinical psychologist with a private practice in Midtown, Atlanta. I live in Virginia Highlands with my two dogs. I'm also a grandmother to three great kids. When I'm not working or with the bees, I'm a bread baker, a quilter, and a knitter and passionate about each of those.

Upcoming Bee Events:

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.

February 22, 2014

Several Georgia bee clubs are holding short courses. You'll find information at their websites. The following clubs are the ones whose information we have:

[Cherokee Bee Club](#)

[Coastal Empire Beekeepers Club](#)

[Forsyth County Bee Club](#)

[Henry County Bee Club](#)

If you know budding beekeepers, give them this information.

March 15, 2014

[Welshfest Honey Show](#), Rockmart, GA

GBA now has an online calendar. You can access it from the Events page or the home page. If you have events that you'd like to see in the Newsletter or on the calendar, send them to [***gabecalendar@gmail.com***](mailto:gabecalendar@gmail.com)

The Final Buzz: Guidelines for submission to the newsletter

Keep those articles and photos coming. We love hearing from each and every one of you and try to use everything you send. If we don't use it in the immediately published newsletter, we are saving it for later, but we love to publish your bee-thoughts, photos, questions for Aunt Bee, and articles.

GUIDELINES for SUBMISSION:

Please keep your articles to about **500 words**. Send them to us as word documents, attached to an email. This is a newsletter and we want to keep things short and sweet.

Please **attach photos to the email** - do not put them in the body of the document - we'll just have to email you to ask you to send them as attachments - so start out by attaching them to your emailed submission. Please tell us **who took the photo and who/where it is/when it was taken**.

Remember: Letters to the editor about anything in the newsletter or the newsletter itself are welcome - please write us!

Don't be shy - we love what you contribute and will work with you to edit it, if need be.

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

Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

March 2014



So many generous beekeepers sent us photos of their hives in the snow. Many thanks to Steve Altom, Julie Civitts, Greg Cowling, Christine Fahrnbauer, Rodney Garner, and John Wingfield.

The President's Message

Here we are really about to move into spring, and hopefully all this ice and snow will go back up north. Our spring meeting in Columbus was a tremendous success. I have received so many great comments and appreciate hearing from all of you. There were some areas for improvement, and you can bet we are going to give it our best effort. Remember that all of the GBA staff are volunteers and want to do a good job.

I sincerely want to thank the

Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers Association led by Paul Berry for setting the bar very high on how to be a host club. They were organized, motivated and very helpful. Thanks Paul; ya'll can take a deep breath now and get back to your daily activities. To everyone else who worked behind the scenes and the podium, the speakers, cooks, and facility personnel: thanks to you as well. And finally, a big thank you to Mary Cahill-Roberts for stepping up when I couldn't be there. I'm glad we can count on you.

Our fall meeting will be held in Milledgeville on 19 and 20 September 2014. Please plan to attend as we are planning more great speakers, vendors and activities for you. For those of you who attended the President's Council breakout session at the spring meeting, we are planning to continue that and hopefully have more club Presidents participate. It is our way to share issues with each other and support you and the work you are doing at the ground floor of this organization.

If you will look at the new calendar we have posted on the web site under the Events section, you will see all the classes and activities being conducted throughout the state. I can't believe how many public courses on beekeeping are being presented. If all those folks become beekeepers, there won't be many flowers untouched by our sweet little girls. It is also heart-warming that there are that many local volunteers willing to step up and share their knowledge and experience. If your club's

events and meetings are not listed and you want them to be, contact the [webmaster](#) or the [newsletter editors](#) and they will be happy to post your club's activities there.

Young Harris Beekeeping Institute is just around the corner. Registration opens on the 5th of March. Go on line and get your seat while you can. They do limit the number of attendees. The program this year begins on 15 May, 2014. Clubs, if you are wondering how to thank your hardest workers, consider paying the tuition for someone at Young Harris Beekeeping Institute.

Now, let's get on with the business of getting our bees ready for the busy season ahead of us.

Bear Kelley,

President Georgia Beekeepers Assn.

Club of the Month

Chattahoochee Beekeepers Association

Paul Berry, president of the Chattahoochee Beekeepers Association, said he felt honored when he was asked about hosting the 2014 Spring membership meeting of the Georgia Beekeepers Association.

"When Mary (Cahill-Roberts, vice-president of the GBA) asked about our club hosting the meeting I was proud that we were being considered. Then it hit me, I was going to be the meeting chairman," he said. "One of our biggest challenges was finding the proper venue," he said.

Working closely with GBA president Clay "Bear" Kelley, the Oxbow Environmental Learning Center, just outside Fort Benning and next to the National Infantry Museum, was chosen as the ideal location. A Marriott Hotel was just across the street and the Oxbow learning center had space for large meetings, break out rooms, vendors, a lunch area, as well as the necessary audio-visual support.

"Once we picked the site we had to resolve the nitty-gritty issues. These included the budget, the number of people

to expect, the number of lunches to order. Fortunately I had a crew of dedicated volunteers who helped make sure we were able to pull it off without a hitch.

Paul praised his wife, Delores for getting all the snacks and drinks, and for her logistical genius. "I couldn't have done it without her." He also singled out Katie Roberts for her website work and Kerry Britt for hand making custom bookmarkers for everyone who came. Dan Barbaree donated the ice and some drinks for the reception. Jim Ellis was there for anything Paul needed while also serving as a "tour guide" to the Observation Hive. Lots of our local members volunteered to stand by to jump in and help wherever needed.

Paul said he's proud of the CVBA which has shown a significant increase in membership over the past couple of years. "We're right around a 115 members and still growing." He attributes the increase to an uptick in the number of people interested in raising bees and the chapter's ability to cater to them. "We now have two short courses a year, one in the fall and one in the spring. We arrange for the new beekeepers to get bees, either in nucs or packages, and we've gone from meeting bi-monthly to monthly."

"We'll alternate between formal presentations from expert beekeepers to informal discussions aimed at the new beekeepers. These meetings give them an opportunity to ask the veterans questions. Of course I always remind them that if you ask 10 beekeepers a question, you'll get 11 answers," he laughs.

Two members remain from the association's beginnings in 1971. Duane Johnson, club secretary, remembers meeting in the basement offices of the Muscogee County Courthouse with the assistance of Dick Collier, Extension Agent of the UGA Cooperative Extension Service who he credits with being the driving force behind the club's formation.

There were about a dozen members then.

Another of the original members was Betty Beegle. She said she became interested when her father tried to get a neighbor to put some hives on his property to pollinate his crops. The neighbor turned them down, so they got their own bees and began looking around for others who were interested in bees so they could learn more about them.

"That's what our club is all about," Paul adds, "bringing information about bees to the public. That's why we value our association with Columbus State University and its Oxbow Meadows Learning Center. We work hard to provide those programs typical of bee clubs like school and garden club presentations, but Oxbow is our best exposure."

"In the fall, we do extracting demonstrations and the honey goes to the Center to sell. Last fall at a Fall Festival which included a honey extraction demonstration, we had 1,200 people come through the Center. We do hand dipped candle making demonstrations and the candles we make go to the center to sell. All of our efforts at Oxbow give us a feeling of ownership which we prize."

He said the club is now planning for its spring short course, Mar. 22.



CVBA president, Paul Berry, narrates as club members demonstrate honey extraction during the Fall Festival.

Sustainability

by Steven Page

We must become sustainable beekeepers. Many experts tell us we need to be sustainable and they have told us how to be sustainable.

Why do we all rely on the nuc, package and queen producers each spring to replace our dead, weak or queenless hives? We know last minute orders of queens, packages and nucs are not available.

Dr. Jamie Ellis in Florida and Mike Palmer in Vermont both encourage us to make splits and keep nucs in our bee yards. We can become sustainable by simply overwintering nucs. For every two hives keep at least one nuc.

Nucs enable sustainability. If an inspection reveals a queenless hive, a nuc can be combined and the problem is solved. A weak hive can be helped by moving a frame or two of capped brood from a nuc to the hive. A dead hive can be fixed by moving a nuc into the hive. Nucs enable us to fix many problems we encounter early in the year.

Splits can be made anytime from spring to fall. I prefer summer splits just after the nectar flow when there are many workers in the colony. First year beekeepers should split their brand new hive and overwinter a nuc the first winter.

If a beekeeper overwinters four hives and four nucs and fifty per cent of the colonies die leaving two hives and two nucs the beekeeper simply moves the two nucs into the two dead hives increasing the hive count to four again. Later the four hives can be split creating four nucs.

Extra nucs can be sold or you can add supersto the nucs and make honey with a nuc in spring.



Steve Page with his homemade swarm trap at GBA meeting. Photo by Linda Tillman



Lunch at the spring meeting. Photo by Linda Tillman

Two excellent videos on sustainable apiaries by Michael Palmer (thanks, Steve Page) :
The Sustainable Apiary by Mike Palmer

<http://youtu.be/nznzpiWE18A>

Queen Rearing in the Sustainable Apiary

<http://youtu.be/R7tinVluBJ8>

A Cautionary Note from Bear

I was recently contacted by a beekeeper in Tonga (South Pacific) requesting an expert beekeeper to come to assist him with his bees. He stated that he would pay for airfare and help with lodging on the island if someone would come down and help him with his bees for 8 weeks. It sounded too good to be true, so I checked it out and found that he was implicated in a money laundering complaint with the Tongan police and we were warned by the Wellington (NZ) Beekeepers Association to be extremely wary of any dealings with this guy. If anyone gets an email from him, please beware. I have a lot more details if anyone is interested. This fish really stinks!

Street Cred:

[Zombie Bees!](#) thanks, Diane Holland

[Monsanto Fights Bee Disappearance](#) Thanks,

Jay Parsons

[Artist creates sculpture with bee-created wax](#) thanks, Eddi Minche

[USDA spending \\$3M to feed honey bees](#)

Spring....Ha!

by ***Mary Cahill-Roberts, VP GBA***

I am from right outside of Atlanta, in little town called Mableton, and I tell you it is not spring here. We went to Columbus for the Spring (Winter) GBA 1 day event and found a ton of welcoming people, and a club that really set the bar for any other club that might want to "Host the GBA" events.

It all started with the Friday night reception. The members requested that we have a time when we could stand around to talk bees, politics and the upcoming year's beehive preparations. Paul Berry, President of the Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers club and his team set the mood with cheese and fruit, as well as a "donation" cash bar for wine and beer. It was a fun icebreaker and everyone really enjoyed each other's company.

We held our meeting at the Oxbow Learning Center, and our host had a welcome tent outside the entrance with various pamphlets and information about their club and the Columbus area. Inside Delores Berry lead the refreshment area assuring that we didn't run out of food or drinks. The building manager made sure the rooms, AV equipment, and chairs were ready. Our volunteers were coordinating with the speakers and doing liaison duties to make sure all ran

smoothly.

The speakers were great and I learned something even if I wasn't able to stay for the entire presentation. Dr. Jamie Ellis spoke about the latest and greatest bee knowledge, and talked about "why are we beekeepers?" Dr. Delaplane spoke about polyandry in beehives and the need for diversity. A great many good questions came out of that talk. Ray Civitts gave us good ideas about seasonal beekeeping. Buster Lane gave a great talk on the need for nutrition throughout the season, and Keith Fielder hopefully encouraged a good many people to enter honey shows. Chuck Hester gave a talk about queens and how to, while Keith Fletcher, one of the first class of Master Alabama beekeepers to graduate last year, discussed using nucs in his apiary.

The lunch was catered by Burt's Butcher shop, and provided not only delicious barbeque but also a time to chat with other beekeepers sitting at the long tables.

There were quite a few vendors available on site. Rossman apiaries showed up with some new faces and Walter T. Kelley was set up as well.

Sean McBride from Florida came and had natural, untreated, nucs built for us, while Steve Page sold swarm traps. Chuck Hester had his Queen school sign up and Busters Bees were present to sell honey and share information about nucs for this spring, expanding the waiting list all day.

We are growing and added a couple of new items to help us: an improved evaluation/survey and forums. The response from this evaluation worked very well. Our incentive for those who filled out the evaluation was that they were entered into a drawing for a Queen.

We held two forums: a Presidents Council, where presidents of the local clubs got together, talked for about 45 minutes, to find ways we could help each other in our local clubs and the GBA. And we held a Newsletter Editor forum. I think this is one of the most challenging jobs for a club that there is. This job is relentless. You have to find new pictures, new articles, get

people to write and submit things. It is a thankless job also. I would like to thank Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman for being dedicated and writing the GBA newsletter. The Newsletter is really important to our club members.

We are working diligently at improving GBA with each board and general meeting.

Hopefully, we will be able to offer kids and non-beekeeping partner tracks at the next meeting.

Overall there were many compliments and some complaints, but we wouldn't be human or beekeepers if we did not have those. The GBA officers and directors are excited and hope to be able to offer more information in the fall. We are holding the next meeting in Milledgeville. The host club is the new Lake Country

Beekeepers. This is their first year as a club, and they wanted to tackle putting on the GBA meeting. Kudos.

I would like to thank Rose Anne Fielder, Treasurer for keeping the budget; Andy Bailey who is Secretary and helping to record the meetings; Arthur "Brutz" English, Director, who always comes up with good ideas and to Steve Cobb and Steve Prince, Directors who were ready to lend a hand. I would like to thank Bear Kelley, GBA President for providing us with direction and strong leadership to move the GBA forward, so that we are a meaningful association and so that we can help meet the needs of all of our Georgia beekeepers.

Honey Baked Chicken

contributed by Julie Civitts

- Arrange in a shallow baking dish, one 3 pound fryer cut up or use deboned cubed chicken breast.
- Combine and pour over the chicken: 1/3 cup butter or margarine, 1/3 cup honey, 2 Tblsp. prepared mustard, 1 tsp. salt, 1 tsp. curry powder.
- Bake for 1 to 1 1/2 hours at 350°. Serve over Jasmine rice.



European Bee Tours

Mary Blohm is going on [this bee tour in Slovenia](#) this year and had an exhibit at the GBA meeting.

Julia Mahood, Noah Macey, and Linda Tillman went on [this beekeeping tour of Lithuania](#) in 2013.

If you know or a beekeeping tour in the United States or elsewhere, [let us know](#). It's fun to travel with your interest in bees as the focal point.

☆ ***Beekeeper Bytes***

Rozalyn Todd, first female African American Certified Welsh Honey Judge in Georgia, has been chosen as a judge for the Mead Mixer of the Mazer Cup International Festival on Honey Wines of the World in Boulder, Colorado, in March, 2015.

Dr. Keith Delaplaine received [royal recognition](#). Bill Owens sent us this link which will be available for access for some time. Congratulations to Dr. Delaplaine and thanks to all who wanted to make sure this was noted in the newsletter.



All I need to Know About Life I Learned from a Honeybee

Grooming is important.
 Home is where your family is.
 A good buzz is, at times, helpful.
 There's no such thing as a weed.
 Don't flap your wings unnecessarily.
 Drones are important, so is NOT droning.
 God gave you lots of eyes; use all of them.
 Cleansing flights: good for the body and the soul.
 Take care of the one in charge, but have a back-up cell.
 Stop and smell the roses. And the daisies, and the marigolds, and...
 When you figure out your role, do it to the best of your ability.
 Working together yields awesome results.
 Horizontal stripes can make you look fat.
 Only sting if absolutely necessary.
 Make a beeline to your work.
 A plant-based diet is smart.
 Bee all that you can bee.
 Dance.

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 kelleybees.com

The Photo collage above is from the spring meeting. To see these and more photos in a slideshow, visit [our Spilling the Honey blog](#). Photos by Linda Tillman and Gina Gallucci

Jamie Ellis shared his great sense of humor in his third talk at GBA. He showed us this list that he got from Walter T. Kelley's newsletter in July 2012 and may have been in the Kelley newsletter even earlier than this reprint. For those of you who weren't there, here's the list (and it's available as a car magnet from Kelley):

**Ask Ten Beekeepers a Question.....
(and you'll get at least 11 different answers)**

Out on the Technology Edge - A Cost Effective Treatment For Varroa Mites

by Bob Grant

This fall I decided to make some changes to the Varroa Destructor management in my ladies' abodes since I don't want them exposed to any other unnecessary health hazards. As a responsible and forward thinking keeper of bees, I have always treated my bees with Apiguard twice a year. I do not like subjecting my ladies to harsh man-made chemicals -- so one treatment in March and then a second treatment in the September-October time frame. Remember each treatment requires a second application two weeks after the first treatment. My bees are located in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, not that far from the Appalachian Trail.

My reason for changing the ladies health regiment is based on following four factors:

- First, in nature, most creatures, including mites, learn to adapt to stimulus in their environment;
- Second, recent reports from another respected beekeeper reported that after applying Apiguard this fall, a number of his hives exhibited a higher than normal brood death;
- Third, with average annual winter losses in the mid-twenties, its becoming more difficult to sustain a viable financial model; and
- Fourth, Apiguard individual treatments per hive can range from \$ 3.15 to \$6.59. Moreover, it gets worse...I haven't even included shipping or my time yet! I love my ladies, but really!

I read a number of articles in the American Bee Journal (ABJ)^[1] leading me to do some additional research online. So based on these, I decided to try the Oxalic Acid treatment. As I mentioned earlier, I don't want to expose my ladies to harsh man-made chemicals, especially since we maintain a Certified Naturally Grown rating. Oxalic Acid is a naturally occurring acid in plants and will not harm the bees, queen or brood if properly applied.

There are two types of applications currently in use. First, is the dribble method using a three percent solution in a normally 1:1 sugar solution. The main advantages are that it's quick to prepare and apply by simply mixing the solution and dribbling

Why do bees hum?

Because they don't know the words!

Honey at the Table - by Mary Oliver

*It fills you with the soft
essence of vanished flowers, it becomes
a trickle sharp as a hair that you follow
from the honey pot over the table*

*and out the door and over the ground,
and all the while it thickens,*

*grows deeper and wilder, edged
with pine boughs and wet boulders,
pawprints of bobcat and bear, until*

*deep in the forest you
shuffle up some tree, you rip the bark*

*you float into and swallow the dripping
combs,*

*bits of the tree, crushed bees - a taste
composed of everything lost, in which
everything*

lost is found.

it between the frames in the hive. The disadvantage, if the solution is too concentrated, is that the ladies can be harmed. For that reason alone, I chose not to use that method.

The second method is to vaporize a small quantity, typically 1 gram, of Oxalic Acid inside the hive. Exhibit 1 shows the Oxalic Acid used in this application. The main advantage is that the vapor quickly distributes itself throughout the hive getting into all exposed areas. The disadvantage: it takes longer to apply and I have to be careful not to inhale the vapor or get it into the eyes. I buy my Oxalic Acid, "Wood Beach ^[2]", from Ace Hardware at a cost of \$ 9.31, tax included. Which choice works out to be less than three cents per hive treatment? That's a 105 to 219 times reduction in cost over Apiguard.



Exhibit 1-Off the Shelf Oxalic Acid

Working with the Oxalic Acid Vaporizer

JB200 Electric ^[3] tool, Exhibit 2, in fact two JB200s tied together. Exhibit 3 shows that the JB200s are wired with a number 16 lamp cord and then joined together with number 14 outdoor wire that terminates in a trailer hitch connector. Each lamp cord has its own switch.

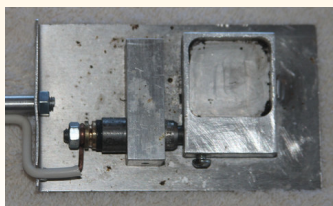


Exhibit 2



Exhibit 3-JB200s Wiring

Prior to applying the treatment, I waited until there was no more capped brood to ensure the maximum effectiveness of a single treatment, hence the late November period. The procedure is as follows:

1. Load one scoop of Oxalic Acid into JB200's delivery tray;
2. Insert a mite count board, "sticky board" or Styrofoam sheet if you have an IPM hive with screen bottom board
3. Insert the JB200 into the hive through the normal entrance at the bottom board and close off the opening with towels;
4. Turn on the power for just over one minute. I found that 70 seconds works best for the 40 degree temperature I was working in.;
5. Then let the JB200 set for three more minutes to ensure all the vapor is released into the hive and the - elapsed time 4 minutes 10 seconds;
6. Remove the JB200 and reclose the entrance for another 7 minutes - elapsed time 11 minutes 10 seconds;
7. Allow the JB200 to cool down.
8. Reload as necessary and repeat the process until all the bordellos have been treated.

In my case, the F150 pick-up requires the engine to be running for the power to flow to the trailer hitch. This actually adds a safety element into the process for the operator. I set a stopwatch in the cab, climbed in to turn on the two JB200s and ran them for 70 seconds. I then turned off the engine and waited three minutes to allow the vaporization to complete -- good time to make notes. This process kept me away from the

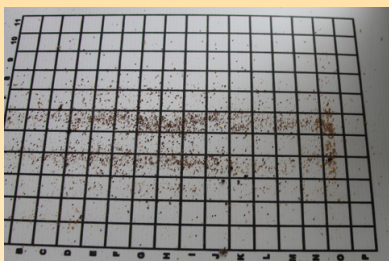
vapors, since I do not have a personal problem with mites and do not need to be treated.

I was able to complete the next set of treatments before removing the towels from the entrances to the previously treated hives. This allowed me to leap frog through the apiaries and reduce my overall time. In total, I was able to complete 12 hives in about 40 minutes.

One note of caution: in about 30 percent of the hives, the JB200 killed one to four bees due to contact with the hot metal. I believe in those cases there are two possible reasons for that occurrence:

- The JB200 got positioned right under the cluster; or
- The bees were more aggressive, and attacked the foreign object, which I saw in two of my hives.

As I said in the beginning, I do not like to hurt my ladies, but if the mite boards show good results I will continue with this practice.



On December first, I checked the mite count boards, Wow - while most exhibited 20 to 60 female mites killed, one had over 592 female mites. The males were harder to see, but on close examination, the numbers appear high. As a

bonus, the treatment killed the majority of hive beetles as well! An interesting side note is that you can see where the bees are clustering by the concentration of mites, which apparently follow the cluster between frames.

At this last hive inspection and feeding which occurred the weekend of Thanksgiving, just before I got my new store bought knee, showed that the bees were healthy and very active post this treatment. My current plan is to alternate the Oxalic Acid Vapor and Apiguard treatments, with Apiguard in the early spring before the Queen starts laying (March timeframe - but before the Red Maple blooms, remember we are in the mountains) to keep the mites off balance.

[1] The latest article appears in the December 2013 ABJ issue.

[2] There are two types of Wood Bleach, make sure you get the Oxalic Acid one.

[3] JB200 is a product of Heilyser technology LTD., in British Columbia, Canada, Phone number 1-250-656-8727- in the USA contact: Bedillion Honey Farm 724-747-4645

As of March 1, 2014, 5300 people have visited our [Spilling the Honey blog site](#).

The 2014 USDA/AMS Specialty Crop Block Grant has been announced, and information is available on our department's website at <http://agr.georgia.gov/grants.aspx>.

Project Proposals are due in my office via email by Friday, April 18, at 4:30 p.m. No late proposals will be accepted.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you!

Jeanne Maxwell, Esq.

Director of Grants Development & Compliance

[404-657-1584](tel:4046571584)



Bee-themed stained glass by Dwight West (also the photographer)

"Because they don't have a critical mass, nucs can go from "doing fine" to "overcrowded and swarming" or "robbed out and starving" in a very short period of time. Keep a close eye on them."

from

The Complete Idiots's Guide to Beekeeping by Dean Stiglitz and Laurie Herboldsheimer.

Slovenia "The Land of Good Beekeepers"

by Mary Blohm

My husband and I recently visited Slovenia, a small European country which borders Italy. (For you history buffs, it was part of old Yugoslavia.)

On the first day, we rented a car, picked up our tourist map and set out on our adventure. Upon opening the road map we noticed it had little honey bees printed all over the country's highways. Much to our delight, we had landed in "The Land of Good Beekeepers," as the Slovenians fondly refer to themselves. In Slovenia, one in every 250 citizens is a beekeeper.

Their beekeeping history runs as deep and rich as their dark forest honey. Slovenian

Beekeepers have accomplished a lot in beekeeping. They have 45 monitoring stations throughout the country, a program which has recorded pertinent data daily since 1901. They have developed an exceptional Carniolan Gray queen rearing program, priding themselves in their genetic monitoring program. Beekeepers, universities and government appear to be collaborating, working together to promote a healthy environment for their precious honey bees.

At the Georgia Beekeepers Meeting in Feb. we demonstrated the Slovenian "AZ" hive which was developed by one of the most famous Slovenian beekeepers: Anton Žnideršič (1874-1947). We are hard at work translating it into a functional hive for the USA. Stay tuned for future notification on our progress.

Dear Aunt Bee,

My first bee hive has made it through the winter! Last weekend when it was warm I opened them up and saw lots of brood, and saw the queen. I also saw lots of bees with pollen in their baskets. There are several frames of capped honey left, and it looks like there's uncapped honey too - I guess it's being brought in now?

My question is: The folks at my bee club say I should be feeding the bees sugar syrup. But if there's still honey left from winter, and it looks like honey is coming in, do I still feed? I don't want to harvest sugar water.

Thanks,

Sweeter Than Honey

Dear Sweeter Than Honey,

Fantastic that your first hive survived the winter! And you saw stored capped honey – which means they had more than enough to make it through the winter. The uncapped honey means they are finding nectar somewhere. Our main nectar flow hasn't started yet but there are sources of nectar here and there.

The nectar flow is nature's way of telling the bees that it is safe to build up brood numbers and grow the hive. If they are artificially large in number due to early feeding, or due to constant feeding through the winter, the natural cycle of rearing brood is manipulated - often to the bees' detriment.

Generally as spring approaches, the only bees that should need to be fed are package bees. If you start a new package, those bees didn't know that they were going to be poured into a box and didn't prepare themselves by gorging honey. So they need a little boost to get their hive started. But really, no other bees should need feeding – a nuc arrives with frames of honey already started and nectar will be available for them at their new home since it is spring. You want to encourage them to forage for the blossoms and not just drink from the front door. A surviving overwintered hive should have some honey left and will also be finding spring nectar to sustain the bees.

You said you didn't want to harvest sugar water. If you are feeding the bees as the nectar flow starts, it's highly likely that the sugar syrup will be a part of your honey (just like the stuff that is coming from China!). Some beekeepers have suggested that you put blue food coloring into the sugar syrup to see where exactly it appears in the honeycomb. This is a great way to see if any of the syrup you fed ends up in the frames you harvest.

This is one way to think about feeding, but you know if you ask a few more beekeepers, you'll get a few more different answers! Congratulations on a successful winter and good luck with your bees this year.

Yours truly,
Aunt Bee



Last month we asked if you had taken a short course. FIFTY of you answered the survey. Of the 50,

44% took a short course from their local bee club,
22% took a short course in a different town or city, and
42% did not take a short course

About 80% of the people who took the survey got their bees the same year as they took a short course.

This month our one-question survey is about **hive loss**. Please let us know how your hives fared over the winter. [Click here](#) to take the survey.

There's a place for your thoughts – if you have an idea about why/how your hive(s) died, tell us in the blank provided.

Thanks for participating - we learn more about each other as we see how other people respond, so take the chance and fill out our single question survey!

Thanks to Christine Farhnbauer for suggesting the question

Last night I lay sleeping. I dreamt that there was a beehive here inside my heart and the golden bees were making white comb and sweet honey from all my failures - Antonio Macado

The East Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Club in Conyers has a new President. His name is David Shipp. Congratulations! If your club has an officer you'd like to recognize, feel free to send it to us to put in the newsletter.

Letters to the Editors (This is our FIRST letter to the editor - please join Bob and put in your two cents about something that matters to you!)

A Call to Hive Tools to All Georgia Beekeepers

from Bob Grant

If you attended the February GBA meeting in beautiful, sunny Columbus, GA, you already know that the quality of presentations was outstanding. I want to spotlight one speaker, Dr. Jamie Ellis, who gave us three interesting and entertaining presentations. His final presentation of the day came after an all-day discussion of bee mortality. Dr. Ellis was concerned about closing with on such a discouraging note, so he created a humorous presentation. The subtle message: we've talked enough about bee deaths so let's move the topic to how bees and Lady Gaga are related. This hilarious presentation got me to thinking about the GBA business meeting I attended the night before.

On Friday night the GBA officers, club presidents and others met to conduct the business of the Association. One topic discussed was the idea of becoming a 501C entity in order to access research funding. Folks expressed their support or concerns for change in business status. What became apparent to me was that we seemed to be chasing new sources of funding without a clear roadmap forward.

As a micro-honey producer, producing between 1000 and 1500 lbs of honey annually, I have been living with the bee yard issue of 25% to 50% die-off every winter for as long as I can remember. I find myself lying awake at night, wondering how we might change the outcome and improve the lot of our ladies? Therefore, with Dr. Ellis, I say enough about bee die-off talk! Let us start talking about what we can do today and tomorrow to improve our apiaries survival rates.

I'm old enough to remember President Kennedy's inaugural speech 54 years ago, when he challenged our country to put a man on the moon in the 1960s and we did it! I

think it's time for Georgia beekeepers, both commercial and backyard, and the GBA to accept the following challenge: ***Within five years let's find a way to reduce apiary losses to less than 18% annually within five years and within 10 years to less than 10%.***

Specifically I'm asking the GBA to:

1. Identify the number of GA beekeepers, large and small and their current losses;
2. Identify beekeepers' successful efforts to minimize these losses by region;
3. Assemble a manual of successful practices that can be used now;
4. Educate our beekeepers on those specific practices;
5. Fund additional small-scale, practical bee yard research projects to further enhance bee survival in Georgia;
6. Work more closely with academia to bring this research to the bee yard as quickly as possible to meet the stated challenge; and
7. Track success in the bee yards by conducting an annual survey of apiaries.

This is no small undertaking, but it will focus the GBA and its members and auxiliary clubs on the most critical issue facing both big and small beekeepers. This GBA work will bring near-term solutions to the bee yard. Remember, to commercial beekeepers bee loss is financial and to small hobbyist beekeepers it's more emotional. Both are devastating.

**What goes zzub,
zzub?**

**A bee flying
backwards.**

Upcoming BEE Events

March 15, 2014

[Welshfest Honey Show](#), Rockmart, GA

March 22, 2014

Day two of the Northeast Georgia Mountain Beekeepers Association's short course. Takes place at Carl Webb's bee yard in Clarkesville, GA

XXXXXXXXXX, 2014

Your bee event here. We can't make these up - if you have a bee event and you want state members to know about it to participate, please send it to us at [***gbanewsletters@gmail.com***](mailto:gbanewsletters@gmail.com)

GBA now has an online calendar.

You can access it from the Events page or the home page. If you have events that you'd like to see in the Newsletter or on the calendar, send them to [***gabecalendar@gmail.com***](mailto:gabecalendar@gmail.com)

GUIDELINES for SUBMISSION:

Please keep your articles to about **500 words**. Send them to us as word documents, attached to an email. Don't do anything fancy to the margins - just makes it hard for us. This is a newsletter and we want to keep things short and sweet.

Please **attach photos to the email** - do not put them in the body of the document - we'll just have to email you to ask you to send them as attachments - so start out by attaching them to your emailed submission. Please tell us **who took the photo and who/where it is/when it was taken**.

Remember: Letters to the editor about anything in the newsletter or the newsletter itself are welcome - please write us!

Don't be shy - we love what you contribute and will work with you to edit it, if need be.

Thanks, Your editors:

Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

[***gbanewsletters@gmail.com***](mailto:gbanewsletters@gmail.com)

The Final Buzz

This month we request that you send beekeeping questions. There are no questions too remedial or too advanced for us to post. We will research to get answers, (sometimes conflicting) from our experts and Aunt Bee. Keep in mind, if you are asking a question, someone else is likely to be wondering about the same thing but just hasn't written us. If you are an experienced beekeeper and you have been asked what to do, or what could have happened in a hive, please share that also. We are entering into our busiest season of beekeeping and we hope to help as many apiaries as possible. Best wishes to you and the bees!

Gina and Linda

PS. We also want the other stuff: photos, questions for Aunt Bee, survey ideas, recipes, beekeeping stories and articles!



Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

April 2014



Photos of Cole Maxwell and his children, learning about making bee splits.

The President's Message

This month I would like to address the challenge posed by Bob Grant in the last *Spilling the Honey* newsletter. First, thank you, Bob, for your positive comments about our speakers. Our keynote guy for the February meeting, Dr Ellis, is in much demand and not as easy to schedule as one might seem. But we are lucky because he has roots here in Georgia. We will continue to seek the best speakers we can.

I do have a “roadmap” for GBA, which I have been sharing with all of you through this President’s Message. The first avenue on the roadmap is increasing our membership. If you go back a few issues, you will see that I came out of the September meeting as your new President, announcing that only about 15% of the Georgia beekeepers are members of GBA. I spoke with David Williams, the GA Bee Hive inspector, and he said that we have over 2000 beekeepers in GA. I asked everyone to talk up our GBA organization.

Increasing membership is a goal on which I have been working with the Board of

Directors. I have also developed a Power Point briefing on “why join GBA” that I will be happy to present to any club. Just ask!

The discussion about the 501c (3) entity is significant if we want to have major sponsors for some of the following programs...

- ∞ Georgia Honey Queen
- ∞ Fund additional small scale bee yards
- ∞ Fund and support 4H and junior beekeeping programs
- ∞ Other Programs?

We do in fact have a reserve fund, but we don't want to deplete it too soon as we move down the road. We do have to pay for these great speakers, as well as their travel and lodging along with the general operation of the association.

I have mentioned the Honey Queen program in previous newsletters and we have just completed a feasibility study for that. If we can obtain a major sponsor and find the right person to manage that program, we can implement it. A Honey Queen program will take about \$8-10,000 annually. What better ambassador for our youth could we ask for? Other states have successful programs, why can't Georgia?

To help feed the Honey Queen program, we need to get the 4H support program and junior beekeeping program back on track. Again the Board of Directors has been talking a great deal about how to do that within the parameters of our by-laws. I hope to have a new policy written to you before long.

A few years ago, I challenged all beekeepers in the state to marry up with their local state parks and start a beekeeping program at that park. The idea is to help educate the public and emphasize the “Plight of the Honeybee” out so that others can help. As I speak with many groups around the state, I always tell them that they don't have to be beekeepers to join GBA. Their membership goes towards research and education. We keep a tally in the newsletter on what state parks are on board with us. Is yours? Make it a club project.

As far as identifying beekeepers successful efforts and such, our Newsletter editors have been putting a survey in every month for a while now asking questions like that. We're not getting a lot of feedback. Help us out here and send in your responses. With that info, we can compile a manual that we can use to educate our members.

As you all know GBA works well with the UGA and the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute. Our relationship with Jennifer Berry (UGA Bee Lab) is such that we often share problems and ideas. She and Dr. Delaplane are regular speakers at our meetings. They have provided a wonderful education program for Georgia beekeepers for over 22

years now.

I have recently started a “President’s Council.” It is an unofficial way of contacting and communicating with our club presidents. At our spring meeting, Mary Cahill-Roberts conducted a breakout session with the Club Presidents who were in attendance and shared problems, successes and general info about conducting the matters of a club. We will continue that at every meeting for the foreseeable future. I also plan to email the club presidents periodically to get them to share problems and successes as well. Andy Bailey worked hard to develop the list. So here we need the club officers to review your web sites and ensure that all the contact info is there for any computer illiterate (like me) to locate easily.

So Bob, we accept your challenges as an Association. To bounce the challenge back, we sincerely need the assistance of all beekeepers out there (Commercial, Sideliners and Hobbyist) to make any of these programs successful. I believe we have a team in place that will help us grow in the right direction.

By increasing our membership, getting Georgia’s youth involved, we can educate the public, increase honey production, and make a better environment for our bees.

Bear Kelley,
President

Slade and Kristie Jarrett would like to offer a big thank you to our State Senator, John Wilkinson. Wilkinson presented a resolution to Jarrett Apiaries on March 10, 2014, on the Senate floor at the Georgia State Capital. The resolution recognized Jarrett Apiaries for their agricultural efforts in Banks County and their award winning honey.



All 56 Senators received a 1 lb. jar of our own North Georgia Chunk Honey. Slade was given the opportunity to address the Senators, so he promoted and asked for support on behalf of all local bee clubs and The Georgia Beekeepers Association.

Slade and Kristie Jarrett are pictured with Senator John Wilkinson and Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle.

In an effort to support the pollinator, Bayer is offering a prize to people who are working in this arena. Nominate and support someone from Georgia for this prize. The information can be found [here](#).

Dear Aunt Bee,

I got a call about a swarm from my neighbor who knows I'm a beekeeper. I went over there with a hive box and the swarm was about 10 feet up. My neighbor lent me a ladder and I climbed up with the hive box. I tried to balance the hive box in one hand and held the branch with the other. I tried to shake the bees into the hive box but they went everywhere - some fell into the box but thousands fell on the ground in the grass. I don't know if I got the queen. I took the box home and the car was filled with bees. I need help! I want to do it better if I get another call.

Buzzed and Confused***Dear Buzzed and Confused,***

I learned how to get a swarm from Cindy Bee, a well-known Georgia beekeeper who now lives in Maine. She advised me to make a swarm kit and this is what goes in it:

1. A spray bottle with sugar syrup
2. A white bed sheet
3. A bee brush
4. A pair of clippers for plants/shrubs
5. Something to carry the bees in - I use a banker's box made of cardboard and cover the top with a ventilated hive cover. Sometimes I use a plastic banker's box, but also a ventilated hive cover so the bees don't die in the box from heat and lack of ventilation. And a way to close the box - like a bungee
6. Some old comb (put this in the container for bees)
7. A 1/2 gallon plastic milk jug with the bottom cut off.
8. A cell phone and a camera (if your phone isn't one)
9. A ladder, if you are comfortable climbing one

When you arrive at the swarm site, you spread the sheet under the swarm so the bees that miss the box can be easily seen and gathered up. You spray the swarm with the sugar syrup. You shake the swarm into your carrier. The bee brush helps here as well. You can use the cut off milk carton to scoop up any large piles of bees.

If you've gotten the queen, you'll see the bees at the box entry, sending a nasonov signal (the queen is here!) by putting their butts up in the air and fanning. Leave the bees alone until most of them are in the container. I usually partially cover the

container while they move in with the queen. Then strap on the ventilated hive cover and head for the car.

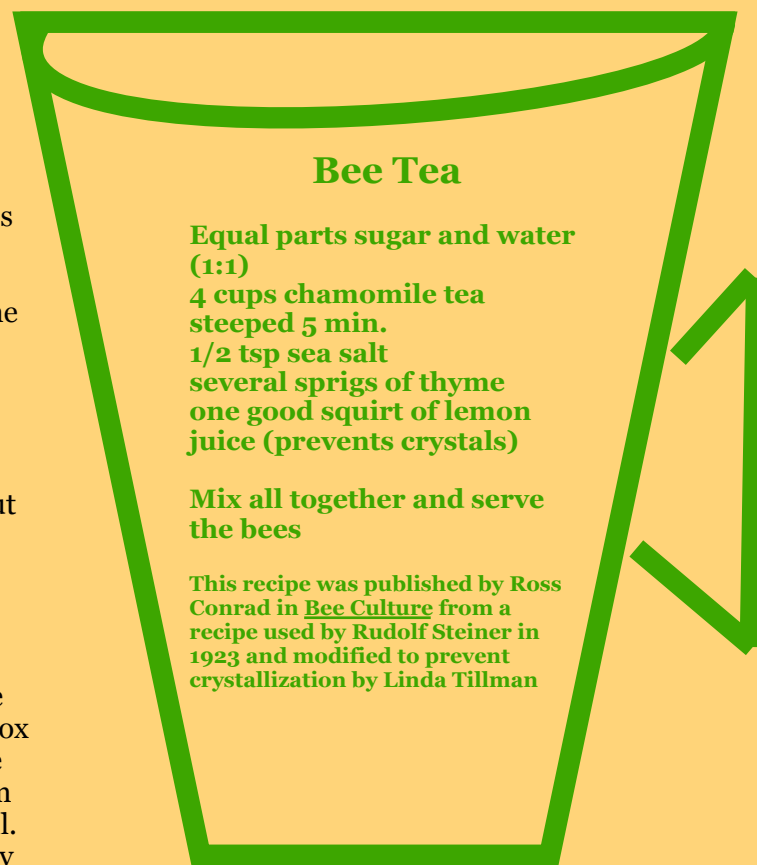
You'll have some loose bees in the car, but while the car is moving, they will stay on the rear window.

Good luck with the next swarm,

Your Aunt Bee



(contributed by Linda Tillman with information from Cindy Bee)



■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
 ■ Note: In fall, bee tea can be made ■
 ■ with 2:1 syrup.....FWIW ■
 ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Tardy? Missed the registration for Young Harris? Wanted to take the Certified Test and now you think you can't?

Don't worry, bee happy!

The Certified test is the first level of the Georgia Master Beekeeper program. To take it, you need to have opened a hive, have some familiarity with the world of bees, and be able to light a smoker. The text for the test is Delaplane's First Lessons in Beekeeping.

You can take the test without going to Young Harris. Two Georgia bee clubs have been designated by Keith Delaplane to offer the test through their club.

Both clubs are offering the test on May 3, Saturday.

Forsyth County Beekeepers Association is offering the Georgia Master Beekeeper Certified testing on May 3, 2014. For more information call anyone interested may call Sue Conlyn, at [770-888-9652](tel:770-888-9652), or [770-316-8300](tel:770-316-8300), or [770-713-1807](tel:770-713-1807), or Hoyte Rogers @ [770-479-1731](tel:770-479-1731)

Safety in the Apiary!

Mary Cahill-Roberts, VP
GBA



This is my 7th season as a beekeeper. I have learned a lot. I have gone through the Master Beekeeper course at Young Harris. I have worked at the local and state level to try to make things better and educate beekeepers.

About 4 months ago I was talking to a man in our club who had not used a veil, and had an eye injury. I was amazed, but those little girls do move fast and if you turn your head just right, wham. I have heard about the guy on the ladder who fell off trying to catch the swarm. He will not be lifting boxes. I have heard about the wax burn, where he needed to get a skin graft, but I have not ever heard about the fire.

On a Sunday I had a new high school student coming over to learn about the bees. I was really excited, because he wants to get some for his house and he is a potentially new recruit. I am talking all about the fun time that we have and all the cool things bees do. When the temperature was perfect, it was time to start working the bees.

I brought him over to start the smoker. I had a smaller one that I rarely use, but was going to light at this time. The first round was not successful, nor the second, but on the third... Alas. I set the yard on fire. A pine needle fell out when I was puffing and lit the grass, which I could not get out and then the pine straw and then bam.

The fire started at about 1:28 pm. We called 911 at 1:31pm. They arrived at 1:42pm. The whole back yard was gone and several of my hives. My hives are on the western side of the yard where the propane tank is...so I got to choose. I did.

We are all ok. My house is still standing. I have 6 hives in the yard.

Since then, I have heard 3 other stories about beekeepers and fire and fire trucks. More importantly I have a new safety talk.

Good luck, happy inspections and keep your fire extinguisher close!



GMO and our Ladies

by Bob Grant

I recently re-read the December 2012 edition of the American Beekeeper. An article by Randy Oliver on "Sick Bees Part 181, Colony Collapse Revisited- Genetically Modified Plants" caught my eye, so I read it. Generally, I do not read research articles on a regular basis, but Randy's articles on sick bees are particularly noteworthy. This was a seminal moment for me, even though I prefer articles on practical application which immediately impact my beekeeping.

Yes, I can be accused of spreading the biodegradable stuff when it comes to Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) given my close involvement with organic farmers in our local organic farmer's market. And perhaps I have a somewhat over-exaggerated view of the issues surrounding GMO.

Randy discusses GMOs and the potential impact and benefits to our ladies while going out of his way to present a balanced assessment of Monsanto's efforts in this area of research. While I am not going to rehash this article in detail, I would like to hear others beekeepers' opinions on GMO plants. There is a lot of discussion about GMO -- both true and false -- and we, as beekeepers, may need to replace some "old wives' tales" with accurate information. I also wonder if we are vilifying companies such as Monsanto when we should be encouraging their research.

From my experience with apiaries in the North Georgia Mountains, GMO seeds are less important here since farming is quite different from what you will find in Georgia's Piedmont and coastal plain regions. In other words, we do not have extensive farming that would bring

our bees into more frequent contact with GMO plants. In fact, almost three quarters of the land in Rabun County is designated National or State Forest. My focus here is on the possibility that GMO could target and eliminate a number of the stress vectors affecting the bees.

Specifically, I like to hear your opinion on the following GMO related topics:

- The potential impact of GMO plantings on bee mortality and honey production per hive.
- A greater understanding of other beekeepers' concerns with GMO plantings.
- The direct application of GMO to our ladies to combat or eliminate *Nosema ceranae*, Varroa Mites and other stress vectors.
- We might even ask, "Where should bee GMO research be focused?"

Why is this topic so important? From my humble perspective, we as beekeepers should not be wasting our limited resources shouting at the wind and potentially focusing legislation and research on the wrong areas. We may be more effective by focusing our support on researchers, politicians and yes big businesses, such as Monsanto, especially on those areas that can help us reduce bee mortality rates and improving life in the apiaries.

Editor's notes: The complete article to which Bob refers can be found here:

<http://scientificbeekeeping.com/sick-bees-part-18e-colony-collapse-revisited-genetically-modified-plants/>

Please share your thoughts with a letter to the editors: gbanewsletters@gmail.com

Bee Club of the Month

Mountain Beekeepers' Association

by Glen Henderson

As mountain folk are wont to do, we are loosely organized. Our guiding principal is getting together and having a fun time doing it. Formed in the spring of 2002 to provide a forum for information exchange relative to beekeeping, the Mountain Beekeepers are dedicated to keeping our members up to date on the ever changing "best practices" for keeping their bees alive. We are not always successful but we are informed.

Our meetings are informal seminars on what is working for each beekeeper. We nurture each other along, discussing the rhythm of nature and how it is guiding the activities of the beehive. The bees are always responding to the situations in nature and we need to be knowledgeable and ahead of the honeybees in order to call ourselves "good beekeepers."

Located in Young Harris, we are one of the most remote clubs associated with the Georgia Beekeepers Association. It is difficult for the membership to stay closely involved in the exchange of information and comradery of the state honey business. So we have developed a process of ambassadorship where-by we have delegates to almost any bee activity statewide. They bring back the information and disseminate it to the members.

With about 30 members covering 7 counties in Northeast Georgia and Western North Carolina we can impact quite a large community. We actively support our community through educational outreach, presenting seminars on "why keep honeybees," "how to keep honeybees," "the problems with honeybees," "honeybees as pollinators," and other related subjects. The recipients of the seminars range from the Master Gardeners, Jr. Garden Clubs, the high school agriculture classes and the public at large.

During the Mountain Fair (July) in Hiawassee GA, we have a static display of beekeeper equipment. This is in the middle of sourwood season so it has to be stand alone and unmanned. It is an excellent way for people to see up close what equipment is involved in beekeeping.

Our grandest adventure is a live hive demonstration at the Fall Festival (Oct) in Hiawassee, GA, where over 7,000 people pass through our presentation area viewing the inside of a live bee hive (the hive is inside a screened room). We try to answer all their questions for ten consecutive days. It is a huge hit.

To support the state beekeepers in general we are the purveyors of the

How many of you in Georgia Land know that the Honeybee was designated state insect of Georgia in 1975? This was to acknowledge the honeybee's contribution to the states economy through honey production and aiding pollination of more than 50 Georgia crops. The honeybee is also recognized as an official state symbol in 17 states." Girls Rule!

beehives at the UGA/Young Harris bee institute. Since we are nearby it is a good service project. As a service to our club members, to keep the cost of replacement bees to a minimum. we do a joint package purchase with the Appalachian Beekeepers in Murphy, N.C. in the spring.

The club has purchased equipment that is that is shared by all members when they need it. This cuts down on personal costs for infrequently used items.

The club is working on a “locally grown” queen program, in a attempt to develop a honeybee more specific to the altitude and climate of NE Georgia. Several of our beekeepers take a very scientific approach to beekeeping, adapting scientific techniques to our region.

We meet at the United Community Bank in Blairsville GA, the first Tuesday of the month at 7 PM. Our president, Glen Henderson, 706 745 1840, abletinker@windstream.net, is the main point of contact and information processor.

It's time to start thinking about the GBA Fall Meeting and Honey Show in Milledgeville, GA in September

HOTELS FOR SEPTEMBER 18-20 MEETING

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hampton and Comfort Suites. Rooms are guaranteed 30 days prior to the meeting. Reservations made after August 18 will be based on availability. All GBA sponsored activities will be held at Central GA Technical College.

Hampton Inn
2461 N. Columbia Street
Milledgeville, GA 31061
478-451-0050
\$89 + tax /night includes breakfast

Comfort Suites
2621 North Columbia Street
Milledgeville, GA 31061
478-453-2212
\$80.10 + tax /night includes breakfast
Can add additional nights

Other area hotels:

Fairfield Inn
2631- A N. Columbia Street
Milledgeville, GA 31061
855-297-1428

Super 8
2474 N Columbia Street
Milledgeville, GA 31061
478-453-9491

Days Inn
2551 N Columbia Street
Milledgeville, GA 31061
478-453-8471

Holiday Inn Express
1839 N Columbia Street
Milledgeville, GA 31061
877-859-5095

Vendors coming to the September meeting

Rossman
Kelley
Mann Lake

Pipeline Packaging (bottles)
Allied Labels
Solutionbee
American Bee Federation
(more to be added later)

Nominate a GBA Beekeeper for 2014 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 **June 30, 2014**.

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 2014 will be awarded at our fall GBA meeting to be held on September 19-20, 2014, at the Central Georgia Technical College in Milledgeville, Georgia.

Please send your nominee's name, address, and reasons they should earn this honor to:

Bruce Morgan at: rbmorgan@hughes.net

Remember the **deadline for nominations is June 30, 2014**.

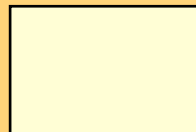
Thank you,

Bruce Morgan

GBA 2013 Beekeeper of the Year

Your Swarm Photos Here

We all love to see swarms in action. Please send us your swarm photos to use next month.



Send photo as a photo **attachment to an email** to gbanewsletters@gmail.com. Please let us know **who** took the photo, **where** and **when**.



Our monthly survey:

It's swarm season and aren't we all in high cotton with swarm calls coming in and free bees in our hives! Please take our survey about swarms below and send in your swarm stories for us to use:

To take our survey and tell us about your swarm captures,
[*click HERE*](#)

Thoughts about Entering Honey Shows

by Mary Cahill-Roberts

For the past 2 years I have supported the Welsh Fest Honey show in



Rockmart, GA. Rockmart is in northwest Georgia, about 50 minutes past my house in Mableton.

I first learned about the honey show last year when Jay Parsons, Welsh Honey Judge and Master Beekeeper, put an article in the newsletter about it. Welsh Fest is the only Welsh-centered festival in Georgia.

Jay started as the Welsh Honey Judge to support the festival and really display the work of beekeepers and their honey. Jay gives a lot of time to this festival, as Rockmart is probably close to a 2 hours drive for him. He probably sells some honey there, and I know he is educating people about honey bees and beekeeping.

Any time there is a honey show, beekeepers are center stage. Last year I was the only participant in the Welsh Fest honey show. This year there were 3, a 200% increase. I hope next year there will be 6 or more people who decide to make the effort.

Slate was what brought the Welsh to Rockmart to quarry the material. A large group of Welsh settlers made Rockmart a boom town. As a result, every year the prize is a really cool Welsh slate medal from Rockmart.

I entered the show for 2 reasons. One is to learn how to make my honey more presentable. The second is to support the judge. As a honey judge myself, I understand that we need to have product to judge. I want the judge(s) to have the opportunity to evaluate different products. I wish that you would think of entering the honey show and help support the judges.



Note: Mary Cahill-Roberts received First Place as well as the the Jean Latrello Award of Excellence (Best of Show) for her Light Extracted Honey.

*Ask Ten Beekeepers a Question:***What Signs Should You Look For in your Colonies to Prevent Swarming?****Virginia Webb:**

Overcrowding in the brood nest is one of the main reasons for swarming. Rapid buildup of brood by the queen will expand faster than the bees may believe they have room for. Within a few days you can have multiple queen cells produced, as the hive prepares to swarm.

Jay Parsons:

I look for a strong buildup - lots of brood with swarm cells along with drones being very prominent before the queen cells are finished. Sometimes it doesn't matter if you cut the cells and give them more space, they just build more swarms cells and get better at hiding them ;-)

Hive management software is everywhere:

[Hive Tracks](#)
[Bee Hive Manager](#)
[My Bee Hives](#)
[Bee Tight](#)

[Click here](#) to learn about honey production in 2013 compared to other years. (Thanks, Bear)

[Click here](#) to learn about grocery store honey vs. our own local production. (Thanks, Evelyn)

There are some great TED Talks on honey bees and bee survival.

John Miller: [No Bees, No Food](#)

Marla Spivak: [Why Bees are Disappearing](#)

Noah Wilson-Rich: [Every City Needs Healthy Honey Bees](#)

Dennis vanEnglesdorp: [A Plea for Bees](#)

(thanks, Steve Page)

Statcounter:

As of April 3, 2014,

****5,619****

people have visited our newsletter online at www.spillingthehoney.blogspot.com

STREET CRED

Jennifer Berry, the lab manager at the UGA Bee Lab, has called and asked for help from The Georgia Beekeepers Association. UGA is in need of feral colonies, ones that have overwintered without support from humans-not fed or treated for anything. The lab will need the entire colony for research and will return them in the fall. However, if you want bees for honey production, the lab will exchange your colonies with an equal strength colony now. For more information or to donate feral bees, please contact Jennifer at Jbee@uga.edu.

My work as the Swarm Call Lady

by Gina Gallucci

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association promotes and advertises for bee swarms and has years of experience taking calls from the general public regarding honey bee swarms. We also get calls about other bees, and get a chance to help with understanding the different bees.

As the Swarm Lady I have taken calls from all over Metro Atlanta and outside the area. I get the basic information: i.e., the swarm's exact location, in a structure or outside, height off the ground, when it was first recognized, how big it is, etc. I thank the caller on behalf of all beekeepers for their contribution to honey bee health.

Then I call one of our dedicated swarm recovery beekeepers to confirm a pickup I believe person to person contact is always better than just filling out a form. It can be much faster too. The last few days have been especially busy, with lots of calls and questions; it's all very exciting and fast paced. I have been taking and making calls very early and very late.

Being the Swarm Call Lady also has been especially rewarding because I have been able to do a great deal of outreach and talk bees with people who don't understand the urgency involved or may know almost nothing about what they are seeing. There is more and more goodwill building for the bees each year. I can feel it!

Upcoming Events: (Send your club events in for this section!)

April 19: Forsyth County Beekeeper's second day of beekeeping school. For non members, it's 20.00, free for club members. It's a hands on, open hive class, and participants should bring at least a veil. They can call me, at [770-888-9652](tel:770-888-9652), [770-316-8300](tel:770-316-8300), [770-713-1807](tel:770-713-1807)... or Hoyte Rogers @ [770-479-1731](tel:770-479-1731)

May 17: Forsyth County Beekeeper's queen rearing class at the Sawnee Mt. Preserve. Interested? Call Sue Conlyn at [770-888-9652](tel:770-888-9652), [770-316-8300](tel:770-316-8300), or [770-713-1807](tel:770-713-1807), or Hoyte Rogers @ [770-479-1731](tel:770-479-1731)

The Final Buzz:

We are all busy busy like the bees at this time of year. Let's not forget to share with everyone your thoughts about keeping care of the bees, photos from your apiary or swarms, comments or Aunt Bee questions for us to publish. Also, if you a leader in your club we welcome all your announcements info about special functions happening at your organization, i.e. Short Courses, honey contests etc. These look great with with photos.

Gina and Linda



Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

May 2014



Swarm captured by Vince West, secretary of Cherokee Bee Club

The Swarm Issue

The President's Message

Let's appreciate what we have!

When I say "let's appreciate what we have," I'm referring to the freedom of beekeeping the way we think it should be. We, in Georgia, enjoy setting up a bee hive, purchasing a nuc, or catching a swarm and reaping the benefits of a having little extra honey for ourselves or selling honey if there is an over abundance. Isn't it wonderful?

That is not necessarily true in every state in America. Since I'm on the Education Committee for the American Bee Federation, I have learned that some states, like Washington, require you to be a certified beekeeper in many of their cities, just to be able to have beehives in your own back yard.

It's great to be certified, but really not necessary. I will wager that more than 1/2 of the commercial beekeepers in America are not certified in any way other than experience and the education passed down from generation to generation. Georgia has a wonderful bee institute at Young Harris every year that produces certified and master beekeepers; but the program is not mandatory. Florida and many other states, as we know, require one to register one's

beehives to be legal beekeepers. It seems to me that since the bees are free to forage and roam about, we as beekeepers should be allowed to let them without fear of Big Brother coming down hard on us for not painting the boxes the right color or something. I'm not trying to get all political here and cause problems. I'm just thinking that there have been many GBA leaders before us doing the right thing to keep our little freedom intact.

I asked the Florida State Bee Inspector a couple of years ago why they required registration of hives. His response was so that "we can help." Well isn't that the responsibility of the state association? We as an organization can solve more problems up and down the ladder than any agency sent to "help" us.

Sure, it's good to have high tech bee labs at our universities and large corporations helping us look into high tech problems, but the day to day problems can be solved here in house and discussed without going to committee.

My point is this: We attend bee clubs at the local level; we work together there and help each other with local problems; we help new folks get started and teach each other about labeling, extracting, bottling, etc. At the state level, we work with some state government agencies, the Farm Bureau, the 4-H and the University Bee Lab. We represent some 2000 + beekeepers at the state and national gatherings and work hard to disseminate the important information to the individual beekeeper. We can do this as an association without another government agency collecting fees and such from us.

We should keep the Georgia Beekeepers Association strong. Numbers and education are what make us strong. As I visit local clubs, I'm impressed with the number of active members each club has. The number of state clubs is growing every year. Since last year, we have had 7 new start-up clubs. It isn't the money we need at the state level, it's the numbers. That is why our dues are only \$15 per year.

So club presidents get the word out that we need the same strength at the state level that you enjoy at your local level. Together we can continue to be, educational, helpful and strong.

Bear Kelley,

President, Georgia Beekeepers Association



Swarm captured in Virginia Highlands in Atlanta by Linda Tillman, MABA member

**What happened
when the bee
phoned home?**

**She got a buzzy
signal.**



Swarm captured by Mike Schaaphok. Photo contributed by Jackie Eglund

Getting the Facts on the GBA's Organizational Options

As many of you know, the Board of Directors has been exploring whether or not the GBA would be better served if we were organized under a different corporate (business) structure. The GBA is currently organized a standard corporation, but there has been an ongoing debate as to whether we could have more flexibility and/or security under one of several non-profit structures, or perhaps under some other organizational structure recognized by the Internal Revenue Service.

There are many questions and concerns our members have over the consequences of any potential change, or moreover, the potential consequences of doing nothing. We need sound answers to questions involving past and future tax liability, possible restrictions on the right to lobby, and the potential to accept donations and to give charitably as an organization. At the Spring meeting it was decided we needed to seek the advice of one or more professionals on these matters.

To that end I am in the process of lining up an accountant and/or an attorney who specializes in this field to come speak to the Board of Directors at our Fall meeting in Milledgeville. Hopefully they will be able to address our questions and concerns, and give us some sound advice as to our options as an organization. I have already spoken with several firms, and I hope to have the speaker(s) committed by our next newsletter. This Fall meeting is going to be one of the GBA's most important in many years. Please come be a part of this very important event. I hope to see you all there!

Brutz English

Northern District Director for GBA

Jerry Hayes Speaks in Atlanta! by Gina Gallucci

Jerry Hayes was the special guest speaker for Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association in April. Jerry now works for Monsanto owned, Beelogsics as Commercial Lead. He talked about the newly convened Honey Bee Advisory Council, Honey Bee Health Summit (hosted by Monsanto), the Clinton Global Initiative, and Monsanto's commitment of money to PAM.

His talk was primarily about what his employer, Monsanto Company is doing with regards to honey bee research. Much of his explanation focused on RNA interference (RNAi) – a naturally occurring gene silencing phenomenon to develop products that would improve honey bee health without GMO or pesticides. He was asked about Monsanto's commitment of money and personnel. Jerry said that the budget is currently 5 million dollars, with 6 direct employees and as much equipment as they need.



photo by Cindy Hodges

Jerry took a few beekeeping questions from our members:

What do you think about using nematodes for Small Hive Beetle control? "I don't think much of it. Small Hive Beetle larvae can crawl 100 yards or more away if soil moisture and temperatures are not to their liking under the hive. You are potentially just wasting your money. It's important to know that the Small Hive Beetle is drawn to the stress hormone produced by a declining colony and they are attracted to the brood to use as food to raise their babies on. It's really not worth it. In Florida we could trap 500 beetles nightly."

Have you heard of using lime in the soil around the hive to control Small Hive Beetle? "No, but you would have to get the pH very low or very high and as a hobbyist it's just too expensive and would take up too much area without confidence of control. Remember if they do not perceive conditions under or around the hive to be conducive to burrowing to pupate they can crawl a great distance to find the right location."

What you do think about using powdered sugar to control the Varroa Mite? "The best time to use powdered sugar is in the phoretic stage. However, when you get some control they actually ramp up their reproduction and you get behind where you were and there are more mites than before you treated." "Varroa has eliminated about 90% of the feral colonies in the U.S." "We can get about 50% control with RNAi, but I want to see it get to 80% control."

Are using mosquito control dunks in the bee water OK to use? "Yes, that doesn't hurt the honey bee." "Spraying for mosquitos is very harmful during the daylight when bees are flying."

From Gina by email: What do you think about Neonicotinoids and honey bee health? Gina, I have attached two papers that don't come from "Big Ag" which question the validity that neo-nics are the primary cause of honey bee health issues. Neonicotinoids are used as seed treatments on primarily corn and soybeans to allow the farmer to plant the seed and have it germinate successfully before a bad bug eats it. It adds value for the farmer and they like it. If they didn't they can order untreated seed. Not that you have to read them cover to cover but the first is from Australia which says that neo-nics, which are widely used in agriculture and for home and garden use in Australia don't appear to have negative health effects on honey bees. Remember that Australia does not have Varroa. As a result Beekeepers are not dumping all sorts of chemical pesticides into

honey bee colonies to control Varroa. Varroa and Varroa controls seem to be the culprit here in the US. The next paper is from the UK. It says that neo-nics are used widely because they have low, low mammalian toxicity i.e. they don't hurt us or our food crops, livestock and pets but are used to keep them healthy. But, if **used improperly** by the farmer they can kill all sorts of beneficials but this rarely happens.

Of the 94 million acres of corn planted last year and 83 million acres of soybeans there were 3 or 4 reports of the farmer planting seed in dry dusty conditions and honey bees for some reason were sited right next to the fields and there were impacts. I wonder what the negative impacts were for pesticide use on golf courses, home termite use or for the lawn treatment folks were?

For more reading about the organizations and papers to which Jerry refers:

www.beeologics.com/beeologics-blog/

www.projectapism.org/



Roy Blackwell of Dawsonville, using a swarm trap of two fiber flower pots, has caught two swarms so far. He found the [plans for the swarm trap on Linda's Bees](#). He baited the trap with old comb and some lemon grass essential oil.

“The bee's life is like a magic well: the more you draw from it, the more it fills with water”
— Karl Von Frisch, *Bees: Their Vision, Chemical*

There is still time for you to take the Certified Test:

The Certified test is the first level of the Georgia Master Beekeeper program. To take it, you need to have opened a hive, have some familiarity with the world of bees, and be able to light a smoker. The text for the test is Delaplane's [First Lessons in Beekeeping](#).

You can take the test without going to Young Harris.

Forsyth County Beekeepers Association is offering the Georgia Master Beekeeper Certified testing on Saturday, May 3, 2014. For more information call Sue Conlyn, at [770-888-9652](tel:770-888-9652), or [770-316-8300](tel:770-316-8300), or [770-713-1807](tel:770-713-1807), or Hoyte Rogers @ [770-479-1731](tel:770-479-1731)

Other offerings:

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association is offering the Jr. Beekeeping Program

Sunday, June 22, 2014 in Alpharetta, GA 10am-4pm (approx.) Cost: \$25 Rain or Shine! Open to children of all ages For more details:

www.metroatlantabeekeepers.org

Forsyth County Beekeepers Association is offering a Queen Rearing class. **For information**, contact Sue Conlyn: [770-888-9652](tel:770-888-9652), or [770-316-8300](tel:770-316-8300), or [770-713-1807](tel:770-713-1807).

Panna Cotta with Candied Kumquats
from [The Fresh Honey Cookbook](#) by Laurey Masterton

Ingredients:

for Panna Cotta
1 cup whole milk
1 tablespoon unflavored powdered gelatin
3 cups whipping cream
1/3 cup honey
pinch of salt

for candied kumquats
1/2 cup honey
4 cups slice & seeded kumquats in halves

Here is how:

1. To make the panna cotta, pour the milk into a small bowl & sprinkle the gelatin on it, stirring just until blended. Allow to stand for 5 minutes to soften the



Swarm collected by Jay Parsons, MABA member, in Adairsville, GA. He brought it back to his Atlanta bee yard.

gelatin.

2. Pour the mixture into a small heavy saucepan & warm over medium heat, allowing the gelatin to dissolve about 5 minutes. Be careful not to let the milk boil.

3. All the cream, honey, salt and stir, remove from heat. Pour into six serving glasses, cups or small bowls. Allow to cool, then refrigerate for 6 hours.

4. To make the kumquats, combine 1/2cup water and the honey in a small non reactive saucepan. Stir well & bring to boil stirring regularly. Add the kumquats & return to a boil, then reduce the heat to a low simmer & cook until the kumquats are tender-about 15 to 20 minutes. Continue to cook until the liquid cooks down to thick syrup, about 5 minutes longer. Remove from the heat and let cool to room temperature.



5. To serve, spoon kumquats over the panna cotta.

Laurey Masterton, talented honey cookbook author and beekeeper, died in her Asheville, NC home on Feb 18, 2014.



Look Ma, It's Adam! Adam Lusk, member of MABA, up 36 feet in a tree to capture a swarm near Peachtree Dekalb Airport in Atlanta.

Ask 10 Beekeepers a Question.....

Do you use a Queen Excluder? When, why or why not?

Philip Quinn, Master Beekeeper: I find the queen excluder to be a very useful tool when, after a couple of search passes through a multi-storied brood chamber, I still haven't found the queen. I just separate the boxes using one or more excluders and return after 3 days. When I come back, I first find the box with eggs. Then, I can often reduce (focus) my next search for the queen to just 10 frames (instead of the original 20 or 30 frames).

Sophia Price, Chattooga County Beekeeper: Yes, I use an excluder and I prefer a metal one with wooden trim. I do not use one year round though. I prefer to pull them off after the last honey is removed for the year to allow total access to the winter food stores. The excluders are returned to the hive in the Spring when supers are added. If I have a good strong colony and I need some spare frames of drawn comb, I will leave one on that particular hive until the extra frames are ready and pull it and the frames before it gets too cold to open the hive.

Dear Aunt Bee,

I am leaving for a late spring two week vacation. How do I know if I should I put a super on my hives before I go?

*Signed,
Georgia Peach Headed for Hiawaiian Pineapple*

Dear Georgia Peach,

It's important to know what flower informs the nectar flow where you live. In much of Georgia, the tulip poplar is the flower whose bloom designates the significant nectar flow.



In late spring, the tulip poplar is probably blooming where you are in Georgia. In that case, leave your hives well-suppered before you go so that you don't miss the opportunity to allow your bees to collect a lot of nectar for tulip poplar honey.

Your envious,

Aunt Bee



(question contributed by Gina Gallucci)

I Caught a Swarm!

by Chris Pahl, MABA Member

I caught a swarm! For the first time it wasn't my own bees trying to escape! I felt fairly confident that I retrieved the queen bee, but a week after installing the bees into a new hive, there was no sign of egg laying. The colony appears strong and very active, and I observe the worker bees bringing in loads of pollen. But why no eggs? This question spurred me to do a little research and understand more of what happens when honeybees swarm.

According to my trusted source, [Honey in the Comb](#) by Killion, "[w]hen the old queen is involved in [the] swarming process, it is called a 'prime' swarm. 'Afterswarms' are the swarms involving unmated queens that occur after a prime swarm. When catching a swarm, it is possible to get a mated queen, virgin queen or no queen at all."

It is always important and helpful to be able to identify the queen bee, but not always possible to locate her. I was not able to locate a queen in the frenzied activity of gingerly installing a fairly large swarm into a Langstroth hive. I did observe the straggler bees orderly marching into the hive entrance, hopefully following the scent of the queen.

In subsequent inspections I tried to not to disturb the bees too much. But, a week later I had no sign of egg laying and couldn't find the queen. According to Dr. Delaplane, a virgin queen will take mating flights for up to the first two weeks of her life. Maybe she was on a mating flight during my hive inspection? The changeable weather has not been any help, but I am optimistic that I hived a virgin queen, hopefully mated by now.



swarm captured by Tom and Jean Rearick on April 21 in Metro Atlanta



Swarm above and below captured by Mike Schaaphok in Atlanta. The photo below shows what was on the branch after capturing the swarm!





Swarm moving into Warre hive owned by Beth Martin in Auburn, Georgia. The third photo is of a bee fanning nasonov to say, "The queen is here!"

Street Cred - two current articles of relevance to beekeepers:

1. Research from Friends of the Earth

found that bee friendly plants sold in big box stores may be contaminated by neonicotinoids.

2. FDA: Honey with any added sweeteners isn't honey

By Mary Clare Jalonick

Associated Press – published Tuesday, April 8, 2014

The Food and Drug Administration is taking steps to ensure that shoppers who buy honey are getting the real deal.

New guidance issued Tuesday would prevent food companies from adding sugar or other sweeteners to pure honey and still calling it "honey."

The agency said enforcement action is possible against U.S. food businesses or importers if companies try to cut those sweeteners into real honey and do not label the product correctly. If those sweeteners are added, the label should read "blend of sugar and honey" or "blend of honey and corn syrup."

The FDA regularly detains honey imports and tests them after finding drug residues and unlabeled added sweeteners.

Swarm photo below contributed by Jackie Eglund



Letters to the Editors:

Expand the importance and influence of GBA

from Bob Grant, 4/14/2014

I am glad to see Bear Kelley has picked up the challenge I posed in the March newsletter. Further, to be fair, Bear and I have had several calls to discuss some of these ideas. Having developed a number of strategic plans for my clients over the last 30 years, I think what I am seeing is a window into GBA planning -- setting the

objective which is to increase membership. I think increasing membership will help GBA influence state legislation on policy impacting our bees. Beyond that, I am concerned that there is not an objective addressing apiary management, yet the two could be linked, meaning that the lack of membership growth over the last few years could be due to former members not getting the value that they expected. Beekeepers, like farmers, are always looking for answers to problems and winter die-off is a big one in parts of Georgia.

The membership issue as Bear points out has been around for some time. This has been a continuing issue over recent years and Bear should be praised for taking it head on.

To be fair, I have not seen all of Bear's strategies or objectives, but I do think helping beekeepers keep their bees alive is a paramount effort and likely to drive membership up. After all, people flock to those who have the knowledge and answers they seek.

Currently, Georgia beekeepers have been facing significant annual losses, especially at the end of winter. While we can buy more bees and queens, this model is not sustainable for the hobbyist, sideliner, or commercial beekeeper. There is nothing worse than losing colonies, depending on your reason for practicing beekeeping, it can go from heart breaking to financially devastating and everywhere in between.

There is a lot of long-term research underway across the country and around the world; by prestigious universities, private labs, and big chemical companies. All with great intentions, but much of this research is years away from practices and tools we can use in our bee yards. Beekeepers need solutions that can be applied to our apiaries today! My belief, is that the GBA needs a formal strategy to gather this practical information and present it to beekeepers in a timely fashion. In doing so, GBA will attract both members and former members.

It would be nice to hear from other members on the topic -- as I'm sure there are other factors of equal importance that should be considered in strategy development. I believe member views are critical to guiding the GBA leadership in charting a successful growth course. Further, I am convinced that the newsletter editors would welcome everyone's opinion.

And another letter to the editors:

Hi Linda and Gina,

I clicked a link in last month's newsletter,

["[Click here to learn about grocery store honey vs. our own local production.](#) (Thanks, Evelyn Williams)"]

and was quite confused and shocked. It seemed filled with bogus, outrageous and false information. I was so concerned that I wrote to Sue Bee Honey, which was maligned in the article along with many good honey packagers.

Here is the response that I receive by Sue Bee. They were also aghast at the many falsehoods. I hope we can clear up this issue, and use extreme

care with what blogs are linked in the newsletter. In the linking, there is a measure of credibility.

Thanks for looking at this letter from Mr. Bill Huser of Sue Bee Honey.

Yours,
Kerry Britt

{Note from the Editors: We check all the links we publish, but because there are many opinions out there, we are not suggesting a link that we publish is a fact. After all, ask ten beekeepers a question, and you'll get at least 11 answers! If you, the readers, would like to read the response from Sue Bee Honey, you can find it at [this link to our blog for Spilling the Honey.](#)}

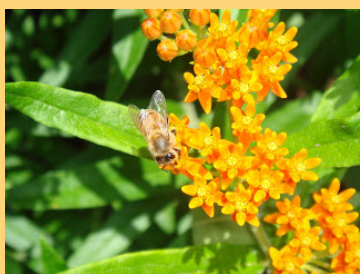
Flowers for Bees

by Linda Tillman

Spring has arrived and many of us pull out our garden trowels to ready our gardens for beauty for ourselves and nectar for our bees. What plants will enhance the nectar collecting efforts of our bees?

Many resources and lists exist to help us make these gardening decisions. Good flowering plants for the Southeast and for our bees are readily available at your local garden center.

Perennial plants are better choices for the bees than annuals because they are typically a richer nectar source and bloom year after year.



Many plants in the milkweed family such as butterfly weed are great for bees. When I planted butterfly weed by my mailbox, the bees tripped over each other in their efforts to get to the flowers. The butterfly weed has a deep root but if you know where a plant is, it is easy to gather seeds when the bloom is over.

Another plant that the bees love is hyssop. Anise hyssop, while not a lovely flower is a delight to the bees who bombard the blossoms with nectar seekers.



Anise has a licorice flavor and my daughters swear that they can taste it slightly in the honey! Although the plant smells like licorice, it is actually a member of the mint family and has a square stem.

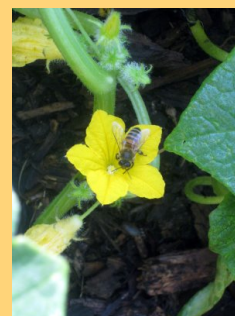
Often found in backyard gardens, common native plants which draw bees are echinacea or coneflowers. Almost every beekeeper with a camera has a photo of a bee on an echinacea bloom.



In the vegetable garden plantings, bees serve an essential purpose as pollinators. Bees in cucumbers look as if they are standing on their heads to get their goodies from the flowers.



Swarm captured in Garden Hills neighborhood in Atlanta by Linda Tillman on March 30



And if you've had bees in your cucumbers, your crop will be straight and beautiful due to even pollination.

Many herbs are good for bees. Bees are drawn to basil, lavender, marjoram, rosemary - basic herbs that most gardeners grow.

To get specific lists of bee-friendly flowers and plants, here are some helpful links:

[From the University of Georgia](#)
[From About.com Gardening](#)
[From the Gwinnett County Beekeepers page](#)
[From Georgia Native Plant Society](#)

Have fun planting for your bees!

Our newsletter is available to read online at <http://www.spillingthehoney.blogspot.com/> Please share it with those without an email or not on our email list.

Upcoming Events

Tara Beekeepers Association is having a Children's Short Course, May 31, 2014 at Reynolds Plantation in Morrow. If you have anyone that is interested please check our website and give us a shout!

Tara Beekeepers Association is having its annual short course September 6, 2014. Cost is \$65 per person, and there is a family rate. The course will be held at the Kiwanis Building in Forest Park. If you would like to attend or know someone who would like to attend [please check our website](#) or give us a shout!

Coweta Beekeepers will offer the Certified test in September if you missed the May 3 opportunities and didn't get to Young Harris.

Bear Kelley developed our Survey Monkey question for this month. Membership in GBA is really important to the growth of beekeeping in Georgia. Please take a few moments to answer this [one question survey by clicking here](#).

The Final Buzz

We LOVE your contributions to the newsletter - that's what makes it so much fun for us, the editors. Have you had a hive that swarmed right in front of you? Did you drop a frame of bees and brood and get stung from stem to stern? Have you had a bee in your veil and not been able to get her to leave you sting free? For our June edition, send us your funny/not so funny stories/experiences with the bees. We'd love to share them with our readers.



Submission Guidelines: Keep your articles to about 500 words and send them as an attached Word document. Don't do anything funny to the margins - just makes it difficult for us. Send photos as attachments to the email. If they are in the body of the article, we can't use them. Please tell us who took the photo, where and when. Use this email address: gbanewsletters@gmail.com

Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

June 2014



Stained Glass Art of Bee on Honey Comb by Vince West of the Cherokee Beekeepers

The President's Message

Well, another month has gone by, confirming that winter is truly over. Everyone should be busy looking after their girls and getting ready for some honey harvesting. The program at Young Harris is done and a lot of new, highly educated beekeepers have returned home. We, on the Board of Directors, have been busy hammering out and approving the new Junior Beekeeping program. We all know that the Junior Beekeeping and 4-H programs have been stagnant for a few years, and we have been voting “not to fund” them because of various reasons. We took this on and merged both programs into one new Junior Beekeeping Policy. You will find it here in this newsletter.

The new 4-H Program rewards three different 4-Hers, instead of just one, and is less expensive than the old program. We have already written the checks for the winners of the 2014 National Essay Contest.

The winners are:

1st Place: Madeline Hillebrand, Coweta County (Read her essay on page 8)

2nd Place: Keaton Williams, Habersham County

3rd Place: Lynsey Buckindail, Habersham County

(continued on page 2)



Magnificent swarm - photo sent in by Scott Brandies of Wayne County, Georgia. Scott has his Apprentice Beekeeper through the University of Florida program.

Ricky Moore (member of Heart of Georgia) sent us this link to a site about toxic chemicals and bees. As I live near a pecan grove, I am concerned about my bees and whatever is sprayed on the pecan trees. I found this article [CLICK HERE](#) from North Carolina State University from 2008 called Bees and Trees. It has a list of chemicals that are Highly Toxic, Moderately Toxic and Relatively Toxic to bees.

Ricky says, "As a new beekeeper I'm always looking and reading for more information."

(continued from page 1)

The second part of the new program is the Junior Beekeeping program. This was written to give the local clubs flexibility in creating the kind of program their individual community needs. GBA can then support each club and give the youth throughout the state an opportunity to learn beekeeping, rather than limit the Junior Beekeeping program to one geographical area as in the past. As you will see in the policy, we ask (as a minimum) that the officers (president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer) in the local club be members of GBA. (Of course, it would be great if everyone in the club could be members.) Essentially, your club is investing \$60 for a \$200 return. We are an education association dedicated to supporting our members, and we appreciate the support we receive from all our membership.

Presidents please study this policy, and discuss it with your members. I challenge you to create a junior beekeeping program in your community. Let's get the Georgia youth involved in something worthwhile. As I said, the Board of Directors voted on this. The Board consists of the Executive Committee, the four Directors, the Editors, and the qualified club presidents. When I say qualified, I mean those who are members of GBA. There are about ten clubs that did not have a voice in this matter because the President of that club is not a GBA member. Presidents, please join GBA so that you can represent your club at the state level and have a vote on issues that affect you and your membership.

Bear Kelley,

President, Georgia Beekeepers Assn

Bees Are Our Heritage

By Mary Hawkins, Appalachian Beekeepers Association

On May 16, I participated in Heritage Day at an elementary school in Jasper. A friend had agreed to present a unit on honey bees but needed a sub at the last minute. So I leapt past any trepidation and agreed. I thought I was offering some community service, but I actually was signing on for a full day of fun and



learning for myself. My friend provided his observation hive. I added my bee suit, hive tool, smoker, some small pieces of drawn comb for passing around, blocks of beeswax and my bee brush. We absolutely had to have North Georgia honey and pretzel sticks for tasting. It was all so clean and

organized at 8 a.m. Can you imagine what it was like by afternoon? A different classroom full of kids rotated through every fifteen minutes! There should have been a prize at the end of the day for the person who could correctly guess the number of honey drips I cleaned up.

Heritage Day included presentations on old fashioned skills such as weaving and knitting; yummy ones like biscuit and butter making; modules held outside on various livestock; learning about and singing with pioneer instruments; a herpetologist with lots of live snakes..... and, of course the bees.

Each group of children sat on the floor in front of the observation hive for a brief and lively discussion of bee and hive trivia. The hands on aspects were the biggest hit of course. My perfectly constructed pieces of comb were soon balls of wax so we called them a beehive scent opportunity for the rest of the day! The bee brush was a favorite to my surprise. And to no one's surprise the bee jacket with hat and veil held the most "hands on" interest. Almost every child wanted to try it on and did. Some of the smaller ones were covered to the tops of their shoes. They all agreed it made them feel very safe. I became the fast change artist getting that many children in and out of that suit.



Many had never tasted really flavorful honey, so the tasting table was loved. My favorite question and answer of the day came from one of the younger classes. One child asked how to tell which bee was the queen. Before I could answer a classmate yelled out, "The one with the turquoise dot!" Ahhh, there are beekeepers out there introducing our working girls to our kids and shaping the next generation of bee keepers. Maybe next year we'll have the bees in a room next to the biscuit and butter module so we can drizzle honey on those hot buttery delights.

Dear Aunt Bee,

The other day as I was inspecting my hive, I noticed a peculiar bee with unusual markings. Can you tell me if someone was in my hives and painted mysterious symbols on my bees or is this some sort of genetic malfunction? (See photo).

Signed,

Dazed and Confused

Dear Dazed and Confused,

So was I. I've never seen a bee that looked like that so I consulted with Mark Winston, author of Honey Bee Biology, whom I recently met. Here's his response:



I don't know for sure, but it's most likely one of two things:

Pollen: That's the most usual thing causing a pattern like this, as bees enter a deep flower, although something this distinctive would likely have been noticed by your beekeepers before.

Foreign substance: Exploring bees might well enter a small cavity and encounter paint or dust (from construction, for example) that could leave an imprint. Since it was only the one bee, that's a possibility.

That's about as good a guess as I can make. If you find out something more definitive, let me know.

Mark

So keep an eye on your bees and hopefully you can determine if it's pollen or paint!

Good luck,



Your Aunt Bee

Question submitted by Christine Fahrnbauer -
answer by Linda Tillman and Mark Winston



Linda Jennings of Coweta Beekeepers with her artistically painted hives for 2014



Recently beekeepers in Georgia had an opportunity to take a writing workshop with Mark Winston, author of The Biology of the Honey Bee and a book coming out in October, Bee Time. In the class, Mark encouraged the writers to submit their writings to our GBA Newsletter. Here are the ones we received. If anyone else would like to submit their creations, we'll be glad to put them in upcoming issues.

With the Wings of a Honeybee

By: Mother Hyponja

*With the eyes seeking the light,
With the ears feeling the vibes;
With the tongue the sweet flavor;
And the nose heaven's savor;
With the arms for warm embrace;
With the heart a holy place;
T'discover the perfect space,
Simply share the cup of grace.*

In the Wilds of Rhododendron

By: Honey Kittin

*On an old jagged peak,
Upon a blanket o'green,
Pale Clover on the lawn,
Pops a'gentle morning yawn,
As Appalachian Rose,
Strikes a lavender pose,
To celebrate all day,
And give the heart away.
In the cave o'shiny leaves,
Brown Thrasher will please,
Gifting song to the breeze,
Above the hum of honey bees.*

Oh Daisy!

By: Honey Kittin

*Fleetest little bumblebs,
Humming around the hive,
Carrying a message,
To ev'rything alive;
The zip of golden wings –
Fuzzy, buzzy, bizzy –
The humming thorax sings,
'N Little Daisy's dizzy!*

Talking about Beekeepers

by Keith Fletcher, Ga Master
Beekeeper from Alabama.

Many of us beekeepers love to talk about bees; ...to each other, ...to new beekeepers, ...to school children. We talk about bees in the morning, we talk about bees in the evening. We talk about bees to our spouse, yes, our spouses who desperately try to demonstrate they're interested in what we say about bees. We just love to talk about bees. But...

...how many of us talk about... ...beekeepers? ...AND, talk about them in a particularly loving way? How many of us take a short moment to thank a beekeeper? Not for their honey or their knowledge, but to thank perhaps, a new beekeeper--to thank someone else for simply and only trying to start beekeeping? Everyone has value, everyone has worth, not just a veteran expert beekeeper, but the "newbie" beekeeper, too!

May I offer a gentle reminder to stay humble in the heart -- and, if we forget to stay humble, our bees are always there to remind us how humble we should remain.

Beekeepers hold Training Session

By Linda Jennings, Coweta Beekeepers Association

The Coweta Beekeepers Association (CBA) recently held a training session for new beekeepers at the apiary of Tom and Linda Jennings.

“Talk about perfect timing,” said the day’s instructor, Steve Page. “The Jennings had just received two nucs and one package which the participants were able to see installed. They’d also caught a swarm two days earlier and another hive was about to swarm, so everyone was able to see a swarm trap and a hive division. It was great.”

As an extra attraction, Linda Jennings displayed some of her painted supers (the boxes in which bees live). “I did it for fun,” she said, “but I also did it to encourage some of the less interested wives into joining their husbands in their beekeeping endeavors. I love to see husbands and wives doing things together.”

“Adults are not the only members of CBA,” said Bobby Torbush, the club’s president. “It’s such a thrill to see so many kids learning to become full-fledged beekeepers. They’re smart and they go after it with such gusto. It’s a pure pleasure for our organization to help train them.”

“Both the kids and adults have a great time raising bees,” adds Page, “but raising bees is serious business. Without bees, this nation has no food. We’re a critical part of keeping this nation fed.”

CBA meets on the second Monday of each month at the Coweta County Extension Office, which is located near the Fairgrounds at 275 Pine Rd. The Junior (4H) Beekeepers meet at 5 p.m., and the main meeting is from 7 – 9 p.m. Experienced professional beekeepers speak on relevant topics, and for those who have personal questions concerning their own hives, time is provided



before and after each meeting.

The next meeting will be held Monday, May 12. For further information, you may contact Bobby or Karen Torbush at Torbushspringsfarm@gmail.com.

The Board of Directors of the Georgia Beekeepers Association has voted to change the policy on the 4-Hers and Junior Beekeepers. The following is the new adopted policy.

GBA Policy for the Support of the Statewide Junior Beekeeping Program

4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest

The essay contest is an annual event sponsored by the National Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. and hosted by the State 4-H program and the University of Georgia's Entomology Department. This is a national competition offered by the Foundation, and in the spring of each year is judged at the state level by the UGA Entomology Department. The top three essays are selected, and the first ranked winner competes at the national level. The contest is open to active 4-Hers only. Beginning in 2014, GBA will provide the cash prizes to the winners at the State level in the amount of: **\$250 for first Place**
\$100 for second place
\$ 50 for third place

As soon as possible after being notified by the 4-H Director, these checks will be sent to the winning individuals with a letter of congratulations from the President of the Georgia Beekeepers Association.

Junior Beekeeping Program

In addition to the state 4-H program, the Georgia Beekeepers Association will support Georgia's junior beekeepers by implementing the following program effective June 1, 2014:

Any active beekeeping club within the Georgia Beekeepers Association whose officers, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, are all members of GBA shall be eligible to receive financial support for a junior beekeeping program in the amount not to exceed \$200.00 per calendar year.

The funds shall be used to support an education program in basic or advanced beekeeping, sponsored and presented by local club members. Funds may also be used to rent facilities, educational equipment, education materials, advertising, snacks, etc.

A junior beekeeper is defined as any student less than 18 years of age or who has not yet graduated from high school (twelfth grade).

The program shall be available to all youth throughout the state.

The funds may not be used for....

- Purchasing equipment such as smokers, hive hardware, personal protection suits, gloves or veils.

- Paying professional speakers' travel or fees.

- The purchase of bees in nucs or packages, or the purchase of queens.

To obtain the funds, the president of the local club must submit a request to the Vice President of GBA outlining the program, date/time, location, and expected number of students. The GBA Vice President will review the request, grant approval, and send it to the Treasurer for the funds to be disbursed. Upon completion of the program, the local club president will send a summary of the program, showing number of students, etc, to the VP of GBA for review. This will be sent to the GBA Secretary to be kept as a matter of record.

The Treasurer will account for all funds distributed and make that a part of the treasurer's report at the meeting of the members.

The purpose of supporting these programs is to educate our youth and to encourage learning about the importance of honey bees, and hopefully, get youth involved with the beekeeping industry as a hobby or commercially. This policy supersedes all previous 4-H and junior beekeeping policies.

The winner of the 2014 4-H Contest is Madeleine Hillebrand from Greenville, Georgia. She is fifteen years old. Her winning essay is below:



How Bees Influenced a Nation

By Madeline Hillebrand

The *Apis mellifera* L. or honey bee, although not native to the Western Hemisphere and more specifically, North America has played a significant part in the United States of America's beginning, culture, and symbolism. The first colonies of honey bees sailed from England in skeps as that was most advantageous for climate differences and ease of handling. The skeps were placed in a wooden crate that was fastened to a seaward facing platform on the ship's back deck to minimize bees getting in the way of passengers or the ship's crew, and was sent by the Council of the Virginia Company on December 5, 1621 to the Governor of Virginia. Little did Governor know that there would be no successful import of honey bees for another 16 years. A quote from a letter addressed to the Governor of Virginia, states: "Wee haue by this Shipp and the Discouerie sent you diurs [divers] sortes of seedes, and fruit trees, as also Pidgeons, Connies, Peacockes, Maistiues [Mastiffs], and Beehives, as you shall by the invoice pceiue [perceive]; the preservation & encrease whereof we respond vnto you..."

Life for the Colonists, Native Americans, and their ecosystem changed for the good after the arrival of the honey bee. For the Colonists the arrival of honey bees added four new pieces of barter or trade in the Colonies; honey, wax, propolis and honey bees. Honey was used for sweetening foods and medicines and for making mead (an alcoholic drink made out of honey). Wax was used in making candles, for sealing letters, water proofing leather, smooth thread for sewing, to bind wounds, and even wax sculptures. The propolis could be made into a healing or drawing salve or used as an early type of gum.

For the Native Americans, their diet diversified, and as they added honey and other honey bee produced foods to their diets, they began to appreciate the honey bee. The honey bee was referred to as the "White Man's Fly" by the Indians as there was no Native American word for wax or honey. For their ecosystem, the honey bee was essential to the survival of the Colonist's crops as all of the flower, vegetable, and grain crops were imported from Europe: Crops that the honey bee- not native bees- was acquired to pollinating.

Beeswax was a valued item at home and for export. Taxes were allowed to be paid in beeswax in North Carolina in 1740 and Tennessee in 1785. Records of Virginia exports in 1730 show that the total amount of beeswax exported was a

whopping 343,900 pounds! A list of exports from the British Continental Colonies in 1770 reported that 128,500 pounds of wax was exported valued at 6,426 pounds sterling. There is no doubt, beeswax was in high demand.

One final way honey bees majorly influenced the Colonies is through the Revolutionary War, the Revolution was full of bee allegories, such as the British being lazy drones living off the sweat of hardworking Colonists. A bee skep with 13 rings was used on official currency approved by the Continental Congress, and to throw off British counterfeits, a red beeswax seal was used. As a result the honey bee was chosen as the state insect for 17 states; a reward for all they contributed to our nation.

In the progress of my research I decided to compile a survey to learn the views of beekeepers in my local area. My survey consisted of five questions, and to get as many opinions as possible, the survey was circulated to members of the Coweta Beekeepers Association and other beekeepers I knew. The purpose of my survey was to learn how beekeepers felt about the changes and differences in beekeeping from the colonial times until now.

Five out of six of the beekeepers surveyed replied that honey bees were essential to the colonist's survival. The beekeepers unanimously pointed out the positive improvements since the colonial times in the beekeeping industry such as it is safer, modern equipment is more beneficial to the bees and their handlers, and because of removable frames, the bees did not have to be killed to collect the honey.

In colonial times in order to harvest the honey all the bees had to be killed (usually by burning sulfur at the hive entrance), made to swarm, or smoked out. The improvement to the modern hive has made a lasting mark on the beekeeping industry.

It was agreed that beekeeping husbandry has improved. In the words of Timothy M. Copeland, "We have advanced in the ways we keep bees and treat them. We keep more hives and do not have to depend on wild honey bees." The general agreement of those surveyed was that Lorenzo Langstroth is the father of the modern hive. Langstroth's design, which came from Francis Huber who invented the Leaf Hive in Switzerland in 1798, is now the standard for all hives produced throughout the United States. Thomas Jefferson was influential by promoting the honey bee in colonial America and thus increasing their popularity.

Honey bees are creatures of an intricate and complex nature, they are involved in a society that closely resembles that of human beings. The bee's behavior reflects American virtues and values such as fidelity, loyalty, and comradeship. The honey bee has been used as a symbol of responsibility, industry, and stability from the time of the Romans, and is found often in the American colonies. The foresight of those that first brought the honey bee to the colonies can now be fully realized.

If you'd like to read Madeleine's complete essay (including her references and footnote markings), you can find it at spillingthehoney.blogspot.com

Homemade Strawberry Jam

by Christine Fahrnbauer

Our strawberries started ripening over Memorial Day weekend and I ended up with a surplus and decided to try a new Pectin I purchased online that touts jelly and jam-making with low amounts of ANY sweetener, or NO sweeteners at all (except for concentrated white grape or apple juice). I was intrigued because I do not like commercially or even home made jams because of the excessive amounts of sugar needed (usually 50-85% sugar, yuck!)

So off I go, mashing and cooking and adding the ingredients to my strawberries. The recipes and easy instructions are included in every box, but for a beginner, I do recommend purchasing the easy to follow with simple illustrations paperback that is also sold with the pectin. The pectin uses a separate calcium powder packet that you must first mix with water and then add to the fruit mixture as it cooks. Pamona's pectin is 100% pure low-methoxyl citrus pectin and it is extracted from the peel of citrus fruit. Once this is mixed with the honey and added to the fruit mixture, it is activated by the calcium. I was in awe of how wonderfully delicious my jam was, with a slight hint of honey! My entire family and several friends gave it rave reviews as well. I then went into my freezer and got the remains of last years blueberry crop and made a couple recipes of blueberry jam as well, also successfully delicious:)

I thoroughly recommend this healthy, low-sweet version of jam, (I only used 3/4 cup honey for 4 cups fruit) especially for those last bits of crystallized honey that need to be 'warmed up' in order to get out of the jar. I did find the fruit of the strawberry jam floating to the top, so as it jelled and cooled I gently shook and evenly re-distributed it with the liquid.

Homemade Strawberry Jam Recipe:

4 C. mashed fruit
 1/2-1 C. Honey
 2 t Pamona's pectin
 2 t calcium water
 1/4 C. lemon juice
 (for low acid fruit, such as blueberries)

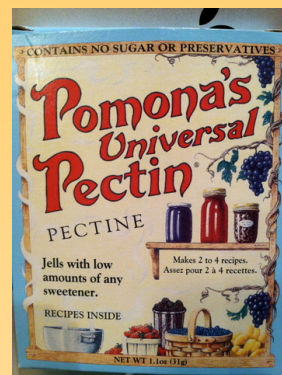


Photo of Steve Page's swarm trap in action



Survey Results

Last month we asked about what is important to you about being a member of GBA.

- 72% of you belong to GBA to learn more about honey bees
- 41% of you want to be with people with similar interests
- 34% of you want to support the efforts of the honey bee industry

Among the "other" responses were: Keeping up with legislative work around bees, accessing vendors at state meetings, and making bee friends.

This month's survey is about your childhood history with the bees. To answer it, please [click here](#) or go to the [Spilling the Honey site](#) where you can fill it out online.

Links You'll Like!

I'm a new beekeeper in the Heart of GA Club in Perry with 2 - oops, just split one, make that THREE hives! I'm careful most of the time, but I did manage to get stung yesterday necessitating me to look up how to treat a bee sting. From **Ricky Moore** [WIKIHOW.COM](http://www.wikihow.com) has a really good article here: <http://www.wikihow.com/Treat-a-Bee-Sting>

From **Sam Alston**
www.ted.com/talks/louie_schwartzberg_the_hidden_beauty_of_pollination

From **Philip Dreger**
Wagging Bees Give Their Verdict on a Landscape
http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/27/science/wagging-bees-give-their-verdict-on-a-landscape.html?emc=eta1&_r=0

From **Jane Lu**, Gwinnett Beekeepers
Chinese man sets terrifying record
<http://www.aol.com/article/2014/05/15/chinese-man-sets-very-unusual-record/20886708/>

From **Steve Page**
Honeybees abandoning hives and dying due to insecticide use, research finds
<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/may/09/honeybees-dying-insecticide-harvard-study>

From Bee Informed
Preliminary Results: Honey Bee Colony Losses in the United States, 2013-2014
beeinformed.org/2014/05/colony-loss-2013-2014

Note from a beginning beekeeper:

Hello Susie

Yeap.....the girls were all there tonight. I could not locate the Queen as it was getting quite dark. I will take your wise advice my friend and do this in the daytime.

I got my Bees from Bill at 7pm and thought I should follow that timing.

My husband and I suited up, got the material for my smoker and down to the hive we went. I did not have a lighter :) so back to the house I go.....get back down to the hive....smoke the girls a bit. Take off the top and then.....remember I need a hive tool :).....back to the house I go, leaving hubby with the girls (he likes the ladies).....retrieve the hive tool.....back down to the hive I go.....hubby has the smoker. I have the hive tool and we went in to see the girls. It was wonderful. The girls KNEW I was not Bill. I could see it in their behavior. They were good but with Bill they were more calm, peaceful and content. I need to "tell the Bees" how pleased I am with them and how very valuable and loved they are...girls always like to hear this :)

*From the Hive
Angie*

Our newsletter is available to read online at
<http://www.spillingthehoney.blogspot.com/> Please share it with those
 without an email or not on our email list.

Upcoming Events

Tara Beekeepers Association is having its annual short course **September 6, 2014**. Cost is \$65 per person, and there is a family rate. The course will be held at the Kiwanis Building in Forest Park. If you would like to attend or know someone who would like to attend [please check our website](#) or give us a shout!

GBA Fall Meeting Sept 19 -20 at the Hampton Inn in Milledgeville, GA. Rooms are reserved with a discount at the Hampton and Comfort Suites. See the [GBA website](#) for more information.

Hahira Honeybee Festival, September 29 - October 4 in downtown Hahira. For more information, visit [the website](#)

Palm Beach County Beekeepers Association is hosting the Florida State Beekeepers Association Conference in West Palm Beach, Florida at the Embassy Suites. Dates: **Oct. 2, 3, 4, 2014**. [Updated information here](#).

The Final Buzz

We asked for people outside of the MABA club to respond and you did in droves - we got articles, we got photos, we got essays, we even got poetry! Thank you for all the contributions - links, suggestions, questions for Aunt Bee, etc. You are all creative beekeepers out there - send us even more for next month.

We'll be looking for funny stories, photos, and the ongoing story of your life with bees. Send them to us and we'll put them in the newsletter. Also be sure to send us your club's upcoming bee events.

Linda and Gina
 gbanewsletters@gmail.com



Submission Guidelines: Keep your articles to about 500 words and send them as an attached Word document. Don't do anything funny to the margins - just makes it difficult for us. Send photos as attachments to the email. If they are in the body of the article, we can't use them. Please tell us who took the photo, where and when. Use this email address:
gbanewsletters@gmail.com ***Deadline for July Newsletter: June 25***

Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

July 2014



Patriotic photo and honey by Gina Gallucci in honor of the 4th of July!

Presidents Message



Since I took office, I have been tooting the horn of Georgia Beekeepers Association and trying to make many understand why all Georgia beekeepers should be members. Well, now it's time to move up a notch or two. We need to support the American Beekeeping Federation. Why you ask....?

The American Beekeeping Federation continues to work for us in Washington, D.C. and around the country to further the legislative and regulatory related priorities important to the American beekeeper. ABF President Tim Tucker and Past President George Hansen have already made one legislative trip to Washington in conjunction with the Varroa Summit they recently attended.

The Legislative priorities of the ABF for 2014 include, but are not limited to:

- Funding for research into the many problems that negatively impact honey bee health.
- Maintaining USDA-ARS Lab Funding

- Protecting our honey market, including establishing a national standard for honey and stopping illegal imports of Chinese honey through intermediary countries.
- Pesticides
- Promoting and protecting the honey bee habitat
- Crop insurance, ELAP, and H2A labor programs
- Transportation issues



These issues have an impact on every beekeeper whether you are a hobbyist, sideliner or full time commercial mover and shaker of honey bees. I have spoken to a number of clubs about the ABF and the work that they are doing on our behalf and want everyone to know that those folks are just like you and me when it comes to caring for the honey bee. Our country and the government who runs it is so complex and with an issue like the “Plight of the Honey Bee” at hand, the bees need all the support they can get. You may not be the type to become an activist or want to join a committee, but by becoming a member of ABF you add to the ever growing number of people who are showing how much they really care and you help make our voices heard. Please give this your heartfelt consideration.

To Join ABF, simply go to info@abfnet.org or better yet, give Regina Robuck, the ABF Executive Director, a call at 404-760-2875 (in Atlanta) and tell her that Bear said to call!

Bear Kelley,
President, GBA

Child’s recipe from cookbook done by
kids in kindergarten and daycare:

Rabbit Cake

8 dinosaurs
1 lizard
1 bee

I imagine the bee is used to
"sweeten" the cake



New Beekeeper, Jeff Daniel's, first harvest - about to be that time again this year! photo by Linda Tillman

Promiscuous Queen Bees Have Better Colonies

by Gina Gallucci



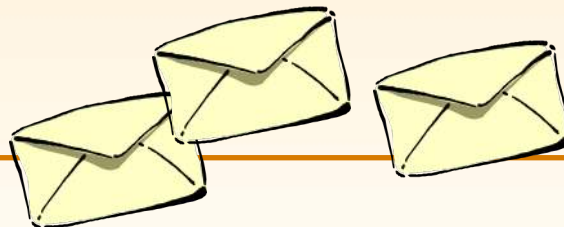
Dr. Heather Mattila came to speak at the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association in May. She is a researcher and Professor at Wellesley College in Boston. Dr. Matilla has been investigating the benefits of genetic diversity in Honey bees for years.

Honey bee queens have a behavior that is unusual for social insects. Queens of all bee species are highly promiscuous, meaning each queen mates with many males. The newest research shows that colonies filled with stepfamilies are healthier and more productive than colonies of full siblings.

"Colonies with high levels of genetic diversity have a greater likelihood of having more active foragers in their colonies, including dancers, recruiters, inspectors, and scouting foragers. So far, hygienic behavior has not been tested for diverse versus uniform colonies, but we do know that genetically diverse colonies are better at overcoming infection with AFB or chalkbrood than colonies that lack genetic diversity, and also better at keeping nest temperatures stable, which is critical for proper brood development."

"For Apis mellifera, extreme polyandry means that queens mate with an average of between 12-20 drones each, depending on the study. The record for A. mellifera is 49 mates for a single queen. "

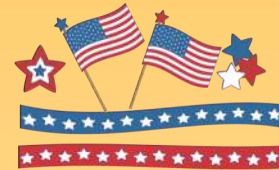
Jane Lu would like to know if anyone knows of any city or county restricting beekeeping in Georgia? Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County is preparing a letter to the Gwinnett Director of Planning and Development so he can send it to the Board of Commissioners. In February, they restricted beekeeping to only RA-200 properties. The Director wants to know if other counties restrict beekeeping. If you have the answer to this, [contact Jane](#)



Ask Ten Beekeepers A Question.....

How Do I know When to Harvest?

Christine Fahrnbauer,
Cherokee Beekeepers



With the exception of last year, when my bees did not seem to cap much of their honey due to all the rain and humidity, I usually wait until 80-100% of the honey super is completely capped. If there are any uncapped cells I turn it upside down over the hive and tap it to make sure the honey is thick and doesn't run out.

I ended up learning a valuable lesson last year when I harvested uncapped honey (using the tapping method~ but in most cases only 20 percent of the honey was capped), only to discover it started to ferment, which is another whole article..... :) So a word of caution...If your honey is more uncapped than not, invest or borrow a refractometer that measures the moisture content of your honey, and make sure it is less than 18% before you harvest.






Bob Binnie,
NE Ga Mountain Beekeepers, Macon County Beekeepers in Franklin, NC

I harvest when the bees quit making white wax. I don't wait until it's 100% capped; I just wait until the bees quit bringing nectar in. If we leave the doors open at the honey house and no bees come in that means the nectar flow is still going; if bees come in, the nectar flow is over.

I harvest when the honey is over half capped and the honey flow is over. I put it in a warm dry room to continue drying the honey out. I leave it completely uncovered and keep the room below 50% humidity. I use a gauge to make sure it is below 50%. Anything over 60% will actually make the honey wetter. This year the sourwood has just started to bloom so I am not harvesting yet in the mountains.

Queen Markings by Bear Kelley,

Now that summer is upon us and we are making splits, getting nucs, packages and generally expanding our apiaries, marking of this year's queen should be a concern for you. This year's color for the queen marking is **Green**. The table below will help you through the years with queen marking.

- White.  year ending in 1 or 6
- Yellow.  year ending in 2 or 7
- Red..... year ending in 3 or 8
- Green..... year ending in 4 or 9
- Blue.... year ending in 5 or 0

Marking her highness is essential in tracking her age. If you find an unmarked queen in your hive which had a marked queen, then the original queen has swarmed and they have replaced her. Most of the bee suppliers offer marking pens at reasonable rates.

Stings

Sylvia Plath

Bare-handed, I hand the combs.
The man in white smiles, bare-handed,
Our cheesecloth gauntlets neat and sweet,
The throats of our wrists brave lilies.
He and I

Have a thousand clean cells between us,
Eight combs of yellow cups,
And the hive itself a teacup,
White with pink flowers on it,
With excessive love I enamelled it

Thinking 'Sweetness, sweetness.'
Brood cells gray as the fossils of shells
Terrify me, they seem so old.
What am I buying, wormy mahogany?
Is there any queen at all in it?

If there is, she is old,
Her wings torn shawls, her long body
Rubbed of its plush—
Poor and bare and unqueenly and even
shameful.
I stand in a column

Of winged, unmiraculous women,
Honey-drudgers.
I am no drudge
Though for years I have eaten dust
And dried plates with my dense hair.

And seen my strangeness evaporate,
Blue dew from dangerous skin.
Will they hate me,
These women who only scurry,
Whose news is the open cherry, the open
clover?

It is almost over.
I am in control.
Here is my honey-machine,
It will work without thinking,
Opening, in spring, like an industrious
virgin

To scour the creaming crests
As the moon, for its ivory powders, scours
the sea.
A third person is watching.
He has nothing to do with the bee-seller or
with me.
Now he is gone

In eight great bounds, a great scapegoat
Here is his slipper, here is another,
And here the square of white linen
He wore instead of a hat.
He was sweet,

The sweat of his efforts a rain
Tugging the world to fruit.
The bees found him out,
Molding^o onto his lips like lies,
Complicating his features.

They thought death was worth it, but I
Have a self to recover, a queen.
Is she dead, is she sleeping?
Where has she been,
With her lion-red body, her wings of glass?

Now she is flying
More terrible than she ever was, red
Scar in the sky, red comet
Over the engine that killed her—
The mausoleum, the wax house.

6 October 1962
Plath, Sylvia. Collected Poems. New
York: HarperPerennial, 1992, pp. 214-5.

Editor's note: Sylvia Plath, noted poet and author, became a beekeeper in 1962. She wrote a number of bee poems as a result of her experiences. You can read about Sylvia Plath and [her relationship with bees here](#).

Bright Cheery Summer Salad

~~~~~  
*1 pint grape tomatoes*  
*1 ripe avocado*  
*2 ears fresh sweet corn*  
*2 tbsp. fresh cilantro, chopped*

*Honey Lime Dressing:*  
*3 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil*  
*1 tbsp. local honey*  
*Juice of one lime*  
*1 clove fresh garlic minced*  
*Sea Salt & fresh cracked black pepper to taste*  
*pinch of cayenne pepper to taste*



*Remove husks from corn and grill over medium heat for 10 minutes. The corn should have some brown spots and be tender but not mushy. Cut the corn off the cob and then scrape the cob with the back of your knife to get all the juices. Set aside & let cool. Slice tomatoes in half. Dice the avocado and chop the cilantro. Add all dressing ingredients in small bowl, whisk and set aside. Combine all other ingredients and gently toss with dressing until evenly coated. Be careful not to mash avocados. Let stand 10- 15 minutes to let flavors mingle.*

~~~~~

Dear Aunt Bee,

I live in an intown neighborhood of Atlanta with at least five beekeepers living within one block of my house in every direction. The house next door to me is for sale and has been empty and unoccupied for most of the last year.

Today as I looked out of my window toward that house, I could see bees flying in and out of an entry just barely above the dryer vent on the second floor. Since the house has a basement and a first floor, this is pretty high up. It's clear that they have occupied the area inside the wall by the dryer.

When the house is finally sold, I feel scared that the new owners will look in my backyard, see my beehives and expect me to do something about the unwanted occupants. Any suggestions?

Thanks for any ideas you have short of running for the border,

Shaking in My Boots

Dear Shaking,

Assume the dual role of "good neighbor" and "honeybee expert."

Save the day by reaching out to the realtor now, pointing out that it was probably an oversight but might be a liability the current owner will want to remedy as soon as possible, prior to sale.

If the second floor site is too high for you to offer your removal services, canvas your vast beekeeper network and offer a few names to the realtor.

With the colony removed and repairs already performed, there are no surprises for the new owners and the Welcome Basket you give them can include a treat made with honey or a jar of honey from your beehives.

Your Aunt Bee



Contribution by Linda Tillman with help from Curt Barrett, Gina Gallucci and Julia Mahood

Bee Stings and EpiPens

By Ricky Moore



I am not a doctor, nor have I ever played one on TV (smile). I am not offering legal advice or medical advice, I am simply offering my opinion in hopes that it stirs your creative juices and stimulates thought about another little discussed beekeeping fact.

How many times have you been talking with someone about bees or honey and they blurted out "I'm allergic to bees!" Really? Are you, how do you know, have you been tested? Isn't it more probable that the person just doesn't like the pain of being stung? (There was a pun there on bee but I let it slide.) But seriously, a percentage of the populace IS allergic to bee stings to the point where it closes off their airway causing breathing difficulty and could result in death. Hopefully you and your family are not among the ranks of the bee sting allergic, but what about the neighbor who has no idea he is, gets stung and starts to swell up and experiences difficulty breathing? What do you do? Call 9-1-1 of course, but how long does it take emergency help to arrive to your location be it at home or worse, off in the woods at the bee field? If that neighbor is allergic and knows it, he will probably have an EpiPen.

Now this is where my opinion really kicks in and I offer these questions for you to answer to your satisfaction. What are your legal and medical responsibilities to someone who gets stung by your bees?

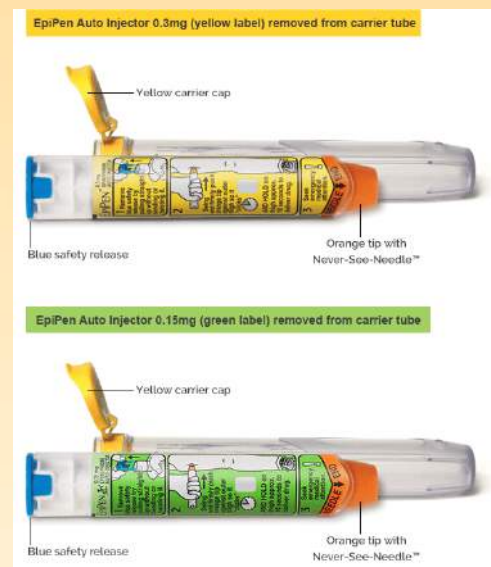
As a beekeeper you already know several bee sting remedies, right? After removing the stinger, apply ice, or toothpaste, or vinegar, or baking soda, or meat tenderizer, or calamine lotion or a host of other home remedies. Right? A quick search of Google will give you many, many more.

But do you know the signs of an allergic reaction?

- Difficulty breathing
- Hives that appear as a red, itchy rash and spread to areas beyond the sting
- Swelling of the face, throat or mouth tissue
- Wheezing or difficulty swallowing
- Restlessness and [anxiety](#)
- Rapid pulse
- [Dizziness](#) or a sharp drop in blood pressure
- If the symptoms are present, seek emergency medical attention. Take an antihistamine as soon as

possible and be ready to use the [epinephrine](#) part of an emergency allergy kit.

Epinephrine in the form of an EpiPen requires a doctor's prescription and without insurance they can be expensive. Here in Middle Georgia I sought the cash price for a two pack of EpiPens from a local drugstore and a national chain. Both sold the two pack for around \$350 cash. Your insurance may cover it and hopefully at a substantial discount. There are patient advocacy organizations which can assist you getting them for much, much less if you meet the income requirements. If you qualify, you probably already know the organizations to which I refer.



So, my question to you is, should you have an EpiPen available for the remote possibility that someone may need it? And if so, do you know when to and how to, and could you/would you use it properly?

I believe having an EpiPen is an important addition to your beekeeping first aid kit. I urge you to consider it, then speak to your doctor and lawyer to satisfy yourself about the medical and legal ramifications.

Our Survey for July

Our June survey asked if you participated in beekeeping as a child or teenager.

- Seventy percent of you who answered had no beekeeping experience in childhood
- Thirty percent of those who answered came from beekeeping families
- Six percent of those who answered either were occasionally around someone who kept bees or were exposed through 4-H

This month we are interested in how you label your honey jars! (Surprising since harvest is just now starting in the state.)

If you'd like to share with your fellow beekeepers how you go about labeling your honey, [click HERE](#).



Photo of bee hives in Ricky Moore's zinnias



You may notice that once again we are not featuring a club of the month. We have chased after several clubs over the last few months without getting a response. If you would like to feature your own bee club, please let us know. Send us an article about your club and we'd love to publish it.

If you are not a member of GBA, but would like to join, [click here to register for membership](#). We'd love to have you. Thanks for reading our newsletter. Dues: \$15/year

Street Cred

- Steve Page sent this link for Hidden Patterns: [How a Bee Sees the World of Flowers](#)
- Michael Hood sent [this link to some beautiful bee photos](#) from around the world.
- Rick Butler sent [this link to an unusual piece of music](#) that you may recognize as bee-related
- Ricky Moore sent us [this link to posters about plants for bees](#)
- Sam Alston sent [this link about the White House and bees](#)

To hear a wonderful podcast about colonial beekeeping from Williamsburg, [click here](#).

We love all of these submissions - keep it coming to help all of us explore the Internet resources about bees.

Susannah Austin, the 2014 American Honey Queen

She will be a guest speaker at the Georgia Beekeepers Association fall membership meeting in Milledgeville, GA.



Susannah is the 20-year-old daughter of Kris and Catherine Austin of Orlando, FL. She is a junior at the University of Central Florida, pursuing a degree in biology, with hopes of becoming a veterinarian. Susannah's family began beekeeping through a 4-H project over 10 years ago.

As the 2014 American Honey Queen, Susannah serves as a national spokesperson on behalf of the American Beekeeping Federation, a trade organization representing beekeepers and honey producers throughout the United States. The Honey Queen and Princess speak and promote in venues nationwide, and, as such, Queen Susannah will travel throughout the United States during her year-long reign. Prior to being selected as the American Honey Queen, Susannah served as the 2013 Florida Honey Queen. In this role, she promoted the honey industry at fairs, festivals, and farmers' markets, via television and radio interviews, and in schools.

The beekeeping industry touches the lives of every individual in our country. In fact, honeybees are responsible for nearly one-third of our entire diet, in regards to the pollination services that they provide for a large majority of fruits, vegetables, nuts and legumes. This amounts to nearly \$19 billion per year of direct value from honeybee pollination to United States agriculture.

For more information on Queen Susannah's Georgia visit and to schedule an interview, contact Clay "Bear" Kelley at 229.322.5025.



Passage from Tammy Horn's BEES IN AMERICA

Named in honor King George III, a new English colony was established in 1733 by Perceval, Oglethorpe, and Associates. Georgia has a twofold purpose, according to historian William Sachs: "The colony was to serve as an armed buffer zone against the Spanish in Florida and as a place where debtors could be given a fresh start." By the time the Moravians moved to Savannah, they found that bee trees were already there. By 1770, honey bees had spread to Natchez, Mississippi. According to historian Everett Oertel, wild honey bees were already established in Alabama by 1773."



Where's the Bear????

Photo sent in by Ricky Moore - any idea how he got this image?

Our newsletter is available to read online at
<http://www.spillingthehoney.blogspot.com/> Please share it with those
 without an email or not on our email list.

Upcoming Events

Tara Beekeepers Association is having its annual short course **September 6, 2014**. Cost is \$65 per person, and there is a family rate. The course will be held at the Kiwanis Building in Forest Park. If you would like to attend or know someone who would like to attend [please check our website](#) or give us a shout!

GBA Fall Meeting Sept 19 -20 at the Hampton Inn in Milledgeville, GA. To register for the fall meeting, [click here](#). Rooms are reserved with a discount at the Hampton and Comfort Suites. See the [GBA website](#) for more information.

Hahira Honeybee Festival, September 29 - October 4 in downtown Hahira. For more information, visit [the website](#)

Palm Beach County Beekeepers Association is hosting the Florida State Beekeepers Association Conference in West Palm Beach, Florida at the Embassy Suites. Dates: **Oct. 2, 3, 4, 2014**. [Updated information here](#).



The Final Buzz

We wish ya'll a very Happy Fourth of July and Happy Birthday to the beautiful USA!

Thank you to all of you who sent us a link, a recipe or their responses to our "Ask 10 Beekeepers a Question... ." We would love to continue to develop sharing beekeeping knowledge across the state of Georgia.

We are looking for whatever your contribution is and we are especially happy to get your photos. Please send us what you thoughts and suggestions and all your clubs' upcoming events.



Linda & Gina
gbanewsletters@gmail.com

HOTELS FOR SEPTEMBER 18-20 MEETING

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hampton and Comfort Suites. Rooms are guaranteed 30 days prior to the meeting. Reservations made after August 18 will be based on availability. All GBA sponsored activities will be held at Central GA Technical College.

Hampton Inn
 2461 N. Columbia Street
 Milledgeville, GA 31061
[478-451-0050](tel:478-451-0050)
 \$89 + tax /night includes breakfast

Other area hotels:

Fairfield Inn
 2631- A N. Columbia Street
 Milledgeville, GA 31061
[855-297-1428](tel:855-297-1428)

Days Inn
 2551 N Columbia Street
 Milledgeville, GA 31061
[478-453-8471](tel:478-453-8471)

Comfort Suites
 2621 N Columbia St
 Milledgeville, GA 31061
 478-453-2212

Submission Guidelines:

Keep your articles to about 500 words and send them **as an attached Word document**. Don't do anything funny to the margins - just makes it difficult for us.

Send photos as **attachments to the email**. If they are in the body of the article, we can't use them. Please tell us who took the photo, where and when. Use this email address:
gbanewsletters@gmail.com

Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

August 2014



Photo taken by Josh Strickland, Waverly, GA, of a drone with yellow eyes - consequence of being haploid and only having one set of chromosomes.

President's Message

As the year draws to an end and we approach the annual meeting of the membership, a lot is being done to make this meeting a great success. Most of you know that the Lake County Beekeepers led by Bruce Morgan is hosting the meeting in Milledgeville, Ga. And since it is in their neighborhood, Keith and RoseAnne Fielder are kicking in a lot of effort as well. Mary Cahill-Roberts has arranged some great speakers from all over the United States and Georgia to wow and educate us. We will also have an actual bee yard set up for our youth to explore and enjoy. You will be able to view the agenda on our web site, and right now you can sign up using our new registration program. I'm confident that we will have many positive comments from you about this meeting, and look forward to your input.

As a matter of business for this meeting, we will be discussing and voting on a couple of by-law changes that should help us function a bit more efficiently in the coming. In case you did not know, our by-laws are posted on the GBA web site under the section called "Site Map". The tab is on the top right of the home page. Please take

time to review these as you consider the following:

First, our Association is growing rapidly with our club numbers approaching 30 affiliated clubs scattered throughout the state. To reach and represent those clubs we have our normal officers consisting of your President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer and three Directors. At the beginning of my term of office, I appointed one additional Director (Slade Jarrett) to help cover the northeast side of Georgia. Slade has done a remarkable job being there when we have needed him. Now I believe that we need to change the by-laws in Article VII, paragraph A from 3 to 4 Directors with two year terms staggered instead of 3 year terms. (That is two directors overlapping for two years). This last year has proven that this change is essential.

The next area of interest is the new Junior Beekeeping policy that we just passed and for which we have already written some checks. Some of you may have been wondering how we were going to fund this program. Well, "Old Bear" has been working that issue already. Article VIII of our by-laws outlines the standing committees. Paragraph E is for the Research and Education Fund. In that section, two gentlemen, Troy Fore and Reg Wilbanks, have been charged with managing a chunk of money granted to us from American Beekeeping Federation that was earmarked as education funds back in 1982. That money has been in "lock down" for a number of years as we were only allowed to use 1/2 of the interest gained while the other half was rolled back over into it. In real numbers, we were getting 1.25% annually (or about \$10) and only using \$5.00. I have obtained the approval of release of these funds from both of these gentlemen in writing to have it placed in the general fund for use in support of our new Junior Beekeeping policy. It is currently more than \$16K. That along with reinstating the \$1.00 per membership dues to go to the Junior Beekeeping program should keep this program going for quite some time.

So, it will be recommended that we eliminate that section (Paragraph E, Article VIII) as it is simply not necessary any longer. The paragraph will be rewritten to reflect the new status of the Research and Education Fund. The fund will be managed by the President and the Treasurer, and the money in the fund will go to educational projects which benefit Georgia beekeepers, such as Junior Beekeepers.

I am sending this information out more than 30 days in advance of our annual meeting to all of our members for your consideration in accordance with our by-laws. We want to give you an opportunity to discuss this at our meeting of the members at the fall meeting. Please bring your questions and concerns to the meeting.

Bear Kelley,

President, Georgia Beekeepers Association

True Confessions
Lessons Learned that Might Help Others

Honeyhouse Chaos
by Christine Farhnbauer

I love my little honey house....it has progressed into a myriad of wonderful things as I have filled it with both necessary and decorative (also necessary): items that all beekeepers really do not need, but which make our hobby pleasant and more organized.

One of these things for me is a back door. Which provides a nice shortcut to the water spigot when feeding in the fall and in the spring allows the cool breeze to waft its way through as I paint supers, scrape propolis and prepare for nectar flow. And in the summer..... well, I'm not actually sure what good a back door is for, except maybe for a stray bee to find its way in.....and tell ALL its co-workers!!! Which is exactly what happened to me not too long ago.

I had been enjoying the fruits of harvest, in the middle of uncapping and extracting two supers of beautiful wildflower honey when I suddenly realized I was going to be late for a meeting. With no time to waste, I hurriedly left, not bothering to cover the uncapping tank, or bucket filter because I knew I would be coming right back in a couple hours to continue working and clean up. I made sure as always to shut the front door tight, as the nectar flow had ended and I knew the bees were looking for food.



Upon my return, I immediately knew something was wrong the minute I looked towards the honey house, which sits approximately 10 feet from 20 hives, and saw the entire house enveloped in a cloud of bees!! There were bees an inch thick on all the windows and the glass panes in the front door, trying to get in and out. I stepped into total chaos as thousands of bees flew out, honey stomachs full and taking their hard earned spoils back home as hundreds more came in with me. I could barely see through the fog of bees, the back door standing WIDE open and mounds of bees on the previously dripping wax cappings, wet supers and in the over-flowing filter on top of the honey bucket. I was too overwhelmed to stop and take a picture or video, of which I regret to this day, as it was a sight to bee~hold!! There was really no contest at this point, the bees had won, and I ended up taking it all out in the yard and allowing them to finish gathering their sweet reward. I have yet to try to reclaim that lost honey.....but I do have a lock on that back door now.....only to be opened for feeding as the temperatures drop and wintery days loom ahead.

How To Win Friends & Influence People by Making A Propolis Tincture

recipe by Julia Mahood, Master Beekeeper

Ingredients you will need:

- frozen propolis
- mortar & pestle
- glass container, dark or covered
- small dark bottles with dropper

1. break up frozen propolis & remove any debris
2. return cleaned propolis to freezer
3. grind frozen propolis with mortar & pestle until its fine crumbles are about the size of sea salt
4. put in glass container & fill with alcohol, grain or vodka
5. shake often over at least 2 weeks; the liquid will become darker and thicker as it dissolves the propolis
6. pour off clear liquid into dart bottles with dropper
7. save remaining propolis, add more alcohol and repeat 2 or 3 times- stop when it no longer get darker

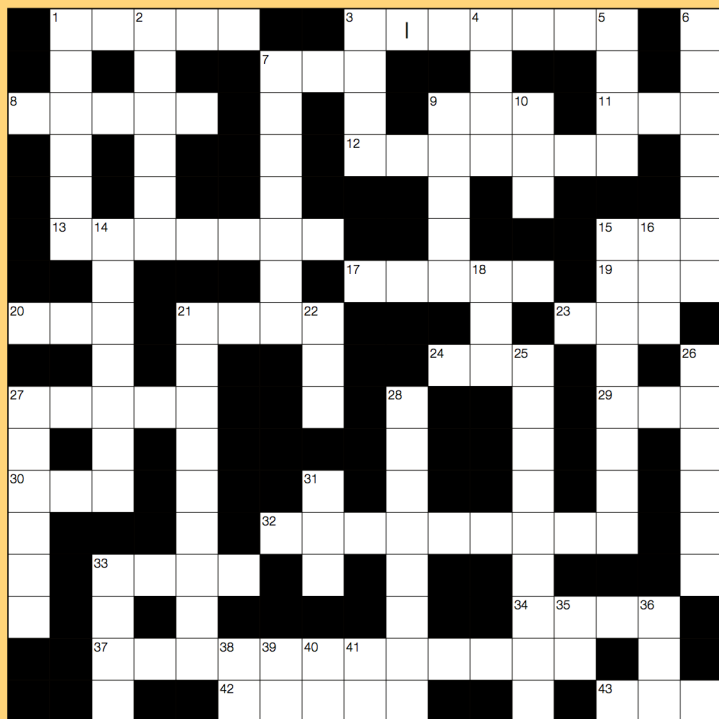


General Info: Bee propolis is rich in bioflavonoids and has several proven antibiotic, antiseptic and anti-inflammatory properties, and was used medicinally as early as 350 B.C. by the Greeks and Egyptians. It's been shown to slow the growth of bacteria which causes staph infections, common colds, ulcers and urinary tract infections.

People ingest a propolis tincture because it can ward off a number of illnesses. The tincture can also be applied topically as a means to treat cuts acne, and even scars. A few drops of the tincture, usually a only a fraction of a teaspoon can be dissolved into water or juice for drinking.



After returning from collecting nectar, a forager transfers her honey-stomach (crop) contents to a house bee. This process is called Trophylaxis. Photo by Clint Ready, Heart of Georgia.



Bee Fun

Across

- 1 If you fail to provide this your bees will visit your neighbor's swimming pool
- 3 Used to get bee legs and other debris out of your honey
- 7 Also known as HAS. Holds annual conference for Midwest Beekeepers. This year in Carbondale
- 8 This bee lives for the joy of sex
- 9 If a beekeeper tells you he/she has never killed a bee, we might assume this is a _____
- 11 If your bees get this, the hive and bees must be burned
- 12 A drone doesn't have this body part
- 13 Used to lower the chance of a hive being robbed
- 15 In bottling chunk honey for a honey show, you should only put one comb _____ bottle
- 17 Langstroth made these movable
- 19 A distant cousin of coke, drinking this before a hive inspection thus having it on your breath, increases the likelihood that you will get stung

20 The only protective gear that top bar beekeeper Sam Comfort ever wears

21 December 21 according to old time beekeepers is the _____ when the queen starts laying to begin her spring build up

23 Bees may leave brown dots of this on the hive box suggesting nosema

24 A well mated queen will have a _____ abdomen

27 It hangs from a tree branch, gate post or shrub until a new home is found

29 Used to kill the small hive beetle

30 A grain not pollinated by bees

32 When the hive is in this state the beekeeper may hear a roar when opening the hive

33 An electric fence may be needed

34 The bee gathers pollen and returns to the hive with a _____ of pollen in her corbicula

37 A queenless hive may develop one of these

42 A hive drape can be made from a tightly woven kitchen _____

43 A product of the hive other than honey

Down

1 The majority of bees in the hive, this female bee is called a _____

2 According to well-known Virginia beekeeper, Billy Davis, if the cappings on worker brood are the _____ color of overdone biscuits, the brood is about to emerge

3 What a bee does with her wings to ventilate the hive

4 Watered down honey

5 When the queen goes on her mating flight she will _____ into the air until she finds the drones

6 Bees who invade a hive that is not their own for the purpose of stealing honey

7 Every beekeeper wants this time to come each year

9 By the times this zodiac sign is in effect, your bees should be ready for winter

10 Tiny and can be observed with the sun over your shoulder

14 Beekeepers do this with a centrifuge

15 Sticky resin

16 Global warming may be affecting our _____ system so much that resulting weather changes may affect our nectar flow

18 If the queen goes _____, then it is a tragedy

21 According to Tom Seeley, swarm decision making is done by this

22 Meets late summer and most attendees are from east of the Mississippi River

25 Significant bee researcher who gets his graduate students to put tiny numbers on the backs of every single bee in hives he is studying

26 Hand protection

27 Used to make the bees think the forest is on fire

28 Beekeeper's best friend

31 Source of bees' directional orientation

33 Easy to make product. Burt isn't the only one who can

35 Beekeeping is all about choices. "I could do this _____ I could do that

36 Where the drones go for fun and games

38 The foraging bee tries with her waggle dance to say, "tag, you're _____," to her sisters to get them to go to her nectar source

39 When a beekeeper in Cumming wanted to have hives in his back yard, this is what the town council said.

40 The capital of our country was named for this president. Our current president has bees in his back yard in this city named for our first president

41 A group on a hive inspection might say, "_____ saw the queen!"

Try this Bee Fun crossword puzzle, created by Linda Tillman. You can either print out this page and work it with a pencil or you can [click this link](#) and work it online. When you are all done and want to check your answers, email us at gbanewsletters@gmail.com and we'll send you a filled-out puzzle so you can compare it with yours.

As a beekeeper, have you ever been stung?

by Ricky Moore, Heart of Georgia

I am surprised how many times I hear people ask, "Have you ever been stung?" To me that's like asking if the Pope is Catholic, or do bears live in the woods? Of course beekeepers get stung!

When I got my first hive almost two years ago, all I had for protective gear was a veil and gloves. I thought I was invincible. It didn't take too long before the bees showed me otherwise. They are resourceful, tricky little devils who can find the smallest chink in your armor and get into the soft areas. You know what I mean, right? I think my first sting was through my jeans. That hurt! But I'm a beekeeper, I'm tough, that was my badge of courage, right? Happen to you also?

Early this Spring I was wearing the same gear (before I acquired a complete bee suit), was opening the hives and managed to royally piss off a bunch of guard bees. When they came to have an up close and personal meeting with me, I was not concerned, I had a veil on. Well, this veil was the hood and veil kind that has draw strings that cross over your chest, come around your back and tie in the front. You probably have one just like it. Now I'm not saying I was negligent. I prefer to think of the bees as educated, resourceful, determined, very intelligent, and persistent... One of the girls found a way inside and wanted to share the interior of the veil with me, but she wasn't happy.

Again, a bee sting hurts, and if it's on your arm or leg, that's one thing, but I really have no desire to get stung on the face, and I told the pretty young bee I meant her no harm and I thought we could peacefully work out our differences. Apparently this Italian girl did not understand English and swearing.

The more she buzzed around inside the veil, the more mental images I had of not being happy at the outcome. Now I ask you, what would you do in a situation like this? Go on, think for a moment and answer to yourself before you read what I did. I'll wait, go on.

OK, if you've been in this situation, what did you do? Or if you have not been wearing this veil yet (you will...), what would you do?

I decided immediately there was not enough room in the veil for the both of us, so I proceeded to come out of it as fast as humanly possible! Of course the strings were tied tight and did not want to release me. I struggled, which upset my little friend even more, and finally I got the veil off. Problem solved, right? Not even close.

While I was concentrating on my new closest friend, another dozen of her sisters were coming to see what the fuss was all about. Now I didn't have one bee buzzing my veil covered face, but now had a dozen buzzing my naked face. Oh crap.

Instinct took over, not intelligence, just the will to survive. I swatted, and flailed my arms and tried to shoo the bees away. After all I'm a big strong man who could squash them all. But not at the same time. Arms flying and bees zeroing in, I made my next tactical mistake. I ran.

When you quit laughing at me and wipe the tears from your eyes, you know that was not the best thing I could have done. I was being stung. Left leg, right arm, back, right leg, left arm, what was 12 bees felt like a thousand. I could not swat and run fast enough.

Self preservation is a wonderful thing. I remember thinking: I'll run indoors, but soon dismissed that idea knowing they'd only follow me inside and again they'd have the tactical advantage. As I ran around the side of the house, I grabbed the garden hose and drenched myself from head to toe. Water, water, ha ha, the Italian assassins didn't like to swim! After 30 seconds of cool, calming garden hose water shooting all over my body, the bees had made their point and left.

Looking back, the scenario plays out in slow motion and I see my mistakes and what I should have done. And will next time. I was only stung 11 times that day. That's my high score which I hope to never beat.

So the next time someone asks if I've ever been stung, yes, I remember the time...

I keep thinking about all that delicious honey I'm going to get from them. What goes around comes around.

Ask 10 Beekeepers a Question....

Since preparing honey for a honey contest is best practices training for all honey packaged, what are your top 3 tips for winning ribbons at honey contests.

Jay Parsons:

Containers should be "Spic and Span" inside and out.

The honey should be clear - devoid of all impurities.

Each jar (x3) should be filled to the fill line equally and consistently for that entry class.

Cindy Hodges:

Never touch the jars with your bare hands.

Always overfill your jars for honey entries. This way you can skim off the "floaters" and foam and still have a correctly filled jar for entering the contest

Do not extract honey and immediately bottle it. Let it settle first in the bucket. Then bottle the center 1/3 for show purposes.

It's hot in Middle Georgia - photo by Ricky Moore



Street Cred

Free Epi Pens, if you have a prescription to purchase Epi Pens at no cost – [Click here](#)

100% natural ways to get rid of ants. This is slide show and is really interesting. [Click here.](#)

Thanks to Ricky Moore for these links.

The Beekeepers by Pieter the Elder Bruegel circa 1567



Monthly Survey

Last month's survey was about how you make your honey labels. Less than 10% of those who responded purchase labels from catalogs. About 80% of those who responded design their own labels.

This month we want to know about water and your bees.

It's a one question survey, takes only a moment - please click and answer this question for us.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Using the Queen Castle

by Keith Fletcher, Master Beekeeper, certified in both GA and AL
Huntsville, Alabama

If you've been keeping bees for at least a year, you've probably had a situation where you've needed to house a queen temporarily with only a few frames of honey, brood, and pollen until you had more resources to make an additional colony. Or, while doing an early spring inspection, perhaps you saw many swarm cells in your hive, and realized the lost opportunity of not being able to segregate those swarm cell frames from each other. Remember, the queen in the colony is like that 1986 Hollywood film, *Highlander*: "There can be only one." Normally swarm cells in a hive eventually whittle down to one mated queen.



Compartmented hive bodies have conventionally been used to place frames with swarm cells, for the purpose of later deriving as many mated queens as you have available compartments.

Brushy Mountain Bee Farm has sold the deep-frame Queen Castle, a hive body compartmented into four distinct chambers, each able to house a colony of bees with their own queen. Now they also offer a medium-sized castle. The medium castle has three compartments to accommodate three medium frames each. Both retail for around \$37. Kelley Beekeeping sells a three compartment deep queen mating box, and Dadant sells a four compartment deep box very similar to BM's queen castle, called the "Queen Rearing Hotel" both retailing around \$40-\$42.

So why and how can you keep a queen for a season using a "minimum of resources." As stated before, Brushy Mountain's queen castle holds only 2 deep frames in each compartment, which is very adequate to accommodate a newly mated queen, her stores, her colony and her brood. One might assume an increased chance for swarming from a two-frame sized compartment, versus a 10 or 20 frame sized space.

Wouldn't the bees get overly congested in a short amount of time in such a small cavity and then swarm? My experience has shown my bees are far more likely to swarm from full sized colonies than a 2-frame sized one.



The part I like best about these partitioned boxes, especially if the dividers of each compartment are removable, is the overall versatility. With a compartmented box like a queen castle, I can make four two-frame nucs or two five-frame nucs. As the colony outgrows its two-frame compartment, I can move these frames into a separate box with frames of foundation or comb. Or, if I don't have available woodenware, I can remove a partition between two compartments while de-queening one of the compartments until I'm able to transfer those four frames into a separate box. Or I can leave those frames and bees in the queen castle.

Adding to this versatility is the fact that when queen rearing season is over, I can easily transfer the two deep frames per compartment into a regular hive if necessary, taking all eight frames in

one queen castle and populating an entire deep hive body with deep drawn comb frames. If no queen is present, I can easily combine four compartments worth of bees, brood, pollen and honey on deep frames into one open deep eight-frame box, without the bees fighting. The only condition is open brood should be present, which means most of the the bees on the frames are young, nurse-age bees. Young nurse bees rarely tend to fight. It's freeing to have so many choices.



But I believe the most popular use of the queen castle, as Brushy Mountain's advertisement suggests, is to utilize swarm cells in other colonies for the production of multiple, additional viable queens. This may present an alternative to simply cutting our swarm cells and having the colony's queen rearing energy go to waste. I highly recommend trying one of these compartmented boxes, and adding them to your toolkit of beekeeping. You'll enjoy the fun of experimenting

with new methods of managing your bees.

Dear Aunt Bee,

I'm in a bit of a pickle--my hive is queenless and I don't have another hive to supply it with eggs for a new queen. Fortunately, I know a friendly beekeeper who's willing to provide me with some eggs, but his apiary is kind of far from where I live--how should I transport the frames?

Sincerely,
Commuter Beekeeper

Dear Commuter B,

Of course you want to get the eggs and open brood to the queenless hive as quickly as possible, but do be a safe driver! One way to preserve warmth for the frame is to wrap the frame in a warm, damp towel and put the whole thing in a cooler (no ice, mind you, we are keeping it WARM this way).

If you have a nuc hive available to you, another way is a little more involved. Go to the hive from which you want to take the frame of brood and eggs; shake all the bees off of the frame and remove the frame. Put that bee-less frame in an empty hive box and place the hive box on the top of a queen excluder on the top of the hive (under the inner cover as if it is a part of the hive). Leave the hive for about an hour and when you come back, the frame will be covered with nurse bees.

The nurse bees will keep the eggs and brood warm. They will rarely be killed by the queenless hive when you transfer the frame. Put the nurse bee covered frame into a nuc box with four empty frames to keep it from sliding around and drive to the queenless hive.

Good luck,

Your *Aunt Bee*



***Question and answer supplied by Noah Macey; second part of the answer from IndyPartridge on Beemaster forum. Thanks to both.



Honey Lavender Ice Cream

from epicurious.com

Makes about 1 qt of ice cream
Great served in homemade profiteroles (also found on Epicurious.com)

2 cups heavy cream
1 cup half-and-half
2/3 cup mild honey
2 tablespoons dried edible lavender flowers*
2 large eggs

1/8 teaspoon salt

Special equipment: a candy or instant-read thermometer; an ice cream maker

Bring cream, half-and-half, honey, and lavender just to a boil in a 2 quart heavy saucepan over moderate heat, stirring occasionally, then remove pan from heat. Let steep, covered, 30 minutes.

Pour cream mixture through a fine-mesh sieve into a bowl and discard lavender. Return mixture to cleaned saucepan and heat over moderate heat until hot.

Whisk together eggs and salt in a large bowl, then add 1 cup hot cream mixture in a slow stream, whisking. Pour into remaining hot cream mixture in saucepan and cook over moderately low heat, stirring constantly with a wooden spoon, until thick enough to coat back of spoon and registers 170 to 175°F on thermometer, about 5 minutes (do not let boil).

Pour custard through sieve into cleaned bowl and cool completely, stirring occasionally. Chill, covered, until cold, at least 3 hours.

Freeze custard in ice cream maker. Transfer ice cream to an airtight container and put in freezer to harden.

Editor's note: I've made this for my daughter's birthday with homemade profiteroles and for a dinner won by someone at a MABA auction where all items on the menu that I made included honey. It's AMAZINGLY DELICIOUS!

"We lived for honey. We swallowed a spoonful in the morning to wake us up and one at night to put us to sleep. We took it with every meal to calm the mind, give us stamina, and prevent fatal disease. We swabbed ourselves in it to disinfect cuts or heal chapped lips. It went in our baths, our skin cream, our raspberry tea and biscuits. Nothing was safe from honey...honey was the ambrosia of the gods and the shampoo of the goddesses."

— Sue Monk Kidd,
The Secret Life of Bees



Beehives in lavender fields - from Internet



David McLeod of Henry County sent us these photos of a trapout in progress. Here's what he wrote about the above:

"These are a few photos of a trap out I have in progress in Newnan. If you look close you can see the blue porter bee escape. This is day two and you can see the bulk of the bees locked out of the home. This is a recently established swarm that entered approximately a month ago through a bathroom exhaust fan vent and set up house keeping in the ceiling/floor joist bay. Since it is a new colony it should not have large enough quantities of honey and comb to require ripping out sheet rock to remove. A trap out will work just fine to vacate the colony then once established in the nuclear I can let them rob out what remains."

A Thank You ***by David McLeod***

In June the Henry County Beekeepers held their club picnic. It was a great success. We had 139 in attendance with several of those being new beekeepers. I was especially pleased many of these new beeks were accompanied by their children, the future of our pursuit. I would also like to extend a special thank you to our vice president Brutz English of Liberty Hill Honey who gladly allowed us the free use of his property and facilities, including full access to all his hives, to host the picnic.

Upcoming Events

Beginner's Beekeeping Course (Morgan County Extension)

August 7, 2014 Cost: Free Held at Morgan County Extension Office, 440 Hancock St., Madison GA 30650 Registration: RSVP by Monday August 1, 2014 Call 706-342-2214 to register

Tara Beekeepers Association is having its annual short course **September 6, 2014**. Cost is \$65 per person, and there is a family rate. The course will be held at the Kiwanis Building in Forest Park. If you would like to attend or know someone who would like to attend [please check our website](#) or give us a shout!

GBA Fall Meeting Sept 19 -20 at the Hampton Inn in Milledgeville, GA. To register for the fall meeting, [click here](#). Rooms are reserved with a discount at the Hampton and Comfort Suites. See the [GBA website](#) for more information.

Hahira Honeybee Festival, September 29 - October 4 in downtown Hahira. For more information, visit [the website](#)

Palm Beach County Beekeepers Association is hosting the Florida State Beekeepers Association Conference in West Palm Beach, Florida at the Embassy Suites. Dates: **Oct. 2, 3, 4, 2014**. [Updated information here](#).

ABF Conference and Trade Show Jan 6 - 10, 2015 Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim, CA

Submission Guidelines:

We want to acknowledge you when you contribute articles, photos, etc. to the newsletter. Please let us know your name and the name of the bee club to which you belong.

Keep your articles to about 500 words and send them as an attached Word document.

Send photos as attachments to the email. If they are in the body of the article, we can't use them. Please tell us who took the photo, where and when. Use this email address:

<mailto:gbanewsletters@gmail.com>

The Final Buzz

We hope everyone has had a good honey harvest. Thank you for all of your contributions to this newsletter. In this issue we introduced "**True Confessions**," which is a place to write (anonymously, if you'd feel more comfortable) about mistakes you've made that others may learn from and not repeat.

It's so good to hear from people all over the state. We'll be looking for you at the fall meeting in Milledgeville and hope to encourage many more of you to send us something - make your reservations NOW!

Thanks for the support and keep your photos, articles, etc, coming - we love them each and every one!



Linda and Gina

HOTELS FOR SEPTEMBER 18-20 MEETING

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Comfort Suites
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Milledgeville, GA 31061
478-453-2212

Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

September 2014



President's Message

Here it is September already and the active bee season is drawing to a close. Now it's "Honey Time!" I hope everyone has had a productive season and the Golden Flow has started. The photo above is some of the wildflower honey we were able to extract this year and get out on the market

While you are bottling your sweet success, save some for the two big honey shows that we have on the horizon. The first one will be at the Fall GBA meeting in Milledgeville the 19th and 20th of this month. The rules and categories are posted on the GBA website for all to see. This show is really for the state title. With the Best in Show award, you'll have bragging rights for the coming year. Just think what that can do for your marketing program! The next show will soon follow at the Georgia National Fair in Perry on the 4th of October. This will be our second annual event there and we look forward to many of you entering and showing your stuff.

I have to say here that Cindy Hodges won both titles last year and I know improved her sales and spirit quite a bit. Slade Jarrett won best tasting (the Black Jar category) and has sure had fun boasting about that one. A little birdie told me that Cindy will not be competing in both shows this year, so a winner's spot is open for someone new!

Please don't let these folks intimidate you. Get your honey in the jars and bring it in to be judged. We have a lot of good judges in our community who will let you know

your shortcomings and then you learn how to do better next time. As members of GBA, there is no entry fee, so what do you have to lose? If you need help in preparing for the show, Virginia Webb has posted a number of You Tube videos to help you prepare Honey Show entries for competition. And we all know that Virginia is certainly well qualified to teach you how to win.

In addition to these two shows, many of our clubs will be having contests as well. Feel free to check out the calendar of events on our website. And Club Presidents, if you haven't sent in the notices to be posted, please do so. We will advertise your events free for you. I look forward to seeing everyone at the fall meeting and checking out the honey shows.

Bear Kelley,

President, Georgia beekeepers Association

Georgia Beekeepers Association Fall Meeting

Sept 19 -20 at the Hampton Inn in Milledgeville, GA. To register for the fall meeting, [click here](#). The schedule for the meeting is below - should be great - everyone come and rub shoulders with your fellow beekeepers!

Friday, September 19th: Wifi is available

09:00 Opening Remarks by the President and Introduction of the Association Officers
09:30 Main speaker Kelli Williams; Georgia Grown Program
10:15 am Main speaker Katie Evans; Africanized Honey Bees
10:00am -2:00pm, includes lunch
11:00-11:40 am Honey Queen Speaker
11:45-12:15 Break outs **List A**
12:25-12:50 Break outs repeat **list A**
1:00 – 1:45pm Lunch
12:30 pm Honey show entries due - Honey Judges report for duty
1:45 pm Main Speaker Carl Chesick
2:30 pm Main Speaker Tim Tucker, ABF
3:15 pm break out **List B**
3:45pm Repeat break out **List B**
4:30 Announcements
 Steak Dinner; (Reservations Only) Starts at **545pm** at the college. Room to be announced.
 Friday night
7:00pm: Awards program for the Beekeeper of the Year and Honey show winners

Saturday, September 20th:

08:30 am President Message and open the meeting of the members
 Business meeting / Election of New officers
10:00 am David Williams State Beehive inspector
10am -2pm Children's Program:
11-11:45 break out **List C**
11:45- 12:30 Repeat break out **List C**
12:30 -1:30pm lunch
1:30-2:15 pm break out **List D**
2:15-3:00 pm break out Repeat **List D**
3:15 pm Speaker Panel open for questions from members
4:00pm Closing Remarks by President
List A: Virginia Webb, Mary Cahill-Roberts, Jim Ewing, Tim Tucker
List B: Cindy Hodges, Newsletter Editors, Katie Evans, Steve Page
List C: Bill Owens, Bruce Morgan, Carl Chesick, Keith Fielder
List D: Bear Kelley, Linda Tillman, Rafeal Cabrera, The Wimbish family

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE - great food, great friends, great knowledge exchange, time in the bee yard, favorite vendors

Note: Reservations for Friday dinner are made when you sign up for the meeting. You can also register onsite



Here is a last day of July swarm we were called to catch in a Grovetown, Georgia neighborhood. Keith and Ann Powell of the Clarks Hill Beekeepers Association caught the bees while the property owner watched from their dining room window.

We will try to help them survive the winter since as you know "a swarm in July ain't worth a fly." Keep your fingers crossed for them.

TRUE CONFESSIONS

by Slade Jarrett

You have to understand me: I never put my smoker out when I am going from one bee yard to another to work bees. I am notorious for riding around the county with the smoke bellowing out of the smoker from the back of the truck. At times other vehicles will be following closely behind until drivers see smoke coming out of the truck, and decide to back off.

On Saturday, August 16th Kristie and I tended to our bees all day. I told our son, Braxton, that we could go fishing Saturday evening. As soon as we finished with the bees, Kristie got out of the truck (*Braxton and I asked Kristie-Mom to go with us but she declined*) and Braxton jumped in to go to Wal-Mart to buy fishing lures. Braxton and I were in the fishing lure aisle for a good 10-15 minutes when a distress announcement came over the intercom. "We have a white truck in Aisle 3 of the parking lot with something from the back of the truck smoking, and burning!" Braxton looked at me and started shaking his head.

Braxton decided to stay hidden in the fishing lure aisle to avoid the embarrassment. I went out to the truck to put the smoke bellowing out of the smoker out. It took me 3 bottles of water to get it put out, but thankfully, Wal-Mart did not call the fire department.

Lesson Learned: Never go to Wal-Mart straight from tending to bees!

TRUE CONFESSIONS

by Ricky Moore

My first experience at doing a cutout as a new beekeeper was less than stellar. Oh, it was memorable; in fact let me tell you about it.

My next door neighbor, Jarrod Murphy, an even newer beekeeper than myself, had gotten a phone call from a farmer friend of his who was tearing down an old house on his farm. When he pulled the wood off of one corner, a swarm of bees let the farmer know immediately that house was theirs and they were willing to defend it. After being stung a couple times, he called Jarrod and invited him to come get the bees before the farmer set fire to the house. Jarrod and I loaded up the truck with our bee suits, smoker and a nuc. Seriously, we didn't know any better.

The house was out in the country, turn at the church, go to the old abandoned grocery store, turn left and literally go to the end of the paved road, and turn left on the dirt road. When we arrived, unhappy bees were flying all around the house. Thank goodness for the full bee suit as these girls were spoiling for a fight.

Much of the comb on the ground was dark and looked very old. The cells were full of capped brood, drone cells and lots of honey, both capped and not. There were larvae mashed and torn throughout the comb. The smoker was of little value as the bees were mostly in flight.

It didn't take long to realize that you don't bring a nuc to a cutout. Jarrod loaded the nuc, retrieved a five gallon bucket from the truck, and we filled it with as many bees as we could. We were scooping up bees with our goatskin gloved hands and watching them land on our suits and face netting, trying to get to our faces. Neither of us were stung on this adventure.

Now we had a nuc crammed full of comb and bees and a five gallon bucket with more. Now what do we do with them? How do we get this mess into an orderly fashion and make this hive survive? Here at The Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association we are very fortunate to have Jesse McCurdy, our go to answer man. Jesse asked what trouble had I

gotten into this time. He offered to show us what to do with the lot, bring it by. We did, he did, and home we went as happy as clams.

Two weeks later when examining the nuc, we discovered those larvae we thought were bees, turns out to be a massive infestation of hive beetles. The entire nuc was lost and destroyed. Though we were told wild hives like this were infested with hive beetles and we put traps in the nuc, it was too little against the invasion and the war was over. We had lost before we brought them home.

All in all this was a quite a learning experience. We learned what to take to a cutout, and as importantly, what to do with the recovered bees and comb. We learned wild bees are a risk and to quarantine them away from your domestic hives for a period of time to determine if the new bees are safe or sick. Thankfully we did quarantine them away from our bee field.

I hope this is the first of many cutouts and recoveries, but with any future cutouts having a much better outcome!

Reminder that we are voting on two by-law changes at the Fall Meeting.

To see the original by-laws, [click here](#).

The changes were sent out in an email to the membership on August 15 from gbanewsletters@gmail.com

Please read and be familiar with these changes before the meeting.

GBA is getting more and more technology-oriented every day. You can sign up for the Fall Meeting on [Wufoo](#); we have a [Facebook page](#); and we are now on Twitter ([@GaBeekeepers](#))!

Previews from some of the Presenters at the GBA Meeting

Mary Cahill-Roberts

Safety in the Apiary:
Things everyone needs to know, that we don't think about but may or could happen and how to be prepared.

(Editor's note:
She knows from experience -- her apiary caught on fire!)

Keith Fielder, CEC

- Developing Your Own Bee Pasture

Program will detail effective pasture plantings that benefit bees and other pollinators. Information will include seed sources, soil preparation, planting techniques, soil fertility and maintenance.

Gina and Linda

Club newsletter editors come talk to Gina and Linda about how to make your club newsletter fun and exciting!

Linda Tillman

Using easy practical methods can make your beekeeping calmer and more peaceful for you and the bees.



Cindy Hodges

- Varroa Mites for Beginners; IPM for Everyone

Steve Page -

The seven hives in this bee yard produced 866 pounds of honey or an average of 123 pounds per a hive using the hive management technique called Nectar Management also known as Checkerboarding.



Bruce Morgan

Making your own long lasting equipment for quick assembly and to save money.

You Might Be a Beekeeper If...

The wallpaper on your smartphone is a photo of your hives

You check on your hives more than you check on your children

Your car sits outside the garage because inside the garage is your beehive building workshop

You own four epi pens and you are not allergic to bee stings

You think bee stings are a part of the business

You carry your bee suit in the truck at all times, just in case

You can explain how bees have a grandfather and no father (you can, can't you?)

You get your back feathers riled when someone in Michigan is selling local Tupelo honey, because you know that ain't possible

You have an old family recipe for making Creamed Honey

You talk to your bees

The words Dadant, Mann Lake, Dixie Bee Supply and Kelly have a special place in your heart

You spend more on bees than you do on groceries

You think nothing about driving a hundred miles and spending hours to rescue a swarm or to do a cutout

Your idea of a perfect Saturday morning is spending it in the bee field

When you hear someone mentioning hives, you do not think of raised, often itchy, red welts on the surface of the skin

You own a refractometer

You've named all of your bees...individually

by **Ricky Moore**

“Nurturing and cherishing creation is a command God gives not only at the beginning of history, but to each of us. It is part of his plan; it means causing the world to grow responsibly, transforming it so that it may be a garden, a habitable place for everyone” – Pope Francis.



Youth, said George Bernard Shaw, is wasted on the young. So is this simply beautiful bamboo balance bike, made by Kickstarter-funded GreenChamp. For the uninitiated, a balance bike is a pedal-less two-wheeler intended to teach riding skills more effectively than that traditional staple of childhood, the tricycle. Beyond such worthy considerations as sustainability and carbon footprint, the GreenChamp Original is a triumph of design. Bamboo fibres are infused with honey (yes, honey) to prevent cracking, and the tubes feature dual-wall construction for maximal rigidity. To be young again...

VARROA MITES -

Latest recommendations from Jennifer Berry, Director of University of Georgia Bee Lab

Checking For Mites The Easy Way:

- insert a framed sticky board into the entrance or plastic corrugated sheet covered in Crisco under the screen bottom board (making sure bees can't get to the sticky portion)
- leave in for 3 days & remove
- count total number of mites on each sheet; divide total by 3 to get natural mite drop in 24 hours
- mite loads of 12 in a small colony and 38 in a very large colony have reached the economic threshold

In addition to Integrated Pest Management (IPM) options, possible Varroa treatments include ApiLife Var, Hop Guard, Mite Away Quick Strips (formic acid), oxalic acid drip and ApiVar. Choosing the right treatment depends mostly on the time of year, with temperature and amount of brood being the deciding factor! However, if colonies have reached the economic threshold, the beekeeper must do something to reduce mite populations or that colony will be lost. Mites enhance the virus loads, which slowly kills the bees, dwindling the population down, till nothing is left.



Sadly we note the death of [Master Beekeeper Howard Reagan](#). A life long beekeeper, Howard lived in Dawsonville and was a member of both the Forsyth and Amicalola Bee Clubs. He was from a beekeeping family: his father, grandfather, and great grandfather all were beekeepers.

Dear Aunt Bee,

When hives are placed close together, do honey bees ever get confused and go into the wrong hive?

Dazed (and with possibly confused honey bees)

Dear Dazed and Confused,

Bees may drift into the wrong hive when blown by the wind to a different hive entrance ([see Dave Cushman's website](#)) or when the hives all look alike and are in a row.

Ted Hooper in ***A Guide to Bees and Honey*** describes the guard bee's encounter with a forager who has mistakenly drifted into a hive:

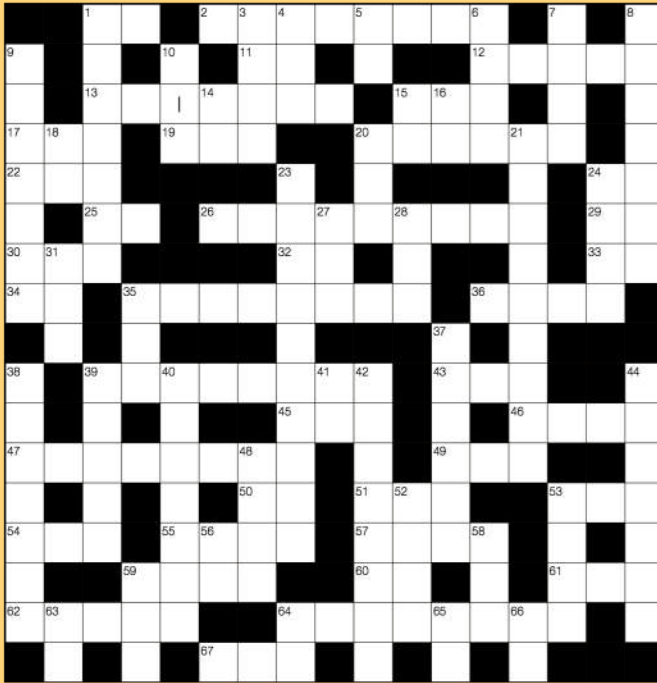
“a drifting bee entering the colony by mistake, perhaps because it has been blown down to the hive by a cross wind, or misled by a similarity of the approach picture, will be challenged. In this case the guard will press the challenge because the smell of this bee is not the right one. The drifter, because its instinct says it is in the right place, will not try to fight the guard but will submit. If the drifter is facing the guard it will offer food, which the guard will usually ignore. If the guard is attacking from the side [...] the

drifter will tuck its tail in and stand quiet, with its head tucked down, or it may rear on to its two back pairs of legs, extending its tongue and strop this with its front legs. These patterns of behaviour denote submission and the guard [...] will do no real harm and certainly not attempt to sting. As with all bees, the guard's concentration period is short, and in a few seconds it gets tired of the whole affair and lets the drifter proceed.”

Drifting results in the spread of disease and parasites and can cause an imbalance in hive populations between your hives, increasing the chance for robbery by the strong against the weak. To minimize drifting, paint your colonies different colors, use stencils or stickers to make designs to distinguish the hives from each other, keep your colonies not in a straight line.

Your Aunt Bee

Question contributed by Chris Pahl. Answer from Linda Tillman and various sources.



Honey Harvest

Across

- 1 For best results a hive should face east or ___
- 2 Major characteristic overall of a winning honey jar
- 11 Swedish word for "bee"
- 12 The smell of a beehive with AFB
- 13 Cuts of chunk or comb honey must be _____ in shape and size
- 15 While you can ___ your dog, you don't typically ___ your bee
- 17 Jar shutter
- 19 Stove-top vessel for melting wax
- 20 Usually comes in red, blue, or white at honey shows
- 22 Across the pond near one of Keith Fielder's favorite places
- 24 Internet technology needed for programs like Hivetool
- 25 No beehive blew away, but Dorothy missed her aunt ___
- 26 Pound jars for honey show entries
- 29 There are over 500 members in the state bee association of this tiny state
- 30 Signal for immediate assistance, sent out when one receives many bee stings!

- 32 Large bird several thousand times size of a bee
- 33 This Beekeepers association includes Beekeepers in Chapel Hill and Hillsborough NC
- 34 The first two letters of European foul brood (short form)
- 35 What honey can't have too much of
- 36 Who wrote "here is the beehive, but where are the bees? Hiding away where nobody sees. Here they come creeping out of the hive. One, two, three, four, five."
- 39 The best wax
- 43 If tightly woven can clean outside of jar
- 45 What an unhappy beekeeper full of too much beer might turn into
- 46 Bee collects pollen via static electricity
- 47 Used to remove bees from a frame you want to harvest
- 49 The crazy thing is, the almond uses more bees for pollination than any other
- 50 Generally the answer to the question: should you feed your bees in the middle of the nectar flow?
- 51 Rarely near beehive unless chased near it by a dog!

- 53 One cup on your breath and bees are inclined to sting
- 54 Lemon with missing vowels
- 55 Plenty, to a poet and to a beekeeper
- 57 Botox or bee sting on lip make this impossible
- 59 How a beekeeper starts the next season when all of her hives have died over the winter
- 60 ___ or out?
- 61 A grain that makes great bread for a corned beef sandwich but isn't pollinated by the bee
- 62 A beekeeper's honey profits are quickly _____
- 64 Name, address, phone, email basics on jar label
- 67 If you sold a lot of honey you might need one of these to do your taxes for you!
- 21 Length of time required in freezer to kill bug eggs in cut comb honey
- 23 Highest award
- 24 This gets turned into steel which gets turned into your hive tool
- 27 A huge Australian bird that is the size of many thousands of bees
- 28 When a beekeeper who has kept bees for several years says he/she has never been stung
- 31 To open the bee hive to harvest the honey, first we lift ___ the telescoping cover.
- 35 Mississippi beekeepers association
- 37 Keep these off the honey jar
- 38 Scoop these off the top surface of your honey with a silver spoon before turning in your entry to up the possibility of winning first place

Down

- 1 A man's handkerchief is good for removal of these when preparing honey show entries
- 3 A poetic word for the color of dark stripes on honey bee
- 4 Must circulate through the hive to remove moisture from the honey
- 5 When a beekeeper discovers that the hive made no honey he/she might say sadly, "oh, ___."
- 6 Letters identifying the four voices in a choir
- 7 Honey cells must slant this way in relationship to center rib in chunk honey
- 8 Put some of this between the jar and the lid when transporting jars to the honey show
- 9 To get a candle out of mold
- 10 Bee uses it's proboscis to ___ nectar as through a straw
- 14 Do, re, mi, ___
- 15 Common ratio. Nothing really to do with bees!
- 16 Can develop a six pack lifting bee boxes
- 18 At night where you want your bees to be as opposed to out
- 20 If you drop a frame while stealing honey, this is what you'll want to do
- 40 18.6
- 41 Bee-___ gets the bees to leave so you can harvest
- 42 Cheap honey filter material
- 44 Great place to store honey as per Jim Ovbey
- 48 Prevented access to beehives in February in Atlanta
- 52 '-- She Sweet'. A song that could refer to a bee!
- 53 Lots are needed for good harvest
- 56 Location of Michael Bush's apiary
- 58 A bee brood disease that weakens the hive
- 59 Often found under telescoping cover but sprinkle them up with cinnamon and they are apt to leave
- 63 What a worker might call a drone
- 64 State where Backwards Beekeepers are located
- 65 State where Dee Lusby keeps treatment free bees
- 66 Back in 1901 it was reported that this huge state had 150000 bee colonies

Crossword puzzle by Linda Tillman. If you'd like to work it online, [here's the link](#). If you get stuck and want the solution, write gbanewsletters@gmail.com



Bee on lemon balm - photo submitted by Gina Gallucci

Presidential Memorandum on Honey Bees

On June 20, 2014, President Barack Obama signed a memorandum to create a federal strategy for promoting the health of honey bees and other pollinators. His memorandum includes the establishment of a Pollinator Health Task Force chaired by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Administrator of the EPA. The task force will draw from many departments such as the Department of the Interior, the Department of Energy, the Council on Environmental Quality, among many others. The task force is charged within the next six months to develop a strategy to include an action plan to address understanding, preventing and recovering from pollinator losses. Also within six months, the task force is to address increasing and improving pollinator habitat.

If you'd like to read the memorandum in full, [you can find it here](#).

Honey Parfait

from ***Honey from Hive to Honey Pot***
by Sue Style

3 egg yolks
1 egg
1/2 cup honey
1 1/4 cups heavy whipping cream
3 T chopped walnuts

Beat together the yolks, egg and honey with an electric mixer until thoroughly light and fluffy in top of double boiler over hot water. Keep

this up for 3 - 5 minutes until it has thickened. Remove from heat and allow to cool.

Beat the whipping cream to soft peaks and then fold it into the egg mixture. Stir in walnuts, if using, and freeze the parfait in chosen container. This is nice if frozen in a bread pan lined with plastic wrap. When frozen, cut it into slices and serve. Or you can freeze it in individual ramekins. A fruit coulis goes well with it.



Our Honey Bees - Under Attack by Hornets

Bob Grant

The successful Sourwood flow is complete and the hives are over-flowing with bees with little to do. Members of the Mountain Beekeepers Association planned to make splits and re-queen in early August to allow hive development before winter.

During the first week of August we received newly minted survivor queens, \$45 each, from the Pacific Northwest. These queens were from an area where the weather imitates Georgia Mountain weather patterns. This would also help to increase our genetic diversity.

The creation of five nucs from my over-populated hives went smoothly. Each nuc included two frames of bees plus brood and two frames of honey. I checked them regularly and fed them, as necessary, to ensure their rapid success. Week one was a beekeeper's dream. All nucs did well with lots of young bees tending the newly established queens who were naturally released. (Only two needed my help getting out of the cages.)

In week two I noticed a reduction in bee population in the nucs. I quickly introduced new bees into the two of the boxes. I sprayed a mixture of sugar and Honey Bee Healthy onto the bees to minimize any fighting during introduction.

The next day I noticed my other nucs losing bees at an alarming rate. European hornets and Baldfaced hornets were killing my bees. Baldfaced hornets are the black wasps that we all love to hate, but European hornets are the ones that truly struck terror in my heart.

The European hornets had a two-fold plan: to catch the bees as they flew or to catch them inside the nuc. Inside the nucs, they snapped the heads off of the bees. My bees were still young, so their focus was on housekeeping and attending to Mom -- not on defense. I installed "standard" entrance-reducers to allow the bees to protect themselves a little better.

The next day, I noticed Baldfaced hornets showing up and joining the massacre. Within three-days the newly minted hives were destroyed, despite our best efforts to target and kill European hornets and Baldfaced hornets. My wife and I donned our bee suits about every two hours, and tried to kill the hornets individually. I swatted them to the the ground with a net and stomped on them or my wife would use a wasp spray when they weren't near the hives or honey bee landing areas. We did find and destroy some of the nests.

I checked with Blairsville to see how they were faring. They had seen an increase in European hornet and Baldfaced hornets in the yard and had also had some losses.

I called Jennifer at UGA to if she were experiencing the problem as well. She said no, but had some ideas on what I could do. First was to throw powdered sugar at the European hornet to make them more visible which would enable me to follow them back to their nest so that I could destroy it, but I passed on that idea.

The second option was to reduce the entrances to a single bee passage way. So I headed to my trusty band saw and made some entrances reducers with a 5/16 inch opening. This worked perfectly. European hornets could no longer get in, but we did see them attacking as bees lined up to get back into the nucs. Not pretty, but that was definitely better than having them wreak havoc inside the nuc.

At this time, we seem to have reduced the European hornet population to a point where only one wasp shows up every few hours, instead of four or five. My wife and I refuse to abandon the nucs and our other hives. We remain vigilant, finding and killing these aggressive predators. Unfortunately, it is hot, hard and time-consuming work and we aren't getting a lot else done.

A late update: we were able to find and destroy a Baldfaced Hornet nest.

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MABA Picnic, Auction and Honey Show on Sunday, **September 14** from 4 - 7 at Kingsley Racquet and Swim Club, Dunwoody, Ga

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This is your newsletter. Send us articles and material to continue to support YOUR newsletter!

The Final Buzz

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We are looking forward to making new friends and learning new tricks. See you in Milledgeville!

Gina and Linda



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GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

October 2014



Winning Queen Bee Photo in First Annual Queen Photo Contest. The entries were judged at the Fall meeting by members of the Board of Directors. This photo was taken by Deborah Sasser of the Sasserfrass Hill Bee Farm in Augusta, Georgia in May, 2013. Deborah won this featured spot for her photo, an award certificate, and one year of GBA membership for this blue ribbon photo.

President's Message

I want to thank everyone again so much for your confidence in me and the work we are doing with the GBA while keeping me on for another year as your President. Once again, I also want to thank those who have stood with me and have worked so hard to keep us rolling ahead: Mary Cahill Roberts, RoseAnne Fielder, Andy Bailey, Slade Jarrett, Brutz English, Steve Prince, Steve Cobb, Linda Tillman, Gina Gallucci, and Bill Owens. We have our work cut out for us as we move into the coming year.

It was great seeing so many of you at the fall meeting and getting your positive comments to the wonderful speakers we had. We will continue to work on the speakers/topics list that was generated with your input. Congrats also to Jay Parsons for winning "Best in Show" for his Honey beer entry. Lake Country once again had the best attendance for any club, and we want to thank all the Lake Country members for stepping up and hosting this meeting.

During the meeting of the members I gave a "State of the Colony" kind of report to let you know what we actually did this past year. If you were not in attendance, here it is.....

State of the Colony Address

As we finish 2014 and move on with Father Time into 2015 I would like to inform you of the things that we have accomplished this year.

We sponsored and conducted the first annual Honey Show at the Georgia National Fair with Cindy Hodges winning "Best in Show" in October 2013. Although we had less than 20 entrants and we limited the show to extracted honey only, we feel that it was a success and are trying it again this year. October 3rd is the show date.

I appointed a fourth Director (Slade Jarrett) to help cover the northeast side of the state. This increase in our Directors was necessary since our numbers are growing and the actual number of clubs in that area of Georgia continues to increase. At the fall meeting in Milledgeville, we voted to make that a permanent position giving us four Directors with two year overlaps.

I appointed Mary Cahill-Roberts, our Vice President, to fill the seat on the Board of Directors of EAS. Her position there is a 4 year term. I know that she plans to share with you the EAS happenings and her experience at the EAS meeting in Kentucky this past June.

Brutz English got the Facebook page up and running right away after the September meeting last year. We continue to have a lot of hits on it and new folks are constantly showing up.

We created the Georgia Beekeepers Ambassadors program. 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. I want to congratulate once again the following Plank Holders: Fred Rossman, Keith Fielder, Bob Binnie, Jesse McCurdy, Evelyn Williams and P.N. Williams.

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 of 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. Brutz 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. I am currently working with state officials to establish a “Bee HAZMAT” policy for the state so that local fire departments won’t just hose the bees down the drain. I will discuss this further as we develop the program.

Marybeth and I attended the American Bee Federation meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in January. I was overwhelmed by the information flow and reported on that in the February Newsletter.

Our spring meeting was held in Columbus in February and hosted by the Chattahoochee Beekeepers led by Paul Berry. We had a lot of wonderful comments from you and we are constantly working to improve our seminars with hard work and creativity. The worst comment was that it was “standing room only” because we did not anticipate as many attendees as we had. Our spring meetings have not been so well attended in the past and you can bet it will not happen again on my watch. Our Keynote speaker, Dr Jamie Ellis and the other speakers did a wonderful job.

We revised and put into policy the 4-H and Junior Beekeeping programs into one program. With the assistance of Keith Fielder and Arch Smith (the state 4-H Director), we re-worked the 4H program and integrated it in with the new Junior Beekeeping Policy. We discussed this at the meeting and voted on a by-law change that will affect financing this policy.

We have established some great lines of communication with you by keeping the web site up to date, our Facebook page going, and our “Spilling the Honey” Newsletter that should receive the Edward R. Murrow Journalism award for excellence. Furthermore, I have created the Presidents Council. That is, established open lines of communication with all club presidents (email and phone) and conduct the Presidents Council break out session that we intend to continue for all future GBA gatherings. And the newest is “Twitter”. Linda Tillman is determined to get me into the 21st century. As soon as I learn how to twitter, I’ll be tweeting you!

We as members of the GBA represented you at numerous meetings throughout the year; such as ABF, EAS, Young Harris, 4-H Banquet, FFA, GA Ag day at the Capitol, meetings with State Representatives, State Beehive inspectors, State Pollinators meeting, Former President Carter, and more that I am sure to inadvertently omit. We know that there are in excess of 2,500 beekeepers in Georgia and we have only 300+ members in the GBA, but when we attend these meetings, we represent the interest of “all” Georgia beekeepers throughout our state and will continue to do so. Professionalism, Representation and Recognition are not just buzz words that we are using these days, but it is what we are striving to accomplish.

Thank you for your support, your input and patience with us as we continue to strive for excellence.

Bear Kelley,
President, Georgia Beekeepers Assn.

Fall Feeding Honey Bees – One of the Most Important October Managements Tips in Georgia

by Mickey Anderson, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Assoc.

Beekeeping is a seasonal, cyclic operation, and beekeepers need to do different things based on what the colony needs. Feeding is one of the most critical things in the fall for successfully overwintering. Beekeepers who are in the northern Rabun county need to feed bees differently than beekeepers who are south of Valdosta. (I have kept bees in both places as well as many other areas in the state of Georgia). Feeding bees is highly temperature dependent, and early October is usually warm enough for bees to take down sugar syrup. Feed your bees now, and because of their advantageous hoarding instinct, the bees will take down extra sugar syrup and use this feed in the winter when feeding will be very difficult.

In Georgia, each good colony needs about 40-50 lb. of honey for overwintering. A deep brood frame can hold about 7-9 lbs of honey. If bees don't have enough honey/sugar syrup, then the colony could likely die from starvation. Beekeepers should try to err on the heavy side. If extra honey/sugar syrup is present, it will be stored in the combs, and used in the spring when the demand for honey (and pollen) greatly increases with the population explosion that every good colony experiences. Feeding sugar syrup in the fall also seems to stimulate the queen to lay more eggs and concurrently entice more workers to collect more pollen, to raise more brood, to produce a more populated colony, which increases the chances for successfully overwintering the colony.

The honey and/or sugar syrup will take care of the carbohydrate needs of the colony, but the honey bee colony also needs proteins, fats, minerals and vitamins, which come from pollen, or some type of pollen supplement feed. As a general rule, I rarely feed pollen supplements to my colonies because I monitor the naturally collected pollen. If I can see frames loaded with yellow and orange (and sometimes other colors) pollen, then the colony doesn't need additional pollen substitutes. In the Atlanta area, where my bee colonies are located, goldenrod and aster produce pollen and nectar in September/October, and this year seems to be better than past years. My bees also collected pollen from centipede grass, and although I have heard that grass pollen has a low nutritive value, my bees collect it every year and it doesn't seem to adversely affect them. I have also heard and read that having pollen from multiple sources is beneficial because what one pollen lacks in essential amino acids, other types of pollen will have.

Without pollen, brood rearing is greatly reduced or shut down completely and will not start again until the workers can eat enough pollen to get their brood food glands going to feed the developing honey bee larvae. Check for pollen in the brood frames, and if you don't have pollen, then it is recommended to feed the bees some type of pollen supplement. Lack of pollen will not kill the adult bees from starvation like lack of honey/sugar syrup, but as noted above, lack of pollen will stop brood rearing.



photo submitted by Diane Holland, Harlem, GA



photo submitted by Julie Civitts, Toccoa, GA



photo submitted by Doug Roberts of Chattahoochee Valley

These three photos were all submitted to the First Annual Queen photo contest. This year the rules allowed multiple entries. If someone entered more than one, we are only putting one of the entries in this newsletter and will include the others in later issues.

Beekeeping and my Life

by Steve Page

Coweta Beekeepers

- Beekeeping has enhanced my connection to nature, to the rest of the living world. I am more aware of the world around me and the changing weather and seasons.
- Beekeeping has connected me to the people of my community and to beekeepers near and far.
- Speaking, teaching and mentoring to my community and to my fellow beekeepers have resulted in fulfillment and happiness.
- The time and energy of mentoring fellow beekeepers can result in significant personal rewards.

“When we commit to service it actually biologically and anthropologically is more likely to lead to our own success and our own happiness.”

Simon Sinek author of *Leaders Eat Last: Why Some Teams Pull Together and Others Don't*.

A number of folks at the fall meeting asked for David Williams' contact information.

Mr. Williams is the State Bee Hive inspector who spoke with us.

If you plan to transport your bees in/out of Georgia, you must contact his office to get a certificate. His office is located in Tifton, Georgia.

***David Williams,
State Beehive Inspector
Georgia Dept of Agriculture
229-386-3464 -Office
912-213-8396- Cell
David.Williams@agr.georgia.gov***

Location: Coweta County, Georgia
 Name: Her Majesty Queen Victoria of the hive....
 My name: Steven Page
 Date: August 22, 2014

This large queen was raised by the colony this summer when I made a walk away split and let them raise an emergency queen. I inspected the hive after 4 weeks and this queen was laying. Beautiful....

I can raise better queens than the queen producers.



Queen contest entry from Steve Page

Some thoughts on raising emergency queens from Michael Bush's web site.
<http://www.bushfarms.com/beesafewgoodqueens.htm>

Quality of Emergency Queens

First let's talk about emergency queens and quality. There has been much speculation over the years on this matter and after reading the opinions of many very experienced queen breeders on this subject I'm convinced that the prevailing theory that bees start with too old of a larvae is not true. I think to get good quality queens from emergency cells one simply needs to insure they can tear down the cell walls and that they have resources of food and labor to properly care for the queen. This means a good density of bees (for labor), frames of pollen and honey (for resources), and nectar or syrup coming in (to convince them they have resources to spare).

So if one adds either new drawn wax comb or wax foundation without wires or even empty frames to the brood nest during a time of year they are anxious to raise queens (from about a month after the first blooms until the end of the main flow), they quickly draw this comb and lay it full of eggs. So four to five days after adding it, there should be frames of larvae on newly drawn wax with no cocoons to interfere with them tearing down the cell walls to build queen cells. If one were to do this in a strong hive and at this point remove the queen on a frame of brood and a frame of honey and put it aside, the bees will start a lot of queen cells.

The experts on emergency queens:

Jay Smith, from Better Queens

"It has been stated by a number of beekeepers who should know better (including myself) that the bees are in such a hurry to rear a queen that they choose larvae too old for best results. later observation has shown the fallacy of this statement and has convinced me that bees do the very best that can be done under existing circumstances.

"The inferior queens caused by using the emergency method is because the bees cannot tear down the tough cells in the old combs lined with cocoons. The result is that the bees fill the worker cells with bee milk floating the larvae out

the opening of the cells, then they build a little queen cell pointing downward. The larvae cannot eat the bee milk back in the bottom of the cells with the result that they are not well fed. However, if the colony is strong in bees, are well fed and have new combs, they can rear the best of queens. And please note-- they will never make such a blunder as choosing larvae too old."--Jay Smith

Quinby seems to agree:

"I want new comb for brood, as cells can be worked over out of that, better than from old and tough. New comb must be carefully handled. If none but old comb is to be had, cut the cells down to one fourth inch in depth. The knife must be sharp to leave it smooth and not tear it."--Moses Quinby

C.C. Miller's view of emergency queens

"If it were true, as formerly believed, that queenless bees are in such haste to rear a queen that they will select a larva too old for the purpose, then it would hardly do to wait even nine days. A queen is matured in fifteen days from the time the egg is laid, and is fed throughout her larval lifetime on the same food that is given to a worker-larva during the first three days of its larval existence. So a worker-larva more than three days old, or more than six days from the laying of the egg would be too old for a good queen. If, now, the bees should select a larva more than three days old, the queen would emerge in less than nine days. I think no one has ever known this to occur. Bees do not prefer too old larvae. As a matter of fact bees do not use such poor judgment as to select larvae too old when larvae sufficiently young are present, as I have proven by direct experiment and many observations."--Fifty Years Among the Bees, C.C. Miller



Photo of the view under the screened bottom board by Ricky Moore

Have you ever looked under your beehive?

If you have a screened bottom, you might be surprised at the activity on the outside of the bottom board.



Queen photo
submitted to contest
by Roy Blackwell of
Dawsonville, GA

True Confessions:

Just Sting Me And Get It Over With

by Ricky Moore

A couple months ago I shared with you my misadventure of being stung 11 times while learning Italian bees do not understand English or swearing, and they have an innate desire to enter a veil and share the space. Yeah, right.

Let me update you on my progress, may I?

During the hottest days in August this year I decided while the foragers were out and the hive bees were busy cooling the hive, I could quietly and expeditiously peek inside and see what was going on in their hives.

I really didn't want to put the full suit on so I donned the bee jacket with hood and veil, and of course being a novice, I wore my gloves. I know, I know what you're thinking, "Rookie, sooner or later you will get use to working with bees barehanded," and while that very well may be true, I'm not there. They may be clumsy, but I'll wear my gloves, for now, thank you very much.

Did I mention it was a hot day? Ya, I thought so. It wasn't long before the sweat was running down the back of my neck and dripping off my forehead and onto my glasses.

There was the usual amount of bees flying around either curious what this big lug was that was disturbing their hive, or they'd woken up on the wrong side of the frame and were just spoiling for a fight. Either way, they attempted to get into my nice, safe veil. They'd dive bomb my face and fly off, come back and do it again. As the sweat poured from my face, my glasses started to slide down. What was I to do? I took my gloved hand and pushed my glasses up by pushing on my veil. No problem, right? You've probably done that many times too, right? I did. All was well. But about the third time I pushed my glasses back up my sweaty nose, one of the Italian Assassins was flying at mission critical point that when I pushed the veil to my glasses, she had flown at that exact same spot at exactly the same time. See where this is going? I pushed the bee into the bridge of my nose, and pinned there she did what all combatants would do. She stung me. Through the veil! Is there no safety in this avocation? Is nothing sacred?

A bee sting is a bee sting. We all accept it as part of the experience, but on the nose hurts like the Devil!

Just last week I replaced the front feeder with water on one of the hives. I did not want to wear all the gear as I'd stand behind the hive and reach around and place the feeder and get the heck out of Dodge. I am so smart, I decided to wear one of the gloves and pulled it all the way up past my elbow. I was completely covered and safe from vicious, inquisitive bees. Because I'm hot and sweaty and again didn't want to put on the suit or the jacket or even the veil, I didn't. Just the glove. I reached around, placed the water bottle and backed away without any troubles. Eureka! Then one lone, solitary bee made it her mission to be my BFF. I backed away, she came at me. I walked away, she followed. I stood still, she landed on my arm. I blew her off my arm, she returned. I moved my arm, she returned to the same place near my watch. Maybe she just wanted to see what time it was. This time I did escape her and managed to get inside without incident.

I offer my experiences to show you we all do dumb things and sometimes get away with it, and sometimes we need a reminder who has the honey also has the stinger. Go. Make experiences. And enjoy that sweet reward at harvest time.

Club News & Notes

by John Wingfield for Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

The Heart of Georgia Beekeepers held their regular monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of the month at Camp John Hope dining room located between Marshallville, Fort Valley, and Perry. Supper of ranch chicken, wild rice, green beans, roll, dessert, and beverages was served. More than 25 preregistered and enjoyed the meal.

Our President, Tim Smith opened the meeting by asking new first time attendance to raise their hands. A number of hands went up. Newcomers were welcomed. Then the Treasurer, Kelly Hillis presented our current fiscal status with over \$4,200. Tim described the GBA Buzz fund and recommended we send \$200 the Buzz Fund. A motion was made and passed to do so without objection.

Then we got to the topic that is always a favorite. Tim asked the members "how are your bees doing"? The members described their current problems and activity. Jesse McCurdy gave answers to many member questions. When there were no more questions. Tim then asked who was going to GBA meeting at Milledgeville this week? About a dozen hands went up.

Tim announced we had 21 entries for our annual black jar competition. All 21 jars were lined up on two tables with cups holding sticks to dip and taste each jar and cups for the used sticks. Most of the members using each end of the sticks for dipping, with our judges using one. Marybeth Kelly was in control of the black jars by assigning a number to each jar.

Our winners are: 1st Place- Jackie DeFore 2nd Place-David Tannehill 3rd Place- Leonard Day



John Wingfield of Heart of Georgia Beekeepers entered this queen photo into our first annual photo contest!

If you'd like to write club news and notes from your local club, we'd be delighted to share it in the newsletter. The more we all know about how Georgia beekeeping clubs use their meeting times, the more ideas we may each have to make our clubs better.

Send your club News and Notes to:
gbanewsletters@gmail.com

This link was shared with us by Steve Price. It's a very interesting video - an overview of the whole colony collapse disorder phenomenon.

[Click here.](#)

Joke from Bear:

Scientists have done studies and found that all beekeepers have beautiful eyes....

Why? Because beauty is in the eyes of the Bee Holder!

Milledgeville 2014

Well, the meeting is over and we are all breathing a sigh of relief. Congratulations to the winners of the raffle; hope that the prizes will help you in the future. I personally would have liked that hive. I was able to attend in body, but not so much in spirit as I have had a few personal ongoing issues that I am dealing with. Overall, though, I think that the Milledgeville site was great. The school was accommodating, and Brent (the school officer in charge) was great. He was always there and very eager to help our group.

The speakers were varied and educational. I learned a lot. The reviews and evaluations from our group are helpful to us that plan the meetings and were good overall. The noise level was an issue that we will address when we go back to the college. I think moving the coffee and snack area will help some of that. There was plenty of space to put the vendors and we will look at moving them, since a lot of noise came from people asking them questions.

The meeting was well attended, the site had easy access, and Milledgeville was a fun town. It is satisfying to the planners, and I enjoy watching the work of the group come together when we see the meetings well attended. If you missed this meeting then you missed some great speakers.

Jennifer Berry's queen class was excellent and I have not heard of any problems. If you attended this break out then please let us know what your thoughts are via email. If anyone has ideas for or changes to the conference please let us know. We organize the meetings for those who attend so we want to meet your needs.

It was also good to see three different commercial beekeepers attending and we hope to increase their numbers. The commercial beekeepers are especially important to Georgia and to our group.

The hardest part for me in getting the meetings together is making sure that we cover the small details. Having a buffet appears to be an ongoing problem. We are going back to Lake Blackshear and for those of you who remember, the buffet line took

forever. The lunch on Saturday in Milledgeville occurred the same way. For Lake Blackshear and in the future we will try to get boxed lunches. It is fast and easy.

Some people don't like to eat boxed lunches but we do lunch this way for several reasons. First, you don't have to leave the venue; second, it's convenient not to worry about where you are getting your lunch; and third, most importantly, is that you, the attendee, can spend time with other beekeepers and talk about bees!!

The other challenge we had was making last minute changes to the speaker list. For the past four conferences, I have had one or more speakers call me and tell me that they have to change the time they speak or will not be coming. It is a little stressful as you might imagine.

Thanks for coming to the conference and thanks for being a member. The board represents all beekeepers in Georgia, whether they are a member or not, so encourage your club mates to become members.

Mary Cahill-Roberts,
GBA VP again.



Photo taken by Derrick Fowler in Hoschton, GA - entered in queen photo contest



Queen photo above was taken in Lee County, entered by Monte McDonald and entered in our contest.



Photo taken by David Miller in Jackson, Tennessee. You can see the queen on the surface of the swarm

“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

Fall Meeting Photos - to see more, visit the blog at spillingthehoney.blogspot.com



Submission Guidelines

Keep your articles to 500 words or less and send them as a Word document attached to your email. Be sure to include your own name, your bee club and where you are located.

Send photos as attachments to emails. Include who took the photo, where and when.

Send any of this to gbanewsletters@gmail.com

This is your newsletter! We look forward to your contributions.

Your Editors

The Final Buzz

We enjoyed seeing so many of you in Milledgeville at the Fall Meeting. Our spring meeting this year is on February 14 (and 13th if you come for the Board meeting and reception). Make your plans now to be there for an exciting conference. Our own Cindy Bee is returning to Georgia to talk to us as well as several other speakers we think you will enjoy.

Keep sending in your photos, articles, club news and notes, true confessions, questions for Aunt Bee, etc. Aunt Bee was exhausted after the fall meeting, but she'll be back next issue so send in a question or two!

Linda and Gina



Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

November 2014



David Tolar: Best in Show at Perry Honey Show October 2014

President's Message

Fall is upon us, the honey has been harvested and you are putting your smoker up for the winter if you are in North Georgia and just letting it cool down if you are in the southern part of the state. Things are slowing down in the apiary, but your clubs are preparing for the Winter/Spring classes that you present to the public every year.

With that in mind I have asked Dr. Margo Wimbish to Chair the Junior Beekeeping Committee. And she accepted! Her task is to assist us in developing effective junior/youth beekeeping programs or classes that you may want to present this coming year. I know that many of our clubs present a public class for adults and they generally fill up quickly, but a youth program must be developed and presented a little differently to hold their attention and make them excited to learn. Not many kids care about neonicotinoids and such and don't really care about the politics. Dr. Wimbish presented a couple of breakout

sessions, which were very well received at the Fall Meeting in Milledgeville. Her energy level and desire to help is a blessing to us and we should take full advantage of her work. She is a volunteer, as we are all, and we appreciate her energy and help. Her email contact is: wimbish.margo@mail.fc.boe.org. Once the word gets out, I know that her dance card will fill up fast, so don't delay in getting her scheduled. And don't forget to have your junior beekeeping activity posted on our GBA website calendar.

You all should know by now that we are having our spring meeting at the Lake Blackshear Resort, near Cordele in February. The dates are Feb. 13 - 14, 2015. The board meeting and social will be Friday evening and sessions will be all day on Saturday. Please plan on attending. The facilities are great with a fantastic hotel and a campground at the Georgia Veterans State Park, if you choose to bring your RV. Linda Tillman and Julia Mahood are working hard to put on a great meeting. Since it will be on Valentine's Day, the resort will have a special dinner/dance that night, so you can plan to stay and impress your sweetie.

Other upcoming events are the American Bee Federation conference in Anaheim, CA. from 6-10 January 2015. Slade Jarrett and I plan on representing GBA at that conference. The Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS) Conference will be in Canada this coming year and Mary Cahill-Roberts will represent GBA there, as she is on their board. I encourage all of you to attend. Thank you all for your continued support and hard work in keeping the Georgia Beekeeping Association the wonderful organization that it is.

Clay "Bear" Kelley,
President, Georgia Beekeepers Assn.



GBA Club News:

Dr. Margo Wimbish has been appointed the Chairperson of the new Junior Beekeeping Committee. Thank you very much for stepping up and accepting this position and assisting the Georgia beekeeping clubs in preparing and presenting beekeeping programs to junior beekeepers. Thank you and we all look forward to working with you.



We celebrate Clay "Bear" Kelley, our Georgia Beekeeper of 2014. Thanks to the photographers who contributed to this collage: Marybeth Kelley, Cindy Hodges, Deborah Sasser, Linda Tillman

"Bear" Kelly is our 2014 GBA Beekeeper of the Year.

Bear began beekeeping over six years ago after retirement from the Military. He has served as past president of the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association and now is the current President of the Georgia Beekeepers Association (GBA). Since he has taken over as GBA president he has devoted his time and efforts to building membership, promoting beekeeping, and instigating by-law changes for improving the organization. He has energized the organization through his constant focus on making GBA a better and more active state group.

- He has managed meetings, made them fun for all, and brought incredible spirit and energy to his role as GBA president.
- He stays in touch with the Board of Directors, both collectively and individually, to keep people working on projects that benefit GBA
- He has worked on projects to get bee hives in state parks and in some state prisons
- He represents Georgia at ABF and comes back brimming with more thoughts about how to make our organization even better.
- He has really pushed to get every president of local bee clubs to become a GBA member - that task isn't complete yet, but he is driven to achieve this goal.
- He has revitalized the 4-H program and the Junior Beekeeping program.
- He developed a Power Point about the value of becoming a member of GBA and has shown it to clubs across the state.
- He manages a small apiary in his yard and has beautifully kept hives
- By the time you read this, he will have thought up three or four more ways to improve the Georgia Beekeepers Association.

We are so lucky to have him as president. He is an involved beekeeper, engages in producing products of the hive beyond honey with his wife Marybeth. He champions beekeeping in Georgia at every opportunity. Congratulations, Bear!

The Perry Honey Show

submitted by Bear Kelley

The second annual Georgia National Fair Honey Show took place on October 3, 2014. There were 27 entries in categories ranging from extracted light, amber and dark to black jar. Secretary Slade Jarrett eagerly welcomed each entrant and studiously recorded the participant's contribution to the show. Senior Judge Keith Fielder, with assistance from Judges Brutz English and Bear Kelley evaluated and critiqued each entry. Not an easy task!

Ribbon winners were:

First Place Light Extracted, Kristie Jarrett;
Second Place Light Extracted, Jay Parsons;
Third Place Amber Extracted, David Tolar;
Third Place Dark Extracted, Brutz English;
Second Place Black Jar, Katrina Papel;
Third Place Black Jar, Amanda Hayes;
Best in Show, David Tolar Black Jar.

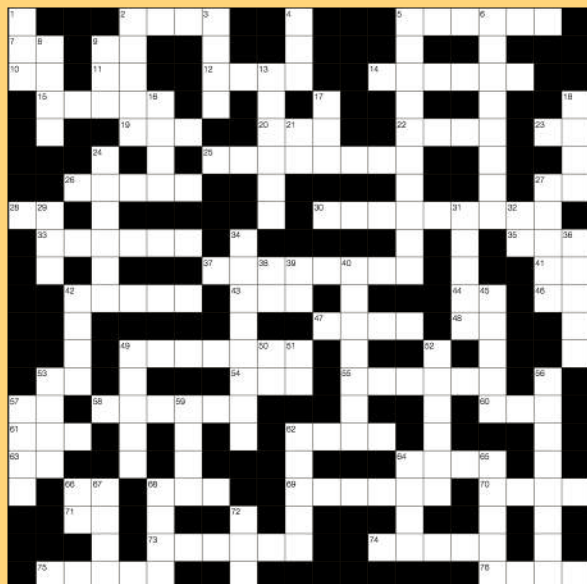
All of these deserving participants had their ribbons on display at the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association honey booth throughout the fair. David Tolar was the recipient of the beautiful Georgia Beekeepers Association award, which was also on display at the honey booth.

A big thank you to Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association for again sponsoring the honey show.

* A judge having an entry in a particular honey show category may not judge that category.



Judges Keith Fielder and Bear Kelley examining the entries in the Perry Honey Show



Georgia beekeeping on my mind: a puzzle recognizing people, places, and things important in GBA beekeeping

Across

- 2 French honey
- 5 NC bee supply company who sends lots of hive boxes to Ga beekeepers
- 7 ___ you sow, so shall you reap
- 9 State where Cindy Bee now keeps bees
- 10 Common ratio
- 11 Organization to help people understand the importance of sobriety
- 12 First name of south ga bee company who hosted a GBA spring meeting in the snow in Moultrie
- 14 In colony collapse disorder, the bees appear to _____ from the hive! never to be seen again
- 15 Now Maine beekeeper who taught many ga Beekeepers while she lived in Atlanta. Speaking at the GBA spring 2015 meeting
- 19 Something the bees use to make propolis
- 20 Ostrich's cousin - not an insect or in any way related to the bee
- 22 Wood for hive boxes can be air or ___ dried
- 23 What the queen is to the bees in the hive
- 25 Paul Berry and his bee club hosted our spring meeting here
- 26 One of the editors of Spilling the Honey
- 27 Registration for state meetings may now be done ___ line
- 28 What the drone is to the worker bee
- 30 Ribbons are handed out in many categories at the fall GBA meeting
- 33 A state park east of Atlanta where bee hives are located and maintained by GBA members

- 35 Wax moths weave a tangled one
- 37 First name of UGA bee lab manager who frequently speaks at GBA meetings
- 41 If you go Foundationless, then you are using ___ foundation in your frames
- 42 Location of Georgia national fair
- 43 "Not a moment ___ soon!"
- 44 Beginning of alphabet
- 46 Abbreviation for southern Australia and for South America
- 47 Beekeeper of the year 2014
- 48 Abbreviation for railroad
- 49 Treasured resource and fountain of knowledge for members of Heart of Georgia
- 53 Not I but both of us
- 54 And now without further ____, the Beekeeper of the Year is.....Bear Kelley
- 55 Name of a catalog company for beekeeping supplies. Founder learned to speak English by subscribing to the NY Tribune
- 57 The two of us together
- 58 Last name of 2013 beekeeper of the year. He is father to Amanda
- 60 Buddhist meditative feeling some Beekeepers get while working the hives
- 61 The nectar flow in Georgia begins to ___ when the tulip poplar bloom is over
- 62 Hard working VP of GBA who set her own apiary on fire!
- 63 King of the blues.
- 64 Short for beekeeper
- 66 ___ Mice and Men
- 68 Won GBA fall meeting best in show for his craft beer
- 69 Sibling relation of worker bees
- 70 How frames should be spaced in box
- 71 Greek letter

- 73 Last name of both Walter T. And Bear
- 74 Bellows of the smoker creates this
- 75 Female half of mountain sweet honey
- 76 How the public thought of the Beekeepers who rescued bees from the overturned truck

Down

- 1 We want bees to ___ their honey so we can harvest it
- 2 Honey wines
- 3 Bees are most likely to survive the winter if the beekeeper ___ enough honey on the hive.
- 4 Color tone of varroa mite
- 5 State park near Cordele where 2015 spring meeting will be held
- 6 First name of the current honey queen who spoke at GBA fall meeting
- 8 When varroa vectors a virus the bees get ___
- 9 Boy all grown up
- 13 Excellent Welsh honey judge who has set her bar high for stewards and contestants. Member of Tara
- 16 Some of us refer to our apiary as our bee ___
- 17 Sound of busy bee hive
- 18 This bee company sounds like a body of water where a guy might go fishing instead of a bee supply company
- 21 Greek letter
- 24 Former president of GBA, he and his wife run a commercial bee business in Rabun County
- 27 Our webmaster who keeps GBA visible on the Internet and likes to put out fires
- 29 Hive tracks is one that can be used on your phone
- 31 Power used when wax is melted by the sun
- 32 Reaction to a bee sting
- 34 State park in Cordele where there are GBA maintained beehives
- 36 GBA is governed by one of these that includes the officers, the editors and four directors with staggered terms
- 38 Abbreviation for New Orleans
- 39 Refusal term
- 40 Celebrated his birthday at the GBA fall meeting. He has taught Beekeepers hive location, how to make creamed honey, and has spoken on many other topics including his beekeeping trips to Ireland
- 42 A pilot who sold his swarm hive boxes at the meeting in Columbus
- 45 Sometimes called Arthur, he founded the Potato Creek Beekeepers
- 49 How bees can be on rainy days if you open the hive
- 50 Dead without vowels

- 51 Way rappers get attention
- 52 Middle initial of this bee company is T.
- 53 Her honey has been named best in the world
- 56 GBA treasurer's name spelled backwards
- 57 Breeder of Russian bees in georgia
- 59 First name of one of the editors of Spilling the Honey
- 62 The appearance of a frame that has been attacked by wax moths
- 64 President of GBA
- 65 First name of both Fielder and Delaplance
- 66 Place inner cover ___ top of the top box
- 67 How a honey super left for the bees should be
- 68 One of Bear's favorite one of these is "what goes zzub, zzub, zzub?" Answer: a bee flying backwards!
- 72 "Pale" beverage one might drink when finishing work at end of a beekeeping day

Georgia beekeeping on my mind: a puzzle recognizing people, places, and things important in GBA beekeeping

Author : Linda Tillman
Copyright: 2014

Compiled On iPad With:
Crossword Maker For
Cruciverbalists (<http://www.cmfcapp.com>)

Check out the puzzle:

<http://www.cmfcapp.com/puzzles/solve.php?objectId=qOn1I4oSA>

Have fun with it and if you get stuck and want to see the pdf of the filled out crossword, email us at gbanewsletters@gmail.com

**Club News and Notes:
November Club Meetings and Speakers:**

Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett

Nov 11 7 PM Hebron Baptist Church, Dacula, GA

Berry Brosi: Speaker's Topic of Choice**Coastal Empire Beekeepers:**

Nov 10 6:30 PM Oatland Wildlife Center, Savannah, GA

Members Roundtable: Fall Inspections: Did you Miss Anything?**Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers Association**

Nov 10 6 PM Oxbow Center, Columbus, GA

Bill Owens: Speaker's Topic of Choice**Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers**

Nov 3 7 PM Campbell Research Center, Watkinsville, GA

Planning meeting for tour of Blue Ridge Honey Company on Nov 15**Henry County Beekeepers**

Nov 11 7 PM 116 S Zack Hinton Pkwy, McDonough, GA

BJ Weeks: Speaker's Topic of Choice**Lake Country Beekeepers**

Special date: November 24 7 PM Hancock County Extension Service, Sparta, GA

Jamie Ellis: Speaker's Topic of Choice**Lake Hartwell Beekeepers** Nov 6 7 PM First Baptist Church, Lavonia, GA**Bob Binnie: Bee Equipment and What You should Know about Processing Honey****Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association**

Nov 12 7 PM Atlanta Botanical Garden

Keith Delaplane: Speaker's Topic of Choice**Mountain Beekeepers**

Nov 4 7 PM United Community Bank, Blairsville

Potato Creek Beekeepers Club

Nov 20 7 PM Spalding County Extension Office, Griffin, GA

Linda Tillman: Fun and Facts about Wax**SOWEGA Beekeepers Club**

Nov 8 6:30 PM Parks at Chehaw Learning Center

Annual Honey Show (entries due 5:30 - 6:30)
Program during judging on the life of the worker bee**Tara Beekeepers Association**

Nov 17 7 PM Forest Park

Jerry Edwards: How do I Sell this Honey?

Send in your club's monthly meeting information to be published here in the Newsletter every month. We'd love to help you expand your attendance and to help generate interest in what your club is doing.

Can You Believe It?! IMITATION HONEY #\$\$%@#



Walmart has broken the news of a revolutionary breakthrough, Sugarfree Honey. In fact it's already on the shelves, see it in this picture.

How do you think the bees do it? (grin)

contributed by Ricky Moore

Medicinal Use of Beehive Air by Steve Page

We spent the first eleven days of October in the Black Forest region of Germany.

Germany is a wonderful country with friendly people. There are many quaint towns surrounded by beautiful farms and forests. The food, beer and wine are excellent. There are many beekeepers too.

We visited two beekeepers and a beekeeping supply store. We found honey for sale at farmers' markets and in grocery stores.

One of the beekeepers uses hives to provide hive air for people to breathe for healing. The hives are in a shed with an opening in

the wall to allow outside access. The top of the hive has an opening with a screen and a small fan to pull air out of the hive and blow it into a tube and mask. The beekeeper explained how hive air or ApiAir can help with asthma, bronchitis, croup, COPD and other afflictions.

I don't know of any documented positive results of hive air but the next time you're inspecting a hive take a deep breath and enjoy the possible benefits. Be forewarned: if you breathe the air from a hive in the fall the pleasant aroma of spring wildflower nectar may be replaced with the unpleasant locker room smell caused by goldenrod nectar.

(Photos from Steve's trip are on the following page)

Beekeeping is a lot like moonshining.

Here's how:

- Your neighbors aren't quite sure what you do
- You have strange trucks visit you at irregular times
- You do your work near or in the woods
- You have strange contraptions and tools
- You work with Mason jars
- You work outdoors
- Your product is often sold by the quart, and right out of your trunk
- You're very vague about how much product you produce
- You have unwritten secrets and recipes passed down by word of mouth
- Everyone wants what you produce
- You buy sugar: lots and lots of sugar

Rick Moore
Heart of GA

Dear Aunt Bee,

All of my hives have screened bottom boards. In your opinion should I change all my bottom boards to solid or am I okay to leave screened bottom boards over the winter? Is there an advantage one over the other?

Thanks for your help to all of us new beekeepers,

Ventilation Vicky

Dear Vicky,

Luckily in Georgia and the deep South, we don't have severe winters (last February notwithstanding). We can leave our hives on screened bottom boards all year long. The thing is, the bees keep their cluster warm and not the whole hive box.

If you want to want to buy them little blankets, go ahead, but they are hard to clean.

Seriously, if you are concerned, closing off the screens in winter will do no harm and perhaps help a little if we have another February Snow Catastrophe. Some beekeepers slide the plastic insert for varroa counting under the screen for the cold months.

Warmly,
Aunt Bee



Honey-Glazed Turkey

14 Servings Prep: 25 min. Bake: 3-3/4 hours

Ingredients

- 1 turkey (14 to 16 pounds)

GLAZE:

- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/2 cup Dijon mustard
- 1-1/2 teaspoons dried rosemary, crushed
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper

STUFFING:

- 1/2 cup butter, cubed
- 2 cups chopped onion
- 1-1/2 cups chopped celery
- 12 cups unseasoned stuffing cubes *or* dry bread cubes
- 1 tablespoon poultry seasoning
- 2 teaspoons chicken bouillon granules
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon dried rosemary, crushed
- 1 teaspoon lemon-pepper seasoning
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 3-1/4 to 3-3/4 cups boiling water

**Directions**

Place turkey on a rack in a shallow roasting pan, breast side up. Tuck wings under turkey; tie drumsticks together. Bake at 325° for 2 hours.

In a small bowl, mix glaze ingredients; brush over turkey. Bake 1-3/4 to 2-1/4 hours longer or until a thermometer inserted in thickest part of thigh reads 170°-175°. Baste occasionally with pan drippings. (Cover loosely with foil if turkey browns too quickly.)

For stuffing, in a Dutch oven, heat butter over medium-high heat. Add onion and celery; cook and stir until tender. Add stuffing cubes and seasonings; toss to combine. Stir in enough boiling water to reach desired moistness; transfer to a greased 13-in. x 9-in. baking dish. Bake, covered, for 1 hour. Uncover and bake 10-15 minutes longer or until lightly browned. Remove turkey from oven; cover loosely with foil and let stand 15 minutes before carving. If desired, skim fat and thicken pan drippings for gravy. Serve with turkey and stuffing. Yield: 14 servings (8 cups stuffing).

Editor's Note: Stuffing can also be baked in turkey. Loosely stuff turkey just before baking; bake as directed, increasing final bake time by 15 minutes or until a thermometer reads 180° in thigh and 165° in center of stuffing.

Wine: Medium-Bodied White Wine: Enjoy this recipe with a medium-bodied white wine such as **Riesling** or **Gewürtztraminer**

Monthly Survey:

Winter Storage Survey

Survey: We'd like to know how you handle winter storage. If you'd like to share your method in this very fun survey, [click here](#).

Submission Guidelines

Keep your articles to 500 words or less and send them as a Word document attached to your email. Be sure to include your own name, your bee club and where you are located.

Send photos as attachments to emails. Include who took the photo, where and when.

Send any of this to gbanewsletters@gmail.com

This is your newsletter! We look forward to your contributions.

Your Editors

Bee Jokes:

Q: Why do bees hum?

A: Because they've forgotten the words!

Q: What kind of bees hum and drop things?

A: A fumble bee!

Q: What did the bee say to the flower?

A: Hello honey!

Q: What did the confused bee say?

A: To bee or not to bee!

source: <http://www.jokes4us.com/animaljokes/beejokes.html>

The Final Buzz

We have much for which to be grateful this Thanksgiving. We are thankful for the bees, honey, good friendships at GBA, all our newsletter contributors and our own Beekeeper of the Year & GBA President, Bear Kelley. We acknowledge all these gifts and more. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Gina and Linda



Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

December 2014



Ricky Moore's bees enjoying the simple syrup in his hummingbird feeder

President's Message

Merry Christmas, Ho-Ho-Ho, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! As 2014 draws to an end and we prepare for the holidays, let's reflect on this past year for a minute. The Georgia Beekeepers have been a busy bunch. We've had two wonderful state meetings in Columbus and Milledgeville. I again would like to thank Paul Berry's Chattahoochee Beekeepers and Bruce Morgan's Lake Country Beekeepers for being such great hosts. As a result our membership numbers are growing again and I hope to see them continue to climb next year. Marybeth and I were able to visit numerous clubs and meet so many wonderful Beeks in our travels. Thank you all for being so cordial and we look forward to seeing more of you at future club meetings. Honors go to Jay Parsons for best in Show at the State meeting in September and to David Tolar who won best in Show at the Perry Fair in October. I am still humbled by your selection of me as the Beekeeper of the Year, but very proud to have received such a tribute.

We already have a full slate scheduled for 2015 as we start the year with the American Bee Federation Conference in California on January 6. Slade Jarrett and I plan to attend and report back to you on the latest bee stuff happening nationwide. Our Spring Meeting will be at Lake Blackshear on February 13 and 14, chaired by Julia Mahood and Linda Tillman. Please plan to attend as they have been working very hard to make this one a goody!

Many of you plan public beekeeping programs throughout the spring and will stay busy through Young Harris in May. I want to encourage you all to take advantage of the new Junior Beekeeping program we established. The winners will be Georgia's youth. We need them to feed the pipeline of beekeepers if we want to see our craft survive. We plan to be at Young Harris representing GBA, so stop by and say hello. Mary Cahill-Roberts will represent us at EAS in Ontario in August.

Our fall meeting will once again be at the College in Milledgeville. That was a great facility that RoseAnne and Keith Fielder discovered for us and we want to make the event even better this year. We have a little housekeeping still to do as we discovered at the fall meeting with a minor change to the By-laws that I will discuss in the January newsletter. It simply means changing some wording on the voting procedures, but requires a member vote.

Thank you all for your continued support, hard work and dedication to the marvelous Honey Bee. Marybeth and I wish you a wonderful Christmas and holiday season and a prosperous, happy, healthy new year.

Bear Kelley,
President, Georgia Beekeepers Association



As the newly appointed Southeast Region Director, I want to take a moment and introduce myself. I'm going on my 4th year keeping bees and own a side-line operation we call Kelley Honeybee Farm, near Metter. In addition, I'm now in my 2nd term as vice president of Ogeechee Area Beekeepers (OABeeA) in Statesboro.

If you go to the GBA club locator map and scan the southeast part of the state, you'll see clubs are rather scarce. I remember 4 years ago looking at that map and being very disappointed. I was really eager to meet other beekeepers and learn, but there just weren't any clubs local to us until OABeeA was formed last year in Statesboro.

My main goal is to help put some other dots on that map. I would like to see an active club within a 30 minute drive for every beekeeper living in southeast Georgia.

What I'm finding is that in areas without local clubs, beekeepers are very much interested in doing something, but they're not sure how to get going. Right now, we have some exciting prospects in Vidalia and Glennville. I hope by Spring Meeting time, these prospects will be active clubs, ready for GBA affiliation.

So if you're GBA member-at-large in the east or southeastern part of the state and interested in starting a local GBA affiliated club, give me a call. I want to help!

Rhett Kelley
[912-682-3806](tel:912-682-3806)



Club News and Notes: Upcoming Short Courses

Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers

WHAT: Spring Beekeeping Course
 WHERE: Oxbow Environmental Learning Center
 WHEN: six, two hour sessions over six consecutive Saturday afternoons, 3PM to 5PM, beginning February 14, 2015
 HOW: Call Paul Berry, [706-527-0739](tel:706-527-0739)

Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association

WHAT: FUNDamentals of Beekeeping
 WHERE: Oatland Island Wildlife Center, 711 Sandtown Road, Savannah, Ga 31410
 WHEN: February 28th, 8 AM Registration Begins; Classes Scheduled 9 AM to 4 PM
 HOW: CEBA has a fully operational apiary for hands on training during the weekend event.
 More Information: www.cebeekeeping.com

Coweta Beekeepers Association

WHAT: Introduction to Beekeeping class
 WHERE: 255 Pine Road, Newnan, GA 30263
 WHEN: One day class, January 24, 2015 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
 HOW: More Information: www.cowetabeekeepers.org/

Forsyth Beekeepers Club

WHAT: Beginning Beekeeping Short Course Day 1
 WHERE: Sawnee Mt. Preserve Visitor Center, Cumming GA
 WHEN: March 7th, registration starts @ 8, classes start @ 9:00
 HOW: www.forsythbeekeepersclub.org

Lake Country Beekeepers Association

WHAT: Beekeepers Short Course for beginners
 WHERE: Central GA Technical College Conference Center, 54 Hwy 22 West, Milledgeville, GA 3
 WHEN: January 24, 2015 Registration 8 am Class starts at 8:30am to 5:00pm
 HOW: More information contact Bruce Morgan at [478-357-4029](tel:478-357-4029) or rbmorgan@hughes.net

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

WHAT: Complete Beekeeping Course 2015
 WHERE: Atlanta Botanical Garden
 WHEN: January 17, 2015
 HOW: More information: http://www.metroatlantabeekeepers.org/beekeeping_short_course.php

Potato Creek Beekeepers Association

WHAT: Beginning Beekeeping Short Course
 WHERE: SPALDING COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
 WHEN: 9:00AM, JANUARY 17, 2014
 HOW: Contact Brutz English [\(770\) 843-2110](tel:770-843-2110)

Troup County Association of Beekeepers,

WHAT: Beginning beekeepers course,
 WHERE: AG building Lagrange GA,
 WHEN: Feb 14, 28 Mar 14, 28. 9am to 1pm.
 HOW: Cost \$75. Contact Terry Williamson 706-882-2493

This section of the newsletter is an opportunity for your club to gain visibility, to share events or speakers who are coming to your club and to get ideas from other clubs for activities or speakers. To send information, please have a club member or an officer email details about your meetings to gbanewsletters@gmail.com We'll make sure your information is shared with the whole of GBA!

And on the next page, you'll find out all about the next state meeting at Lake Blackshear Resort on February 13, 14, 2015. All you have to do is scroll down to the next page.....>



Featuring the
*MEAD & BEER
SHOW*
&
*WEBSITE AD
AUCTION*

**SPRING
MEETING
2015**

EDUCATING BEEKEEPERS *and*

SUPPORTING LOCAL CLUBS

February 13 & 14, 2015

Lake Blackshear Resort, Cordele, Georgia

*To reserve a room at the special Georgia Beekeepers rate
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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

OFFICERS

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Clay "Bear" Kelley

Vice President
Mary Cahill-Roberts

Secretary
Andy Bailey

Treasurer
Roseanne Dorn

News Letter Editors
Gina Gallucci
Linda Tillman

Past President
Jerry Edwards

Web Master
Bill Owens

DIRECTORS

North District Director
Arther "Brutz" English

**Northeast District
Director**
Slade Jarrett

**Central GA District
Director**
Broadus Williams

**Southeast District
Director**
Rhett Kelley



Cindy Bee was the first female Master beekeeper in Georgia. She spent 14 years as the only full time bee removal specialist in Georgia and has co-written a book on bee removal which is available through the A.I. Root Company. She worked for the University of Georgia's honeybee lab and has recently assisted in a SARE grant in Jefferson, Maine, studying northern vs southern raised queens. She has an MA in Professional Writing and an MFA in fiction as well as nonfiction. Currently she resides in Maine where she is the co-owner of a 10 acre farm raising livestock, vegetables, bee forage sources, and of course, tending honey bee hives.

Jennifer Leavey, PhD is the Integrated Science Curriculum Coordinator for the College of Sciences at Georgia Tech where she has been a faculty member in the School of Biology since 2005. Jennifer works to develop interdisciplinary connections in introductory undergraduate science courses and co-curricular opportunities with the goal of increasing enthusiasm for science and scientific literacy in Georgia Tech students. The Georgia Tech Urban Honey Bee Project was founded in 2012 as part of the integrated science initiative and serves as a research model system in which Georgia Tech students can explore the effects of urban habitats on honey bees.

Gretchen LeBuhn, PhD is passionate about conserving and promoting "the little things that run the world"—our native pollinators. Since leaving a career in investment banking, Dr. LeBuhn has worked to understand when and why pollinator communities decline—and what we can do to conserve them. She has investigated the ecology of a variety of pollinators ranging from Andean hummingbirds to desert hawkmoths and San Francisco's native bumble bees. Most recently, she has worked with citizen scientists to understand what factors amplify the effects of habitat loss and fragmentation on pollinator communities. She joined the faculty at San Francisco State University in 2001 and teaches ecology and conservation biology at SFSU. She has published over 30 papers on birds, plants and pollinators and two books. She is an avid gardener and the parent of twins.

Erin MacGregor-Forbes began her journey in beekeeping in 2004. Erin studied beekeeping in Maine and Georgia, earning her Journeyman level certification through Cornell University's Master Beekeeper program and becoming fully certified as a Master Beekeeper at the 2008 Eastern Apicultural Conference. Erin teaches beekeeping at all levels. Erin and her partner Cindy Bee currently manage 150+ colonies for honey, queen and nuc production. Erin anchors her beekeeping practice and teaching in working with the superorganism to achieve mutual goals of the colony and the beekeeper. Erin is the only beekeeper we know of who currently maintains an observation hive in both her home living room and bedroom.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, February 13

7:00 PM Board Meeting

8:00 PM Welcome reception for all conference attendees

Saturday, February 14

7:30 - 8:30 **Bear's Breakfast:** A meeting of all attending local club presidents to share ideas and connect with each other and with our GBA president, Bear Kelley. Margo Wimbish will give an update about the Jr. Beekeepers Program.

8:30-8:45 Opening remarks Bear Kelley, GBA President

8:45-9:30 **Cindy Bee: Successful Swarm Catching**

How to be prepared for collecting a honey bee swarm in the open: what to bring, how to approach the situation, what equipment to use, and how to have your new colony successfully.

9:30-10:15 **Jennifer Leavey, PhD: *The Georgia Tech Urban Honey Bee Project: Creating opportunities for research, education and community outreach***

Since its founding in 2012, the Georgia Tech Urban Honey Bee Project has expanded its scope beyond providing undergraduate research opportunities for Georgia Tech students to creating partnerships with schools, urban farms and community gardens on the west side of Atlanta. This talk will highlight some of the projects and collaborations that have been established in this unconventional program.

10:30-11:15 Morning Breakout Sessions A

11:20-12:05 Morning Breakout Sessions B

12:05-1:00 LUNCH

1:00-1:45 **Gretchen LeBuhn, PhD *Citizen Science and Bees***

The Great Sunflower Project has people all over the country collecting data on pollinators in their yards, gardens, schools and parks. After gathering information on pollinators since 2008, it now has the largest single body of information about bee pollinator service in North America. Dr. LeBuhn will walk us through this fascinating project.

1:45-2:30 **Erin MacGregor-Forbes: *SARE Report: Honey Bee Colony Strength and Survivability***

Erin and her collaborators started 104 new colonies on new foundation and "ran them like a new beekeeper would in their first year". The colonies were split into groups of overwintered nucleus colonies, commercial packages, and requeened commercial packages. Colonies were monitored for health, parasite loads, and colony strength through the season and finally rated in spring. Erin will present the results of her work and provide insight into her theories regarding the differences between the groups.

2:45- 3:30 Afternoon Breakout Sessions C

3:35-4:20 Afternoon Breakout Sessions D

4:20 Show winners announced, Ad Auction, Closing remarks

MEAD & BEER SHOW

Prepare your entries for this exciting contest!

AUCTION

Boost your sales by advertising on the GBA website! Only four ads will be sold. You must be present to bid.

BREAKOUT SESSION TOPICS

Queen Bees 101 - All about her majesty: how to spot her, care for her, basics and little known facts.

Swarm Traps in Your Apiary - The necessity of catching the swarms in your own bee yard. Different types of equipment to use, set up, and optimum locations for your traps.

Fun and Facts about Wax: A look at wax through history. Explore ways to use your wax to make candles, pour lip balm, or enter wax blocks into honey contests.

Besides honey- Making lip balm, lotion bars and propolis tinctures.

How to get started in commercial beekeeping

Learn the steps and pitfalls of making the leap into commercial beekeeping.

How to run a beekeeping course at your bee club

Learn how to Increase your club membership and build membership cohesion by running a successful beekeeping course at your club.

What science can tell us about gardening for bees

A fascinating perspective on an age old topic.

Applying for a SARE grant Get an overview of the SARE program and its goals. Learn about the grant application process and get insight into how to develop a promising project idea into a project application.

Learn about the grant application process and get insight into how to develop a promising project idea into a project application.

Record keeping is for Everyone! It can be challenging to remember what you observe in each hive from visit to visit, but you need that information to make informed management decisions. Learn practical record keeping advice and get motivated to keep better records.



No reason to tie a bow around your finger: GBA February Meeting registration will open soon. We will send a reminder and hope that you will forward it to other friends of the bees who may not be in our membership now.

Peachtree City Student Passes Certified Beekeeper Test

Allison Spinney passed the Georgia Master Beekeeping Program, Certified Beekeeper test in September. Allison is one of the youngest beekeepers to pass the test in Georgia. She attended the Coweta 4H beekeeping program for a year learning and preparing for the test. She and her mother Denise Spinney are members of the Coweta Beekeepers Association.

Allison is eleven years old and in the sixth grade at Georgia Cyber Academy and lives in Peachtree City with her parents. She has been beekeeping for two years and enjoys nurturing her colony of honey bees and the sweet honey they produce. The colony increases production of vegetables from the garden. Allison and her mother enjoy the time spent together inspecting the colony and learning beekeeping.

The Coweta Beekeepers Association will offer an Introduction to Beekeeping class on January 24, 2015. More information is available at the association's web site. www.cowetabeekeepers.org

For more information on the Coweta 4H beekeeping program contact Megan Bailey at the Coweta Extension



Bear Kelley, President of the Georgia Beekeepers Association, presents Allison Spinney her Certified Beekeeper Certificate.

In the old days, it was not called the Holiday Season; the Christians called it "Christmas" and went to church; the Jews called it "Hanukka" and went to synagogue; the atheists went to parties and drank. People passing each other on the street would say "Merry Christmas!" or "Happy Hanukka!" or (to the atheists) "Look out for the wall!" ~Dave Barry, "Christmas Shopping: A Survivor's Guide"

Contributed by Steve Page:

Modified idioms

Don't put all your bees in one hive
 Don't count your queens until they lay.
 A swarm in the hive is worth two in the bush
 A fool and his honey are easily parted
 Let aggressive hives be

Unmodified idioms

Sweet as honey
 You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar

The land of milk and honey
 Busy as a bee
 Bee in one's bonnet
 The bee's knees
 The birds and the bees
 Make a beeline
 Beehive of activity
 Mind your own beeswax
 Buzz off
 Like bees to honey
 Hive of activity
 What's the buzz
 Queen Bee

Beekeeping in Ukraine

by Tom Rearick

Few Americans realize the long history Ukrainians have with honey and the honey bee. Out of every 107 Ukrainians, one is a beekeeper. In the US, that ratio is 1 in 1500!

Ukraine is the largest producer of honey among European countries and Russia. On average, a Ukrainian consumes 2.6 lbs of honey annually – double what is consumed in the United States.

Some excerpts from my conversation with a Ukrainian beekeeper:

Tom: How many hives do you keep?

Oleg: I have a couple of hives, but as a hobby, because I have little free time. I do not have time to take them to the apiary in the field. There are acacia trees, a meadow and even gardens not far from my house. There are 90 houses in my street of which four have small apiaries (from 10 to 25 hives). I do not think that is so everywhere. My main occupation is the cooperation with beekeepers and honey export.

Tom: Do you use other products of the hive like wax, propolis, or pollen?

Oleg: Yes, propolis helps perfectly in case of toothache and I also make tinctures with propolis for applications. In winter time I take 1 tablespoon of pollen on an empty stomach in the morning.

Tom: How does the cost of white sugar and corn syrup compare to honey?

Oleg: Corn syrup is not popular in our country and is not used. Retail price for beet sugar is US\$2.05/lb and for honey is US\$8.53/lb.

Tom: Is it true that Ukrainians are much more knowledgeable and familiar with bees and beekeeping?

Oleg: Beekeeping is much developed in Ukraine, despite the fact that there are no large companies in Ukraine that breed bees and harvest honey. There are many small apiaries. There are about 400,000 beekeepers in Ukraine, with a total population of about 43 million. These people get about 76,000 tons of honey per year. A variety of honey is produced by bees. Each honey has its own properties, taste and benefits.

Tom: In the USA we struggle with introduced bee diseases: Varroa mite, various viruses and micro-organisms, wax moth and hive beetle. Winter losses have been averaged 30% for the last several years. What pests or predators are of greatest concern in Ukraine? What are your winter losses?

Oleg: Yes, unfortunately, Ukraine has this problem. Our winter losses are up to 10%. Frequent pests are wax moths, ants, death's head hawkmoths (they got this name because of a "skull" pattern on the top of their thorax), rodents (mice).

Tom: Italian bees are the most popular race of bee in the US. I have been importing Russians because they are said to be more tolerant to Varroa. What race of bees are in Ukraine?

Oleg: Carpathian bees and Ukrainian steppe bees are the most popular races in Ukraine. I have Carpathian bees (called "peaceful" bees).

Tom: In the US, nearly all our honey is in liquid form. The honey in the picture looks like partially crystallized honey. Is most eastern European honey crystallized?

Oleg: Yes, our honey is crystallized or paste like, but acacia honey and linden honey are liquid.

Tom: Ukraine is where the Chernobyl nuclear accident occurred. How do beekeepers or exporters ensure that honey is not radioactive?

Oleg: Radiological control is obligatory during the quality assessment of the Ukrainian honey. The indices of this analysis meet requirements of EU countries and the United States. Beekeepers do not move their bees to the "dangerous" zone.

Tom: Is there anything you would like to say to beekeepers in the United States?

Oleg: I wish you success in work, favorable weather for good honey collection, success in the fight with bee pests and close communication with beekeepers from other countries for sharing the experience.



Tom Rearick is a UGA-certified Master Beekeeper living in Roswell, Georgia.
www.beehacker.com

Illustration 2: Testing bulk honey. Image used by permission. Copyright TORENT-TRADE™ Ltd.

HONEY MINT CHOCOLATE FUDGE

2 10oz bags of Mint Chocolate Chips
 1 14oz can of sweetened condensed milk
 1/3 cup honey
 1 tsp. vanilla extract

Line a 8x8 or 9x9 pan with foil. Lightly butter foil. Melt chips, can of milk and honey in a sauce pan over medium heat, stirring constantly. When melted & smooth, remove from heat and stir in vanilla.

Spread into foil lined pan. Cool & cut into squares. Store in cool place.

Carol Shaw - Best in Show for Cooking with Honey
 ABF Convention 2010



Holiday Recipes



CLEAN-EATZ.COM

Honey Mulled Wine

- 750 ml **zinfandel** (or other full-bodied robust red wine that you enjoy drinking)
- 3/4 cup **water**
- 3/4 cup **honey**
- 15 **black peppercorns**
- 3 inches **cinnamon sticks** (for the wine, more sticks, optional for serving)
- **lemon zest** (Thin peels of, for serving)



Street Cred for December

Using microscopic bugs to save the bees

(from Steve Page)

<http://news.byu.edu/archive14-oct-bees.aspx>

Cancer removed by honey bees

(from Dave Tolar)

http://www.naturalnews.com/047693_lung_cancer_honey_herbal_medicine.html

Sustainable solution for corn belt

(from Gina Gallucci)

<http://nyti.ms/1tbkdy3>

Dear Auntie Bee,

We've had a freeze and the flowers have all died, and the pollen and nectar sources have dried up for the winter. I see many, many bees flying, what are they doing? I understand cleansing flights, and orientation flights, but are they still looking for pollen, or what is their winter flight mission?

Warmly in Winter,
Openly Optimistic

Dear Openly,

Most winter flights are for cleansing. However, the authors of Keeping Bees and Making Honey address the question this way: *“On a cold, sunny day some bees may take a short trip out of the hive to stretch their wings and will take the chance to relieve themselves, since they keep the inside of their home very clean. They won't go far and they may even collect some fresh pollen if there is any nearby. It is not unusual to see bees coming into the hive with pollen on their legs on a warm winter's day. This is a good sign, since fresh pollen is an indication that the queen is laying eggs and the larvae are being fed.”*

Dean Stiglitz, author of The Complete Idiot's Guide to Beekeeping, writes: *“On warm days (in winter) you should see some bees taking cleansing flights. This is one of those times when having multiple hives is helpful; if three hives are flying and one isn't, you know to look for a problem. You can gently lift the back of the hive to feel for weight. If it feels light, you can consider a quick inspection and emergency winter feeding. Sometimes colonies that don't have sufficient stores will fly in desperation.”*

Good luck and I hope your bees make it through the winter.
Happy Holidays,

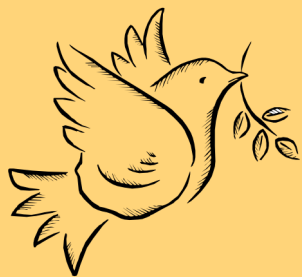
Your Aunt Bee

**Submission Guidelines**

Your humble editors are looking for at least 12 NEW contributors in 2015. Please help us by keeping your articles to 500 words or less and send them as a Word document attached to your email. Be sure to include your own name, your bee club and where you are located. Send photos as attachments to emails. Include who took the photo, where and when. Send any of this to gbanewsletters@gmail.com. This is your newsletter! We thank you for all your contributions.

Your Editors**Final Buzz:**

May your Holiday Season be Merry and Bright! May your bees come through the winter healthy and you become even a better beekeeper next year. We look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new bee friends in February at Lake Blackshear.



Happy Holidays,
Gina and Linda