

# Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

January 2015



Will we see this in January or February like this hive in December of 2013? photo by Linda Tillman

## President's Message

Yes, it's 2015 already! Lordy, where does time go? I hope that everyone survived the holidays in good health and that your Christmas was happy and that your new year is starting out merry. Our newsletter editors have once again worked through the holidays putting together another fantastic "*Spilling the Honey*" for us to enjoy.

Speaking of honey, Marybeth and I journeyed down to the Caribbean, and sailed throughout the Leeward Islands last month. As we stopped to visit the various islands, I made it a point to acquire (either pay for or get a free sample of) local honey. I was lucky enough to score some from Nevis, Guadeloupe, Antigua, St Bart's, Puerto Rico, France, and even found some from Russia at an international store on one of the islands. Now, since I graduated from the Young

Harris School of honey judging, I know that most honeys have different tastes depending on the flowers, etc, but these are as different as the local cultures of these islands. In one sample I could actually taste the hibiscus nectar. Fantastic! I really wish that I was able to get enough to share with everyone.

On a local note back here in Georgia, the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers held a People's Choice Honey Contest (black jar) in September and had 28 entries. Now you would think that most of the flavors would be close to the same since the honey was gathered in and around the heart of Georgia, but they really were not. Twenty-eight entries produced twenty-eight different flavors. I know that many of our clubs also have honey shows and you have probably experienced the same thing with yours.

Since Georgia Beekeepers Association members have bee hives spread throughout the state, let's start a *Honey Exchange Program*. Our next state meeting is in February at the Lake Blackshear Resort. Please bring a 1 pound jar with your label affixed and swap it for another member's honey. Bring several if you wish, but the exchange will be one for one. It will be informal, so just ask someone there if they have a jar to swap. I think that will be a great way of experiencing the many varieties we have to offer in Georgia. And, of course, if you come from another state we want to try yours as well. Actually I think that we should have been doing this all along. What a wonderful way to interact with each other and meet new friends! I hope to see you all at the Spring Conference. Happy New Year!

***Bear Kelley,***

President, Georgia Beekeepers Assn.

“It is a commonly held belief that when bees are dead head-first in the cells, they are starved. All dead hives over winter will have many bees with their heads in cells. That's how they cluster tightly for warmth. I would read more into whether or not they are contact with stores.” THE PRACTICAL BEEKEEPER by Michael Bush

*Virginia Webb, well-known Georgia beekeeper and a representative to Apimondia, submitted the article below so we in Georgia might choose to help the effort to host Apimondia in the United States.*

## **USA Beekeepers to Bid for Hosting 2019 Apimondia**

We, here in the USA, have the unparalleled opportunity to bring the worldwide beekeeping community to our country. Winning the bid for the Apimondia Worldwide Beekeeping Congress in 2019 is the perfect way to showcase the USA's beekeeping industry as never before. Representatives from our chosen host city, Minneapolis, MN will be joining us next September in Daejeon, South Korea to support us in our efforts to acquaint the world with the many advantages of the

United States hosting Apimondia 2019. The Apimondia is the International Federation of Beekeepers' Association and related organizations working together for the benefit of apiculture. Beginning in 1949, the Apimondia works to promote scientific, technical, ecological, social and economic apicultural development in all countries. Every two years they organize an International Apimondia Congress where beekeepers, scientist, educators, industry representatives and government representatives come together to learn and share ideas from one another.

The bid process, which includes site inspection by Apimondia representatives, meetings with the local organizing committee and scientific and beekeeping representatives, and review of technical tours that may be available, is outlined in the official guidelines for hosting an Apimondia Congress. Canada and South Africa have already announced their intentions to vie for the 2019 Apimondia bid.

Along with the international program of science and technology, there will be the ApiExpo, the largest Beekeeping

Tradeshaw in North America, the World Honey Show competition and a World Honey Queen contest.

Every club and organization is important and every donation is needed for us to meet our goal. We ask that you go to our [Support Us](#) page and help us achieve our goal of bringing the worldwide beekeeping community to the USA for Apimondia XLVI in 2019. Donating is as easy as visiting our website [www.apimondiausabidfor2019.org/support-us](http://www.apimondiausabidfor2019.org/support-us).

If you prefer you can send a check to:  
Apimondia USA Bid For 2019, LLC  
40 South 7th Street Suite 212 #211  
Minneapolis MN 55402  
Attn: Michael North  
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.  
Sincerely,

Debbie Seib, Chairman

Apimondia USA Bid for 2019  
A 501(c)(3) Corporation

### ***Lots of Street Cred:***

The National Honey Show has taken some very professional videos of their speakers. You can view them from the National Honey Show web page. Some of the speakers include Jamie Ellie, Ann Harman, Michael Palmer, and many other venerable beekeepers. To see their video collection [click here](#).

### **Citrus Smoothies from Laurey Masterton's The fresh Honey Cookbook**

1 banana  
1/2 cup strawberries  
1 1/4 cup plain Greek yogurt  
1 cup orange juice  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
zest from 1 orange  
1 1/2 cup ice  
4-6 whole strawberries for garnish

Blend all together until smooth. Pour into glasses and garnish each with whole strawberry.

## Announcement for Committee to Choose Beekeeper of the Year 2015

According to the by-laws, the current beekeeper of the year serves as the chair of the committee to choose the beekeeper of the following year. In addition, our by-laws also declare that the President of GBA cannot serve on the committee for beekeeper of the year. As a result, Bear Kelley, who is both our Beekeeper of the Year 2014 and the current president of GBA, has recused himself from the committee to choose the beekeeper of the year 2015.



In his stead, Bear has appointed Julia Mahood to be the chair of the committee to choose the 2015 Beekeeper of the Year. Bear will appoint a couple of additional beekeepers to help her with this job. Julia is a Master Beekeeper and has kept bees in Atlanta for over ten years. She has mentored many beekeepers and has given talks all over the state to bee clubs, garden clubs and children's groups. She is the co-chair of the upcoming February GBA meeting at Lake Blackshear.

Julia and her committee will be accepting nominations for the 2015 Beekeeper of the year any time between now and June 30, 2015. Send nominations to her: [julia@mahoodstudio.com](mailto:julia@mahoodstudio.com) You will be reminded of this in our newsletters between now and the end of June.

We are hoping to see everyone at the ***Spring Meeting in Lake Blackshear in Cordele, Ga on February 13 and 14.*** On Friday night the GBA board meets, followed by a reception for anyone coming to the conference as well as the board members. The space at Lake Blackshear is perfect for mingling and talking, and everyone who came had a great time there at the last meeting. Saturday will be filled with opportunities to hear informed speakers and attend breakouts.

In addition to the keynote speakers listed on the following pages, our breakout speakers include: Bob Binnie, Jennifer Berry, Julia Mahood, Randy Rolen, Linda Tillman, and James Wilkes

**Registration opens on January 1 at this link: [CLICK HERE](#)**

If you are vegetarian, please be sure to indicate that on your registration form so that your needs may be accommodated at lunch.

Bring your mead and your beer for the competition and your enthusiasm for our GBA gathering to the meeting in February. We will love to see you there.

(More specific information on the next page)



*Featuring the*  
**MEAD & BEER  
SHOW**  
&  
**WEBSITE AD  
AUCTION**

**SPRING**

**MEETING**

**2015**

**EDUCATING BEEKEEPERS *and***

**SUPPORTING LOCAL CLUBS**

**Lake Blackshear Resort, Cordele Georgia**

**February 13 & 14, 2015**



# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

## OFFICERS

**President**  
*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 hive 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.

**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.

### Local Club Beekeepers of the Year for 2014

Some clubs in Georgia choose a beekeeper of the year and some do not. We wanted to celebrate the Beekeepers of the Year 2014 for the clubs who have let us know that they do make this award.

Bobby Colson (R), OAB Beek of the year

\*2014 Beekeeper of the Year for the **Ogeechee Area Beekeepers** is Mr. Bobby Colson. Here is a photo of Bobby (R) receiving his award from our club president, Dr. Brent Tharp (L) at our Holiday gathering at George L. Smith State Park in Twin City.

Bobby's father kept bees, but he started keeping bees himself in 1989. He owns and operates B&G Honey Farm in Register, GA. Bobby was selected for this award because of his tireless service to the club and promotion of the craft. He's a good friend and mentor to many beekeepers in our area.



\*2014 Beekeeper of the Year for the **Coweta Beekeepers** is Marilynn Parker. Marilynn Parker began beekeeping as a youth competing in 4-H to the State level. After marriage, children and college she returned to beekeeping 10 years ago. She is a Master Gardener and an Alabama Master Beekeeper. She is secretary of Coweta Beekeepers Association and the president of the newly formed West Georgia Beekeepers Association. She is Coweta Beekeepers Association Beekeeper of the Year for 2014.

\*2014 Beekeeper of the Year for **Heart of Georgia Beekeepers** is Jesse McCurdy. Jesse has always given so much of his time, experience and materials to so many new and experienced beekeepers alike. He was responsible for getting the Heart of Georgia beekeeping club established and, along with his wife Hazel, has worked hard keeping it going. Jesse has also operated the only honey booth at the Perry Fair for the past 25 years that so many of us have enjoyed. This is a new award for the club and all future recipients will receive the "Jesse McCurdy Beekeeper of the Year Award."

Jesse McCurdy, of Perry GA, receives an award from President Tim Smith, Heart of Georgia Beekeepers, for being the club's 2014 Beekeeper of the Year.





## A few clubs award Lifetime Member status to respected long-time members.

This year Lifetime Member status was awarded to Henry County Beekeepers members Howard and Judy Emory. The Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers awarded Lifetime Member status to Jim Harris (a former GBA Beekeeper of the Year) and Betty Beegle (a founding member of the CVBA).

### **Dear Aunt Bee,**

When mixing sugar water solution for over-wintering, do you recommend adding essential oils like peppermint and lemongrass?

Signed,  
Gourmet Bee Feeder

### **Dear Gourmet,**

If you are going to feed your bees, the ideal way is to leave them enough honey to live through the winter. If you need to supplement because the bees didn't make enough honey to get through the winter, then consider the issues around sugar syrup.

**First:** Sugar syrup is not the same pH as honey and doesn't have the same nutritional value. Feeding bees sugar syrup alters the microbiology of the hive (reference: The Complete Idiot's Guide to Beekeeping by Stiglitz)

**Second:** If you do make sugar syrup to feed your bees, be sure only to use white sugar to avoid feeding the bees the indigestible waste in brown sugar.

**Third:** Often beekeepers say that the sugar syrup does not migrate into the honey

because the bees simply use it for food. The beekeeper should mark the boxes that are on a hive when feeding is taking place and not harvest "honey" from those boxes. Ross Conrad in Natural Beekeeping takes a strong stand about this:

*"Whenever the feeding of hives is taking place, no honey supers that will be harvested should be on the hive. This is simply a matter of integrity. Pure, natural honey is defined as plant nectar that has been collected and transformed by honey bees. The beekeeper who offers "honey" produced from sugar syrup, or any other source, has compromised the integrity of the final product, as well as his or her moral character."*

All of that said, essential oils like those you mentioned are used to attract bees - lemongrass oil rubbed on an empty hive can attract a swarm. I'm not sure that peppermint has any attraction to bees. Neither of those oils have any function of which I am aware in maintaining bee health.

**Master Beekeeper Jay Parsons** says, *"Unless there is some evidence citing the benefits to developing polyphenols and "bee fat", then I would forgo the efforts and expense of these additives."*

Thymol, the oil found in the leaves of the herb thyme, has shown some ability to deter the varroa mite and is found in some of the miticides widely used by beekeepers.

Hope your bees make it through the winter!

**Your Aunt Bee**



*Thank you to Ricky Moore for providing the question and to Jay Parsons for his quick response*

### Club News and Notes \*

Club Name	President/ contact info	Speaker for January	Meeting Time and place
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett	Derrick Fowler <a href="mailto:dfowler1965@icloud.com">dfowler1965@icloud.com</a>	<b>Bob Binnie</b>	Jan 13 7 PM Hebron Baptist Church, Dacula
Chattahoochee Valley	Paul Berry <a href="mailto:paulbeekeeper@vahoo.com">paulbeekeeper@vahoo.com</a>		Jan 12 6 PM See website for location
Coastal Empire Beekeepers	Sue Hendricks <a href="mailto:sue.hendricks@gmail.com">sue.hendricks@gmail.com</a>	Business meeting and election of officers	Jan 12 6:30 PM Oakland Island Wildlife Center
Coweta Beekeepers	Steve Page <a href="mailto:stevepage@numail.org">stevepage@numail.org</a>	<b>Steve Page:</b> Sustainable Beekeeping in the South	Jan 12 7 PM 255 Pine Road Newnan, GA
Henry County Beekeepers	Brutz English <a href="mailto:brutzenglish@gmail.com">brutzenglish@gmail.com</a>	<b>Jerome Jones</b> Commercial Beekeeping Q&A	Jan 13 7 PM 116 S Zack Hinton Pkwy, McDonough, Ga
Lake Country Beekeepers	Bruce Morgan <a href="mailto:rbmorgan@hughes.net">rbmorgan@hughes.net</a>	No Speaker, Short Course instead	Jan 19 7 PM Hancock Extension Service,
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Shairon Kerlin <a href="mailto:shaironkrfk@yahoo.com">shaironkrfk@yahoo.com</a>	<b>Condle McKenzie</b> Plant life beneficial for the honey bee	Jan 1 7 PM 95 Bowman St, Lavonia, GA
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers	Cindy Hodges <a href="mailto:dunwoodyhoney@bellsouth.net">dunwoodyhoney@bellsouth.net</a>	<b>Jamie Ellis:</b> Producing Queens	Jan 14 7 PM Atlanta Botanical Garden
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	Brent Tharp <a href="mailto:btharp@georgiasouthern.edu">btharp@georgiasouthern.edu</a>		Jan 29 5:30 PM Fordham's Restaurant Statesboro, GA
Potato Creek Bee Club	Brutz English <a href="mailto:brutzenglish@gmail.com">brutzenglish@gmail.com</a>	<b>Jim Quick</b> Getting ready for Spring	Jan 15 7 PM 835 Memorial Dr. Griffin, GA
West GA Beekeepers Assoc.	Marilynn Parker <a href="mailto:2nparker@bellsouth.net">2nparker@bellsouth.net</a>	<b>Steve Page:</b> Nectar Management	

\* The clubs listed here represent less than half of the clubs in Georgia. If you don't see information about your club here, encourage your president to send us your meeting information. You may also find your club information on the [GBA Calendar](#)

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



## 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 (we really need these) as attachments to emails. Include who took the photo, where and when. Send any of this to [gbanewsletters@gmail.com](mailto:gbanewsletters@gmail.com)

This is your newsletter! We thank you for all your contributions! **YOUR EDITORS**

## FINAL BUZZ

We thank all those who helped us prepare this newsletter with their very timely responses to our questions. We, Gina and Linda, otherwise known as Glinda, make arrangements around our own businesses to meet for several hours each month and put together all the submissions and features, and often then we realize we need info ASAP. We really thank RoseAnne Dorn and Jay Parsons who came to our rescue for this edition.

**Calling all Presidents:** Please make sure to send your club meeting dates, times and meeting places for publication here in the newsletter. We'd like your information by the 15th of each month and we'll remind you. It can only help your club to be listed with your speakers and activities, and it may be of help to other clubs to get ideas from learning who different groups invite to speak.

Your Editors,

***Gina and Linda***

Hope for a good  
beekeeping New Year!  
May you have enthusiastic  
hive inspections!



# Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

February 2015



Christine Fahrnbauer's goats in the snowstorm last February (2014)

## February Presidents Message

Here we are into February and by now you should have signed up for the Spring Meeting being held at the beautiful Lake Blackshear Resort near Cordele on February 13 and 14. There is still time to pre register. Heck, we will even take you at the door on the day of the event. However, pre-registration helps us in planning meals, seating, programs, etc. It also helps the vendors as they bring so much (or not enough) of their product for you. So immediately after you read the rest of this wonderful newsletter, keep your computer on and [shift over to the GBA web site and sign up](#).

Last month, our Northeast Director, Slade Jarrett, and I flew out to Anaheim, California to attend the American Bee Federation Conference. As I sat in the various workshops and seminars, I realized the enormity of the honey bee situation in our world. Since there are over a quarter million "known" beekeepers in the United States and untold numbers of labs, PhDs and committees studying the plight of the Honey Bee, I know that we must never stop all the efforts that are on going to save the little critter. As a concerned group, we have to put this in high gear and work to the successful survival of our beloved honey bee.

Most of the clubs in Georgia have beginner's beekeeping classes about this time of the year. That's wonderful because your effort introduces more folks to the bee world. I know that Potato Creek beeks had about 30 and MABA had around 100 in their classes. As the rest of the state clubs present programs, please send me your attendance numbers and I will report on this at the fall meeting.

(continued from pg 1)

We need these kinds of numbers as they do so much for us in the bee world. I realize that not all of these newbees will become beekeepers, but they will have been introduced to the bee world and will help take better bee care for tomorrow.

In our world, we have hobbyist, sideliners and commercial beeks. Hobbyists turn into sideliners and into commercial beeks over time and continue the work of so many before them. We revised the junior beek program in Georgia last year and I hope that you will consider this as you present programs this year. Please keep up the good work you are doing in and for your community and especially for the honey bees! In nature, honey bees don't need humans to survive; but we humans need honey bees to survive! Humans have created most of the problems for bees and humans can fix it.

I also would like to take a minute and welcome the newest club into the Apiary. Thanks to the work of our Southeast Director, Rhett Kelley and the newest Club President, Holly Nielsen for forming the Altamaha Beekeepers Association. They meet in Lyons, Georgia (near Vidalia) and will be presented at the board meeting at Lake Blackshear. Welcome ya'll!

***Bear Kelley,***  
President, Georgia Beekeepers Assn.



Have you ever wondered how you could get a grant to help with a beekeeping project?

Would you like to put some new swarm catching tricks up your sleeve before the calls start coming this spring?

Did you know that Georgia Tech isn't just the home of the yellow jackets, it's also home to the Urban Beekeeping Project?

You'll learn about all these things—and much more—at the GBA Spring Meeting! This conference has something that will inspire everyone—hobbyists to commercial beekeepers—to gear up for spring beekeeping adventures.

### **GBA Spring Meeting & Beekeeping Conference February 14 • 8:30 - 5:00 Lake Blackshear Resort in Cordele, GA**

[Click here](#) to view the program for the meeting.

The GBA Board will be meeting on Friday the 13th from 7 - 8 at the Lake Blackshear conference center. After that there is a reception for all—not just board members— so plan to come.

The reception includes a cash bar and some goodies to munch on and most importantly, an opportunity to talk and chat with your fellow beekeepers.

To reserve a room at the Lake Blackshear Resort at the special Georgia Beekeepers rate, call 1-**800-459-1230** and use the code **200981**. Online registration is no longer available, but you can register at the door.

It's Valentine's Day and the hotel has a special Valentine's dinner and dance Saturday night. If you'd like to stay on and celebrate Valentine's with your honey, the hotel will give you the same discounted rate for Saturday night as they will for Friday night. You do need to **make reservations for dinner** at the hotel that night if you want to enjoy their special Valentine's dinner.

You've been busy preparing your equipment for spring, now come and prepare your mind!

## *Club Meetings Throughout the State*

<b>Club Name</b>	<b>Speaker/Topic</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>City</b>
Cherokee	<b>Dana Stahlman:</b> Queen issues	Thurs 2/19 7 PM	Holly Springs Baptist Church	Canton, GA
Coastal Empire	<b>No speaker:</b> FUNdamentals of Beekeeping	Sat 2/28 8 - 4	Oatland Island Wildlife Center	Savannah, GA
Coweta	<b>Steve Page:</b> Nectar Management, Checkerboarding	Mon 2/9 7 PM	255 Pine Rd	Newnan, GA
Eastern Piedmont	<b>Jennifer Berry:</b> What we need to be doing now to keep our bees alive	Mon 2/2 7 PM	<a href="http://epba.club/">http://epba.club/</a>	Watkinsville, GA
Gwinnett	<b>Mary Cahill-Roberts:</b> Late winter/Early Spring inspections	Tues 2/10 7 PM	Hebron Baptist Church	Dacula, GA
Lake Country	<b>Keith Fielder:</b> Managing Honey Bees across the Year	Mon 2/16	Hancock Extension Office	Sparta, GA
Lake Hartwell	<b>Bob Binnie:</b> Tour of his new facility in Lakemont on Hwy 441	Sat 2/7	Hwy 441	Lakemont, GA
MABA	<b>Bob Binnie:</b> Beekeeping Equipment and Honey Harvesting	Wed 2/11 7 PM	Atlanta Botanical Garden	Atlanta, GA
NE Ga Mountain Beekeepers	<b>Nicholas Weaver:</b> Preparing for Spring Build-up and Management	Thurs 2/12	Habersham Cty Extension Office	Clarkesville, GA
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	<b>Linda Tillman:</b> Simple Beekeeping: Techniques to make your Beekeeping Life Easier	Thurs 2/26 5:30 PM	Fordham's Farmhouse Restaurant	Statesboro, GA
Tara	<b>PN Williams:</b> Making Splits and Catching Swarms	Mon 2/16 7 PM	752 Main St	Forest Park, GA
Tri County	<b>Bob Binnie:</b> Beekeeping Equipment and Honey Harvesting	Mon 2/9 7 PM	2595 Highway 323	Gillsville, GA
Troup County	<b>Bobby Torbush:</b> Making Mead	Mon 2/16 7 PM	Ag Building	LaGrange, GA
West Georgia	<b>Buster Lane:</b> Nucs, Packages and Swarms	Mon 2/23 7 PM	Douglasville Extension	Douglasville, GA

## ***GBA is developing a speaker list***

*We know there are many beekeepers out there with knowledge and skills to share. We are in the process of creating a list of speakers to help local clubs with ideas for their meetings. We plan to keep this list on the GBA website so that club meeting organizers can use it easily.*

*If you are someone who would like to be asked to speak to bee clubs, [please click here](#) to provide us with your information so you can be contacted by local clubs. If you heard a speaker at your own bee meeting and think another club would also enjoy hearing that person, [please also fill out this form](#).*

### **Reminders of upcoming beginning beekeeper courses sent in by club presidents:**

Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers Spring Beekeeping Course Oxbow Environmental Learning Center six, two hour sessions over six consecutive Saturday afternoons, 3PM to 5PM, beginning February 14, 2015 Call Paul Berry, 706-527-0739

Cherokee Beekeepers Club presents Beeschool 2015 at First Baptist Church Holly Springs, 2632 Holly Springs Parkway, Holly Springs, GA 30142 Visit [www.cherokeebecclub.com](http://www.cherokeebecclub.com) or email [weeksworks@gmail.com](mailto:weeksworks@gmail.com) for preregistration

Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association (CEBA) will present a FUNdamentals of Beekeeping at Oatland Island Wildlife Center on Saturday, February 28th from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. [www.oatlandisland.org](http://www.oatlandisland.org) or call (912) 395-1500.Greg

Forsyth Beekeepers Club WHAT: Beginning Beekeeping Short Course Day 1 Sawnee Mt. Preserve Visitor Center, Cumming GA March 7th, registration starts @ 8, classes start @ 9:00 [www.forsythbeekeepersclub.org](http://www.forsythbeekeepersclub.org)

### **Lake Country Beekeepers Association Successful Short Course**

The Lake Country Beekeepers Association conducted a Beekeeping Short Course on Saturday, January 24th at the Central Georgia Technical College in Milledgeville, GA. Over 40 new and experienced beekeepers and their families attended the day long program.



The event featured well known beekeeping educators and advocates, Mr. Keith Fielder, Georgia Master Beekeeper from the University of Georgia Putnam County Cooperative Extension and Mr. Bruce Morgan of Morgan Apiaries. Their extensive presentations covered topics such as bee biology, equipment, diseases, what happens inside a colony throughout the year, how to purchase bees and where to locate your hives. Beekeepers were reminded to choose site location carefully and to feed their bees.

President Bruce Morgan commented, "The short course is essential for beginning beekeepers and is an event that builds local club membership." This was the 3rd annual short course sponsored by the Lake County Beekeepers Association, founded in 2013.



The LCBA meets the third Monday of each month at the Hancock County Extension Service, 12534 Augusta Hwy 16 in Sparta, GA. To join LCBA, call Bruce Morgan at 478.357.4029 or email [rbmorgan@hughes.net](mailto:rbmorgan@hughes.net) or visit

[morganhoney.com](http://morganhoney.com).

**BEEKEEPERS OF GILMER COUNTY CLUB**

***A Z HIVE PROJECT***

*Starting March 2015, Beekeepers of Gilmer County Club will begin managing three AZ and four Langstroth bee hives. The project will be used by BGCC members for membership and community education.*

*During this past year, BGCC has been consulting with Janko Bozic, an expert in the management techniques of the AZ hive. Prof. Bozic, entomologist and professor at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, is currently working on translating into English “AZ Hive Management Techniques” and “Transitioning from Langstroth Hives to AZ Hives”. At the GBA 2014 Spring Meeting there was an opportunity to view this very interesting European style hive.*

*The BGCC will again display an AZ hive at this year’s GBA Spring Meeting, Feb. 13th and 14th. Please stop by our table and have a good look at this unique beehive. In response to the many requests by GBA members to obtain AZ hives, production of the hive in the U.S. will hopefully begin in the near future.*

*If you or your club is interested in learning more about the AZ hives please contact BGCC President, John Tackett, at [770 530-8997](tel:7705308997), or Mary Lou Blohm at 706 636-1514.*



Alan Hix, charter president of the Chattooga Beekeepers Association, was presented this very special plaque in appreciation for his service from 2012 – 2014. He brings over ten years of experience in beekeeping to the group and it was through his efforts the Chattooga Beekeepers Association was established.

**Queen Markings**

Submitted by Bear Kelley

Now that spring 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 **Blue**. 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 and discovering if you find a markless queen that she has swarmed and they have replaced her. Most of the bee suppliers offer marking pens at reasonable rates. You can probably get one from a vendor at the Lake Blackshear meeting.

**Want to know what an A Z hive looks like? Come to the spring meeting to see one in person.**



## MELIPONA

By Barbara Phillips, MD, MPH and beekeeper

Our beloved honey bee, *Apis mellifera*, has a tiny charming endangered cousin in the Yucatan, the 'Mayan Honey Bee'. The 'stingless bees' (Meliponini) inhabit the tropics worldwide and are composed of a diverse group of over 500 species. *Melipona* is found only in the tropics of the New World, from Mexico to Argentina, and includes over 50 reported species.

*Melipona yucatanica* & *beecheii*, the charming little cousins of our own *Apis mellifera* are about the size of a large red ant and do have rudimentary stingers, but they are ineffectual for defensive purposes, thus they are called the 'Stingless Mayan Honey Bees'. They were widely cultured by the Maya for thousands of years, valued for their delicate floral tasting honey and revered as sacred. Their Mayan name is *xunan kab*, "royal or noble lady bee."

Mayan honey bees nest in hollow logs or trees and build a small wax/propylis tube at the entrance of the log for entry and exit. They were considered a Mayan family treasure, several log hives were hung around each home and passed down through generations, some hives reported to last over 80 years. Sadly, today these amazing creatures are highly endangered due to massive deforestation, pesticides and new age agricultural practices, specifically the widely adopted practice of mono-crop cultivation. In addition, they are being replaced as honey producers with Africanized honey bees which can yield upwards of 100kg of honey per year per hive and are much hardier and easier to manage. Today there are fewer than 70 *Melipona* beekeepers in the Mayan lowlands, decreased from thousands in the 1980's.

I had the unique pleasure of visiting a Mayan honey producer in the Yucatan this December and was thrilled to see, photograph and be visited by these amazing creatures. *Melipona* don't sting, but they like to get into your hair if you approach their hive and can bite producing a small welt smaller than a mosquito bite which fades rapidly. They also store their honey quite differently than *Apis* in that the brood is concentrated in the center of the log hive and the honey is stored in vertical 'pots' at the periphery of the hive.

The log hives are 'capped' at both ends with wood or stone discs for easy removal of the honey and minimal damage to the hive. The traditional alcoholic Mayan drink, *balche'*, is similar to mead as it is made from fermented honey and the nectar, sap and/or bark of



the *balche'* tree. It was used in medicinal and spiritual practices, and reported to have psychotropic properties. I haven't had the pleasure of drinking authentic *balche'* but look forward to my next visit to the Yucatan. For international Meliponini conservation efforts currently underway see: Apimondia and Bee World.

References: Ramirez, S.R., et al. Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution, 56(2010) 519-525.  
 Wikipedia, Stingless bees. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stingless\\_bee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stingless_bee)  
<http://www.uqroo.mx/libros/maya/diccionario.pdf>  
<http://www.apimondia.com>  
<http://beeworld.org/> 2005 Comprehensive Guide – Conservation Efforts

"We need to behave more like a bee society, where each of our small actions can contribute to a grand solution. Let planting flowers be the driver of large-scale change."...Marla Spivak, TED talk

## Local Boy Makes Good!

To Bob Binnie's surprise, he received a phone call from Carl Chesick, head of the Center for Honey Bee Research in Asheville, NC after the judging of the Black Jar Contest put on by the Center.

Carl said, "Bob, you've won the Black Jar Contest!" Bob reports that he was waiting for the punch line when Carl said, "We're sending you a check for \$1000, for real!"

In the Asheville newspaper Bob Binnie's South Dakota honey was announced as the winner. Bob's business and reputation are in the state of Georgia. That year Bob had 442 or so hives in South Dakota. Since Bob assumed the Black Jar judges were overwhelmed with sourwood and tulip poplar, he decided to enter his South Dakota honey.



When asked what makes that honey a winner, Bob said it is flavored with clover, alfalfa and sunflower. "A little sunflower goes a long way," says Bob. Like many spices if you put a lot in while cooking, it ruins the dish, but a little sunflower makes a slight cinnamon taste to the honey.

### ***What is the Black Jar Contest? by Carl Chesick, Center for Honey Bee Research***

The idea for the Black Jar Contest evolved from a conversation with Bob Binnie during which he mentioned the idea behind Black Jar Tastings. He has been entering every year to support our work - but none of us expected him to win. The jars were all covered in brown paper and given arbitrary four digit numbers indexed in a sealed envelope. We had newspaper reporters and photographers present in the final judging. When the six judge panel's scores were tabulated, I was shocked to hear the grand prize winner's name: Bob Binnie!

*Bob Binnie* is now inscribed on a brass plaque on the black jar trophy. (Pictures at [chbr.org](http://chbr.org)) It will stay at front until next year's winner dethrones him. Previous Winners are moved to the back but stay on. There's room for ten names altogether and we have plans for an 'Invitational Challenge' of the decades winner's - kinda like the Masters in golf).

The Center for Honey Bee Research is the logical choice to run such a contest because it's difficult for organizations with changing officers to keep annual events from stumbling.

We started the Black Jar Contest as a way to bring attention to real beekeepers and to educate the buying public that honey is not the generic product they are used to buying. We want them to know that honey is like a snowflake - no two exactly alike - and that diversity is a reflection of the unique plants, climate and soils of the area in which the honey is produced. We stress the

difference between pure honey and high-heat, micro-filtered blends of multi-national 'honey' filling the shelves of supermarkets. By staging a high profile event, we are able to publicize the plight of pollinators in a positive and 'feel good' atmosphere that respects the sacrifice and hard work of beekeepers.

The Center's goal in offering lucrative cash awards is to encourage the participation of as many beekeepers as possible - from as many places as possible. Entry fees cover those awards, and we hope to increase the Grand Prize every year. In 2015 it will be \$1500! The additional two jars accompanying each entry represent a valuable contribution to the Center's work. We hope entrants who don't win feel good about their participation. Not only does the Contest raise awareness (and the price of honey) but it places their product in new markets. Each jar bears the personalized label of the beekeeper who produced it. If a tourist buys the jar that customer gets the satisfaction of supporting the Center, AND they get a unique and delicious liquid they wouldn't find anyplace else - hopefully resulting in phone calls like "Hi, we bought a jar of your honey, and we're wondering how we can get more?"

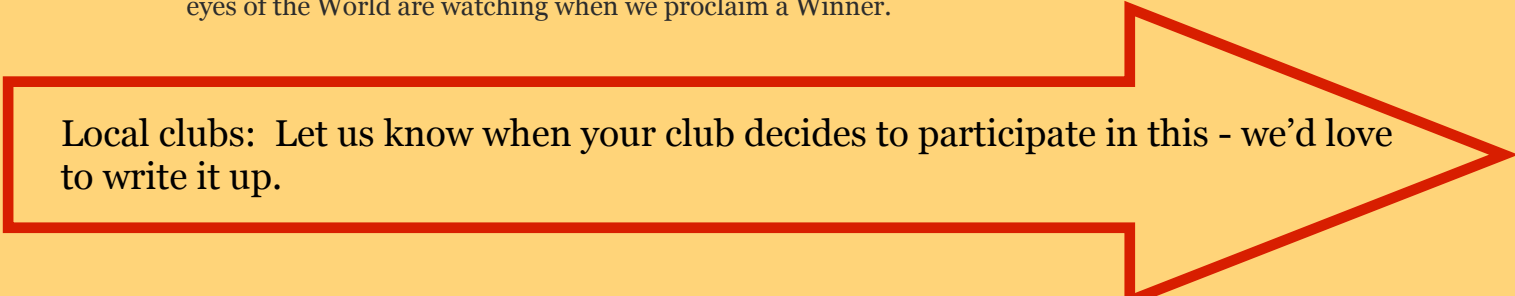
Due to the fragile nature of glass jars and the weight of honey, the Center expected the Contest to be local in nature - but it hasn't turned out that way - because beekeepers are proud of their bees the world over. Oddly enough, there isn't another competition like this anywhere and our Black Jar has filled a vacuum to become the means for determining "The World's Best Tasting Honey."

We in the Southeast are familiar with varieties like 'Locust' 'Gallberry' 'Tupelo' and 'Sourwood', but folks in Idaho are convinced 'Snowberry' is the dog-diggety. 'Fireweed' is really tasty and I can attest Bob Binnie's 'clover with a hint of sunflower' doesn't taste like Sue Bee to me. What about those cactus honeys from the Southwest? Goldenrod from the Northeast granulates quickly but it makes a wonderful creamed treat. In Turkey, a nation with double the number of colonies found in the US, 'Chestnut' is a category of high refinement. We don't even have that species (Sweet Chestnut) on our side of the Pond. Last year's Grand Prize winner from South Africa keeps Cape honeybees who make honey from plants found nowhere else on the planet. He was able to increase his price five fold and was featured on the cover of his National Beekeeping magazine as a result of his win.

Of course there's no such thing as the best tasting honey. Not only are they all good, but no two tastebuds are the same. In the many blind tastings we've held, every panel of judges brings a different set of criteria. I've been privy to reviewing their scores and it amazes me how one judge's '9' is another's '2'! One judge (a chef) on this year's panel made the comparison of cilantro in cooking: pointing out that for everyone who loves it in food, there is another who will disdain to touch it. It no doubt makes a difference what order the samples are presented (arbitrary in our tastings) or even what a particular judge ate earlier. In my mind this makes for a wide open melee where anyone can win.

Honey Tasting Contests are fun and beekeepers are energized by the competition. I think every club should hold their own blind tastings and crown a champion. They can be as creative or formal as they like, and when all is said and done that club can sponsor their entry in the Center's International Black Jar Contest. Pay the fee on behalf of their member and maybe pay them for the two extra jars? A \$40 investment? Think of the bragging rights if they win! I've been discussing the possibilities with many club officers and I think we could have State Winners from Georgia, North and South Carolina, and maybe Tennessee if we get enough participation. I need help promoting this idea, so please talk it up with friends and family.

It takes time to collect and catalog entries - and remember, honey is being harvested in the Southern Hemisphere right now - so we have already begun accepting entries for 2015. We'll take however many entries we have on Oct. 15, 2015 and pick our Winner - but if an entry arrives late it will automatically be entered in the next year's Contest. The Center for Honeybee Research looks forward to your participation and support. Beekeepers in the Southeast can be proud the eyes of the World are watching when we proclaim a Winner.



**Local clubs: Let us know when your club decides to participate in this - we'd love to write it up.**

***Dear Aunt Bee,***

My hives have screened bottoms. What is the right height from the ground to place the hives, to keep as much cold out in the winter, and still provide ventilation?

***Worried about Warmth******Dear Worried,***

In an effort to get expert opinion about your question, we contacted Jennifer Berry of the UGA bee lab.

*Jennifer says, "There is no 'right' height to place a colony. According to Dr. Seeley's work, feral swarms prefer a cavity 3 meters off the ground. But it would be a bit inconvenient for us to work bees at that height.*

*Every colony that I have, whether at the lab or at home, is usually around 6-8" off the ground. All colonies are on bottom screens, but by November we have inserted IPM boards (solid sheets of corrugated plastic) to decrease airflow especially during cold, windy days which could wick away the warm air surrounding the cluster.*

*Also, here in the south we don't need to worry so much about ventilation since we have periodic warm days that the bees are able to fly/move about, therefore condensation doesn't collect as bad or rapidly on the inner covers.*

*One more point: some folks think that the bees are actually keeping the entire inside of the hive warm. This is a misconception. Actually the external temperature of the cluster is usually around 46 degrees and the internal temperature during broodless times can be as low as 55 but usually in the upper 60s to 70s. When the queen starts building up brood for spring, minimum temperatures around the brood are in the upper 80s to 90s."*

Have fun setting up your own preference for the height of your screened bottom board with the advice we've just gotten from Jennifer Berry.

Hope your bees kept warm this winter,

***Aunt Bee***

## Honey Cheese Bars Recipe

TOTAL TIME: Prep: 25 min.

Bake: 30 min. + cooling

YIELD: 16 servings

### Ingredients

1 cup all-purpose flour  
 1/3 cup packed brown sugar  
 1/4 cup cold butter, cubed  
 1/2 cup finely chopped walnuts

### FILLING:

1 package (8 ounces) reduced-fat cream cheese  
 1/4 cup honey  
 2 tablespoons milk  
 1 tablespoon lemon juice  
 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract  
 1 egg, lightly beaten  
 Additional honey, optional

### Directions

- 1. In a small bowl, combine flour and brown sugar. Cut in butter until crumbly. Stir in walnuts. Press onto the bottom of an 8-in. square baking dish coated with cooking spray. Bake at 350° for 10-12 minutes or until lightly browned.
- 2. For filling, in a large bowl, beat the cream cheese, honey, milk, lemon juice and vanilla until blended. Add egg; beat on low speed just until combined. Pour over crust. Bake 20-25 minutes longer or until set. Cool completely on a wire rack. Drizzle with additional honey if desired. Cut into bars. Refrigerate leftovers.  
 Yield: 16 bars.

from: [www.tasteofhome.com](http://www.tasteofhome.com)



This is a photo of the new officers of the Altamaha Beekeepers Association.

They formed on 5 Jan 2015 and meet in Lyons, Ga (near Vidalia)

They are (L to R)

Ron Wilkes Sec/Treasurer; Bear Kelley, GBA Pres; Holly Nielsen, President; Monty Usher, VP; Rhett Kelley, SE GA GBA Director; Seated in Front Johnny Jones



For a good laugh, try this in the park of your choice:

[youtu.be/kGOXQ8MQaAw](http://youtu.be/kGOXQ8MQaAw)

## *The Final Buzz*

We all getting ready to start the next beekeeping season with a great GBA spring meeting. Our friends and teachers are what make these meetings so enjoyable.

Please bring your camera and share your time with all of us in our next newsletter. See you soon.

Your Editors,

*Gina and Linda*

# Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

March 2015



***Spring Meeting 2015 - It was great and if you didn't come, you were missed and we hope you come to the fall meeting in Milledgeville. Photos by Bill Owens, Gina Gallucci, and Linda Tillman. To see a slide show of these and more photos from the meeting, [click here](#).***

## ***The President's Message***

I can't begin to tell you all how pleased I was at the Lake Blackshear Resort with our Spring Meeting in February. We had a record turnout of members and new members. I believe it was in the neighborhood of 260 people. P.N. Williams said that was the most in 30 years. We were originally planning for around 140, but the writing was on the wall a week before with 153 pre-registered.

The high number means we had a heck of a lot of walk ups. In the future, we plan to keep

registration open longer to increase the possibility of preregistration. Everyone who preregisters helps us ensure that we have enough programs, handouts, and lunches for the attendees. While we love welcoming those of you who register at the door, planning for the meeting works out better if you take a moment to preregister. The staff at the Resort handled it well and somehow produced the extra meals at a moment's notice. I apologize if we had standing room only in some of the breakouts. If you were there, you know we shifted folks around a bit to accommodate the more popular speakers.

I reported at the Board meeting that as of two years ago, GBA had less than 180 members with 22 affiliated clubs; and as of the board meeting this year (13 Feb 2015) we had more than 425 memberships and 35 affiliated clubs. If my count is correct, we actually have 563 members (counting family members) now. That's tremendous! This is your organization and I am so glad you are coming out to give support. Your participation is the reason we can have good speakers, great facilities and a wonderful event. Thank you from all of your officers and the event committee. We are glad that the work going into these meetings is appreciated.

At the Board meeting, we presented two new charters to recently established clubs. Those were the Altamaha Beekeepers with Holly Neilsen as president and the Beekeepers of Gilmer County, led by John Tackett. Andy Bailey, our GBA secretary, actually prepared "Charters" printed on parchment paper. They were quite popular and many of the club presidents there expressed their desire to have one for their club. So, if you know your "Charter date," send an email to Andy: [baileysbees@gmail.com](mailto:baileysbees@gmail.com) with the appropriate info and we will prepare them for you and mail them back as we get them.

We also approved multiple year memberships at the Board meeting. Now when you pay your membership dues, you may pay for one, three or five years at once. There will be no monetary savings (since our dues are so cheap already), but it means that our staff will not have to work as hard in getting everyone to re-up every year, and you will not have to worry about it as well.

I want to thank the club presidents who attended the Presidential Breakfast. We had a great turnout and I felt that we were able to get to know each other better. Dr. Wimbish discussed the Junior Beekeeping program and Regina Roebuck talked up the American Bee Federation. We also discussed how to get bulk sugar, getting bees through the winter stronger and other topics. The local club presidents went away with a list of potential speakers to help them with their program planning.

We have already started working on the fall meeting to be held in Milledgeville in September. We were so happy to see so many of you at the spring meeting. Now all of you come back in the fall, enter the big honey show and bring a beekeeping friend with you. We want our numbers to keep going up.

Finally I want to say thank you to Linda Tillman and Julia Mahood. Their hard work and professionalism gave us this wonderful event.

***Bear Kelley,***  
President, Georgia Beekeepers Assn.



## Lake Blackshear Meeting Highlights

### Follow our speakers:

To learn more about Gretchen Lebuhn and the Great Sunflower Project, [click here](#). On that web page, you can register for the project and find out lots about bees of many kinds.

To learn more about Jennifer Leavey's work with bees at Georgia Tech, [click here](#).

To find out about Erin Forbes' SARE grant, [click here](#).

### Web Site Auction

Every year at the February meeting, we hold an auction for advertising space on the GBA website. To see how advertising looks on the website, [click here](#) and look to the right side of the page.

This year the winners were:

Bill Owens (Georgia Bee Removal):	<b>\$1500</b>
Ray Civitts (Mountain Sweet Honey):	<b>\$800</b>
Slade Jarrett (Jarrett Apiaries)	<b>\$400</b>
Higgins Apiaries	<b>\$400</b>

Every year four ads are sold and every year, the winners grow business from contacts made through the GBA website ads. This year GBA took in **\$3100** and this benefits all of us as members.

Next year at the February meeting, plan to bid for your business to have one of the four spots. It pays off - just ask Bill Owens (who wins the top spot every year)!

### A few quotes from our speakers:

*"Super Sisters are two Queens in one hive which are both offspring of the same Queen and the same drone."*

**Cindy Bee**

*"Cutting queen cells as a way to prevent swarming is a little like using the rhythm method for human birth control."* **Erin Forbes**

*"The next month is a critical time for your bees in terms of food. Populations are increasing hence food stores are decreasing. Check in on them now to make sure they have enough food until the nectar flow begins which is still over a month away."* **Jennifer Berry**

*"A good Queen cell is pocked and looks like a morel mushroom on the outside; typically a smooth Queen cell doesn't make a good Queen."* **Cindy Bee**



GBA President, Bear Kelley, presents a new club charter to Holly Nielson for the Altamaha Beekeepers. Your club, even well-established, can get a charter (suitable for framing) by sending in your charter date to [Andy Bailey](#), GBA Secretary.



## Youth Programming

The Spring GBA meeting was “buzzing” with news of upcoming youth events across the state!

Tara Beekeepers are planning a half day spring youth event at Reynolds Preserve in March<sup>th</sup> (Contact Buster and Fran Lane). Coweta beekeepers continue their commitment to youth education through a relationship with local 4-H club members (contact Steve Page). The Oatland Island Wildlife Center and the Coastal Empire Beekeepers (contact Gregory Stewart) are also investing in youth education through workshops and an ongoing commitment to honey bee preservation outreach.

For our older youth, great things are happening in honey bee education statewide at Georgia Tech (Dr. Jennifer Leavey), University of Georgia (Jennifer Berry), Georgia Southern (Statesboro Beekeeping Association), and at Middle Georgia State College (Dr. Gloria Huddleston).

A few tips for planning youth focused educational events:

- Limit activities to thirty minutes or less (like many of us, children’s attention spans are limited).
- Alternate lecture and seated activities with activities including movement and play.
- Provide fun low-cost prizes (<http://www.orientaltrading.com>).
- Have an alternate-filler activity planned (You never know what can happen and it is best to over plan for youth events).
- Visit the following sites for great activities! (<http://honey.glorybee.com/sites/default/files/HoneyFilesWeb.pdf> , <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/4H/4-H-571-W.pdf> , <http://ipm.ncsu.edu/4-H/Beekeeping%20Projects%20K-3.pdf> )

- Safety comes first. Make sure your site and all activities are safe for designated age groups. (Have a basic first aid kit on hand – Band-Aids, even when not needed, make everything feel better!)

- Have fun! Remember youth are the future of beekeeping and you are planting the seed for honey bee research and preservation!

**GBA offers funds to support youth education programs!** If your club is interested in hosting youth activities and are in need of program ideas, games, activities, or planning support please call or e-mail. I look forward to presentations at the Tara, Henry County, and Griffin Clubs!

Dr. Margo Wimbish  
Cell 678-378-1290  
[wimbish@numail.org](mailto:wimbish@numail.org)



by Ricky Moore

As an experiment I placed granulated sugar on a tissue paper atop the frames in a hive, just to see if the bees would take the granulated sugar. I'd seen it on YouTube as a means of emergency feeding.

Winter was just starting and the bees were slow to acknowledge and accept the sugar, partly because I continued to front feed also. Early in January the bees discovered the sugar and from the photo you can see, are really going to town on it.

In about six weeks, they have consumed over three pounds of granulated sugar. This will not be my first choice for feeding, but I'll always keep it in the back of my mind as another possible way to feed the bees in winter.

## *Upcoming Club Activities for March*

<b>Club Name</b>	<b>Speaker/Topic</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>City</b>
Chattahoochee Valley	<b>Damon Wallace:</b> former Alabama beekeepers association president	Mon 3/9 6 PM	Oxbow Meadows Learning Center	Columbus, GA
Chattooga	Getting Ready for Spring: What's Going on in the Hive?	Tues 3/10 7 PM	32 Middle School Rd.	Summerville, GA
Cherokee	<b>Spring Field Trip:</b> No club meeting		Holly Springs Baptist Church	Canton, GA
Clark's Hill	<b>Keith &amp; Ann Powell:</b> Introduction to Beekeeping	Sat 3/14 3 PM	Grovetown Farm and Garden	Grovetown, GA
Coastal Empire	<b>David Arnal</b>	Mon 3/9 7 pm	Oatland Island Wildlife Center	Savannah, GA
Coweta	<b>Bobby Torbush:</b> Late Winter hive inspections	Mon 3/9 7 PM	255 Pine Rd	Newnan, GA
Gwinnett	<b>Keith Fielder:</b> Second Year of Beekeeping: Now What?	Tues 3/10 7 PM	Hebron Baptist Church	Dacula, GA
Heart of GA	Discussion about preparing bees for spring	Tues 3/17	Camp John Hope Center	Marshallville, GA
Lake Country	<b>Slade Jarrett:</b> Spring Build-up and Management	Mon 2/16	Hancock Extension Office	Sparta, GA
Lake Hartwell	<b>Jack Collins:</b> Swarms	Thurs 3 / 5 7 PM	First Baptist Church	Lavonia, GA
MABA	<b>Jennifer Leavey:</b> Big Bee Breakthroughs: What these Mean for Bees and Beekeepers	Wed 3/25 7 PM	Atlanta Botanical Garden	Atlanta, GA
NE Ga Mountain Beekeepers	<b>Keith Delaplane:</b> TBA	Thurs 3/12	Ruby Fulbright Aquatic Center	Clarkesville, GA
Ogeechee Beekeepers	Discussion of how to handle your bees now with member experts	Thurs 3/26 5:30	Fordham's Farmhouse Restaurant	Statesboro, GA
Oglethorpe Bee Club	<b>Jennifer Berry:</b> TBA	Mon 3/16 7 PM	925 Athens Rd	Crawford, GA
Tara	<b>Keith Fielder:</b> Maximizing Your Honey Crop	Mon 3/16 7 PM	752 Main St	Forest Park, GA
Tri County	<b>Paul Arnold:</b> Pollen Analysis	Mon 3/9 7 PM	2595 Highway 323	Gillsville, GA
Troup County	<b>Pam Wilkes, USDA:</b> How USDA can help beekeepers	Mon 3/16 7 PM	Ag Building	LaGrange, GA

## ***Club News and Notes***

### **Chattooga Beekeepers Association**

Summerville, GA

2015 BEEKEEPING SEMINAR



### **Coweta Beekeepers Introduction to Beekeeping class**

January 24, 2015

The Coweta Beekeepers had 47 students in attendance at the annual Introduction to Beekeeping class on January 24, 2015. Since the class, the students have participated in two workshops. The first workshop taught equipment assembly and the second workshop taught nectar management. Workshops will continue each month thru June.

### **Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Go on a Field Trip**

by Shairon Kerlin

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers for our February meeting took a field trip to Bob Bennie's new store, Blue Ridge Honey Co. in Lakemont, GA. Bob, his wife Suzette, and his entire staff were great! The retail portion is beautiful with a great variety of products and bee supplies on display with smiling faces greeting you as you arrive.

Bob took the opportunity to begin our tour in that area with a bit of history including past, present, and even future plans. They are in their nearing final stages of the total operation but we couldn't tell it. It was really impressive.

We continued through his bottling, packaging and labeling area, as well as extracting, and storage. They really dazzled us with their foot work.



For the finale they served us lunch where Bob joined us while sharing even more and a really good Q & A session with the group.

The club members really enjoyed themselves. Give your club a treat and if you are within a reasonable radius of their store, give them a call and set up a tour.

Makes for a great field trip and really a nice day for all.

## ***The Flow Hive: An Interview with Michael Bush***

by Linda Tillman

The newly invented Flow Hive has been all over the Internet in recent weeks. You've seen the photos on Facebook pages. Two Australian developers created a hive box that allows honey to be harvested without opening the hive. The photos often show a hive with an open tube pouring honey into an open jar. While it seems convenient for honey harvesting, using this hive box might prevent people from being good keepers of their bees (not taking the time/effort to inspect these hives).

**Michael Bush**, a nationally known Nebraska beekeeper and author who will be one of our keynote speakers at the Fall GBA Meeting, was one of the beekeepers asked to try this configuration. He said the inventors sent him some of these frames to try. I asked Michael some of the honey harvest questions that were bothering me:

1. The open honey container in Atlanta would draw bees in a second and seems a poor plan.

Michael said:

*There is no reason to have an open honey container under the tap. I have a tube running from mine through a hole just big enough for the tube in a five gallon bucket lid. I can't imagine why I would do it any other way. It's no more inconvenient and it assures no bees drowning in the honey.*

2. In Hotlanta during summer, the hot temperatures would always encourage the honey to flow easily out of the hive. What would happen in colder places?

Michael's answer:

*The honey tends to be at least 93 F anytime the weather is not outright cold and it flows very nicely at 93 F. I don't have heather or other kinds of thixotropic honey, so I don't know how they would work, but these frames might even work better than trying to extract, as often just moving them makes them thinner and the way the device works it shifts half the cell walls a half of a cell down which would stir (move) the honey causing it to flow better. But with my honey this Flow Hive system drained in just a few minutes (like 3 to 5 minutes). It's really amazing to watch.*

3. Would honey leak into the hive, making problems for the bees?

Michael said:

*The caps are not even broken. There is no honey flowing into the hive. This is accomplished by having half of the cells' mouths protruding more. The bees draw out the other half with wax to match the protruding ones and when you break the cells open, virtually all the caps stay intact.*

4. And how could you be sure without a queen excluder that you would not be crushing brood?

My queen sometimes lays up in the honey boxes.

Michael's answer:

*The cells are too deep for the queen to lay in and they are an odd diameter so she wouldn't like laying in them even if they were shallow enough. They are too small for drone brood and too large for worker brood and too deep for either. There is actually no reason*

*at all for anyone to use an excluder with these Flow Hive frames.*

5. I am curious about what made you confident enough to endorse this, if you did.

Michael said:

*The makers sent me a box of them to test. I've seen the Flow Hive work. It is mind blowing... really. They have worked out all of the honey harvest details. I can only imagine two POSSIBLE issues which I have not encountered. One is IF the honey crystallized it might be a bit of effort. With this (flow hive) I would harvest early and often, so it's doubtful it would be crystallized. The second POSSIBLE issue would be that I can't know how it will hold up over time. I haven't heard a final price, but I assume it will be pricey. It will take a few years to know the answer to how well it will age, but it seems well built.*

***Speaking of the GBA Fall Meeting, mark your calendars  
NOW to be in  
Milledgeville, GA on September 18 - 19, 2015  
for another fabulous GBA meeting, filled with good  
speakers, good breakouts, good cheer.***

**The Heart of Georgia Beekeepers will present a FREE “Introduction to Beekeeping Class”** on March 21, 2015 at the Camp John Hope FFA-FCCLA Center 281 Hope Entrance Rd. Fort Valley, GA 31030. This class is designed for people who are interested in starting beekeeping, those who are just interested in beekeeping, or in gardening. The morning session will be in Classroom from 9:00 AM until 12:00 Noon. Lunch will be at 12:00. The afternoon session will be from 1:00 PM until midafternoon (4:00 PM) at a nearby bee yard where students will open bee hives, identify bees, learn the parts of a hive, and see the bees at work. We will have protective gloves, veils, and suits for the students. The class is open to all ages.

If you are interested in participating in the class, please take a moment to register through [this link](#).

Please make sure you register EVERY person that will be attending the class so we will have a record of EACH person. We will be having a lunch during the break at the cost of \$8.00 per person. If you are interested in the luncheon, please make sure you select lunch when you register for the class.

At the GBA February meeting in Lake Blackshear, Erin Forbes encouraged us to apply for grants in both her keynote speech and in her breakout. Here are two opportunities to apply for money to study your bees:

1. **The 2015 USDA/AMS Specialty Crop Block Grant Program** has been announced; please see attached. Application requirements are available on the Georgia Department of Agriculture's website at <http://agr.georgia.gov/grants.aspx>.

Project Proposals are due to my office via email by Friday, April 17, 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

2. **3rd Annual Bayer Leadership Award Honors Innovations in the Beekeeping Community**

Bayer CropScience is seeking nominations for its third annual Bayer Bee Care Community Leadership Award. The award provides a \$5,000 grant to the winner to be used in support of a community beekeeping project.

**To obtain an application, go to [www.pollinatorweek.bayer.com](http://www.pollinatorweek.bayer.com). The deadline for submission is April 3, 2015.**

The 2014 winner, [Herbert Everhart](#) of Kearneysville, WVA, created a beekeeping programs for veterans and youth in his community to introduce and educate on all aspects of beekeeping.

### ***Street Cred:***

"More than three-fourths of the honey sold in U.S. grocery stores isn't exactly what the bees produce," according to testing done exclusively for **Food Safety News**.

There is a very thorough article [HERE](#) from Food Safety News, November 2011, about testing honey for pollen, and as the first sentence of the article states

### ***North East Georgia Mountain Beekeepers Association***

is offering a beekeeping short course at the Elachee Nature Center, 2125 Elachee Drive Gainesville, Georgia, on Saturday, March 7th – Full Day Class Room Program. This class has been rescheduled from Saturday, February 21st.

Some of the speakers include: Paul Arnold, Bobby Chaisson, Slade Jarrett, Ray Civitts, Carl Webb, Keith Fielder, Bill Owens.

Registration Includes: Full Day Class Room Program-February 21st, Half Day in the Beeyard-March 14th, Family Membership in NE GA Mtn. Beekeepers Club, First Lessons in Beekeeping Book - One Book Per Family,

Door Prizes, & Lunch - Provided.

\$45 – Individual

\$60 – Couple

\$5 Each Additional Person in Same Family (covers cost of lunch)

**Class Limited to 100**

To Pre-Register:

**Call Slade Jarrett –**

**706-677-2854 email:**

[jarrett@jarrettbees.com](mailto:jarrett@jarrettbees.com)

**\*\*Include: Name(s) of all attending,**

**phone, address, and email Subject Line:**

**Short Course\*\***

**Steve Page's [Coweta Beekeeping Method](#)**

[Can mushrooms save the honeybee?](#)

***Dear Aunt Bee,***

If bees do not go to the bathroom in the hive and wait to go on a cleansing flight, what does the queen do? Does she go to the bathroom in the hive or does she slip outside?

Thanks for the help, Aunt Bee.

Yours,

***Potty Breaks******Dear Potty,***

The bees who attend the queen take care of her from head to toe. They comb her hair, brush her mandibles and take out her bodily waste. None of the bees can fly during the coldest days and they “hold it” until there is a day when they can fly. Then as quickly as they can, they move the waste out of the hive.

Sometimes in a winter hive, the bees can develop nosema. You will know this when you see streaks of brown on the exterior of the hive as the bees release in desperation as they exit.

But in general, the queen’s needs are taken care of by the attendant bees.

***Your Aunt Bee*****Rustic Canyon's Honeycomb Ice Cream**  
**Honeycomb candy:**

5 tablespoons sugar  
2 tablespoons wildflower honey  
1 teaspoon baking soda

In a small to medium pan, combine the sugar and honey, and cook until the sugar is melted and the mixture has turned a caramel color.

Remove from heat and add the baking soda all at once, quickly stirring to evenly distribute the soda. Be careful, as the soda will cause the sugar mixture to bubble rapidly.

Pour the honeycomb into a rimmed baking sheet lined with parchment and set aside until cooled and hardened, about 30 minutes. Break the honeycomb into big and small pieces, and store in an airtight container until needed.

**Honeycomb ice cream:**

3 cups heavy whipping cream  
1 (14-ounce) can condensed milk  
1 tablespoon vodka  
Pinch of salt  
Prepared honeycomb

In a large bowl, whip the cream to soft peaks. Stir in the condensed milk and whip again to soft peaks, then whisk in the vodka and salt.

Gently fold in the honeycomb, careful not to overmix; you want a swirl look to the ice cream. Transfer to a smaller container and put in the freezer until firmed, 1 to 3 hours. This makes about one-half gallon of ice cream.

Serves 16

As I write this in mid February, winter is raging full blown. It is down into the 30s, 20s and occasionally into the teens here in Middle Georgia. I am a second year wanna-beekeeper and have learned a lot. Much without a choice.

Last year I had a 100% hive loss when what seemed like overnight I went from healthy hives with stores and bees to empty hives. No dead bees, no predators, no reason that I could come up with for 100% healthy-turn dead hives.

I'm faring better this year with three of my five hives surviving, thriving and doing well. I did experience a repeat of last year and lost two hives. It is frustrating, aggravating, and I took it personally, for a long time.

During the cold last winter I would wrap the hives in blankets, seal the entrance and worry nightly about the bees getting too cold. The smartest beekeeper I've met, my mentor, Jesse McCurdy, kept telling me (and still does) "*you do not have a problem with your bees, your bees have a problem with you!*"

Having listened to my elders about beekeeping, and having put into practice what they taught, I have learned the most important lesson in my two year wanna-beekeeper experience; are you ready, this is important, so read and reread this slowly, let it soak in.

### **"Let nature take its course."**

There, I've said it. Remember fellow newbies and wanna-beekeepers, we do not control the bees and the hives. Remember, they are insects. Bugs. They are programmed to do things that we cannot understand. We give them encouragement and nurture them to our abilities, but when the sun sets, they are still bugs doing what bugs do.

Having let go of the fears and over-protectiveness, I am enjoying beekeeping much more. I don't stress when it gets bitterly cold, I just go to the window, look at the hives and say "Girls, it's gonna be cold tonight, bundle up, I'll see you in the morning. Goodnight."

**Rick Moore**  
Heart of Georgia



### **SUGAR FOR SYRUP**

Clubs should do combined orders. Diamond Crystal Brands would like to make large shipments just to facilitate their operation. The sugar comes in 4'x4'x4' bags on pallets, handled with a forklift. They like to load the "totes" between 1000-2000# each. I have gotten some below 1000# but that is not normal. Multiple totes are good. I usually pick up 6-8000# for the beekeepers in 3 clubs. Then all the beekeepers know when to come and pick up from me in their smaller containers. A day of shoveling sugar!

Best to use email but contact 1-2 weeks before desired pick up

Karl Cain

[KRCain@dcbrands.com](mailto:KRCain@dcbrands.com)

912 651 4845

3000 Tremont Rd

Savannah GA

Directions: This place place is in Savannah GA. south of the junction of I16 and I516 Exit 4. You can't miss it, it is the only commercial factory within sight. You have to go around back to the Truck Entrance and check in at the guard gate.

The price has been 16 cents a pound, but that can change due to the market.

Glen Henderson

706 745 1840



Missing: Your photo  
contribution to the GBA news

### Final Buzz

We really had a great time working on this month's edition. This was because of all the help we had from all of you sending in contributions.

We have identified a real need for us to have a **designated GBA Photographer**. We need this person to concentrate on getting photos at GBA meetings and club meetings of both people and bees for use in *Spillin' the Honey* and on our GBA website.

If you'd like to be our photographer, please get in touch with: [gbanewsletters@gmail.com](mailto:gbanewsletters@gmail.com)



### Submission Guidelines

Your hardworking 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 along with your PHOTOS (we really need these) as attachments to emails. Include who took the photo, where and when.

Send all of this to [gbanewsletters@gmail.com](mailto:gbanewsletters@gmail.com)

This is your newsletter! We thank you for all your contributions!

# Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

April 2015



This beautiful photo of bees in canola was taken by Rick Moore. We are so lucky to announce that Rick Moore has volunteered to be the official GBA Newsletter photographer at GBA events. Thanks so much, Rick. As always, we love all of our members' photography (as this issue shows) and hope you all keep sending it.

## *President's Message*

### **Let's Communicate!**

We all know that bees communicate 100% by smelling something, somebody or another bee, plus, they do the "waggle dance." But we humans have developed a significant verbal language and a wonderful written form of communication. We do a little dance as well sometime, as we try to communicate with the opposite sex, you know, after a few drinks! But I digress. I mean, **let's communicate** within the Georgia Beekeepers Association. We are doing a wonderful job with our local web sites, meetings and public classes. And the GBA webmaster, *Newsletter* editors, Facebook page and our meetings spill a lot of honey, but I believe that we can do much better.

*(continued on next page)*

Let's start with the *Newsletter*. Linda Tillman and Gina Gallucci have done a tremendous job for the last few years in getting this tabloid off the ground and into your hands. They dig and dig for various articles, topics and facts to keep it interesting, and ask every month for your input with not much success. The column "Ask Aunt Bee" is very clever as a question and answer piece, and it sure would be nice to see more people sending in inquiries there as well. Our membership's knowledge and experience stretches from "I wanna bee" to 73 years of experience. We have a large number of newbees and a big pile of Master beeks. Most of us have questions to which so many of us know the answers.

So take a moment to send in your questions, articles and facts to share with each other. By doing so, you are participating in your organization and also learning. We are never too old to learn! We want to know about your experiences in the apiary, fields and forests. Don't worry if you are afraid that you are not a very good writer: Linda will make the ~~appropriate~~ appropriate corrections (see, there she goes!)

Our web site is a fantastic display of what we do, but could use some work. At least five times a week someone calls me with a problem with "bees" in the yard. I usually direct them to the web site and on to the tab for local clubs. Then I tell them to click on the yellow dot closest to them. All is well until they call me back and tell me that the website to the local club is out of date or incomplete for the information they need. So Presidents, please take time to ensure that your website is brought up to date with contact info, when and where you meet, etc. (If not, you may be losing out on some "free bees." It's swarm time!)

As a member of GBA, you have the opportunity for FREE advertising on the GBA web site – bee related, of course. Just contact Bill Owens, our webmaster and communicate your changes (contact info, services, etc) with him. This information appears for free for our members on the Products and Services page.

I want to believe that our state meetings are getting better with the new speakers we are attracting. The attendance is growing, and I hope it continues to do so. Each of you has the opportunity to hobnob with each other at those events and a great chance to meet others who have your same interests in mind. We welcome your comments (**communication**) about how we are doing and speakers you may want or a direction you think we should go.

Your club Presidents were all provided with a list of Master Beekeepers in Georgia as well as other great speakers who are willing to come and speak at your monthly meetings. This is another helpful form of communication. I have had a number of clubs call me way in advance to schedule me to speak to them and that is fantastic. Club Presidents should schedule these speakers far out to ensure their availability. It really makes a difference to your membership to have a specific program for your meeting instead of just asking if anyone has any problems with their bees. Your retention rate will rise with good programs.

*(continued on page 3)*

The bottom line is that we can learn from each other. We all have something to contribute, we just have to get off our shy wagon and do it. Those of you who watch *The Big Bang Theory* on TV know that one of the characters needs to have a drink of some kind of booze just to speak to women; well lift your glasses and let's have a toast to **communicating!**

### ***Bear Kelley,***

President, Georgia Beekeeping Assn.

Florida  
bee

Photo by  
Gina  
Gallucci



### **Errata or please forgive our mistakes:**

In our March newsletter, we apologize for the following errors:

**June Stanley** submitted the absolutely delectable ice cream recipe found on page 10 in the March issue. We failed to give her credit and thank her in the Newsletter. We love getting recipes that we don't have to find ourselves on the Internet, so our faces are red - we'll do better the next time.

**Regina Robuck's** name was misspelled in the President's message on page 2. Also on page 2, ABF is the American Beekeeping Federation.

On page 6, **Bob Binnie's** name was misspelled.

**Your ad in Spilling  
the Honey here only  
\$25**

### **Procedures for Advertising in our GBA "Spilling the Honey" Newsletter**

Beginning in May, GBA will be selling advertising space in our *Spilling the Honey Newsletter*.

### **Money from ad sales will help fund our meetings.**

There is not a limit to the amount of ad space, but the editors of the newsletter retain the right to place the ad where it fits best in that month's publication. There are 3 sizes that sell for \$25; \$50; \$100. Your ad will run for one month for the stated price. Multiple months may be purchased if desired.

To place an ad [click here to fill out the GBA Wufoo form](#) which includes instructions for how to send your ready-to-use artwork/content.

***Bear Kelley,*** GBA President

For club speaker ideas, GBA maintains a speaker list. If you would like to speak to clubs, [click here](#) to be added to the list. As a speaker, plan to know what your honorarium request will be if you are asked to speak. If you have invited speakers for your club, [click here to read an article](#) first published in Bee Culture about how to treat your speakers well.

<b>Club Name</b>	<b>Speaker/Topic</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>City</b>
Altamaha	<b>Al Alford &amp; Reggie Parks:</b> Park Rangers in Reidsville, GA: Upcoming honeybees at park	Mon 4/6 6PM	Chatters Restaurant	Lyons, GA
Amicalola	<b>Andy Marcus:</b> Intro to top bar hives	Tues 4/21 6:30 pm	Dawson County Extension Office	
Chattahoochee Valley	Round Table Discussion: Swarms and What we should be Doing Now	Mon 4/13 6 PM	Chattahoochee Valley Main Library	Columbus, GA
Chattooga	<b>Mary Lou Blohm:</b> The Development of the AZ Hive	Tues 4/14 7 PM	32 Middle School Rd.	Summerville, GA
Coweta	<b>Linda Tillman:</b> Simple Beekeeping - Ways to Make your Beekeeping Life Easier	Mon 4/13 7 PM	255 Pine Rd	Newnan, GA
Gwinnett	<b>Mr. Silviu Gavriluc:</b> Natural Beekeeping (he is the beekeeper at the Gwinnett Environ. and Heritage Center	Tues 4/14 7 PM	Hebron Baptist Church	Dacula, GA
Lake Hartwell	<b>Tom Aiken, Facilitator:</b> Coffee House Meeting, Q&A Discussion	Thurs 4/2 7 PM	First Baptist Church	Lavonia, GA
MABA	<b>Cindy Hodges and Jay Parsons:</b> Small Hive Beetles and Varroa Mites	Wed 4/8 7 PM	Atlanta Botanical Garden	Atlanta, GA
NE Ga Mountain Beekeepers	General discussion on Spring	Thurs 4/9 7PM	Ruby Fulbright Aquatic Center	Clarkesville, GA
Ogeechee Beekeepers	<b>Virginia Webb:</b> Children's activities and promoting Apimondia	Thurs 4/23 5:30	Fordham's Farmhouse Restaurant	Statesboro, GA
Tara	<b>Margo Wimbish:</b> Children's Education	Mon 4/20 7PM	752 Main St	Forest Park, GA
Tri County	<b>Bobby Chaisson:</b> Beekeeper Bookkeeping	Mon 4/13 7 PM	2595 Highway 323	Gillsville, GA
West Ga. Beeks	<b>Debbie King, RN:</b> Venomous Bites and Stings	Mon 4/27	American Legion	Bankhead Hwy, Douglasville, GA

## Club News and Notes:

### Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers' Wounded Warrior Project

by Paul Berry

About eight months ago, a retired military member of the Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers Association made a suggestion that we consider doing something with one of our many wounded heroes at near-by Fort Benning. That suggestion started a firestorm of discussion on what we should do and how best to do it. Out of that discussion came what we now call our version of a "Wounded Warrior Project."

We solicited donations, first from our members, then from a vendor or two. We set up a collection jar at each meeting to collect cash to buy what we couldn't get donated. Our members donated tools and protective clothing, all before we had even solicited a hero who might have interest. As the time approached for us to begin our six week long beekeeping course, we submitted an article to the Bayonette Newspaper, asking for a volunteer. Almost immediately, we had a young, enthusiastic wounded Lt. Col. call. He was emphatic that if an enlisted hero or lower ranking hero should apply, he would step aside. That didn't happen, which was fine with us, because Lt. Col. Gannaway has the excitement and enthusiasm we hoped to find.

Since that time, a millwork company donated some wooden ware, frames and foundation and Fred and Ann Rossman donated a complete beginners beehive.

Lt. Col. Gannaway has been attending our Saturday afternoon classes and is enjoying putting some of his equipment together, anticipating the arrival of his bees, as are all the other participants in our course. He will keep his hive in our public apiary at Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center since he is still on active duty and lives on Post. At Oxbow, he can care for his hive and participate in the caring for the other hives as well. Thanks to our hero, our experience has been wonderful and we hope to offer it every year.

### Heart of Georgia Beekeeping 101 Report

by Rick Moore

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers offered their annual **Beekeeping 101** class and field exercise on Saturday, March 21, 2015. The class was held at the Camp John Hope located near Fort Valley, Georgia. In attendance were over 100 soon to be beekeepers and persons interested in beekeeping.

The morning session was started by GBA President and local Club member Bear Kelley who spoke on bees, followed by Broadus Williams about equipment, Ricky Moore on activities in and out of the hive, and Marybeth Kelley on Safety.

Following lunch the interested persons moved to the nearby beeyard where Ed Deemings, Tim Smith, and Jesse McCurdy opened hives to explain what was happening inside. Participants were encouraged to look and feel the frames and bees. Club members were available to answer the many probing questions. *(continued on page 6)*

*Club News and Notes continued:*

A special treat was watching Jesse McCurdy gather a swarm from a nearby bush and place it in a ready hive.



Many in attendance have placed orders for nucs which should arrive by the middle of April. This perfectly timed event was a great source of information and training for all.

**Bees Celebrated in Agriculture**

National Ag Week was celebrated in the Chattooga County Schools with live bees! The Farm Bureau sponsored the program for the Chattooga Beekeepers Association to take an observation hive into four of the county schools.

The 4th and 5th grade students at the Trion, Menlo, Lyerly and LeRoy Massey schools were given the opportunity to touch a smoker, hive tool, bee brush, and try on a real bee jacket with the hood to see what it felt like to be a beekeeper.



The Chattooga Beekeepers feel that educating our youth is important because they are the providers for our tomorrow. These students learned that honeybees are an important part of agriculture thanks to Alan Hix, Max Cordle, Randy Rolen and Sophia Price.

*Club News and Notes continued:*

### **Altamaha Beekeepers Association**

ABA announces its planned partnership with the Gordonia Alatomaha State Park to support the establishment and maintenance of honeybee colonies to support public awareness of the honeybee and community activities within the park. Mr. Al Alford, Park Manager, and his assistant Reggie Ricks, invited ABA members to the park Friday, March 13, where the planning took place. Park rangers were invited to membership in the Altamaha Beekeepers Association to train and learn beekeeping skills.

The Altamaha Beekeepers Association meets at 6:00 pm on the first Monday of each month at Chatters Restaurant in Lyons, Georgia. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, April 6, 2015. The public is welcome. For more information, contact Holly Nielsen, President, Altamaha Beekeepers Association.

### **Northeast Georgia Mountain Beekeepers Association**

Saturday, March 7th

The NE GA Mtn. Beekeepers held a Short Course on Saturday, March 7th at Elachee Nature Center in Gainesville, GA. The club had a stunning turn out with 106 in attendance for the day long program. The day was filled with well known speakers and topics: Dr. Paul Arnold - Honey Bee Biology, Mr. Nicholas Weaver - Pest & Disease Mgmt, and Mr. Bill Owens -- Queens, and Honey Mgmt.

#### **State Parks that now have bee hives on their property**

Georgia Veterans State Park  
The Parks at Chehaw  
President Carter's Farm  
Reed Bingham State Park  
Fort Yargo State Park  
Panola Mountain State Park  
Stone Mountain Park  
Gordonia Altamaha State Park



On March 14th the participants attended a half day in the bee yard.

The main objective was to introduce the participants to the interaction with bees. They were taught how to identify workers, drones, brood, pollen, etc. along with basic hive manipulation.

The 2015 Short Course was the largest held by the NE GA Mtn. Beekeepers and is the main source that builds up the yearly membership. For information on joining the NE GA

Mtn. Beekeepers call Slade Jarrett - 706-677-2854, email [jarrett@jarrettbees.com](mailto:jarrett@jarrettbees.com), or visit the website at [negabeekeeping.com](http://negabeekeeping.com).





Brooks Bentley, Age 5  
Landry Bentley, Age 7  
Let's hope these budding beekeepers, children of GBA member Kevin Bentley, keep their enthusiasm for beekeeping.

***Dear Aunt Bee,***

Over the winter some of my honey started to granulate. I warmed two jars in a pan of water, never over 115 degrees, and it has developed a froth, or foam on top. I did not stir the honey, simply let it heat slowly. The froth is thick and tasty, but what caused it?

Signed,  
***Puzzled and bewildered in the kitchen***



***Dear Bee-wildered,***

I presented your question and your photos to Keith Fielder, who in my mind is the expert on all things honey. This is what he told me:

**“When honey granulates it separates and the remaining liquid often is above 18.6% in moisture, usually significantly so. This condition will allow fermentation to begin. This fermentation creates even more moisture. The act of warming and liquefying the honey "fed the fire" as were. When honey ferments, it will bubble. When honey ferments heavily, it quite often foams!**

**Such honey is typically edible, depending on one's particular taste buds, but I would recommend discarding it.”**

Bee-wildered, I'm wondering if you used a refractometer? Honey must be below 18% moisture to be honey by definition and is less likely to ferment if it is 17% or less and not likely to ferment if under 18.6% moisture. But above that level of moisture, then you can expect fermentation which would be more evident after crystallizing.

I bought my refractometer on EBay and have found it invaluable.

***Your Aunt Bee***

Thanks to Rick Moore for this question and thanks to Keith Fielder for his answer



***Your Spilling the Honey newsletter ad here only \$50***

***Your Spilling the Honey newsletter ad here only \$50***

The ad space above is illustrative of what you can buy in our newsletter

## ***Beekeepers Unite!***

**As most of you know, residential beekeeping was outlawed in Gwinnett County in February, 2014. Only residents in RA-200 properties are allowed to keep bees. We need to get this changed.**

The Gwinnett County Commissioners are having a town hall meeting on **Thursday, March 26, 2015** at the **Dacula Park Activity Building, 2735 Old Auburn Avenue, Dacula, GA**. Thanks to Jane Lu's information, we now know that there are going to be two more town hall meetings after this one. They all start with a meet-and-greet at **6:15** and officially begin at **7:00pm**. The meetings are as follows:

March 26	Dacula Park Activity Building, 2735 Old Auburn Avenue, Dacula
April 23	Pinckneyville Park Community, 4650 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Recreation Center Berkeley Lake
May 12	Hudgens Center for the Arts, 6400 Sugarloaf Parkway, Duluth

Even if you don't live in Gwinnett, we would love to have beekeepers present at all three of these meetings, so please check the dates and locations, and choose accordingly. Wearing a bee shirt of some kind would be helpful. Let's show this county that beekeepers need to be heard and that we're not going away.

~~~~~

### ***I'm the loneliest beekeeper in Gwinnett County***

***Janet Poe***

I didn't used to be lonely. When I started beekeeping three years ago, I had lots of beekeeping friends. I joined a local organization, "The Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County," where I met many beekeepers who made me feel welcome. They encouraged me to learn everything I could about beekeeping. They helped me decide on the right equipment to purchase. Every month, I learned more and more about beekeeping. The Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County gave me confidence. I was becoming an official beekeeper. I bought a pink bee suit! Then I bought my beekeeping equipment. I had my priorities right.

I got my bees. I enjoyed every aspect of beekeeping—even the occasional love-peck from my girls. I extracted honey from one of my beehives last year! I made some candles from my own beeswax! I protected my bees during last year's Snowmageddon in Atlanta. I wasn't stuck on I-285. I was at home tending to my beehives.

I joined the **Georgia Beekeepers Association** when they had their fall meeting at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center. I made lots of new friends and learned even more. Beekeepers are everywhere in Georgia! Next I joined the American Beekeeping Federation! I was a "national" beekeeper. Even though I couldn't attend their meeting in California this year, I regularly visited their website and learned everything I could from their more experienced beekeepers.

Can you tell? I LOVED beekeeping!

Now all that's changed. **In 2014, Gwinnett County made it illegal for 90% of beekeepers in the county to keep bees.** In one vote, I lost almost all of my beekeeping friends. At last count, there are only four members left in the club because no one else is zoned RA-200. I'm the Club Secretary. The other three members wanted to be President. Two of them are probably going to leave because they didn't get voted into office.

*(continued on page 10)*

We're having a honey show next month. I'm pretty sure I'll win a ribbon, but even that's not very fun because no one else will be there to clap for me. If I stand, does that mean I got a standing ovation? Guest speakers won't come to speak to our club any more because last month, no one showed up. I was out of town.

Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners, won't you PLEASE reverse your decision and allow beekeeping in residential areas?

Otherwise, I will forever be the loneliest beekeeper in Gwinnett County.



**So this article doesn't become a true story, please support the Beekeepers of Gwinnett in their efforts to change the county laws.**

Need bees?  
Supplier list  
for the state of  
Georgia -  
submitted by  
Bear Kelley

[Click here to see supplier list.](#)

### Street Cred

Protecting Georgia's Pollinators: This is a draft of a proposition to protect Georgia's Pollinators. It is very long so you can [find it here](#), on a page on the Spilling the Honey blog.

[Oxalic acid has been approved](#) for use in beehives (thanks to all of you who sent us this article)

Beekeeper Sam Alston sent the following links for information about flowers that attract bees:

<http://www.beesource.com/resources/usda/nectar-and-pollen-plants/>

<http://www.bee-outside.com/beegardenseedsnew.aspx>

<https://www.greatsunflower.org/homepage>

Rick Moore sent us this: There is a really neat website by Bayer with lots of good beekeeping information. It's called **Feed A Bee**. If you register they will send you a packet of 200 seeds to attract honey bees. Supply is limited, register for free today. Their stated goal is to give away 50 million flowers for bees in 2015. Go here <http://feedabee.com/>

Would you like to serve on the National Honey Board? They are seeking to fill seven positions beginning January 2016. If you are interested, [here's where](#) you can find more information.

***Your Spilling the Honey ad here will cost  
\$100***



## The bee mobile: Customizing your car for beekeeping on the go

by Jennifer Leavey

Life can get tricky for urban beekeepers, especially those who have hives all over town and no truck to haul equipment around. I got my first-ever new car about three years ago and it didn't take long for it to get singed and smoky and sticky with propolis and wax. So how can you keep your ride nice and keep your beekeeping gear handy at the same time?

The trick to keeping your car clean is protection and organization. First, you need to have some kind of carpet cover for your trunk or storage area. This can be a nice, dealer provided mat, or something simpler like cardboard (which you could also tear up and use as smoker fuel in a pinch). Linda Tillman spreads a sheet in the back of her car to protect the carpet and then can use it for catching swarms. You also need to keep your tools and equipment organized so they don't fall under the seat or shift around while driving. An inexpensive plastic toolbox works well for hive tools, smoker fuel, pens, lighters and other miscellaneous stuff. I also recently discovered that the big blue shopping bags they make you buy at IKEA fit two medium hive bodies perfectly. As a bonus, having them in the bag makes them easy to haul over your shoulder as well, leaving your hands free for other gear.

But what about efficiency when you are on the go? When you are driving all over town to tend your hives, you can't spend a lot of time at each stop. One way you can save time is by keeping your nice dry smoker fuel in your smoker and just temporarily put it out between stops by corking the top or smothering the fire with a piece of paper between the smoker body and lid. To prevent singeing your carpet or smoking up the car (awkward if you get pulled over), put the smoker in a metal ash can with a lid. Getting the smoker relit in a hurry is important, too. Jerry Wallace keeps a blowtorch in his car for just that reason. Seems like overkill to me but I'll bet it does the job! Jerry also carries an IR gun in his car for finding swarms in walls.

Finally, sometimes the car itself can wind up being an important piece of gear. Cindy Hodges shared a story with me about how she went on a swarm call one day but didn't have a box to put the bees in. She opened the door to her van that smelled like honey, bees and wax and eventually the bees flew right in and settled in the back seat! She drove them home and hived them up. No word on whether they wore a seatbelt.

Do you have tips for beekeeping on the go? Email them to [Jennifer.leavey@biology.gatech.edu](mailto:Jennifer.leavey@biology.gatech.edu) and we will put them together for next month!

### Honey Love Craft Beer

Pour a bottle of Bluemoon beer into chilled glass

stir in 1 tsp each of mandarin juice, lemon juice, and honey.

Garnish with a wedge of orange & serve immediately



from the Cafe M Rouge in Atlanta

## Bee Hives in my kitchen

by Christine Farhnbauer

Sooooo..... At Lake Blackshear I ran into a friend who was working his bees down there in Tifton, and he was telling me how it was a balmy 86 degrees and how well his bees were doing (loving that warm climate). I casually mentioned that I had a couple weak hives and maybe he could bring me some of those happy bees if he had any extra?

Well..... true to his word, I received a call the next week on Monday evening (it was 28 degrees outside and winter storm watch beginning the next day) telling me he had brought me two 4# queenless packages, not realizing Atlanta weather, oops!



Well, looking at the weekly forecast I knew I was in for a challenge! It was going to be SEVERAL days before we would even touch 55 and I'm no expert, but I do know enough not to break a cluster. And how exactly do I protect (cage) the queen of the weak hive as I bolster her workforce??. While I pondered this dilemma, the packages in my kitchen were working themselves into a frenzy, needing space, food and water!

After sleeping on it, I decided to get 2 brood boxes with a some frames of honey and allow those packaged bees room to spread out, eat (the sugar syrup can was already empty) and explore their new digs, right there on the counter! You can see the snow outside, but the bees didn't know it, and boy were they anxious to get out of that crowded package!

They moved up quickly from the opened packages into the deep brood boxes (through feeder lid with a hole cut out to fit a wide mouth jar, perfectly sized for the package with the syrup can opening ). I believe they were far better off than staying in the package, and after 5 days, I was able to carry the hives outside, where I stacked them underneath the weak hives.

Because I was adding probably 10 times the amount of bees to the existing weak hive, I was worried that newspaper would not be sufficient and they might overwhelm their new queen too quickly. I had been told that if you ever add more bees than are already in the existing hive, you MUST cage the queen to protect her. It was definitely too cold to cage her majesty, so I just used an old window screen to separate the newcomer hive body from the weak hive body. (I heard that the bees would spread the queens pheromones by touch through a screen). They probably clustered separately during the cold nights.

I removed the screen after 7 days and am happy to report that both hives are strong and the queens are laying wonderfully! Whew!!! And boy was my family happy to see those bees go out where they belong. 😊

## ***Nobody warned me!***

by Kathleen Bourne

Nobody warned me about the probability of a severe addiction. Although I live in Atlanta during the week (because of that pesky job thing) I have some land in Hart County. Over the years I've built it up with a cabin, a house and a large garden. It has been great fun working on building projects, growing food and having poultry. I thought that would be enough. Then "the girls" came.

Last spring I thought I'd give the beekeeping thing a try. It'll be easy. You just get a box,



buy some bees and take some honey. What's the problem?

Well the problem is no one told me I would become a honey bee junkie.

The next thing I know, I'm in a parking lot at midnight with a bunch of shady looking characters to pick up the goods from the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association. A couple of guys from the club drove to south Georgia for the order and all they said as they pulled up was "they're not happy." So with a borrowed veil (my gear hadn't arrived yet), I took the little darlings home and then the trouble began.

I started with 2 nucs and 2 purchased Langstroths. The next thing I knew, I caught a swarm; I did some splits; and I started building equipment. Now the greenhouse is being converted to a honey house, the garden is only getting plants "that the girls like," and my favorites folder is filled with strange names like Mann Lake and Dadant.

They really should put a warning label on the nucs that they're a gateway drug.

As I start my second year, not only have I ordered 4 more nucs, I've ventured into different kinds of hives. First I tried the Tanzanian top bar. I built it out of material I had and made it so it could fit Langstroth mediums if need be. It came out of the winter in great shape.

Then I started looking around for other hives to get my fix. I found a downed tree that is hollow all the way through and thought the bees might like it. I hauled it to a sunny spot, cleaned it out and put some starter bars in it. The top portion I cut into "supers" and stacked it like a conventional hive. Nobody has moved in yet but I've had some *lookie loos* come by. Now any scrap material laying around has the potential to become a honey bee home. I just spent the last few weekends building 2 Warre hives. Now the swarm traps are going up.

Will the madness never end?



**Bee stinging a hive tool. Photo by Janet Poe, Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett**



Monte McDonald's friend captured this swarm in Turner County on March 2. Thanks for sharing this.

We hope all of you have a great swarm season. Most bee clubs maintain swarm lists. If you want to catch a swarm, put your name on your club's list.

### **Submission Guidelines**

Please help us by keeping your articles to 500 words or less and send them along with your PHOTOS (we really need these) as attachments to emails. Include who took the photo, where and when.

Send all of this to [gbanewsletters@gmail.com](mailto:gbanewsletters@gmail.com)

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

We have a great big newsletter this month thanks to all those who participated by sending us stories, photos and helpful links. Please keep them coming.

Thanks,  
Gina and Linda



### **HELP WANTED at Spilling the Honey**

Gina and Linda are entering their fourth and last year as GBA Newsletter Editors. New editors are needed to continue gathering items and compiling them to be published here. Work from home.....in your spare time. On the job training provided. Helps to know a publishing program.

Interested? Contact us at [gbanewsletters@gmail.com](mailto:gbanewsletters@gmail.com)

# Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

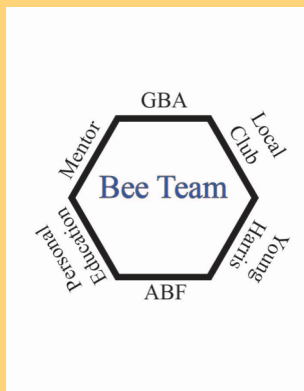
Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

May 2015



**Julia Mahood took this photo and wrote:** *I caught a swarm on Sunday--my favorite way to spend a beautiful spring afternoon. The bees were so kind and calm. They were patient as we drove to their new home and patient as they were poured into their new digs. I slid the cover over most of the top, but left an inch or two open so that the still-flying girls could find their way in. I was so relieved to see this line of workers on the edge, tipping their abdomens up high and fanning their wings to distribute the scent from their nasanov glands, telling their sisters "Head this way, our Queen is in here!"*

## Let's all join the Bee Team!



Illustrated to the left is a hexagon just as our wonderful Honey Bees would construct. They figured out that the six sides are necessary to create a strong voluminous cell to protect their young and store their very valuable food supplies. My illustration shows that we beekeepers need to be concerned about all six sides as well. Many beekeepers start with **local club** involvement, finding a **mentor**, and gaining **personal education** about bees. Just those three facets of learning can help one become somewhat successful as a beekeeper who endeavors to keep and manage honey bees.

But to create a stronger "knowledge" cell, you need both to continue on to education toward certification levels as well as involvement in state and national organizations. The UGA **Young Harris** program



provides classes to allow you to move through levels of certification. In the past, when our grandfathers kept bees, life was so much simpler. Farming chemicals did not exist as they do now; hive beetles and varroa mites weren't any problem at all; and we were not worried about Africanized bees and all the other stuff that is on our plates today. So going to Young Harris and listening to Jennifer Berry, et al. discuss the current treatment methods and biology of the bees we love so much is what may save you from losing everything you have invested. Whether you keep bees naturally or use treatment chemicals occasionally, at Young Harris you can learn both sides of success. The Young Harris program has also had many naturalists, like Master Beekeepers Linda Tillman and Keith Fielder, speaking on the environment necessary for bees and honey production.

Being involved with the **Georgia Beekeepers Association** and the **American Beekeeping Federation** are important as well. At the state level, we have almost 3,000 beekeepers and through the state organization, you have a chance to meet others who know what problems you are experiencing and who may have already found a solution. Our state gatherings in the spring and fall bring in nationally known speakers, make available various equipment vendors, and give you a chance to compete in the state honey competition. The American Beekeeping Federation provides much of the same, but multiplies it by 50! They bring speakers from all over the world of beekeeping and their equipment shows are the best in the business. Each of the state and national organizations keeps us apprised of the progress of the Africanized bee movement, the spreading of diseases and status of chemical use that harms bees in our environment. You certainly leave those meetings feeling a bit overwhelmed with new information about the bee world.

In summary, the six sided cell is necessary to give you strength and provide you with a voluminous education. So, I want to encourage you to expand your education and knowledge by getting involved in all aspects of the Bee Team!

***Bear Kelley,***  
***President, Georgia Beekeepers Association***



Jennifer Leavey's students captured a swarm. She writes: Here is a swarm we captured from the trunk of a cherry laurel (?) right outside the Starbucks in the Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons at Georgia Tech. The process drew a lot of attention!

For club speaker ideas, GBA maintains a speaker list. If you would like to speak to clubs, [click here](#) to be added to the list. As a speaker, plan to know what your honorarium request will be if you are asked to speak. If you have invited speakers for your club, [click here to read an article](#) first published in *Bee Culture* about how to treat your speakers well.

| Club Name                 | Speaker/Topic                                                                    | When               | Where                                | City               |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Altamaha                  | <b>Lesli Garrett, UGA Extension - Tattnall County:</b> Junior Beekeepers program | Mon<br>5/4 6PM     | Chatters<br>Restaurant               | Lyons, GA          |
| Chattahoochee Valley      | <b>Jim Quick:</b> What to do in coming weeks to take care of your bees           | Mon<br>5/11 6 PM   | Oxbow Learning<br>3535 S. Lumpkin Rd | Columbus, GA       |
| Chattooga                 | <b>TBA</b>                                                                       | Tues<br>5/12 7 PM  | 32 Middle<br>School Rd.              | Summerville, GA    |
| Coweta                    | <b>Steve Page:</b><br>Making Splits and Raising<br>Emergency Queens              | Mon<br>5/11 7 PM   | 255 Pine Rd                          | Newnan, GA         |
| Lake Hartwell             | <b>Caleb Kidd:</b> Splits                                                        | Thurs<br>5/7 7 PM  | First Baptist<br>Church              | Lavonia, GA        |
| Lake Country Beekeepers   | <b>Steve Page:</b> Sustainable<br>Beekeeping in the South                        | Mon<br>5/18 7 PM   | Hancock<br>Extension Office          | Sparta, GA         |
| MABA                      | <b>Tom Webster:</b> Honey bee gut and<br>Nosema                                  | Wed<br>5/13 7 PM   | Atlanta<br>Botanical<br>Garden       | Atlanta, GA        |
| NE Ga Mountain Beekeepers | <b>Bob Binnie:</b> Speaker's choice!                                             | Thurs<br>5/14 7PM  | Habersham Co.<br>Extension Office    | Clarkeville, GA    |
| Ogeechee Beekeepers       | <b>Virginia Webb:</b> Children's<br>activities and promoting<br>Apimondia        | Thurs<br>5/28 5:30 | Fordham's<br>Farmhouse<br>Restaurant | Statesboro, GA     |
| Oglethorpe                | <b>Virginia Webb:</b> Preparing Honey<br>for Competition                         | Mon<br>5/18 7PM    | 925 Athens Rd<br>(Highway 78)        | Crawford, GA       |
| Tara                      | <b>Mary Cahill-Roberts:</b> Hive<br>Inspections                                  | Mon<br>5/18 7PM    | 752 Main St                          | Forest Park,<br>GA |
| Tri County                | <b>Keith Fielder:</b> Nectar Bearing<br>Trees, Shrubs & Plants                   | Mon<br>5/11 7PM    | 2595 Highway<br>323                  | Gillsville, GA     |

We request club meeting information from all Georgia clubs each month. If you don't see your club here, we did not get a response to our request. Consider volunteering to be the person who sends in program information for your club.

## Club News and Notes

### Lake Country Beekeepers

At the March and April meetings, the Lake Country Beekeepers Association in Sparta, Georgia hosted two popular Georgia beekeepers: Mr. Slade Jarrett of Jarrett Bees, and Mrs. Virginia Webb of Mtn Honey. Mr Jarrett presented a program on Spring Buildup and Management. In early spring, the bees consume a lot of honey as they build up the number of worker bees. This is the time of year when bees will starve and it is very common to find dead bees. It is important to feed sugar water (1:1 ratio) and to keep feeders filled until the nectar flow starts. He discussed checking the hives for brood, pollen and potential swarming. It's a good practice to split hives but make sure the hive is good and strong. Bees are stronger and more effective in number. To be a successful beekeeper "think and plan ahead on bee time."

Members who attended the April meeting were treated to a two for one talk as Mrs. Webb shared her enthusiasm for both Apimondia, the International Federation of Beekeepers' Association and Talking to Kids about Honey Bees. The Apimondia Congress is a world wide beekeeping group that gathers once every other year. Last time Apimondia met in the USA was 1967. The USA is making an Olympics type bid against Canada and possibly Brazil for the location for August 2019 with a proposed meeting site in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The

conference is five full days, like our state meeting on steroids, with 600 programs, hands-on opportunities with 5000 hives, scientific presentations, lectures, the World Honey Show, the Honey Queen and 300-400 trade companies in attendance. Check out Apimondia on Facebook.

Virginia Webb is a third generation beekeeper and an ambassador for the beekeeping world. She and her husband, Carl, operate Mtn Honey in Habersham GA. She has visited countless schools and similar organizations to share her knowledge of the bee world. Her teaching philosophy is all about hands-on and involving the audience. She advises not giving honey samples or honey straws in classroom settings due to potential mess honey can create on floors and on the bus. Virginia enjoys sharing the life and important of bees in our world, and encourages every beekeeper to speak to local groups, especially young audiences.

The Lake Country Beekeepers Association is a 60 member club. Beekeepers and folks interested in learning how to keep bees gather monthly to learn and share ideas. The club meets the 3rd Monday of each month at the Hancock County Extension. Visit us on Facebook or contact Bruce Morgan of Morgan Apiaries at 478.357.4029 for further information. Come join us on May 18th at 7:00 p.m. when our guest speaker will be Steve Page of Coweta Honey.



Lake Country Beekeepers Association Members - The Courson Family: Raymond & Maryleen and their sons, Raymond III and Brent



**The Chattooga Beekeepers**

participated in the Ag Day sponsored by the Chattooga Young Farmers. The event hosted approximately 300 students attending from each of the schools in the county.



The beekeepers for this day were Randy and Carolyn Rolan and Sophia Price.



**Sweet Afternoon:**

Got a call from a local farmer, he began to explain he heard what he thought was a plane coming over. As it turns out, it was their first experience with a swarm. The bees landed near their house in a small peach tree.

They told us that the swarm was about 6 ft. off the ground but by the time we got there the small branch was hanging so low from the weight of the bees they were touching the ground.

We proceeded to lift the limb enough to get a sheet under them, sat our brood box up close and with a little encouragement they slowly checked out their potential new home. A beautiful swarm, we saw the queen when she went in and man, the march of the bees really kicked into high gear to get in there with her.



Sweet Afternoon!  
Randall & Shairon Kerlin  
**Lake Hartwell Beekeepers**



**Heart of Georgia Beekeepers** receiving a trailer load of nucs on an early April night.



**Metro Atlanta Beekeepers** hive inspection at Blue Heron Nature Preserve. We added a super and checked brood patterns and Queens cells.



Nice 4 hour old swarm, very docile. They were thrilled to cover drawn honeycomb. Weird they were on the ground. by Sam Alston



This swarm was captured near Hawkinsville, GA in early April, 2015. It was large enough to fill a ten frame hive. By using a bee vac, the entire swarm was gently moved from the tree into a brood box in six minutes.



Contributed by Christine Farnhbauer:

Q. What does a bee use to brush her hair??

A. A honeycomb

Q. Where does a honeybee use the restroom?

A. At the BP station

## A Few Good Uses for the Queen Excluder

by Linda Tillman

In a tree there is no queen excluder. In the wild, queen is free to wander in the comb and lay where she'd like. The queen excluder was developed for the convenience of the beekeeper. During honey harvest, the queen excluder ensures the beekeeper that he/she could remove the honey supers without taking the queen. For the commercial beekeeper, this creates an efficient honey harvest.

With less hives than a commercial outfit, you can employ an unlimited broodnest for the better functioning of the hives. When you remove frames for harvest, shake or brush the bees off.

The beginner kits I bought when I started beekeeping each came with a queen excluder so I own two queen excluders. Although I don't use the queen excluder in my hive, I have found several good uses for it in beekeeping.



### 1. Swarm includer

When hiving a swarm, putting a queen "includer" under the bottom box of the hive, just above the hive entrance, will keep a swarm from leaving because the queen can't go with them. Remove the "includer" after a night or two (in case the queen in your swarm is a virgin queen and needs to get out to mate). This suggestion came from Julia Mahood while I was panicking about possibly losing a swarm.

Queen excluder as swarm includer

### 2. Prove that a hive contains two laying queens

Once I thought I had [two queens laying in my hive](#) at the same time. Eggs and brood were in the bottom box, the second box was solid capped honey, and the third box held another box of eggs and brood.

I posted about it on Beemaster Forum. The forum members suggested that I put a queen excluder between the two boxes and leave them for a week. At the end of that time, if there were new eggs in both the top box and the lower box, then I had two laying queens. I did, and there were indeed two laying queens in the hive.

### 3. Ensure that you don't take the queen by accident when making a split.

Take the frames you want for the split out of the hive and shake or brush every single bee off of them. Including a couple of frames of brood and eggs provides resources for a new queen.

Put the queen excluder on top of the brood box.

Above the queen excluder, put an empty hive box. Fill it with the five bee-free frames you have pulled. Don't put any other frames in that box. On top of that box put the inner cover, the top cover, and leave the hive for the night.

The next day, the brood frames should be covered with nurse bees who have come up to keep the brood and eggs warm. You can move these five frames into their own box with no fear that you have accidentally taken the queen. Simple nuc, simply made.

#### 4. The perfect drain rack for cut comb honey

The spaces between the queen excluder wires are small and close together to keep the queen from pushing her enlarged abdomen through. If you put cut comb honey sections on a cake cooling rack with wires far apart, indentations are made in the honeycomb. If you want your cut comb honey to be show quality, it should not have wire marks in it. Your queen excluder will solve this potential problem!



The applicable physical principle is **Pressure = Force/Area**. The force is the weight of the honeycomb. More wires in the queen excluder increases the area. Thus the pressure is less with the queen excluder and does not mark the comb.

So these are four ways to use the queen excluder. How do you repurpose this device?

### *Street Cred:*

[You Tube video of Honey Beekeeper song](#)

[Science Daily article about bees being hooked on pesticide nectar](#)

[There are Queen Cells in my Hive](#)

American Beekeeping Federation: [Click here for the ABF newsletter](#)



Near **Unadilla, GA** are hundreds of beeyards filled with many overwintered hives and nucs. Here the hives are being inspected, nucs are being created and getting ready to ship.

### ***Dianna Tribble's Honey Lavender No-Bake Cheesecake***

This award winning cheesecake requires no baking!

1/4 cup boiling water  
 5 tablespoons dried lavender flowers, divided  
 8 Shortbread Cookies (see recipe), finely crumbled  
 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted  
 2 tablespoons granulated sugar  
 1 pound cream cheese, room temperature  
 3/4 cup honey  
 1 1/4 cups heavy cream  
 Mint, for garnish



In a small bowl, pour boiling water over 3 tablespoons lavender flowers. Cover and steep 15 minutes. Strain water and discard lavender. Set water aside.

Crush and finely chop remaining 2 tablespoons lavender flowers. In a

medium bowl, combine 1 tablespoon chopped lavender, cookie crumbs and butter. Press mixture into bottom of a greased 9-inch springform pan. Cover and refrigerate at least 30 minutes.

Combine remaining tablespoon chopped lavender with granulated sugar. If you like, use food coloring to tint the sugar purple. Cover and set aside.

When ready to fill the pie, in the bowl of a stand mixer or using a hand mixer, beat cream cheese and honey until smooth.

Whip cream until it forms stiff peaks. Fold whipped cream into cream cheese filling. Spoon over prepared crust, cover and refrigerate overnight.

When ready to serve, run a knife around the edge of the springform pan to loosen. Remove sides from pan and put pie on a serving plate. Sprinkle with reserved lavender sugar and garnish with mint, if desired. Serves: 12

— Adapted from a recipe in “Tribble Farms Cookbook” by Dianna Tribble

### **Gardening for you and your Bees** by Gina Gallucci

You will enjoy watching your bees work by having their favorites plants nearby. Bees love native wildflowers, flowering herbs, berries and many flowering fruits and vegetables. Here in Georgia, a few you should consider include varieties of mint, basil, sage, thyme, borage, oregano, lavender, chives, buckwheat, strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, cucumbers, tomato, squash, pumpkins, melons, crocus, [snowdrops](#), jonquils, tulips, sunflowers, asters, dandelions, clovers, lilacs, wisteria, cosmos, black-eyed susans, gaillardia, goldenrod, bachelor's buttons, anise hyssop, bee balm, sedum, peony and honeysuckle. If you have the space, planting any type of fruit tree is perfect and trees such as maple, willow, black locust and sumac are also good food sources for bees.

For a guide to SouthEast plantings for pollinators, [click here](#).



**Dear Aunt Bee,**

Is it okay to add food coloring to the sugar water on my top feeder so I can more easily see when it needs to be refilled? And how long should I feed a nuc that I just made from an established hive?

Thanks,

***Inquisitive but learning***

**Dear Inquisitive,**

Adding food coloring to sugar water being fed to bees is a great idea. First, as you noted, you can more easily see when it needs to be refilled. More importantly, if you color the sugar water and that syrup ends up in your honey, the food color will show up as well so use colors like blue or green or purple so that if your honey is tinted blue, green or purple, you will know there is sugar syrup in it.

Feeding your bees during nectar collection pretty much guarantees that your honey will contain sugar syrup. You should mark the boxes that are on the hive when/if you are feeding so that you will not take honey from those boxes. That still does not guarantee that sugar syrup will not be in your honey because the bees move stuff around in the hive all the time.

If you made a proper nuc from an established hive, you should have given the nuc a couple of frames of brood and eggs, a frame of pollen and a frame of honey. That honey should be enough to give them a start and that nuc should not need feeding here in the early spring. So I would encourage you to stop feeding now, if you haven't already. My bees have been bringing in some nectar since the middle of March - maybe even earlier where you are, if you are in a warmer part of the state.

Bees that do need feeding in early spring are package installations. Those bees didn't know to engorge on honey because they didn't know they were being shaken into a package. Even those bees only need to be fed a week or two because with the nectar flow, they won't need the syrup. I got two packages this year and only fed them 1 pint of syrup each because they started bringing in nectar and quit taking the syrup.

**Your Aunt Bee**

Yes, it's been a while since we had a survey. We would love to get more responses on our one question survey. Our most recent survey in January asked: ***Do you remove wax and propolis from your frames and hive boxes for winter storage?***

Of the twenty of you who responded, here's what we found:

**Yes, I scrape them: 13 of you**  
**Yes, I clean them with hot water: 3 of you**  
**No, I take my chances: 3 of you**  
**No, I like to feed my wax moths: 1 of you**

**Now, wasn't that a fun question? We'd love to hear from all over 300 of you to whom this newsletter gets sent....**

**This month's question is.....**

[Click here to read the question](#) and answer the one question survey.

**To find GBA's website with your phone, scan this Q code:**





Photo by Ricky Moore

## ***The Final Buzz***

Our newsletter this month is especially colorful because of all your photos! Don't be shy about sending whatever you can. We want to have representation from all around Georgia.

Please also know we are accepting your info for honeybee related ads for the our ***Spilling' the Honey*** newsletter eagerly read throughout the southeast. If you or your company would like to purchase ad space in the GBA Newsletter, [click here](#).

***Gina and Linda***  
Your editors



## **Submission Guidelines**

Please help us by keeping your articles to 500 words or less and send them along with your PHOTOS (we really need these) as attachments to emails. Include who took the photo, where and when.

Send all of this to  
[gbanewsletters@gmail.com](mailto:gbanewsletters@gmail.com)

This is your newsletter! We thank you for all your contributions!

# Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

June 2015



## **Drone Congregation Area at Young Harris!**

Taken by Janet Poe during Journeyman Prep Class. Young Harris, May 14, 2015

## *The President's Message*

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) honey production in the United States jumped up by 19% last year. These numbers are from honey producers with 5 or more colonies who actually participate in the reporting process. That equates to a total of 178 million pounds from 2.74 million colonies of bees. The average yield per colony was 65.1 pounds which is also up by 15% from 2013. Bulk honey prices rose as well in 2014 by 1% to 216.1 cents per pound.

These are really some “gee-whizz” numbers to mull about, but I know for a fact that not every beekeeper reports his/her production numbers. After reading the article with those numbers, I decided to call the office collecting the data to try to determine some accuracy. They admitted that this was the best they could do with what they had to work with. I read a report last year that America has a demand for over 500 million pounds of honey for all that we do with it. You can see on the store shelves more and more products containing honey: cereal, breads, peanut butter, etc. Booze too! It seems that a lot of whiskeys and bourbons are adding honey to their joy juice.

To fill the void, China and other countries are saturating our markets with their “Pure Honey.” And

we all know that is not good. Their cheap honey drives down our prices and keeps us from even getting on the store shelves in some cases. Fortunately a lot of businesses are seeking local honey, but they need educating on what it really is. One store commodity guy I spoke with thought that getting honey from Maine or Iowa here in Georgia, was local honey. I tried to educate him, but I don't think I got through. All of us have to help teach the public. Write articles in your local newspaper, magazines and appear on TV. Craft Fairs and Farmers Markets already attract the folks who are in the know, but we must keep it up.

For the past year or so, I have been receiving a request from the USDA inquiring about the status of bees, honey production, etc. I have been sending the inquiries down through the club presidents to send on out to the membership to respond. I don't think many of you are responding. I hope that you do as those numbers finally wind up in the total. Remember, you are not reporting to the IRS, you are simply reporting to an office that gathers data. (I can't imagine that two govt offices would actually talk to each other!) So please take the time to send in your report. If the USDA had more accurate numbers, maybe they could restrict/reduce the flow of bad honey into America. Let's join together to protect our market by participating in these surveys.

**Bear Kelley,**  
President, Georgia Beekeepers Assn.

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It is with great sadness that I must report that long-time  
beekeeper **Billy Engle** passed away on May 12, 2015.

Mr. Billy Engle was the owner of Rose Creek Honey Farm in The Rock, Georgia. He began keeping bees with his father as a small child. His father kept bees in gums and he taught Mr. Engle the basics of handling honeybees. Mr. Engle began his commercial beekeeping venture in the late 1980s as an alternative to traditional farming. Engle managed as many as 650 colonies in his beekeeping career and was a honey producer, a commercial pollinator, and a supplier of package honeybees, nucs and queens. Mr. Engle retired from commercial beekeeping in 2014, but still maintained a few colonies for his personal enjoyment up through the time of his passing.



Mr. Engle was a member of the Georgia State Beekeepers Association, Florida State Beekeepers Association, the Henry County Beekeepers, the Tara Beekeepers, the Potato Creek Beekeepers, the Heart of Georgia Bee Club and the American Honey Producers Association. Mr. Engle served in various positions of leadership in many of these organizations over his many years of beekeeping. He was one of the most sought after and highly regarded speakers on honeybees throughout Georgia and the Southeast.

Mr. Engle regularly made time at bee meetings to speak with and answer questions from fellow beekeepers. Mr. Engle's keen insight and easy-going nature made him a favorite mentoring resource for generations of new beekeepers. To have spoken with him even once was all it took to understand why he had such an excellent reputation for generosity with his time and wisdom. The list of clubs, schools, community groups, and organizations he has visited and spoken to over the years advocating for the plight of the honeybee is exhaustive. He will be sorely missed by both us beekeepers and his honeybees.

From **Brutz English**

For club speaker ideas, GBA maintains a speaker list. If you would like to speak to clubs, [click here](#) to be added to the list. As a speaker, plan to know what your honorarium request will be if you are asked to speak. If you have invited speakers for your club, [click here to read an article](#) first published in *Bee Culture* about how to treat your speakers well.

Club Name	Speaker/Topic	When	Where	City
Altamaha	<b>Wayne W, Roxanne K, Denny T, Hollie N:</b> What we Learned at 34th Annual Beekeeping Institute	6 PM	Chatters Restaurant	Lyons, GA
Chattahoochee Valley	<b>Old timers helping NewBees:</b> General discussion	Mon 6/8 6 PM	Oxbow Meadows Learning Center	Columbus, GA
Chattooga	<b>Randy Rolen:</b> Preparing Your Honey for Show	Tues 6/9 7 PM	32 Middle School Rd.	Summerville, GA
Coastal Empire	<b>Marcy Cornell:</b> Honey Judging: Entries Accepted for Review	Sat 6/13 12-4	Oatland Island Wildlife Center	Savannah, GA
Coweta	<b>Tom Rearick:</b> How Bees Think	Mon 6/8 7 PM	255 Pine Rd	Newnan, GA
Gwinnett	<b>Annual Picnic:</b> Second Year of Beekeeping: Now What?	Tues 6/9 7 PM	Rancho Alegre Farm, 2225 Givens Road	Dacula, GA
Heart of GA	<b>Bear Kelley:</b> Qualities of Honey and Preparing for Extraction	Tues 6/16 7PM	Camp John Hope Center	Marshallville, GA
Lake Country	<b>Brett Nolan:</b> Host Density and Varroa	Mon 6/15	Hancock Extension Office	Sparta, GA
MABA	<b>Keith Fielder:</b> TBA	Wed 6/10 7 PM	Atlanta Botanical Garden (ask for parking ticket)	Atlanta, GA
Ogeechee Beekeepers	<b>Virginia Webb:</b> Teaching Kids about Bees/Apimondia	Thurs 6/25 5:30	Fordham's Farmhouse Restaurant	Statesboro, GA
Oglethorpe Bee Club	<b>Joe Conti:</b> Splitting Hives and Update on our Club Hives	Mon 6/15 7 PM	925 Athens Rd	Crawford, GA
Tara	<b>Jim Quick:</b> What you need to know to get ready for Winter	Mon 6/15 7PM	752 Main St	Forest Park, GA
Tri County	<b>Bee Yard Field Trip:</b> Anything and everything in the beeyard	Sat 6/6 10-1	2355 Ethridge Rd	Jefferson, GA
Troup County	<b>Keith Fielder:</b> Summer Splits	Mon 6/15 7 PM	Ag Building	LaGrange, GA

## ***Club News and Notes***

### ***Chattooga Beekeepers:***

**Certified Beekeeper Level Test - (Pre Registration required by June 9th, 2015, Call Randy Rolen 423-304-2714 to register). No registration day of testing. Requirements: Must have beekeeping experience. Individuals should be familiar with the basic skills and knowledge necessary for the beginning hobby beekeeper.**

- Must pass a written and practical test.
- The practical test includes being able to:
  - describe the parts of a beehive;
  - light and properly use a smoker;
  - recognize the various stages of brood, different castes of bees, and find or at least describe the queen;
  - differentiate between brood, pollen, capped honey;
  - recognize propolis and describe its functions; and
  - describe the layout of a brood nest, i.e., placement of honey, pollen and brood.
- The written test includes materials covered during Institute lectures and labs at Young Harris Beekeeping Institute, as well as outside readings.

Official text for the program is the 2007 edition of ***First Lessons in Beekeeping***, Dadant & Sons.  
Test Schedule:

Location - Chattooga County Agricultural Building, 32 Middle School Road, Summerville, GA 30747  
(Just off Highway 100)

Saturday, June 13th

Hours - Check-in 8:30am to 9:00am

Practical Test\* 9:00am to 12:00am

Written Test 12:00pm to 1:00pm

*\* - The Practical portion of the Certified Beekeeper Exam has two parts - each takes approximately 15 minutes: [1] an outdoor exam where you will demonstrate your skills lighting (and keeping lit) a smoker and working a beehive, and [2] an indoor exam where you will identify certain beekeeping tools & equipment*

***Coweta Beekeepers*** held a workshop on Sunday, May 17 with 48 members attending. The workshop was taught by Steve Page with sustainable beekeeping the subject of the day. Topics included hive inspections, making a split with a queen, notching to raise queens and making splits with queen cells. The method taught is simple and first year beekeepers can master queen rearing quite easily.

The attached photo is a frame with three queen cells three days after notching.



**Forsyth Beekeepers Club** is offering our annual queen rearing class on May 30th and any interested parties should contact Bill Dunn at [770-630-2743](tel:770-630-2743). We are also in the middle of our annual 2 day bee school. We have had our day in the classroom and on June 6th will have our day in the field with practical exercise in the hives. If you have missed this year then plan to join us next year.

**Beekeepers of Gilmer County Club** will be sponsoring a short course on "AZ Hive Management" in Ellijay, Ga., from 1pm until 6pm on June 21st, 2015.

Janko Bozic, Professor of Entomology at the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia and 30 year beekeeper will be our keynote speaker. The professor has been managing Langstroth and AZ hives for over 30 years and is also an expert on the Carniolan Bee.

There will be a \$25.00 fee for the course, which will include: lunch, visits to 2 AZ hive locations in the area, AZ hive management manual and lectures. Fee will be waived for those that have purchased an AZ

Brian Drebbor has made a short ["you tube" video](#) explaining the basics of the hive. For further inquiries please contact: Mary Lou Blohm at: [azhives@gmail.com](mailto:azhives@gmail.com) or [beekeepersofgilmercounty@gmail.com](mailto:beekeepersofgilmercounty@gmail.com) Phone: 706 636-1514.

### **Henry County Beekeepers Association**

Virginia Webb spoke at the March meeting of the Henry County Beekeepers Association in support Minneapolis Minnesota's bid to bring Apimondia to the USA in 2019. Apimondia has not visited the USA since 1967! Minneapolis' 2019 bid is the USA's best shot to get the world-wide beekeepers meeting back on American soil for the first time in more than 50 years! This literally is a once in a life time opportunity! However, as with any undertaking of such magnitude, the issue of funding has become crucial. The committee organizing the Apimondia 2019 bid is in desperate need of financial support from the local beekeeping communities around the

country. After hearing Virginia's presentation, the Henry County Beekeepers voted and chose to step up in support of Minneapolis' 2019 bid to the tune of \$400.00! We at the Henry County Beekeepers Association would like to challenge our fellow clubs in Georgia to step forward with us and support the 2019 Apimondia bid! Let's bring Apimondia back to the USA!

### **MABA Jr. Beekeepers**

June 7, 2015 Alpharetta

The children (ages 6-13\*) are welcome to participate in a live beehive inspection, which includes "suing up" with veil, bee suit, gloves, etc., a creative activity, watching a slideshow presentation about honey bees, helping with honey extraction, honey tasting, show and tell, etc. [www.metroatlantabeekeepers.org/](http://www.metroatlantabeekeepers.org/)

**TriCounty** is having a field day in the hives.

They have two Saturdays with which to work. The first date is Saturday June 6th. If it rains on the 6th, we will try to go INSTEAD on June 13.

Our time to gather for this field trip will be 10:00 am. Everyone is welcome to stay as long as you want to; until everyone has asked all of their questions, gotten their hands sticky, smoked a whole pile of pine straw and groomed every bee.

We can visit, learn, laugh, inspect hives, and maybe have another really good time; whatever you guys and gals want to do. Maybe even learn what NOT to do.

There is plenty of room for you to bring your own pic-a-nic basket, or there is a Subway and a Shane's Rib Shack just down the road in Jefferson.

**PLEASE** bring your veil, hive tool, smoker, gloves, and anything else you would use to work in your bee yard. Lawn chairs, or a picnic blanket might be wise, too.

The farm address is 2355 Ethridge Rd, Jefferson.

**Remember if it rains, we will meet on Saturday, June 13th.**

**2015 Young Harris –  
UGA Beekeeping Institute Honey Show**

**Extracted Light Amber Honey**

1st - Melissa Bondurant

Very Highly Commendable - Cory Momany

Highly Commendable – JM Sikes

**Extracted Amber Honey**

1st – Rodney Garner

2nd Roger Kicklighter

**Cut Comb**

Commendable – JM Sikes

**Black Jar**

1st - Sean Massey

**Mead**

1st – Rodney Garner

**Original Bee Related Photography**

1st - Dan Long

2nd – Kim Bailey

3rd – Jim Moudry

**Beekeeping Gadgets**

1st – Michael Steinkampf

**Best of Show**

Rodney Garner – Mead

**Michael Young Award – Most total Points**

Rodney Garner – 1st Mead, 1st Ext. Amber Honey, BOS

**Awarded Welsh Honey Judge Certification:**

Rodney Garner and Randy Rolen.



Helmut Albrecht up in a tree to catch a swarm! What IS he standing on???



*“Give a beekeeper a queen and you sustain him for a year; teach a beekeeper to raise queens and you sustain him for a lifetime.”*

Steven Page 2015

By now all you beekeepers that bought nucs this Spring should have ventured into your hives (I HOPE you have moved your bees from the nuc into a hive) and hopefully found your new marked queen. Gail Albrecht from Heart of GA found hers! Photo: Rick Moore





If you attended the Spring Meeting, you may recall hearing that Smith State Prison in Glennville has a program teaching inmates to keep bees. For those who were not aware, here's a quick recap: Back in August my local club (Ogeechee Area Beekeepers) was asked to assist in developing a diploma or certification for the men who completed the program. Shortly thereafter Bear Kelley and Jennifer Berry got involved. The decision was made to allow these men to take the UGA certified beekeeper exam at Smith SP when they were ready.

On May 1st, Jennifer Berry and the Bee Lab team went to Glennville and administered the written and the practical exam to 11 inmate beekeepers, myself, and two members of the prison staff. Jennifer's team brought everything needed to proctor the exam; we used the prison hives in the hands-on portion of the exam. I'm pleased to say all 11 inmates, myself, and a prison staff member passed with flying colors and are now Certified Beekeepers.

Though the inmates did most of the work and training themselves, I am glad to have had a small part in it. When we think of working with inmates, our minds normally think of how unsafe it could be. My experience at Smith SP was very good. I never felt unsafe at any time. All the men seemed genuinely glad to see us and were very respectful and mannerly. The prison officials had a graduation celebration for the men after the test results were announced. You really could see a sense of pride and accomplishment on the faces of the graduates.

It is our hope that these newly certified beekeepers, upon release, will be able to enter back into society successfully and lead productive lives. A few of the men, whose sentences were almost up, told me that they planned to get out and start their own apiary.

So on behalf of the inmates, I want to say a big "Thank You" to Bear, Jennifer, and the Bee Lab team. Also, I want to thank Brushy Mountain for the equipment donation. The men are putting it to good use.

Rhett Kelley  
Whipmaker (and Certified Beekeeper)

## *A Big Swarm at a Big Site* by Gina Gallucci

Early on a hot clear Monday in May, I took a swarm call from Philip Agnetti, Sr. Safety Manager at the new Atlanta Falcons Stadium construction project. The temperature was rising fast and I live fairly close by, but honestly, I was excited to see this jobsite. My real job is construction recruiting, so although I talk with construction people all day long, I don't get to see projects in person.

Philip Agnetti met me outside this colossal project site, a joint venture with Holder Hunt Russell Moody. Philip was there to make sure all went well. He drove a extra-large golf cart type vehicle to get around the site. He helped me load my equipment in the truck bed of the cart and drove me into the site.

I had to sign in after which he issued me a VISITOR safety vest and hard hat in neon green! I put on my gear and we drove all the way around the site to the bees' location. The project is not yet paved and full of all kinds of trucks, equipment, and staff coming and going. Many people are working on this enormous project.

Lots of people watched us pass. I imagine Philip doesn't usually open his week with someone wearing shorts and sneakers. I should have thought about my boots and long pants but I was worried about the swarm taking off as the day warmed up.



The project itself is a beehive of activity, all toward a unified goal. Philip showed me where different parts of the stadium would be and answered my questions as he drove.

Finally he stopped. I was a bit surprised when he led me up a several flights of scaffolding stairs, where I could see through each step and could imagine falling through.

I said, "I forgot to mention I am afraid of heights," and Philip said, "Oh, are you?" Being a safety guy, he just kept on walking up the steps. We reached the top of what was be the main entry concourse, and he walked ahead, kicking bits of debris out of my path. The site was very clean and organized looking, with small piles of trash swept into piles. A few more steps and he said, "There they are." I looked where he pointed and there they were

alright, a large swarm, four feet off the ground, hanging from pieces of rebar which were piled into a wooden box.

I changed the vest and hard hat for my bee suit, veil and gloves. I set my pink sheet below the swarm, put the box on top of the sheet, and brushed them in. Over the next few minutes, I brushed the bees, moving the rebar a little to get most of them.

From several feet away across a portion of the floor which hadn't yet been poured, lots of construction workers were watching, taking pictures and waving hello. Mr. Gary Kimble, Superintendent with HHRM Self Perform, LLC., came close to tell me about growing up with bees and how his Granddad used cigar smoke on his bees. Gary knew exactly what I was doing when I waited for the bees to follow the Queen.

It didn't take long; I left some bees behind since we all had to get back to work. I changed back into my safety gear to travel. Philip and Gary helped pack up my gear, tape the box shut and then carried all my equipment back to the cart! They are true gentlemen, and friends of the bees.

The Atlanta Stadium Bees are now in Dunwoody and will help with beekeeping education for the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association. I am grateful for the opportunity to pick up the bees and to see this job site.

### ***Swarms - Got One and Didn't Get One***

by Rick Moore

It's swarm season here in Middle Georgia.

I was fortunate recently to receive the call about a swarm in an underground water-meter box, as you see in the first picture. It was the easiest capture you could imagine. I lifted the lid, and with a knife cut loose the comb, and scooped out the bees. After placing it in a nuc, I allowed the other bees to walk right in! Total time was less than an hour. Thank you!



But not all calls are that easy, as the second picture shows. I spoke with a man who told me he had a three year old hive in a tree that he did not want; hive or tree. I went and found a hole in the tree as he said, about three feet off the ground, but the opening was too small for me to reach into. With a flashlight I could see the opening went down several feet and curved. The owner says now he is considering taking the tree down and will call me to come back if he does. I may get those bees yet!

Dear ***Aunt Bee***,

*I've learned there are three kinds of queen cells; swarm, supercedure and emergency.*

*The swarm queen cell hangs from the bottom of the frame, and the supercedure cell is built in the middle of the frame. Am I correct, the queen lays an egg when needed in each type of cell in anticipation of the need of the hive?*

*Now that brings me to the second question. Once*

*the emergency queen cell is built in the middle of the frame, do the bees move an egg into that cell and then begin to create their new queen, or do they build the emergency queen cell around a cell that already contains an egg?*

*Thanks for clarifying this confusing point.*

### ***Still learning in Middle Georgia***

Dear ***Still Learning***,

Hopefully we all are (still learning, that is). In each kind of queen cell, the queen is “encouraged” to lay an egg so that her replacement can be raised. According to Malcolm Sanford in [Storey's Guide to Keeping Honey Bees](#):

*Queen supercedure occurs when the queen is failing in some way. The bees construct a specialized queen cup on the face of the comb and the queen is encouraged to lay an egg in it. After the new queen emerges and mates, the old one is eliminated. Queen supercedure creates a break in the brood cycle, thus lowering potential population growth. (p. 143)*



photo  
by Rick  
Moore

In another source, the [Complete Idiot's Guide to Beekeeping](#) says that the bees know within minutes if their queen is disabled or missing. In that event, the workers make a queen from a larvae less than three days old. If they can confine the disabled queen to one section of the hive, they will make the emergency queen in another section where her presence is less evident.

The process above is also what the bees do when the beekeeper provides a queenless hive with a frame of eggs and young brood to support their making a new queen. While the supercedure queen cell is generally in the center of the frame and swarm queen cells are usually on the bottom of the frame, an emergency queen cell will be located wherever the bees can find a good larvae under three days old.

There's always more to learn!

Your ***Aunt Bee***



(Thanks to Rick Moore for submitting this question )

## ***Street Cred***

Thanks to Melissa Bondurant (and others) for sharing this with us: [National Geographic has a video](#) of bee metamorphosis from egg to adult. It's very interesting and even shows a varroa feeding on a pupa.

Thanks to Christine Farhnbauer [for sharing this](#) piece about bee decision making.

Thanks to Gina Gallucci [for sharing this](#) about a monk who keeps bees.

And our own Bear Kelley was interviewed [for this](#) article about the deaths of bees.

And Linda Tillman was interviewed about honey and allergies for [this piece on WABE](#).

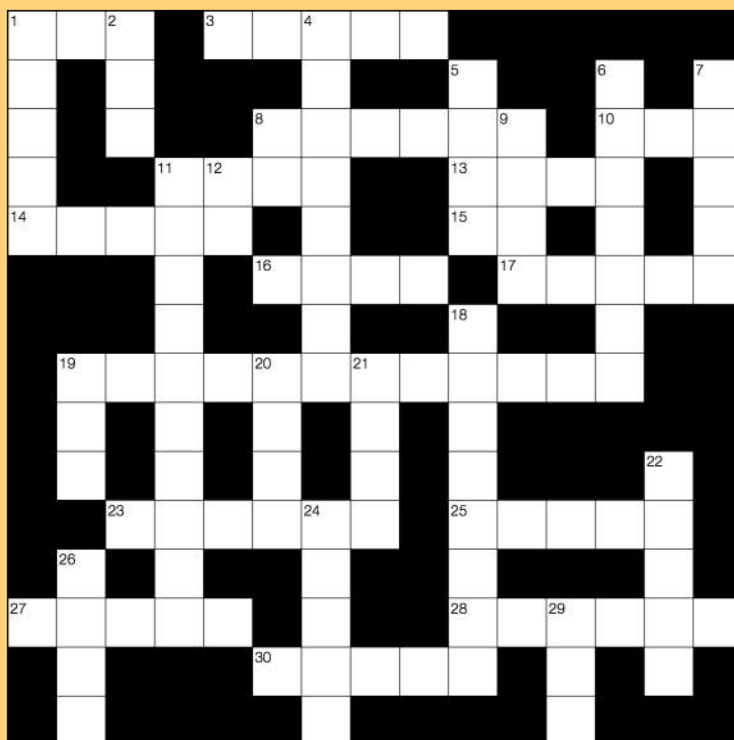


When Gail Albrecht (Heart of GA Beekeepers) opened one of her hives, she was surprised to find stuck to the underside of the inner cover, a whole row of drone brood neatly lined up across the tops of a frame. A quick texted picture to Heart of GA President Tim Smith confirmed they were indeed drone brood and not bad guys.

### *Earth Day at Warner Robins*

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers were invited to participate in Earth Day at the Warner Robins Nature Center in Warner Robins, Georgia on Saturday, May 2nd. The Center, having just installed an observation hive, asked our club for volunteers to explain the observation hive and speak to the patrons about beekeeping in general. Ed Deming, Broadus Williams and Rick Moore provided amusing anecdotes, information and instructed and entertained all who came to the greenhouse to see the observation hive. Ed even let the youngsters sample his honey!





## Swarming

### Across

- 1 A swarm in July isn't worth this
- 3 The glue that holds the swarm together. The bees gather where she lands
- 8 The shape of the cell holding growing replacements
- 10 Swarms are free bees which means you don't have to \_\_\_ a package
- 11 Sonny's honey, once
- 13 To get the queen in shape for swarming, the workers stop feeding her and make sure she does this inside the hive to slim down
- 14 This citrus smell is the essence of swarm lure
- 15 A country way to say you ATE some honey
- 16 The queen has to do this to get skinny enough to fly
- 17 Cindy Bee teaches us to cut the top off of an empty plastic milk carton to make one of these to help collect the swarm
- 19 To convince the bees that there is plenty of room in the hive, this method of frame manipulation is used
- 23 If the hive casts a secondary swarm, the queen in that swarm is likely to be a \_\_\_\_\_

- 25 These are soft and often yellow and help the swarm collector get the bees into the box
- 27 75% of bees in a swarm fall into this age category
- 28 You'll need this piece of equipment if the swarm is higher up than six feet
- 30 Some flowers have ultraviolet markings on this part of the flower to attract the bees attention

### Down

- 1 If the queen in your swarm is unmarked, you may have captured a \_\_\_\_\_ swarm with a better chance of surviving the varroa mite
- 2 A beekeeper called and asked if he/she wants to go collect a swarm usually says this
- 4 If she gets lots of this before swarming, the queen may be in good enough shape to take the swarm farther away from the original hive before landing
- 5 A one inch square of beeswax melted with 1/4 cup olive oil and 12 or so drops of lemongrass oil can be smeared in a swarm trap to serve this attractive purpose

- 6 In swarming half the bees leave the hive along with the original queen. The other half of the hive stays behind with developing queen cells. If all the bees leave the hive empty, the process is called to \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Sometimes it helps to spray a hive with this before shaking them into a box
- 8 What the queen must feel like she's signed up for when the bees are making her workout before the swarm
- 9 Edible honey was found in this kings tomb
- 11 Most people think this issue in the hive is why bees swarm
- 12 Short for honey as a term of endearment (without the o)
- 18 Sometimes we ask callers, " is your swarm the size of a baseball, a basketball, a - \_\_\_\_\_ \\
- 19 Old time Beekeepers often recommend doing this to queen cells to discourage swarming
- 20 If a drone were in charge of the hive instead of the queen, he would be \_\_\_\_\_
- 21 If this weather event happens, the virgin queen will be short-bred
- 22 A light colored one on the ground under the swarm helps the collector see the bees and maybe the queen
- 24 If you put the swarm in a Langstroth box, this cover goes under the telescoping cover
- 26 An old bee-smelling piece of this in the swarm trap or collection box can help draw the bees
- 29 What the scout bees do on the outside of the swarm (with all vowels missing)

Here is a crossword puzzle about swarming by Linda Tillman. If you want to do it online, [here's the link](#). If you want us to email you the answers, then send an email request to [gbanewsletters@gmail.com](mailto:gbanewsletters@gmail.com)

## To Fight Bee Decline, Obama Proposes More Land to Feed Bees

A/P May 19, 2015 WASHINGTON — The Obama administration hopes to save the bees by feeding them better. A new federal plan aims to reverse America's declining honeybee and monarch butterfly populations by making millions of acres of federal land more bee-friendly, spending millions of dollars more on research and considering the use of fewer pesticides.

While putting different type of landscapes along highways, federal housing projects and elsewhere may not sound like much in terms of action, several bee scientists told The Associated Press that this a huge move. They say it may help pollinators that are starving because so much of the American landscape has been converted to lawns and corn that don't provide foraging areas for bees.

"Here, we can do a lot for bees, and other pollinators," University of Maryland entomology professor Dennis van Engelsdorp, who led the federal bee study that found last year's large loss. "This I think is something to get excited and hopeful about. There is really only one hope for bees and it's to make sure they spend a good part of the year in safe healthy environments. The apparent scarcity of these areas is what's worrying. This could change that."

The report talks of a fine line between the need for pesticides to help agriculture and the harm they can do to bees and other pollinators. Lessening "the effects of pesticides on bees is a priority for the federal government, as both bee pollination and insect control are essential to the success of agriculture," the report said. The administration proposes spending \$82.5 million on honeybee research in the upcoming budget year, up \$34 million from now.

To read the entire article: [http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/19/science/ap-us-sci-bee-plan.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/19/science/ap-us-sci-bee-plan.html?_r=0)

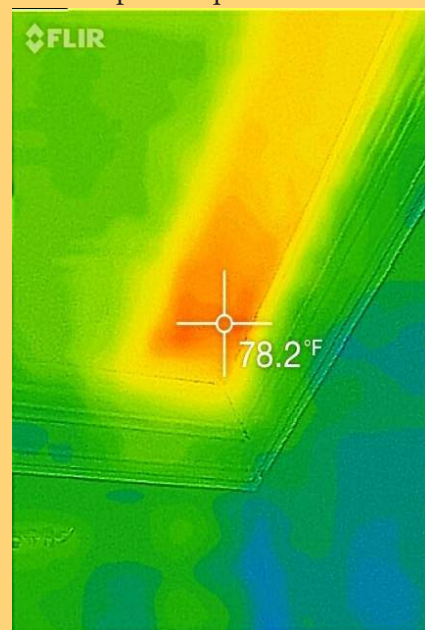


I got a call this last weekend about bee activity on the front of someone's house. After seeing where they were going into the house, I went inside to determine if they were in the floor joist or in the wall. Used my Flir Infra-red camera and saw they were in the joist between the first and second floor. I used a Bushkill Bee-Vac to remove them. I was not able to spot the queen.

I sealed up the entrance and took the bees outside, placing them near where they were entering the house. Foragers were returning and massing on the outside of the house.

Left the hive there until dark, by then all the foragers had made their way to their new hive. Closed everything up and took them to their new home. I will put a frame of eggs and larva from one of my other hives in this weekend, just in case I injured or killed the queen during the process, so they can raise a new one.

**photos and article by Roy Blackwell**



## Presidential Task Force report and the Sunflower Project

Dear All,

The White House wants to save the bees. The Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators produced by the Pollinator Health Task Force is an important guide to what the country needs to discover to support our pollinators and you can help it succeed. The Great Sunflower Project data that you are gathering will play an important role in answering these questions. The task force identified “investigating large-scale (transnational and nationwide) and small-scale (landscape-level) relations between plant and pollinator distributions will help determine where specific plant species are appropriate, and elucidate which species are “broad-spectrum” (appropriate in many locations and contexts and for many pollinators) and “specialist” (appropriate to support one or a few obligate pollinators)” as a critical research need. This is exactly what we are doing with our Pollinator Friendly Plants Program. This year, we are focusing our converting our Great Pollinator Count Day to coincide with Pollinator Week and calling it the Great Pollinator Count week. This year, we need you to do a pollinator count on as many different kinds of plants as possible. Five minutes per plant is all that you need to do. Identify the plant to the best of your ability, the more specific the better. This information will help us determine where different plant species are appropriate and which pollinators they support.

So, mark your calendars **to count June 15 - 21, 2015 for Great Pollinator Count Week!** We will be sending our top ten contributors a pack of bumble bee cards as a thank you!

Next week, I am going to send another newsletter with updates on Colony Collapse Disorder, neonicotinoid pesticides and honey bees from a conference I just attended. It is important stuff!

Bee Well,  
Gretchen  
The Queen Bee

***Note: Gretchen was one of our speakers at the GBA Spring meeting. My sunflowers aren't blooming yet, but if yours are, sign up and be counted!***

*Some wisdom from Dr. Tom Webster, expert on nosema and professor at KY State U, who has recently spoken in several meetings in Georgia*

*“Bees who die from nosema die because they can't take nutrition into their bodies.”*

*“If my bees had nosema, I would do nothing.”*

*“Heat kills nosema and other microbes. Cold holds microbes in suspension until the temperature rises.”*

*“Bees prefer water which reflects light. They also prefer salt water over chlorinated water.”*

As wax comb ages, it becomes darker and more brittle. It also can harbor contaminants such as pesticides, fungal and bacterial diseases along with heavy metals which is why we need to replace brood combs every 3-5 years

....Jennifer Berry



*Below is the winning Essay from the 2015 4-H Essay contest. The winner was once again **Madeline Hillebrand** from Coweta County (she won last year). She will now compete at the national level sponsored by the American Bee Federation.*

*The 2nd place winner was **Christopher Wimbish** from Sharpsburg, Ga.*

*We have written the checks and sent them a letter of congratulations from the GBA President.*

## **Naive Natives? Not so Much**

By Madeline Hillebrand

Many beekeepers, upon first getting honey bees are interested in the outcome; honey and pollination. However, as good stewards of the land and responsible animal owners, they modify the habitat their honey bees live in to make it safer, more efficient, and environmentally friendly. Food, water, and shelter are the three main requirements for life, honey bees are no different.

The honey bee's need for food is met through two primary means, pollen and nectar, these serve to maintain healthy honey bees and produce the products of the hive. Planting native plants that bloom in late winter and early spring; tulip poplar, black locust, dandelion, and purple deadnettle (not native to Georgia but common on roadsides, introduced from Europe<sup>3</sup>), and late summer and fall; goldenrod, milkweed, aster, and sunflowers, extends the nectar flow as long as possible and thus increases the health and productivity of the hive<sup>1</sup>. With all the talk of what to plant, it is worthwhile talk about what not to plant. When honey is made out of certain plants, abdominal pains, nausea, headaches and vomiting can occur after ingestion. This is known to as poisonous honey<sup>2</sup>. Rhododendrons, azaleas, and monk's hood contain a glucoside of andromedotoxin and their nectar results in poisonous honey<sup>2</sup>. If in doubt as to where the nectar has come from, heat-treat the honey to 116.6 degrees Fahrenheit to destroy the toxins<sup>2</sup>. However, strangely, plants that are known to be poisonous to man; hemlock, oleander, and foxglove are perfectly safe for honey making<sup>2</sup>.

Water is the second requirement of a healthy habitat. It must be provided in a clean and safe manner, relatively close to the hive. Water is an important resource for honey bees, a strong hive on a hot day can use over a quart of water a day; this occupies 800 workers making up to 50 trips to the water hole<sup>4</sup>. Bird baths, large planter bottoms, and buckets with corks floating on the entire water surface are examples of man-made water sources. However, springs, creeks and ponds can be used for water by the honey bee<sup>1</sup>. Water can also be provided in artificial ponds complete with their own ecosystem; floating plants provide safe footing for the honey bees to land on to drink, submerged plants supply oxygen to the underwater life, goldfish eat mosquitos and fertilize the plants, while the aquatic snails eat algae<sup>4</sup>. Not only do artificial ponds offer a safe source of water they also offer the blooms of plant life such as Lotus, Water Lilies, and Irises.

Shelter is the third requirement for a successful habitat for honey bees however, it is no less important than the others. Fortunately, in the United States, the Langstroth or a very similar hive is used universally<sup>5</sup>. However, certain adaptations can be made based on geographical location. In the Southeast, more specifically, Georgia, Screened bottom boards can be switched for the regular solid

ones to increase air flow, and the top covers can be propped with a small rock or stick up to increase air flow as well.

The Georgia Department of Transportation partnered with The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. and endorsed the Wildflower Program when it began in 1974<sup>7</sup>. The Wildflower Program, funded by purchases of wildflower specialty auto tags, annually plants fields of colorful wildflowers along state highways. Since the start of auto tag sales in 1999, proceeds have funded 1,885 acres of wildflower plantings across the state<sup>8</sup>. The wildflowers planted including; Black-Eyed Susan, Cornflower, Corn Poppy, Cosmos, Phlox, Coreopsis, Indian Blanket, Sunflower, and Showy Primrose<sup>7</sup> are chosen for drought-resistance and durability in Georgia's weather<sup>8</sup>.

In the course of studying honey bee habitat, I began to wonder what the local beekeepers in my area had done to modify and enhance their honey bees' habitat. I comprised a survey to illustrate this comprising of nine questions with a total of 10 beekeepers surveyed. In keeping with the theme of my essay; supplying food, water, and shelter to the honey bees' habitat in a safe and efficient way, I will cover the results in that order.

Food, for honey bees, as we said before, comes from plants in the form of nectar and pollen. However, not just any plant due to the fact that variations in variety and growing conditions can have effect on the amount of food produced, the key when discussing "bee friendly" plants is; the quantity of nectar or pollen, and the time(s) it is available. The beekeepers I surveyed all keep honey bees in the Piedmont area of Georgia. Eight out of 10 beekeepers planted plants native to Georgia and the southeast, and found Clover, Buckwheat, Sourwood, Lavender, Blueberry bushes, Sunflower, Crocus, and various wild flowers to produce nectar in different seasons through the year but, accredited Black Gum, Hollies, Tulip Poplar, and Clover to be especially beneficial to honey production<sup>6</sup>. To provide nectar in the summer dearth, six beekeepers planted Clover, with beekeeper David Robertson taking it a step farther as illustrated in this quote:

"I think the clover is the most universally productive that we can plant. By mowing the clover every 10 days you can keep fresh blooms with nectar for the bees. We use a rotational mowing schedule to accomplish this."<sup>6</sup>

The Bee Bee tree, is not native to Georgia, but, is planted by three of the beekeepers to provide nectar in the summer dearth as well<sup>6</sup>.

Water, the second requirement, is provided by eight beekeepers in various ways including, water fountains, buckets, and kiddie pools, and last but not least, changing use of pesticides, installing no-spray zones, and arranging with neighbors to not spray, or establishing "spray days" are ways to enhance the honey bees habitat used by four beekeepers. Other beekeepers cut down trees in front of the hive to allow more sunlight to enter, mowed around the hive entrances, installed screened bottom boards and inner covers to improve ventilation, and made sure hives faced the morning sun<sup>6</sup> creating better hive conditions.

*(Notice: this essay included footnotes and references but due to its length being twice as long as our accepted articles, we have left them out of our NL. If you would like the references please email [gbanewsletters@gmail.com](mailto:gbanewsletters@gmail.com) and we'll provide you with the complete article WITH references and footnotes.)*

## Buttermilk-and-Honey Chicken Kabobs

A buttermilk marinade ensures tender meat and juicy flavor. The kabobs are delicious on their own, but even better with Toasted Pecan Pesto or Romesco Sauce.

- **Yield:** Makes 6 to 8 servings
- Ingredients
- 1/4 cup hot sauce
- 1/4 cup tomato paste
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1/2 small sweet onion, grated
- 6 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tablespoon cracked black pepper
- 2 1/4 teaspoons salt, divided
- 3 pounds skinned and boned chicken thighs, trimmed and cut into 2-inch chunks
- 10 (6-inch) wooden or metal skewers
- Vegetable cooking spray
- Grilled lemon halves
- Toasted Pecan Pesto or
- Romesco Sauce

## Preparation

1. Whisk together first 3 ingredients in a large bowl until smooth; whisk in buttermilk, next 3 ingredients, and 2 tsp. salt until blended.
2. Place buttermilk mixture and chicken in a large zip-top plastic freezer bag; seal and chill 3 hours.
3. Meanwhile, soak wooden skewers in water 30 minutes. (Omit if using metal skewers.)
4. Coat cold cooking grate of grill with cooking spray, and place on grill. Preheat grill to 350° to 400° (medium-high) heat. Remove chicken from marinade, discarding marinade. Thread chicken onto skewers, leaving a 1/8-inch space between pieces; sprinkle with remaining 1/4 tsp. salt.
5. Grill kabobs, covered with grill lid, 6 to 8 minutes on each side or until chicken is done. Serve with lemon halves and Toasted Pecan Pesto or Romesco Sauce.



## THE FINAL BUZZ

We hope you are all enjoying seeing what all the beekeepers and clubs are doing around great state of Georgia. We are loving seeing this sharing evolve. Please keep your info coming and remember that we need your articles and photos before we put the next issue to bed. Deadline for the July issue is Wed. the 24th at midnight.

If you know someone who is a beekeeper and isn't a GBA member, share this newsletter with them and [encourage them to join \(\\$15 individual, \\$25 family\).](#)

*Gina and  
Linda*



## Submission Guidelines

Please help us by keeping your articles to 500 words or less and send them along with your PHOTOS (we really need these) as attachments to emails. Include who took the photo, where and when.

Send all of this to  
[gbanewsletters@gmail.com](mailto:gbanewsletters@gmail.com)

This is your newsletter! We thank you for all your contributions!

# Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

July 2015



Photo by Linda Tillman, June 2015 Huge Bee Beard

## *President's Message*

Recently I wrote about the Bee Team and discussed the different facets of involvement and education of beekeeping. This month I would like to talk about the diversity of our association. As I have travelled all over Georgia meeting with clubs and getting to know more of our members, I realize that beekeepers come from every aspect of America. We have Republicans, Democrats, independents, conservatives, liberals and any other political party there is. We are every race, creed and color America has to offer and don't really care who you may fall in love with. Our members are rich, poor and somewhere in the "middle" class; but who cares?

The Georgia Beekeepers use every method of keeping bees known and some not so familiar ways. We use chemicals, go natural, top bar hives, AZ hives, Langstroth hives and tree stumps. We are in the mountains, swamps, forests, farm fields, urban and suburban. But with all this said, we have "ONE" thing in mind...the honey bee! We care about the health and mere existence of the little critter. And it doesn't matter why. Honey production, Queen rearing, pollination, selling bees, or just observing them.

America did not become her powerful self and grow from a boatload of pilgrims to over 300 million people by everyone living life the exact same way. We need to recognize that as we meet other beekeepers, and we need to be considerate of how they do it. One of the first things I heard when I started keeping bees was if you ask 10 beekeepers a question, you get 15 answers. That is because of who we are as a people. In fact, our diverse practices are what will keep the bees alive for many years to come.

If we all did it the same way, and it turned out wrong; then poof! Bees all gone. But by diversifying our practices, if one effort doesn't work, then we haven't lost everything. Jennifer Berry explains it as good as I have ever heard anyone say. She says that she loves her bees so much and will not use any chemicals as long as she doesn't have to. But before she stands there and watches them die, she will do what is necessary to save them. That's logical.

For whatever reason, we have each chosen our own way of keeping bees. And I'll stand before you and say everyone keep trying what you think is best. Maybe one day we will figure out how to do it "one way." There are about 3,000 beeks in Georgia (that we know of) from hobbyist, side-liners and commercial folk operating over 73,000 colonies. It doesn't matter if there are 73,000 individuals with one hive or one individual with 73,000 hives; we have a lot of bees in this state and should work together to keep the industry alive and thriving. The hobbyist want to help; the sideliners want to participate and there is a large market out there so that we are not really competing too much for territory. Georgia ranked number 9 in 2014 in honey and bee production and we should be proud of that. There is room to improve, but before we do, we have to embrace each other as fellow beekeepers and not criticize one practice over another. Together, we are the Bee Team!

***Bear Kelley,***  
President, Georgia Beekeepers Assn.



## ***We are officially Legal Beekeepers in Gwinnett County!***

by Janet Poe



Finally! On, Tuesday, June 23, 2015, the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners voted to approve a new and vastly improved ordinance that allows beekeeping in all zoning districts. We are thrilled to be able to brag about our bees again. No more hiding hives in our spare bedrooms or basements! No more losing our hives because they are painted with camo paint! And no more selling honey out of the back of our pickups after dark!

We are bona fide!

Last year the commission had restricted beekeeping to residents who lived in agricultural areas. Before the vote, Derrick Fowler, president of the Beekeeper's Club of Gwinnett County said, "You have the opportunity to leave here as heros to the backyard beekeeping community in Gwinnett County."

## **Beekeeping in Gwinnett as approved by Commissioners:**

In all non-agricultural residential zoning districts, beekeeping shall meet the following requirements:

1. Honey bees shall not be kept on lots containing less than ten thousand (10,000) square feet. No more than two colonies or hives, with only two swarms, shall be allowed per ten thousand (10,000) square feet.
2. Hives shall be marked or identified to notify visitors.
3. No hive shall exceed twenty (20) cubic feet in volume.
4. No hive shall be located closer than ten (10) feet from any property line.
5. No hive shall be located closer than fifty (50) feet from a public right-of-way or twenty-five (25) feet from the principal building on an abutting lot.
6. A constant supply of water shall be provided for all hives.
7. A flyway barrier at least six (6) feet in height shall shield any part of a property line that is within twenty-five (25) feet of a hive. The flyway barrier shall consist of a wall, fence, dense vegetation or a combination thereof.
8. Any colony or hive which becomes a nuisance as defined by state law must be removed.
9. Abandoned colonies or hives and diseased bees shall be removed (this shall not prohibit the use of SWARM traps).

The Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett would like to send a sincere “THANK YOU!” to everyone who helped make this happen. The list is very long, and includes (but is not limited to) the following:

### **Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners:**

Charlotte J. Nash, Chairman

Tommy Hunter, District 3 Commissioner

John Heard, District 4 Commissioner

Jace Brooks, District 1 Commissioner

Lynette Howard, District 2 Commissioner

Bryan Lackey, Director, Planning and Development  
Gwinnett County Planning Commission

Carol Hassell, (who spoke on our behalf at every Town Hall Meeting, even though she doesn't own bees herself!)

Nicholas and Tabitha Weaver, who walked this path before we did

Forsyth Beekeepers Club, who came to the Gwinnett Courthouse to offer moral support

Cindy Hodges, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

Bear Kelley, President, GBA

Mike Maxwell, legal expert who assisted Fayette County Beekeepers

David Shipp, East Metro Beekeepers Association

Linda Tillman and Gina Gallucci, GBA

Paul Kudyba, Tri-County Beekeepers

B.J. Weeks, Cherokee Beekeepers' Club

Mary Cahill-Roberts, Tara Beekeepers Association

Eric Weller, Amicalola Beekeepers

Ryan Sarks, Cherokee Beekeepers' Club

Damon Frost, Forsyth Beekeepers Club

And last, but not least, we wish to thank our own **Gwinnett Beekeepers Board of Directors**, who worked long hours to help bring legal beekeeping back to Gwinnett County!

They are: Derrick Fowler, Jane Lu, Tommy Bailey, Rob Williams, Jane and Clay Compton, John Pruitt, Howard Pitman, Diane May, Dave and Cindy Collins, Hugh Holcomb, and Janet Poe



## ***Beekeeper of the Year Nominations***

The Georgia Beekeeper of the Year Award is presented annually at our Fall Meeting to an outstanding member of our beekeeping community, and is selected from nominations from our membership.

To nominate a beekeeper, write us about this person and why you think they deserve this award. You won't be graded on grammar, but your person will be considered based upon what you tell us, so be as thorough and specific as possible.

Email your nominations to [julia@mahoodstudio.com](mailto:julia@mahoodstudio.com) by July 10.

New email addresses for our officers:

[gabeepresident@gmail.com](mailto:gabeepresident@gmail.com)

President

[gabeevp@gmail.com](mailto:gabeevp@gmail.com)

Vice President

[gabeesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:gabeesecretary@gmail.com)

Secretary

[gabeetreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:gabeetreasurer@gmail.com)

Treasurer



## **Georgia Beekeepers Association**

Serving Georgia's Bee Industry for over 90 Years

***Save the Date!***

***The GBA Fall Meeting and  
Honey Show***

***on***

***September 18, 19***

***at***

***Georgia College and State University***

***in***

***Milledgeville, Georgia***

***Great line-up of speakers from far and wide***

***Honey show***

***Plan to come!***



### **Street Cred**

Steve Page sent us this [German video](#) on breathing air from beehives for health reasons.

Curt Barrett sent us [this link](#) about bee swarms.

You'll notice that the list of club meetings below is a short one. Your editors are very busy and didn't have time to ask for the club information more than once. If you'd like to see your club listed, consider volunteering to be the person who submits the information to the Newsletter for your club. We love to list meeting information but don't have time to send more than one reminder.

### ***Upcoming Club Meetings Across the State***

<b>Club Name</b>	<b>Speaker/Topic</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>City</b>
Altamaha	<b>Bear Kelley:</b> Honey: Who Knew?	Mon 7/6 6 PM	Gordonia Alatamaha State Park	Reidsville, GA
Coweta	<b>Mary Cahill-Roberts:</b> Fall Hive Inspections	Mon 7/13 7 PM	255 Pine Rd	Newnan, GA
Gwinnett	<b>Cyndi Ball:</b> Speaker's Choice	Tues 7/14 7 PM	Hebron Baptist Church	Dacula, GA
Heart of GA	<b>Julia Mahood</b>	Tues 7/21 7PM	Camp John Hope Center	Marshallville, GA
Lake Country	<b>Cindy Hodges:</b> Varroa	Mon 7/20 7PM	Hancock Extension Office	Sparta, GA
Lake Hartwell	<b>Randall Kerlin:</b> Honey Extraction	Thurs 7/2	Lavonia Baptist Church	Lavonia, GA
MABA	<b>Jennifer Berry:</b> Keeping Your Bees Alive Through the Winter: What You Need to Do Now	Wed 7/8 7 PM	Atlanta Botanical Garden (ask for parking ticket)	Atlanta, GA
Troup County	<b>Pam Wilkes:</b> USDA programs of interest to beekeepers	Mon 7/20 7 PM	Ag Building	LaGrange, GA
West Georgia	<b>Marjorie Stansel:</b> pollinators	Mon 7/27 7 PM	American Legion Post 145	Douglasville, GA

For club speaker ideas, GBA maintains a speaker list. If you would like to speak to clubs, [click here](#) to be added to the list. As a speaker, plan to know what your honorarium request will be if you are asked to speak. If you have invited speakers for your club, [click here to read an article](#) first published in *Bee Culture* about how to treat your speakers well.



### ***Bee Beard Photo Contest***

It's hot out there. Please take photos of the best beard your hive has produced and enter it into our photo contest. Judging criteria include **Size, Hive Coverage, Creativity of the Bees** (Abstract shape). There's some yet to be identified prize to be won.

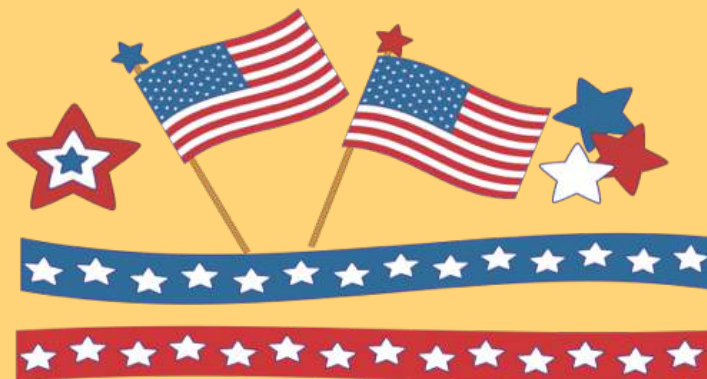
Deadline for Entry: **July 20**. Send an email with the subject line: BEE BEARD CONTEST and with your photo attached to [gbanewsletters@gmail.com](mailto:gbanewsletters@gmail.com)



## ***Club News and Notes:***

### **Gilmer County Beekeepers:**

By Bear Kelley



I was invited to attend an AZ hive lecture and demonstration on 21 June up in Ellijay. This event was hosted by the Gilmer County Beekeepers Association headed up by John Tackett and what an event it was! Speaking about diversity, the AZ hive is an interesting way of beekeeping. The featured speaker was Dr. Janko Bozic, PhD. who is a professor of animal behavior and beekeeping at the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia. He is a 40 year beekeeper and has been managing AZ hives for 30 years and is an expert on the Carniolan Bee. Dr. Bozic told us that 1 out of every 250 people in Slovenia are beekeepers from generation to generation.

The weekend was spent listening to lectures, opening hives and visiting the home apiary of Brian Drebber. Brian's bee house is full of AZ hives and all the necessary equipment to remove frames, extract, bottle, and clean up. There is no outside work; everything is done in house. The event brought in beekeepers from as far away as Maryland to learn about the AZ hive.

Mary Lou Blohm brought an AZ hive to our Spring Meeting to demonstrate and I have asked her to bring one again to our fall meeting for those interested.

We all know that every one of our clubs here in Georgia is led by a President and other officers, but primarily operated by the worker bees. I want to take this time to recognize the Gilmer County worker bees: Mary Lou Blohm and Chris Curtin. These ladies made their club shine and were perfect hosts. If we had an award for "Club of the Month," I would give it to the Beekeepers of Gilmer County. Thank you again for a wonderful event.



## SAVANNAH - HONEY SHOW WITH WELSH HONEY JUDGE MARCY CORNELL

June 13th, 2015 saw the first iteration of the Coastal Empire Beekeeping Association's Annual Honey Show at Oatland Island in Savannah, GA. Marcy Cornell, the officiating Welsh Honey Judge, traveled to Savannah with her 9 month old son and parents from Atlanta for the occasion. Marcy's family relaxed in the hospitality of one of CEBA's member's homes for the day while Marcy welcomed the club members and accepted honey submissions at the lovely Oatland Island facility, CEBA's home.

The day was warm and sunny and the Honey Show began with all contestants submitting their honey and hive products by noon. Interested Club members spent the morning in the Club Apiary on Oatland learning how to construct wax foundation frames, taught by Linda Harms, and examining the Club hives.

Marcy gave an excellent talk at 1:00 pm about what Welsh Honey Judging is all about, about honey and hive product preparation for judging and about the art of Honey Judging.

Thirteen CEBA members submitted a total of 30 products which included the categories of:

Cut comb honey

Chunk honey

Extracted honey – Light, Amber & Dark

Black Jar



As expected the category of Black Jar was the largest with a total of 13 submissions.

The Holland Family (Terry, John & Benjamin) walked away with two First Places and Benjamin Holland swept the competition with a Best in Show for his Light Extracted Honey. This was especially poignant as Ben extracted his honey from one frame of honey from his own hive and wasn't even able to attend as he is a hard working teenager and had to work that Saturday morning.

Robert Liakas was prolific in his production and was the only contestant to submit Cut Comb & Chunk honey in addition to his extracted & black jar honeys.

Marcy was very impressed with the quality and presentation of all of the samples submitted. We as a Club are proud and excited about this first honey show and plan an annual event to be held in future years in August at Oatland Island. That will allow sufficient time for everyone to have extracted honey and prepared their hive products (wax products, cosmetics, art work, etc.). All clubs are invited to join us next year, as they were this year, and with a little more time to advertise our Honey Show we hope to have a great turn out in August of 2016.

## MANIFESTO

By Mark Winston,  
author of *The Biology of the Honey Bee*  
([reprinted with permission of the author](#))



(photo by Linda Tillman)

We often support the value of bees with economic arguments, neglecting the dimension of values, the principles we hold important and the personal and environmental standards that should be at the heart of beekeeping rather than at its fringes.

The current serious issues facing bees suggest it is time for a new manifesto to guide beekeeping, one that recognizes beekeepers as stewards of both managed and wild bees, promoters of healthy environments, managers of economically sustainable apiaries and paragons of collaboration and cooperation. It's time for some audacious thinking about the future of beekeeping.

Such a manifesto might look something like this:

- Beekeepers are **Stewards** of their honeybees, lightly managing colonies with minimal chemical and antibiotic input.
- Beekeepers are **Promoters** of healthy environments in which wild and managed bees can thrive, including reduced chemical inputs and mixed cropping systems in agricultural settings and diverse unmanaged natural habitats in urban and rural areas.
- Beekeeping is **Economically Viable**, so that hobbyists can enjoy their bees with some honey to give away, sideliners meet expenses with a bit of profit and commercial beekeepers have a consistent and sustainable income sufficient to support a family without the heavy personal stress associated with contemporary beekeeping.
- Beekeeping organizations are **Inclusive, Collaborative and Cooperative**, encompassing hobbyists with one hive to commercial beekeepers with thousands, wild bees enthusiasts to honeybee keepers, and honey producers to pollinators, under one umbrella organization that puts the health and prosperity of bees and the environment that supports them first.

We need to recognize that the good old days are gone. Bees are no longer able to respond with the resilience that allowed us to manage honeybees intensively and depend on healthy ecosystems for wild and managed bees to thrive. Today, pesticides are ubiquitous, diseases and pests rampant, and the diversity and abundance of bee forage has plummeted.

It's a new day, and below are just a few suggestions for what a manifesto-driven bee community might look like. Note that every idea goes against conventional wisdom, but keep in mind that these are not conventional times for bees:

**Perhaps** we can no longer take copious honey harvests from our bees. If so, a good first step would be to take 1/4 less honey and feed that much less sugar.

**Perhaps** we should let colonies swarm every second year, providing a break in the brood cycle that might diminish the impact of varroa.

**Perhaps** we should move honeybees no more than once for pollination, recognizing that honeybees are no longer healthy enough to sustain multiple moves.

**Perhaps** honeybees should no longer be considered our primary agricultural pollinator, but used to supplement wild bee populations whose diversity and abundance we increase by large-scale habitat enhancement in and around farms.

**Perhaps** we should allow only one varroa treatment per year to prevent resistance.

**Perhaps** we should eliminate all antibiotic use, controlling bacterial diseases like American Foul Brood through a rigorous inspection and burning regime, as they do in New Zealand.

**Perhaps** we should cease the practice of feeding pollen supplements in the spring, as we now understand such feeding yields higher worker populations but weaker individual bees.

**Perhaps** research should rigorously analyze these “perhaps” ideas. Our research community has done a fabulous job of elucidating why honeybees and wild bees are doing poorly, but what we need now are bolder research directions towards solutions.

Researchers tend towards the more glamorous high-tech solutions, but those are unlikely to succeed and at best are far down the road. Some old-fashioned, large-scale management research is needed now, coupling studies of hive survival and wild bee abundance and diversity with economic analyses of what works best for beekeepers and crop pollination.

Here’s one example: I have been travelling quite a bit lately promoting my new book *“Bee Time: Lessons From the Hive,”* and I consistently encounter beekeepers who are not treating for varroa, but rather breeding from surviving untreated colonies. They report colony survival rates as good or better as those commercial beekeepers who treat heavily, but it’s all anecdotal. Let’s test those claims more rigorously, by organizing national projects to compare untreated surviving colonies to lightly or heavily chemically treated colonies.

Here’s another example: I know of no economic studies that demonstrate moving bees for pollination is economically superior to maintaining stationary apiaries, or that compare moving bees once, twice or more. My own opinion is that the extent of bee movement is a major contributing factor in the poor colony survival we see across North America, with 42% of colonies dying in 2013/2014 in the United States. But, I know of no data that support or dismiss my hunch.

There is a changed mind-set enveloped in my brief manifesto, one in which we consider the well being of bees as the primary directive rather than economic prosperity or beekeeper convenience. Putting bees first is the only way managed and wild bees will return to health, and beekeepers and farmers with bee-pollinated crops to prosperity.

I don’t know whether this manifesto is the right direction, or the ideas above sound, but I do know that the status quo is unsustainable.

There is a quote attributed to Einstein that is highly relevant for the future of beekeeping: *“Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.”*

**Perhaps** it’s time to challenge everything we have believed about beekeeping with honeybees, and to boldly promote wild bees to become our primary commercial-level pollinators.

**Perhaps** it’s time to be audacious.

**Mark Winston** is Professor and Senior Fellow at Simon Fraser University’s Centre for Dialogue, and author of the recent book *“Bee Time: Lessons From the Hive.”*

[winston@sfu.ca](mailto:winston@sfu.ca) | June 22, 2015 at 2:08 pm | Tags: [Bees](#) | Categories: [Bees](#) |

## Predators in the Beeyard:

by Linda Tillman

In the heat of the summer, all creatures try to stay alive and feed themselves. Often in the beeyard I see brown thrashers and wrens eating dead or dying bees who are on the ground in front of the hive. But there are two hornets who also prey not on the dead bees as much as on the living ones.

The European hornet is large and threatening looking. Wikipedia says that this hornet is the only true hornet in North America. This hornet grabs live bees and returns to its paper-like nest to feed them to their young. To the right is a photo of the European hornet from the Wikipedia page.



I see the European hornet near my beehives every summer. Once I found a dead European hornet on the landing board of one of my hives, apparently killed by the bees:

Recently we were contacted by the Oglethorpe beekeepers who thought they had found a Japanese Giant hornet in their hive.

However, consultation with Jennifer Berry indicated that the length of the insect, 1.5," meant that it was a European hornet and not a Japanese Giant hornet.

Here is the photo of the insect that David King found in his beeyard and wondered if it were

a Japanese Giant Hornet (photo by Glenn Galau) —>



There is another wasp predator that haunts bee yards in the summer. This one is called the bald-faced hornet. This wasp, measuring .75 inches, is slightly smaller than the European hornet. It lives in a social nest like the European hornet and also grabs live bees to take home for lunch for its young. I have seen many of these in my summers as a beekeeper.



Here are some bald-faced hornets on a baggie I was using to feed sugar syrup to the bees one summer.

More frequently I've seen bald-faced hornets killed by the bees in the process of defending their hive from the black and white marauders. I can't get too upset, I know everyone on the earth is just trying to feed themselves and their families.

**Dear Aunt Bee,**

A few months ago I asked about the foam on my honey jars when I attempted to reliquify them over low heat. You said it had fermented. Can I use that partially fermented honey as the basis of making mead? Or shall I save it and give it back to the bees next winter?

Thank you,  
Sweet and Boozy

Dear Sweet and Boozy,

Marcy Cornell, well-respected honey judge in the state of Georgia replied to this question:

*"I would say not to use it for mead. If it's fermenting already, it's likely already developed off flavors that will be noticeable in the finished mead, for one thing. Also, the wild yeast that's making it ferment is unlikely to be a desirable strain; most mead recipes require a particular strain of yeast in order to get a particular result."*

Guess you'll have to start your mead from scratch. However, I do think you could feed the honey back to the bees...who may or may not be in the mood for alcohol.

**Aunt Bee**

(thanks, Ricky Moore, for this question)

"I prefer to get fat on honey."

— [Stefanie Brook Trout](#),  
[Prairie Gold: An Anthology of the American Heartland](#)

**Dear Aunt Bee,**

Please settle a neighborly dispute.

Is it okay, or advisable to raise the top cover of the hive to vent out hot air, or does that allow more small hive beetles in? What should we be doing now? It's hot in Middle Georgia.

Thanks,  
AC Fiend

Dear AC Fiend,

To get an answer to this question, we turned to Steve Esau, one of Georgia's newest Journeyman beekeepers. This is what he said:

*"I know we often worry about our hives overheating during the heat of Georgia summers, but this is also the time of year where robbing is of great concern. In fact, I would be more concerned in preventing robbing than I would be of small hive beetles. By raising the top cover you have created significantly more space for the bees to defend against robbers. I think there are better ways to "vent" a hive.*

*1.) Use notched inner covers as this will create the needed escape and flow of air thru the hive but also gives the bees less of a backdoor to defend. Position the outer cover so that it is resting on the back ledge of the inner cover exposing the "notch" without creating additional space where potential robbers can challenge guard bees and ultimately gain entrance.*

*2.) Place an empty honey super (no frames - don't worry without a strong nectar flow bees will not build significant comb in the empty super) immediately under the inner cover to create more hive/air space.*

*3.) Slatted racks can also be used for the same purpose of creating more space.*

*4.) Make sure your colonies have access to plenty of water so they can cool the hive through evaporation.*

*5.) Maintain strong hives to defend against robbing and that ever so pesky small hive beetle."*

Hope these suggestions help your bees get cooler.

Meanwhile, consider entering the bearding photo contest!

**Your Aunt Bee**

(thanks, Ricky Moore, for this question)

**Dear Aunt Bee,**

Here in South Georgia we use mostly pine straw in our smokers as it is so abundant and available. It works great in producing a natural smoke and stays lit easily. The problem is that the smoker gets caked up on the inside with creosote and I need advice on how to clean it out. Thank you,

Clogged Smoker

Dear Clogged,

Since I haven't cleaned out my smokers in ten years, I decided to check with BeeSource, a helpful beekeeping forum, to get an answer for you. The most popular suggestion on the forum was to use your propane torch to burn out the creosote. Someone suggested a product called "Smokehouse Cleaner."

Personally I would be uncomfortable putting chemicals in my smoker. Gina scrapes hers out with her hive tool.

My favorite [BeeSource response](#) was the following:

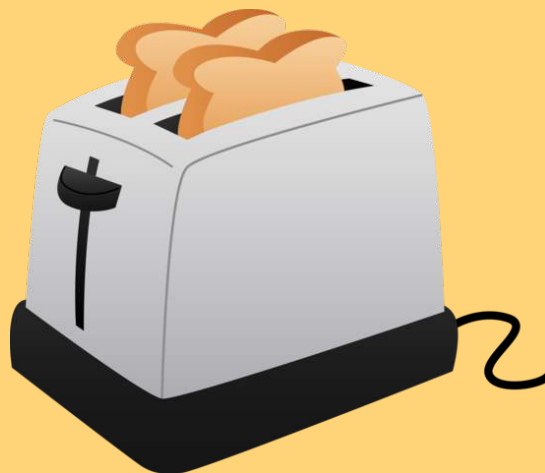
*"I would try alcohol.  
Drink enough and you really won't care  
how dirty the smoker is!"*

Good luck,

**Aunt Bee**



(thanks to Bear Kelley for this question)



## Honey Blue Spread

Submitted by Bear...

"Are you tired of spreading cream cheese or just butter on your morning bagel, toast or English muffin? Well here is a simple spread that will surely brighten your breakfast faster than that cup of coffee."

1 cup blueberries (grow your own)  
1/2 cup of honey (find a local Beek)  
2 sticks of butter (leave out for a bit to soften)

Bring the blueberries and 4 tablespoons of honey to boil over medium heat. Use a potato masher to sort of crush and stir the berries until mixture thickens (about 3-4 minutes).

Let cool a bit, then blend the remaining honey and beat in the butter. Mix well.

After it cools a bit more, pour into small half cup containers and refrigerate. You should yield enough for 3 or 4 containers. It will set up as it cools.

Dearth is a period of time when little forage is available for bee; it is the opposite of a (honey) flow.  
*The Complete Idiot's Guide Beekeeping*

## ***Wild Apricot (odd name - great program)***

The good news is that our state bee organization has gotten so large that it is hard for our volunteer members to manage all of the membership details. We are trying out a new software program which will do a lot of management for us. It will keep track of club finances, register you for meetings and events, remind you when your membership dues need to be paid, and send out emails to you for GBA, among many other features.

The program is Wild Apricot. We will be using it to manage your membership. You can go into the program and change your address, pay your dues, etc. To check on your own membership, first you will need a password to access your account. You will receive an email from GBA through our new software with instructions for “changing” your password. Please follow those instructions and make any changes that are needed. Meanwhile you can sneak a peek by [clicking here](#).

**For family memberships, each individual under the family membership should enter his/her unique email address.** That way you will get your own individual email copy of the newsletter, for example, and any other email sent out by the club.

The program will automatically send you a reminder when your family or individual membership is in need of renewal. Watch for emails to help you connect with us at GBA through our new software program.



Deadline for the August edition of the Newsletter is Sunday, July 26 at midnight. Please submit your articles (500 words or less) with photos to us by that time in order to be used in the Newsletter. Club meeting information about upcoming programs and speakers must be in by Wednesday, July 29.

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

***Happy Fourth of July!*** Enjoy all your blessings of freedom and independence, but let's not forget to all do our part and work hard to appreciate it. This is your newsletter and it's much better because of your contributions - we appreciate you!



***Linda & Gina***



# Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

August 2015



## August President's Message

As this year's bee season draws to an end, all preparations are underway for the Fall Meeting in Milledgeville. Our Meeting Committee has been working hard organizing the speakers, facilities and time schedules for the event. The beekeeper of the year committee is busy evaluating the nominations and deciding who will be crowned this year. This is a very difficult task as so many great folks who are nominated are just as deserving as the next. Our officer nominations committee is seeking names to fill some positions as some of us are leaving our posts this year. Don't forget to prepare your honey, wax and art entries for the two big shows we are planning: the annual fall meeting show and the Georgia National Fair. Our fall meeting will have all the same categories as we traditionally have and the National Fair event will be extracted and black jar only.

We will have a little housekeeping to do as we have a requirement for the membership to vote on administrative changes to our By-laws. Since we are growing so well, we have a need to reduce labor for our members who volunteer for so many tasks. In the past, the Treasurer had to keep up with the membership roster and everyone had to re-up at the

September meeting. We now have the availability of multi-year memberships and we are introducing a new management program that will send out electronic notices to let you know it is time to pay your dues again. You'll see the notice with details in this issue.

I have heard from most of the normal vendors and they will be attending, so if you want to save some money on shipping costs, place your order and ask them to bring it to the meeting. If you have a large order, you can usually save enough to pay for registration for the meeting. A win-win for everyone. The host hotel we used last year (the Hampton Inn in Milledgeville) has given us the same rate and blocked 35 rooms for us, so make your reservations as soon as you can. We are also planning to have a fund raising auction this year. So please consider donating something that everyone will be sure to bid on to help us generate a few bucks.

This meeting is for you, our valued member. The primary purpose is education, social interaction and friendship building. Please make plans to attend and join us. I have made so many great new friends and, of course, learned so much more about the beekeeping world since becoming a part of GBA. I look forward to seeing you all there.

**Bear Kelley,**  
**President, Georgia Beekeepers Association**



For club speaker ideas, GBA maintains a speaker list. If you would like to speak to clubs, [click here](#) to be added to the list. As a speaker, plan to know what your honorarium request will be if you are asked to speak. If you have invited speakers for your club, [click here to read an article](#) first published in *Bee Culture* about how to treat your speakers well.

Club Name	Speaker/Topic	When	Where	City
Altamaha	<b>Discussion of Honey Show Entries and Judging</b>	Mon 8/3 6PM	Chatters Restaurant	Lyons, GA
Amicalola	<b>Slade Jarrett:</b> Replacing queens, when and how	Tues 8/18 6:30	Dawson Cnty Extension	Dawsonville, Ga
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett	<b>Bill Owens:</b> Beekeeping Tips and Tricks	Tues 8/11 7 PM	Hebron Baptist Church	Dacula, GA
Chattahoochee Valley	<b>Beekeepers Discussion:</b> Information sharing session	Mon 8/10 6 PM	Oxbow Learning 3535 S. Lumpkin Rd	Columbus, GA
Coastal Empire	<b>Read Nichols:</b> Honey Extracting with License - Rules	8/8 2 PM	Oatland Island	Savannah, GA
Chattooga	<b>David Reed:</b> IPM Pest Management	Tues 8/11 7 PM	32 Middle School Rd.	Summerville, GA
Clarks Hill	<b>Keith Fielder:</b> Pest Management	Mon 8/3 7 PM	Columbia Cnty Ext. office	Appling, GA
Coweta	<b>Julia Mahood:</b> Tips and Tricks for Easier Beekeeping	Mon 8/10 7 PM	255 Pine Rd	Newnan, GA
Henry	<b>Evelyn Williams:</b> Honey Shows	Tues 8/11 7 PM	100 Babbs Mill Rd	Hampton, Ga
Lake Country Beekeepers	<b>Bill Owens:</b> More Beekeeping Tips and Tricks	Mon 8/17 7 PM	Hancock Extension Office	Sparta, GA
MABA	<b>Brent Nolan:</b> TBD	Wed 8/12 7 PM	Atlanta Botanical Garden	Atlanta, GA
Ogeechee Beekeepers	<b>TBA</b>	Thurs 8/27 5:30	Fordham's Farmhouse Restaurant	Statesboro, GA
Potato Creek	<b>Cindy Hodges:</b> Honey Shows	Thurs 8/20 7 PM	835 Memorial Dr	Griffin, GA
Tri County	<b>Marcy Cornell:</b> Soap-Making	Mon 8/10 7PM	2595 Highway 323	Gillsville, GA
West Georgia	<b>Bobby Torbush:</b> Making Mead	Mon 8/24	American Legion	Douglasville, GA



**Proposed Changes to the GBA By-Laws**

**These proposals will be presented to the membership and voted on September 19, 2015.**

1. This portion of the By Laws requires changing since there are so many more members now, and it is unlikely that we will ever get two thirds of the members present at a meeting to vote for any change or to vote for any progress to be made.

**Article X, Para A.** states.....

A. Any By-Laws adopted may be altered, amended or repealed, and new By-Laws adopted, **by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Corporation.** The members may prescribe that any By-Law or By-Laws adopted by them shall not be altered, amended or repealed by the Board of Directors. Any amendment or repeal by the membership shall be done at the Annual Membership Meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose.

Change to read.....

A. Any By-Laws adopted may be altered, amended or repealed, and new By-Laws adopted, by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Corporation **present at the Annual Membership Meeting.** The members may prescribe that any By-Law or By-Laws adopted by them shall not be altered, amended or repealed by the Board of Directors. Any amendment or repeal by the membership shall be done at the Annual Membership Meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose. A copy of any proposed amendment shall be mailed to all members at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which it is to be considered.

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2. The purpose of the following By-Law change is due to the extension of time allowed for multi-year memberships that was approved by the Board of Directors in February, 2015. In addition, with the implementation of the Wild Apricot program that sends out electronic notices of membership expiration at any time through the year, the necessity to renew yearly at the fall meeting is no longer valid.

**Article IV, Para B (a)** states.....

B. Membership in the Corporation shall be evidenced by a membership card, which shall state the membership classification, and expiration date. (a) Membership cards for active and associate members shall be valid from date of issue, **through the 30th day of September of the current year**

Change to read: **through the end of the month for the period through which payment was made (one, two or three years)**

C. **Annual membership dues are payable to the Treasurer on or before sixty (60) days prior to the 30th day of September.**

Change to read: **Membership dues are payable to the Treasurer on or before the expiration of their current membership listed on the corporation roster.** Members in arrears thirty (30) days shall be dropped from membership. No member shall be allowed to vote, hold office, make motions or otherwise participate in the affairs of the Corporation unless his/her dues are current. The amount of membership dues shall be set by majority vote of the members present at the Annual Membership Meeting. Once adopted, a dues and timetable shall remain in effect until amended by such majority vote.

## **WE HEARD YOU!**

The GBA Meeting Committee has been working hard to create an engaging conference and your feedback has been used to make this our best conference ever. Nationally known speakers, carefully scheduled breaks, boxed lunches and, yes, plenty of programs await!

Our February meeting was filled to capacity, and we expect this will be the case at our September meeting. Please help us to plan most efficiently by registering early. Early registration also gives you a discount. Early registration is \$60 per person; after September 12 the fee goes up to \$75 per person. *Please note that if we sell out we won't be able to accommodate folks who come to the meeting but aren't pre-registered.* **To Register, [CLICK HERE](#)** Please preregister this year.



## **WE NEED YOU**

### ***Do you have a bee-related item for the auction?***

*Your donations—large and small— are needed to make our auction a success! Anything from a beekeeping book or gadget to original art will be welcomed.*

*Please drop off auction donations Friday morning at Registration.*

### ***Are you a baker?***

*Share your culinary talents with your fellow beekeepers— bring a tray of desserts to contribute to our potluck style dessert social. Desserts can be dropped off Friday morning at registration, or Friday evening at the Social.*

**[Come to the Fall Meeting!](#)**  
**September 18, 19, 2015**  
**Central Georgia Technical**  
**College**  
**Milledgeville, GA**



**[The Hampton Inn](#) is holding a block of rooms for conference attendees. Click link above to go to their page.**

**The GBA Fall Conference** is happening on September 18 and 19 at the Central Georgia Technical College campus in Milledgeville, Georgia. We are so pleased to be bringing in nationally known speakers. Our four main speakers are described below:

### **Dewey Caron**

Dr Caron is Emeritus Professor of Entomology & Wildlife Ecology, University of Delaware, and Affiliate Professor, Dept Horticulture Oregon state University  
[dmcaron@udel.edu](mailto:dmcaron@udel.edu)

Here's what he says about himself:

I am a native of Vermont (Bennington County) but attended high school in Berkshire County, Mass (North Adams). I first became interested in biology and insects as a Boy Scout (did the beekeeping Merit Badge on way to Life Scout with neighboring dairy farmer who also had apple trees and bees) and during undergraduate studies (major in Zoology). I am product of the Honey Bee program at Cornell University (PhD in Entomology with Dr. Roger Morse).



Professionally I spent 40+ years teaching, doing bee extension and bee research at Cornell (1967-69), University of Maryland (1970-1981) and University of Delaware (1981-2009). At Maryland and Delaware I had a 3-way split teaching, research extension appointments with bees, pollinating insects as well as other duties (including stints as Department Chair at Delaware and Apiary inspector at Maryland).

I retired in 2009 and moved to OR to be near grandchildren. However I continue as a volunteer Extension bee specialist for OR (Affiliate Faculty, Oregon State University). Have been active in EAS since 1967 meeting including organizing Short Course/Annual Meeting numerous times, most recent 2012 at University of VT), served as board chair for 8 years (1991-99), as President (1986), and as EAS Foundation Chair (1999-2009). I am currently Master Beekeeper program advisor. I helped establish MAAREC and remain active with it.

Since moving to west coast I have been president (2010) and now on executive Board of WAS and Vice President of OR State Beekeepers Association. I have been very active in Spanish speaking overseas extension development programs since 1981 and have extensive beekeeping experience with Africanized bees. I spend four - six months each year in Bolivia (where my wife is originally from) where I keep Africanized bees. I have 5 backyard colonies in Tigard, OR.

In Milledgeville, Dr. Caron will speak on *What Successful Beekeepers are doing to Improve Colony Survivorship?* and he will also give a talk on *Beyond Varroa Mites*

## Michael Bush

Michael has been keeping bees since the mid 70s, usually from two to seven hives up until the year 2000. Varroa forced more experimentation which required more hives and the number has grown steadily over the years from then. By 2008 it was about 200 hives. He is active on many of the Beekeeping forums with last count at more than 50,000 posts between all of them.

He has had an eclectic set of careers from printing and graphic arts, to construction to computer programming and a few more in between. Currently he is working in computers. He has a web site on beekeeping at [www.bushfarms.com/bees.htm](http://www.bushfarms.com/bees.htm)

"His talks are like his writing, with more content, detail, and depth than one would think possible with such few words...his website and PowerPoint presentations are the gold standard for diverse and common sense beekeeping practices."--Dean Stiglitz

In Milledgeville, Michael Bush will speak on *Four Simple Steps to Healthier Bees* and *Lazy Beekeeping: Ways to work less and accomplish more*

## Dean Stiglitz and Laurie Herboldsheimer



This write-up is from their book: [The Complete Idiot's Guide to Beekeeping](#):

Dean and Laurie live in Leominster, Massachusetts where they keep bees, market honey, run beekeeping conferences, write, and do research. After initially following some of the standard treatment regimens that they learned in bee school, Dean and Laurie decided they had to find a better way - a way back to keeping bees sustainably without treatments or drugs - a way that supports the bees' long-term interests.

Dean and Laurie are active in the Worcester County Beekeepers Association and travel around the country speaking about beekeeping and the importance of the microbial environment in the



beehive.

Their honey business, Golden Rule Honey, LLC, maintains a certified food production facility where they package, distribute, and sell honey from their beekeeping operations and produce The Queen of Chocolate, a line of premium chocolate products sweetened only with raw honey.

At Milledgeville, Dean will speak on *Critical Beeing: A Perspective From Outside the Box* and Laurie will speak on *Up the Yin Yang: Honeybees and Microbes*



## A Breakout for Everyone!

At our Fall Meeting in Milledgeville, there is a breakout for everyone. As we all know, beekeeping includes many methods of keeping bees and many ways of managing hives. Some of you are backyard beekeepers, some are sideliners and some are commercial beekeepers. We have worked hard to have breakouts available to give you a choice that reflects your beekeeping style or introduces you to something new:

**Dr. Keith Delaplane:** Best Management Practices for Varroa

**Bill Owens:** Bee Removal Basics

**Mary Cahill-Roberts:** How to make Creamed Honey

**Bear Kelley:** Honey. Who Knew?

**Margo Wimbish:** GBA Junior Beekeeping: Building Future Beekeepers

**Keith Fielder:** How to organize and plan a honey show

**Jay Parsons:** Small Hive Beetles: What, When, Where, How: An Overview with Options

**Steve Page:** Sustainable Beekeeping

**Rachael Bonoan:** Why do Honey Bees Like Dirty Water?

**Stephanie Darnell:** Honey Bees and Crop Protection Products

**Ray Civitts:** Challenges of the Commercial Bee Business

And our main speakers will also present breakouts:

**Dewey Caron:** The Why and How of Beekeeping

**Michael Bush:** How to set up and maintain an observation hive in your house.

**Dean and Laurie:** Queens, Queens. Good For Your Art

In addition there will be a bee yard available (thanks, **Keith Fielder**) and you will have an opportunity to go through the hives with an expert during the two days of the conference.

## Friday Night Social at GBA Fall Meeting (Sept 18):

### Distinctions & Desserts!

*Our Friday night social will be a potluck-style dessert bar where Honey Show winners will be announced, as will the recipient of the Georgia Beekeeper of the Year Award. Plan to bring a dessert to share.*

**Bring your checkbook!** Because we'll also enjoy an entertaining auction full of bee-related items.



### ALMOND & YOGURT WAFFLES

(makes 6 medium sized waffles)

- 3 c. almond flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp. ground nutmeg
- 4 eggs
- 1 1/2 tbsp. honey
- 1/2 c. yogurt
- 1 very ripe banana, mashed with fork

Combine all dry ingredients in a bowl. Combine the wet ingredients and add to the dry whisking until a batter forms. Pour 1/2 c. of batter onto a greased waffle iron and cook for 2 minutes. Adjust per temperature of waffle maker.

### ORANGE HONEY SYRUP

- 1/2 c. honey
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- juice of 1/2 an orange
- 1/2 tbsp. orange zest

Whisk ingredients until it turns to a smooth syrup. Pour over waffles & enjoy!

Thanks to Gail Albrecht for this recipe.

### Street cred:

[This video](#) was suggested by Wes Peavy. We have published it before but Anand Varma's work is so beautiful and up close and personal with the bees that we decided to publish it again.

Several people sent us [this link](#), including Steve Page and Chris Owen. Such a tribute to Winnie the Pooh and the bees!

An [Aha Moment](#) by Bobby Colson



Summer in the honey house is always fun! As we gather the spoils of our labor and prepare the golden goodness for market we must remain on constant guard and not allow the honey bucket to over flow. This photo shows what happens when you turn your attention from the task at hand.

Roger Kicklighter Tip  
Top Honey Bees



And the Winner of our **Bee Beard Contest** is: **Monte McDonald** of SOWEGA Beekeepers in Albany.

Monte's photo won for capturing the bees' sense of design and creativity. Monte will receive a prize at the Fall Conference in Milledgeville.

Second prize goes to Rick Moore for his photo below:



Entries came from Brian Drebber (the AZ hive photo), Rick Moore, Monte McDonald, Deborah Sasser, Gail Albrecht

Thanks to all who entered - we appreciate your talent and your participation! Great photos, every one.

Watch for future opportunities to enter our photo contests.



## Club News and Notes

### Heart of Georgia:

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 21, 2015 at Camp John Hope, near Fort Valley. Our speaker for the evening was Georgia Master Beekeeper, Julia Mahood who spoke on making Lotion Bars and Lip Balm, complete with a handout of recipes and directions. She also instructed the packed room on how to make Propolis Tincture. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, August 18, 2015, all are welcome, see you there!



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### Neonicotinoid Alert!

At our meeting, (June 18th), one of our newest members, Kathy Shelton, made a startling revelation. Kathy and her beekeeping partner, Emily Heath, had just received their first two hives the previous week.

At the May bee club meeting, we heard a presentation about bees and propagation. This presenter mentioned a number of plants that bees and butterflies were known to visit for nectar and pollen. One important plant mentioned for bees and butterflies was milkweed. So Kathy thought she would purchase a number of milkweed and other plants from a local big box store. She put several plants in her basket. A little later Kathy paused to read the planting and sun requirements for each of these plants as any Master Gardener would do. Both Kathy and Emily are Master Gardeners. She noticed a second tag just behind the planting instructions. It stated that this plant should be free of aphids, white flies, and other plant pests because the seeds were treated with *neonicotinoid*. After reading these instructions, she returned these plants to the shelves.

The old adage "*Buyer Beware*" was never more true. When you are shopping for plants you need to be especially alert and be certain you are obtaining plants that are free of harmful chemicals. Kathy mentioned that other toxic chemicals such as imidacloprid and others are also being used to treat plants. Read the labels to check for other chemicals that are bee friendly. Our special thanks to Kathy and Emily for giving us a heads up on this important topic.

John D Wingfield  
 Certified Beekeeper

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Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am pleased to announce the first **Varroa Field Day** to be held here in GA! The Varroa Field Day is an opportunity for any beekeeper in the State of Georgia, to come out and participate in a hands-on varroa mite detection and treatment workshop. Brett Nolan, from the UGA Bee Lab, has agreed to

come down with several of his colleagues and put on a practical, hands-on field demonstration about how to figure out if you have a varroa mite problem, and then what to do about it if you do have a problem.

So many beekeepers I talk to skimp on varroa management, or just outright ignore it, because they are uncertain or afraid of over-treating- or mis-applying treatments... no one wants to kill their bees or foul their honey crop! Well, this is a chance to come out and see how the pros at the UGA Bee Lab do it. We are going to see the proper and safe way to check for, and deal with, varroa mites.

This event will be held at the Liberty Hill Ranch, located at 263 High Falls Park Road, Milner, GA 30257. Liberty Hill Ranch is conveniently located just 3 miles west of Exit 198 on I-75. We are 45 mins south of Hartsfield Airport, and 30 mins north of Macon. We are only asking a measly \$10/person as tuition for this workshop - IF you preregister by 9/23/15. Tuition at the door will likely be \$15.00.

I think this is going to be a fantastic opportunity for beekeepers to learn how to get ahead of the curve on the varroa mite. We're going to have a great program, and some of the most knowledgeable presenters around. I hope you and your club members will come out and take advantage of this unique opportunity!

Questions? Contact [Brutz English](#).



## What color is your bee suit?

I know, I know it's white, what's my question you're asking?

If you are a relatively 'new' beekeeper like me, I bet you can remember getting your first bee suit, all nice and clean and bright white. Right? Then you looked around at other beekeepers who'd been in the biz longer, and did you notice their suits? Chances are they were dirty on the collars, probably on the chest from carrying hives, stained, discolored... Sound right?

I remember having a hood and veil combo and gloves at first, no suit. I was told that was all I needed. Wrong! After bees finding their way inside my veil and we disagreeing on who was going to occupy the space, soon after I had a full suit. All new and white.

It wasn't long till I noticed the 'other guys' and their dirty suits. Wow, that means THEY are successful, experienced beekeepers. I wanted my white suit to get dirty so I'd no longer stand out like a NEW-BEE. Now I won't admit to dirtying my suit, but it is not as clean and white as it once was. The bright white is more off-white, there are a few stains, some orange Georgia clay on the cuffs, some wax and spilled honey on it. And my gloves, oh man don't get me going. I have got to wash those things, the honey and wax on them make it difficult to use them. Hmmm, maybe that's the normal progression to going gloveless.

I've decided the dirt on the full suit and the smell are too much. It's time to wash it. A simple chore one might think, but try as I might, I cannot get the double zippered hood and veil off the suit!! Maybe I'll just spray it with Febreze, do bees object to Febreze?

As you are laughing, let's look at your suit.....

by Rick Moore

**Dear Aunt Bee,**

If honeycomb is white, why is melted wax yellow?

from: **Wax Worrier**

**Dear Wax Worrier,**

New wax is white or very pale in color. When it is secreted by the bees it is colorless. However as the bees manipulate the wax, pollen gets mixed into it. While it is honeycomb, this is not so evident, but when it is melted down and more concentrated, the pollen coloration becomes very apparent.

Cappings wax is considered more valuable than any other wax because only honey has been stored in it so it is typically much lighter. Wax from brood combs or pollen storage has lots of pollen in it and tends to be a deeper and darker yellow when melted. As a side note, if the wax is melted over high heat it will darken.

Using a solar wax melter to process your wax will bleach your wax and make a lighter yellow color. You can find plans in this newsletter for building an inexpensive solar wax melter and another version of the solar wax melter [can be found here](#).

Hope that helps with your color worries!

**Aunt Bee**

(thanks to Rick Moore for this interesting question)

**Important  
Upcoming Dates**

South Florida Bee  
College, Aug 14, 15 in  
Davie FL

Georgia Beekeepers  
Assoc. Fall Conference  
Sept. 18 and 19 2015

Liberty Hill Honey Co.  
Varroa Field Day Sat.  
Sept. 26, 2015

National Fair Honey  
Show Oct 10, Perry, GA

American Beekeepers  
Federation Conference  
Jan. 5 - 9, 2016



*After a successful honey extraction you are often left with sticky pots, tools and buckets. The easiest way to clean up, is to let the bees do it for you!*

(photo by Rick Moore)

## ***DIY Solar Wax Melter***

Having harvested honey recently, I was left with the question of what to do with the cappings and rogue comb left over. I could melt the wax to use for candles and lip balm over heat in a double boiler, but that just didn't seem right. So I built a solar wax melter from parts I had on hand, and only bought a sheet of glass.

For the base I used a concrete mixing tub (spray painted black inside to help heat up faster). Inside I placed an aluminum baking pan with water an inch deep, so the wax would release from the pan easier. Needing something to place the wax on, I discovered a screened bottom board fit perfectly in my concrete mixing pan. Atop the wire screen I placed a paper towel. Many online instructions say to use cheesecloth but I liked the idea of a paper towel.

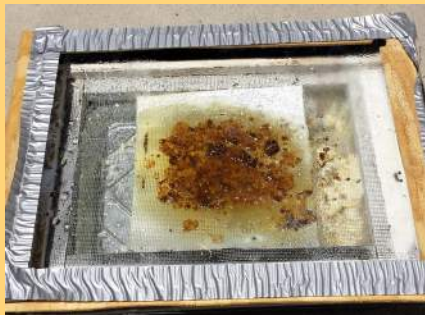
The crumbled wax cappings and rogue comb were placed upon the paper towel, the pane of single strength glass covered the entire top, and the whole contraption was placed in the sun. After just two hours in this Middle Georgia Summer sun, the wax had melted and was flowing through the paper towel, leaving the debris, bug parts, dirt and junk left on the paper towel.

In the pan was nice, mostly clean, melted, bright yellow beeswax. The only hiccup I had was some of the cappings still contained honey, so some honey strained through and made it's way into the melted wax. I can melt the wax again to eliminate the honey and have beautiful yellow wax. Who would have thought that white honeybee comb would actually be yellow wax?

It was very easy to make a solar wax collector, and it worked well. Now about the recipes for that lip balm and for those candles.....

### ***Rick Moore***

Heart of Georgia





January 5-9, 2016



Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa



Ponte Vedra Beach (Jacksonville), FL



Join fellow beekeepers in Ponte Vedra Beach (Jacksonville, FL) for the 2016 American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) Conference & Tradeshow featuring:

- Presentations and workshops for all levels of beekeeping led by industry experts
- Keynote presentations by top researchers in the field
- A Tradeshow highlighting products and services in the beekeeping industry
- Opportunities to network with beekeepers of all levels, vendors and industry experts
- 2016 Honey Queen Coronation, Honey Show & Auction and more!



Register today for the conference at [www.abfconference.com](http://www.abfconference.com) to secure the lowest registration rate and to take advantage of the special hotel rate of \$125 (plus tax) at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa.

**SAVE UP TO \$100 Register by October 14!**  
 For additional information about the conference, please call 404.760.2875 or visit [abfconference.com](http://abfconference.com).



American Beekeeping Federation

## 2015 Georgia National Fair Honey Show

The GBA will be hosting the Georgia National Fair Honey Show again this year in Perry, Georgia. The Honey Show will be on Saturday, October 10th, and entries may be delivered on either Friday the 9th, or Saturday the 10th per the show rules.

The rules for the Honey Show and all other information can be found [on this page](#).

This is a very prestigious show, and a great opportunity to take home some serious bragging rights. Please contact me ([Brutz English](#)) if you have any questions, and I hope to see lots of you in Perry!



The model to the upper right is what the best of show award will look like!



Photo by Gina Gallucci

## The Final Buzz

The meeting committee is putting the finishing touches on our Fall Conference preparation including a brand new registration system which will be a great deal more efficient. The entire conference program has been designed with you in mind and we would love for you to share your thoughts and new found insights about your beekeeping in October's *Spilling the Honey*. We look forward to seeing everyone in person.



*Gina and Linda*

Deadline for the September edition of the Newsletter is **Sunday, August 23 at midnight**. Please submit your articles (500 words or less) with photos to us by that time in order to be used in the Newsletter.

Club meeting information about upcoming programs and speakers must be in by **Wednesday, August 26**.

# Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

September 2015



Bear Kelley, President, GBA

## September President's Message

As we draw closer to the fall swarm and the end of my term as president of the GBA, I want to thank a number of people who have made my tenure as your President rewarding and successful. When I first took over, Linda Tillman and Gina Gallucci were the newsletter editors. Every month for the past three years, they have worked so hard in gathering material, stories, photos and technical info and have compiled it into what we see today: a wonderfully informative and interesting newsletter. They have made our *Spilling the Honey* fun. Without a doubt, their efforts and professional product have caused our membership numbers to rise.

Linda Tillman has also worked very hard in getting us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with her efforts to get the new Wild Apricot program going to manage our growing membership. In addition, she and Julia Mahood have joined together to become the Meeting Committee. They are the folks who have gathered our speakers, organized the meetings, and caused our attendance at these meetings to rise out of control! (A good problem). Julia Mahood and Gina Gallucci also jumped in and volunteered to be the Marketing Committee. Bill Owens, who not only works selflessly as a fireman, one of our American heroes, also offers his selfless dedication to keep our web site up, running and up to date. He's also really quite funny when you get to know him!



Others who have contributed so much are our regional Directors. Slade Jarrett, who looked after our Northeast clubs, has done a remarkable job representing GBA. He started new clubs and spoke about us to the Georgia State Assembly. Unfortunately, Slade will not be running again this year. He will be missed. Another Director who will not be running is Rhett Kelley. Rhett stepped in when we really needed him and went to work hard, creating new clubs in the Southeast part of Georgia. He traveled throughout his territory talking up GBA and is mostly responsible for getting the Prison program off the ground and getting it statewide recognition. Rhett continues to serve GBA as the President of the Ogeechee area Beekeepers club. Broadus Williams came in last year and serves the Central and South part of our state. He has been working behind the scenes organizing the Perry Fair Honey Show and attended the original Pollinators meeting with Georgia officials to help get that program off the ground. Our fourth Director Brutz English started his tenure as the fixer of the GBA Facebook page and has kept it up and running for the past two years. Brutz too has started new clubs as well as organized and judged the first two Perry Honey Shows. For the past two years, as the person in charge of the nominations committee, he has found good people to fill the shoes of those officers who moved on. All of these directors' efforts have certainly been responsible for increasing our membership and club count.

Dr. Margo Wimbish needs to be recognized as well. Last year, I asked her to be the committee chair for the Junior Beekeeping program, and she stepped up without hesitation. She has spoken to numerous clubs and to our state meetings about how to train young folks to be involved with beekeeping.

I must also mention the club presidents who hosted our two annual meetings and made them so successful. The Chattahoochee Beekeepers in the Columbus area hosted a meeting. Under the leadership of Paul Berry, their members worked very hard to insure we had standing room only at our GBA meeting there. Bruce Morgan and the Lake Country Beekeepers club also went out of their way to ensure a great fall meeting last year and have stepped up again for a repeat performance this year. Keith and RoseAnne Fielder were a big part of the 2014 fall meeting as well. Keith brought in his bees for the bee yard, cooked steak and judged the honey show. RoseAnne worked very hard to help organize everything and kept it all going all weekend. Keith was also instrumental in helping me get the 4-H program back on track with the state and GBA.

If you think that I am not going to mention our vice-president Mary Cahill-Roberts, our secretary Andy Bailey and our treasurer RoseAnne Fielder, you're wrong. Mary has represented us at EAS by being on their board and has been the best council, advisor and friend I could have possibly had during this time. She has kept me stable and on track all along. She also oversees so much of our operation and helps keep it on the right path. Andy has served us well as Secretary and he came up with the "Charter recognition" for new clubs. RoseAnne has managed our dollars and made good sense of it all. She also spent an enormous amount of her time in getting us reconnected with the IRS and keeping us legal with the state.

I finally want to thank Marybeth, my wife, for all her support, patience, and understanding and for being there with me all the way. She too has met a lot of good folks as she has visited all the clubs and special events with me.

Ladies and gentleman, all the people I have mentioned are volunteers. They care about our organization and have been willing to step up and do their part. I believe that each of them has a "day job" to keep them busy without participating in GBA activities. When you see them at the meeting this month,

shake their hand and say thank you. They certainly deserve it.

Our state membership numbers have grown from less than 200 two years ago to around 450 today. Our Club numbers have grown from less than 20 to 35 with another new one coming online this month. It is all because of the hard work and tireless efforts of all of these people. Thank you all for making our organization grow in such a positive way.

### ***Bear Kelley,***

President, Georgia Beekeepers Association



### ***And now a word about our outgoing president***

by Mary Cahill-Roberts

As Bear's term as our president comes to an end, I wanted to say a few words about Bear Kelley. Bear and Marybeth Kelley have been excellent ambassadors for Georgia beekeepers. Marybeth has sustained Bear's endeavors with the GBA over the past three years and been stalwart in her support.

Bear Kelley was elected Vice President of GBA three years ago. He came in to the position with an idea of what he needed and wanted to do. Then when he took over as President he ran with the job.

Bear has done wonderful things for GBA and moved our organization forward, helping to push us into the 21st century. Bear has helped with the State Parks program putting beehives in many state parks and teaching the rangers how to care for the bees. He has worked with the Georgia prison system helping get the first beekeeping program into that arena. He has worked at the state level representing GBA with the mandated pollinator policy required by the federal government. He has been the state representative for GBA for the American Beekeeping Federation.

Bear truly has a passion for the honey bee and it shows in the work he is doing. He believes that we can work together as a group to make things happen in Georgia. He believes that beekeepers deserve a voice in our state. Bear has worked tirelessly for the best interest of all beekeepers in Georgia, both members of GBA and non-members alike.

I have had the honor of meeting and coming to know Bear Kelley over the past three years. He is a remarkable man. I am proud to call him my friend. I know he will continue his activities in the GBA and be a participant in the organization's growth. I hope we have many years together to continue working for the remarkable insect that we all care about and to continue to work for beekeepers all over the state.

Thank you, Bear Kelley, for the outstanding job you have done as president of GBA.



Please be sure to [register early](#) for the **GBA Fall Conference** which will take place on September 18 and 19 in Milledgeville, Georgia, at Central Georgia Technical College. If you'd like to see the program for the meeting, [click here](#).

Great reasons to register today:

- The early registration fee is \$60 per person. After September 12, the registration fee will be \$75
- Registering online allows you to choose what kind of lunch you'd like: regular, vegetarian or gluten-free
- Registering online assures that you will have a name tag and a program waiting for you when you check in at the registration desk
- Registering online helps us know how many chairs and lunches are needed.

GBA meetings are growing. Each year we have well-known speakers and interesting topics. You are a part of this great growth. Allow us to plan well for you by registering online today. [Just click here](#).

### **Do you have a bee-related item for the auction?**

Your donations—large and small— are needed to make our auction a success! Anything from a beekeeping book or gadget to original art will be welcomed.

Please drop off auction donations Friday morning at Registration.

### **Are you a baker?**

Share your culinary talents with your fellow beekeepers— bring a tray of desserts to contribute to our potluck style dessert social. Desserts can be dropped off Friday morning at registration, or that evening at the Social.

## Enter the GBA Annual Honey Show

Categories include extracted honey, chunk honey, creamed honey, cut comb honey, section comb honey and black jar. You can also enter wax block, candles, ornamental candles, mead, beer, honey beverages, photographs, art work, crafts, or honey cake.

Maybe you'll come home with a ribbon or two or even win best in show. Judges' comments always help you learn about what you need to do to improve. So it's a win even if you don't get a ribbon.



## ***Breakout Programs for Fall Conference in Milledgeville***

The GBA Fall Conference is on September 18 and 19 at Central Georgia Technical College in Milledgeville, Georgia. In addition to our well-known national speakers: Dewey Caron, Michael Bush, Dean Stiglitz and Laurie Herboldsheimer, we will have breakout talks to meet many different needs.



Ray Civitts will be speaking on the challenges of being a commercial beekeeper. He describes his talk this way:

*“I have decided to discuss some of my personal commercial beekeeping challenges as well as real life experiences in consulting large scale commercial beekeepers. I am talking about how to figure the costs in producing honey. I have found 95% of the beekeepers do not know their costs in producing any product and thus every sale can produce a money losing transaction. I will also deal with the importance of accounting, legal, and banking and the value each brings to the table. And finally I will address honey purchasing and the bee supply business.”*

Stephanie Darnell from Bayer, a scientist working in pollinator safety and Bayer CropScience, will speak to us on honey bees and crop protection products. This breakout session will give an overview of the risk assessment process for honey bees during the development of crop protection products. There will also be information on the current bee health initiatives at Bayer CropScience. Stephanie received a bachelor’s degree in Horticulture with a minor in Chemistry from Northwest Missouri State University and M.S. degree in Entomology from University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is responsible for science communications and forage habitat initiatives for the North American Bee Team at Bayer.



Rachael Bonoan is a Ph.D. student at Tufts University and board member for the Boston Area Beekeeper’s Association who studies honey bee health and nutrition. She is particularly interested in how honey bees get the right nutrients—in the right amounts—from their ever-changing environment. For her research, Rachael keeps eight observation hives at the Tufts University Medford/Somerville campus. In addition to a talk on why honey bees like dirty water, Rachael will give a breakout presentation on physiological and behavioral immunity in the honey bee. Here’s what she says about her talk:

*“Honey bees defend themselves from a variety of pests; they do so both physiologically (individual immunity), and collectively (social, or behavioral immunity). In this talk, I will discuss some of the ways honey bees protect*

*themselves from common pests, and focus on my favorite aspect of honey bee immunity: social immunity.”*

To hear these interesting speakers as well as others, [join us in Milledgeville](#) on September 18 and 19.

Instead of a quote from **Dean Stiglitz**, one of our speakers for the GBA Fall Conference, we provide this link to [a funny explanation he did in under five minutes](#) of honeybee genetics.

**Conference hotel information:** The Hampton Inn is sold out. Bear has negotiated a block of rooms at the Fairfield Inn nearby. To contact them: 478-452-5202 dial 0 for the front desk and tell them that you are with the bee group to get the group rate.

Here is the list of currently registered vendors for the GBA Fall Conference. You can place orders with those who sell beekeeping products and most will bring your order to the conference, saving you a delivery charge. We've provided their numbers for your convenience, but you'll probably do better to visit their web pages to make orders.

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| American Bee Federation | 404-760-2887 |
| Dadant                  | 877-832-3268 |
| Mann Lake               | 800-880-7694 |
| Rossmann Apiaries       | 800-333-7677 |
| Walter Kelley           | 800-233-2899 |
| THOM CAREY              | 229-522-3099 |
| Lena Asay-Quilter       |              |
| Blue Haven Bee Co       | 706-245-6586 |
| Georgia Grown           | 229-391-6882 |

"The Africanized bee has not been tamed. Several breeding programs have resulted in selections that are more manageable. After colonization of an area, the AHB is generally somewhat easier to work with, for example you can manage without wearing gloves. Also at higher elevations (more temperate conditions) the bees are not nearly as defensive and fewer adults leave the hive itself to defend within the apiary. It remains a unpredictable and difficult bee to manage and requeen and without selection not a very good honey producer nor bee to transport to pollination sites."

**Dewey Caron**, speaker for the GBA Fall Conference who manages Africanized hives in South America

*"I love my observation hives. I have learned much more from them in a year than many years of keeping bees in a hive. Having one, in addition to your hives, gives you an idea what is happening outside in the other hives. You can see if pollen is coming in, if nectar is coming in, if robbing is happening etc. You can watch them raise a queen; watch how the hive acts while she is mating; watch them swarm. You can count days or hours on capping times, post capping times etc. You will get to see waggle dances, "get it off me" dances etc. You get to hear what the bees sound like when they are queenless, when they are being robbed, when the queen is emerging etc. I don't know how I did so long without one. I started building one a couple of times, but never got it done. Now I don't know how I did without it."*

**Michael Bush**, speaker for the GBA Fall Conference

## ***September 2015 Club Activities***

***(if your club is not listed here, consider volunteering to be the person who sends your meeting information in each month)***

| <b>Club Name</b>     | <b>Speaker/Topic</b>                                                | <b>When</b>        | <b>Where</b>                              | <b>City</b>     |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| CEBA                 | <b>David Arnal</b>                                                  | Mon<br>9/14 6 PM   | Oatland Island                            | Savannah        |
| Chattahoochee Valley | <b>Annual Picnic</b>                                                | Sun<br>9/13 4 PM   | Beegle Farm<br>see website for directions | Columbus, GA    |
| Chattooga            | <b>Julia Mahood</b>                                                 | Tues<br>9/8 7 PM   | 32 Middle School Rd.                      | Summerville, GA |
| Gwinnett Beekeepers  | <b>Tommy Bailey: Winter Preparations</b>                            | Tues<br>9/8 7 PM   | 202 Hebron Church Road                    | Dacula, GA      |
| Henry                | <b>Jim Quick: Getting Ready for Winter</b>                          | Tues<br>9/8 7 PM   | 100 Babbs Mill Rd                         | Hampton, Ga     |
| Lake Hartwell        | <b>Jennifer Berry: Getting Our Bees Ready to Survive the Winter</b> | Thurs<br>9/3 7 PM  | Lavonia Baptist Family Life Center        | Lavonia, GA     |
| MABA                 | <b>Annual Picnic, Honey Contest, and Auction</b>                    | Sun<br>9/13        | contact <a href="#">C. Hodges</a>         | Atlanta, GA     |
| Ogeechee Beekeepers  | <b>TBA</b>                                                          | Thurs<br>9/24 5:30 | TBA                                       | Statesboro, GA  |
| Potato Creek         | <b>Tommy Moon: Getting Ready for Winter</b>                         | Thurs<br>9/17 7 PM | 835 Memorial Dr                           | Griffin, GA     |
| Tara Beekeepers      | <b>Linda Tillman: The Wonders of Beeswax</b>                        | Mon<br>9/21 7 PM   | GA Power<br>752 Main St                   | Forest Park, GA |
| Tri County           | <b>Robert Brewer: Preparing Honey for the Honey Show</b>            | Mon<br>9/21 7PM    | 2595 Highway 323                          | Gillsville, GA  |

For club speaker ideas, GBA maintains a speaker list. If you would like to speak to clubs, [click here](#) to be added to the list. As a speaker, plan to know what your honorarium request will be if you are asked to speak. If you have invited speakers for your club, [click here to read an article](#) first published in *Bee Culture* about how to treat your speakers well.

### ***Harmful Effects of Neonicotinoids Found in Large Scale Study***

Keith Delaplane was part of a large scale study of neonicotinoids while on sabbatical in England. *The Guardian* wrote an article about [his study here](#). In his study, findings were that there are long term damaging effects on pollinators like the honey bee while the farmer may find it economically profitable to use neonicotinoids because they can eliminate other insecticides. The farmer loses in the long run, however, because long term benefits were negligible.



**Heart of Georgia Beekeepers**

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers held their monthly meeting on August 18th at Camp John Hope. The guest speaker for the evening was GBA President Bear Kelley whose powerpoint presentation was "Honey, Who Knew?" You will not want to miss this informative and entertaining presentation on Saturday afternoon at the GBA Fall Meeting. Our club is putting together a Beekeeping 201 class to meet in the Fall to introduce new beekeepers to techniques and instructions of successfully overwintering our hives.

Our next meeting will be on September 15th, and will feature a tasting contest of member's honey. Bring your jar and join us at Camp John Hope! Bring a friend, all are welcome. See you there.

~~~~~

**Chattahoochee Valley**



Instead of a September meeting, the Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers Association in Columbus, GA. will have our end of the season picnic on Sunday afternoon, September 13th. at 4PM. Check our website for directions to the Beegle Farm. We will have a "black jar" honey tasting contest, candle making demonstration, smoker contest, open hive inspection and a beekeepers yard sale, along with our usual potluck dinner.

~~~~~



**MABA**

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association is having their annual Picnic, Honey Contest, and Auction on Sunday September 13th. Honey contest judges will be Keith Fielder and Evelyn Williams. Our auctioneer will be P.N. Williams. For more information contact Cindy Hodges [DunwoodyHoney@bellsouth.net](mailto:DunwoodyHoney@bellsouth.net)

~~~~~

The **Oglethorpe** county bee club is offering a short course for beekeepers on October 24th, 2015. Preregistration is required. Register at [ocbeeclub.org/workshops](http://ocbeeclub.org/workshops). The fee of \$25 includes seven presentations by experienced beekeepers, information packet and lunch.



~~~~~

The **Tri-County Beekeepers** will hold our September meeting on the third Monday night instead of our normal second Monday night.

Our September speaker will be Robert Brewer, Retired County Extension Agent from Towns County. He is also one of the founders of the Young Harris Beekeeping Program. He will be explaining how to prepare your honey to be entered in a honey show. Everyone attending is invited and encouraged to bring samples of their honey to the meeting where Mr Brewer and those in attendance will also taste and "judge" honey that night.



Dear Aunt Bee,

I have been a beekeeper for over three years and have been very blessed to have nine very healthy hives. I am truly in it for the bees. Honey is just a happy by-product. For the first time ever, I have had black widows take up residence underneath my hives.

Snakes, I can handle! Bees, no problem! Spiders, however, take on a whole new meaning and fear.

(If I didn't know better I would wonder if my parents locked me up in a basement with one of my three brothers as punishment. )

Anyway, I truly want to get rid of them and wondered if you had any suggestions. I have killed several with a very long knife, but they seem to keep multiplying. I am now quite afraid to pull out a West beetle trap without gloves on, and I really hate gloves.

### ***Tied Up in a Web of Fear***

Dear Tied Up,

It's amazing how many non-bee critters show up in the hive. I've seen roaches, large and small, earwigs, roly polys, several kinds of spiders, and of course, small hive beetles.

I often see black widow spiders in my hives just under the top cover. Once my son-in-law and I opened a nuc hive full of crowded bees who needed to move into a full-sized hive. He pulled off the top cover, saw a black widow spider, screamed, dropped the cover and ran while I got stung seven times by the angry bees, jarred by the cover hitting the ground.

Now every time I see spider webbing under the top cover, I destroy it with my hive tool. The eggs are in the mass of webbing and this keeps multiplying from happening.

Other than that, maybe Xanax or yoga would help!

Yours,

***Aunt Bee***



*Thanks to Jane Quattlebaum of the Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association for the interesting question about black widow spiders.*

Dear Aunt Bee,

I can't find very many drones now - has their time come to an end already?

Sincerely,

***In Mourning***



Dear In Mourning,

We often check with our Master Beekeepers when we get questions. This time we asked Julia Mahood, Master Beekeeper from Atlanta. Here's what Julia said:

*"If there are any amorous queens out there then they are likely out of luck. The workers start cleaning house and battening down the hatches for winter—even when it's still pretty hot here in Georgia. Part of the worker's Back To School routine is to bite the wings off the drones and kick them out the front door. So yes, the answer is that their time has come to an end."*

After the winter solstice, the queen will begin to build up the hive again and when the time is right, she'll lay unfertilized eggs to replenish the drone population for next spring. So don't worry, In Mourning. When spring has sprung, there will be plenty of drones again.

Your truly,

***Aunt Bee***

Many thanks to Master Beekeeper Julia Mahood for answering this question



## ***Hyper-Aggressive Bees***

by Bob Grant

During this sourwood season, I have encountered more hyper-aggressive hives than usual -- around 30%. I manage and own over 48 hives in northeast Georgia and generally encounter one or two hyper-aggressive hives when robbing or inspecting. Keeping in mind that we are in a hot summer dearth until the fall flow, this season is the worst I've seen for aggression. My definition for hyper-aggressive bees goes something like this: as soon as my helper and I remove the hive cover, buzzing volume rises and the bees begin attacking (bumping and stinging) our face shields which causes us to move more than 100 feet from the hives. The bees continued to attack even at that distance and it often takes them 20 to 30 minutes to calm down.

I purchased my gentle south Georgia Italian bees in late March from a respected bee producer that I have used in the past. I replaced 25% of the queens in 60 days from a reputable northern California supplier I have used before. The newly queened hives were not a problem during the sourwood flow.

The initial queens were not a problem during the wildflower flow inspections and robbing. Granted the hives were still building due to the cool spring temperatures that persisted thru early May. However, during the Sourwood flow, I noticed a higher level of aggression even with smoke during my normal inspections. I think it could be caused by any combination of the following:

- Heavy rain periods which slowed the sourwood collection by the bees,
- Being in a dearth at the end of the flow which always adds to the fun,
- Robbing or disturbing hives, even with smoke ( I don't normally use smoke while robbing), and
- The possibility of hybridization of my European stock queens by Africanized drones.

Are you experiencing this unusual behavior? I would welcome input on this unusual situation.

**Not wanting to start a panic about Africanized bees in north Georgia, we decided to check with Jennifer Berry to see what she might say. Her response is below. Thank you, Jennifer, for responding to this.**

**The possibility that these bees are Africanized is slim.** Over the years we have encountered very aggressive bees, had them tested and they came up negative for any Africanization. European bees can be nasty as well, especially this time of year when all the older foragers are home with nothing to do. If your colony is extremely hostile, we recommend re-queening as soon as possible.

Here are some suggestions: If you are new to bees, ask an experienced beekeeper to come help. Re-queening, even in the best of situations can prove to be difficult. Smoke the colony heavily and then wait several minutes before opening the hive. This gives the bees time to ingest honey. Put queen excluders between each super to isolate her to a specific area, then come back five days later and look for eggs. Hopefully, you have corralled her to a specific super which will help to locate her. Look on frames with young brood first before moving to the outer honey frames. After you have examined a frame, don't put it back in the hive; lean it on the outside of the box so she doesn't jump back onto a frame you've already check out. Once you find her, pinch her, and place the new caged queen in that same day. Wait a few days before pulling the cork, to insure acceptance. But don't wait to insert a new queen! You don't want these bees to make their own queen, since aggression is genetically linked.

Remember, the nicest of bees can have a bad day or days. — **Jennifer Berry**, UGA Bee Lab

## ***Beekeeper's Grandson Doing Research***

by Jerry Edwards

The concern about possible colony collapse disorder continues to assault beekeeping, and a grandson of one of our own beekeepers has spent his summer at the University of Miami trying to unlock some of the mystery. A junior at UM where he is a Foote Scholar, Jake Beck, grandson of Jerry Edwards, former president of GBA, is interning with Professor Gary Hitchcock as they study CCD in Florida with a grant funded by the university. Their first presentation was at the Florida Bee Research Symposium at the University of Florida in July.



Survey data collected will be used to research trends relating to colony loss in beehives throughout Florida and also will attempt to quantify the economic losses. Working with Florida's Department of Agriculture, University of Florida's Honey bee Research Lab, and Florida State Beekeepers Association, Professor Hitchcock's and Jake's goal is to provide insight into the dilemma as it relates to Florida beekeeping, both commercial and hobbyists, and to offer facts that will bring about a solution in the future.

Jake has varied experiences in the art of beekeeping from helping his grandfather in the bee yards as a young boy to experiencing the total bee reality by extracting, bottling, and selling honey. May his dual majors of ecosystem science, policy and economics coupled with his innate interest of the honeybee guide him into the honey world. Jake's experience this summer is an example of how beekeeping spans generations.

### **“We Have Bees!”**

by Barbara Phillips, MD

Through the kind donation of two established beehives and a generous grant from Skidaway Audubon, Skidaway Island State Park installed two hives on the park grounds in June this year. The hives were donated by a local beekeeping chef, Daryl Gassmann, who moved to Florida to pursue a new job.

The park rangers are thrilled and have begun to learn beekeeping from their mentor, Dr. Barbara Phillips. They are just about to extract their very first *few* frames of capped honey.

This project was inspired by Bear Kelley's story of installing hives in the state parks in south Georgia during a discussion at the last GBA Meeting. When Skidaway Audubon heard about the project, they were willing to provide the initial funding as part of their Sustainable Skidaway initiative. Their generosity made it possible for the state park to purchase the necessary supplies and equipment to get started.

The rangers, Holly Holdsworth, Park Manager, and Kate Charron, Assistant Park Manager, have been the driving force in establishing the apiary and caring for the bees with the other rangers participating as well. The apiary is located in a part of the park that is next to a freshwater pond and adjacent to a

field. The field is available to the park visitors, but not often visited. It gets morning sun, afternoon shade, and is well signed to alert the public.

The rangers plan to incorporate beekeeping into their educational programs and summer camps at the park beginning in the spring of 2016. The bee hives are a wonderful project and the park community is excited to educate the public about the importance of honey bees and other native pollinators in our world.

Thank you Daryl Gassmann and Skidaway Audubon!



**National Honey Bee Day was celebrated at the Jimmy Carter Boyhood Farm in Archery, Georgia, near the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site in Plains, Georgia.**

The National Park Service hosted the event at the farm which was conducted by members of the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association. Visitors had the opportunity to taste several local honeys as well as one from Puerto Rico. Manuka honey from New Zealand was also available for tasting. The differences in color and taste were explained as well as how an interested person can start beekeeping. WXGA-TV Fox24 in Macon was on hand to interview DeWayne Pitts and others for the evening news.

This was the second annual National Honey Bee Day at the Carter Boyhood Farm.

Rick Moore  
Heart of GA



**EASY BAKED HONEY MUSTARD CHICKEN**

1/4 c. grainy coarse mustard  
 1/4 c. Dijon mustard  
 1/2 c. honey  
 3 tsp. coconut oil  
 1/2 sm. onion, diced  
 2 cloves garlic, minced  
 2 1/2# boneless chicken tenderloins  
 3-4 sprigs fresh rosemary  
 salt and pepper



Combine mustards, honey & 2 tsp oil.

In a cast iron skillet, add 1 tsp oil. Saute onion over medium heat until golden, 5 min. Add garlic and sauté 1-2 min.

Place chicken on top. Salt & pepper tops. Pour honey mixture over chicken. Arrange rosemary around chicken in pan.

Bake covered at 400 for 20 min. Uncover, baste w/sauce in pan and cook 20-30 min until browned and cooked through.

Dinner is served!

Thanks to Gail Albrecht for this recipe

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### ***Beekeeping Tips and Tricks***

by Rick Moore

Small Hive Beetles are the probable cause of my losing a hive recently. One hive check it was fine, two weeks later and it was empty. So I "know a guy." You probably "know a guy" also, who has a homemade contraption he guarantees will get rid of the SHB. And if you don't "know a guy," there are plenty of Youtube videos showing different traps and bait. Caveat emptor, let the buyer beware; many of these simply will not work.

So I went to "my guy" and he told me to get a plastic sign like you see along the roadside



announcing political candidates and cut it into strips, open the back, shove some bait in it, tape it shut, and move on to life's next opportunity. Sounds easy, right? But let me tell you, if there is

a wrong way to do it, I can find it.

I found a sign, dutifully cut the strips to the right sizes, sliced the middle so I could cram bait in it, and what did I find? The corrugated material in the sign has a grain! The sign when correctly cut will have dozens of small openings along the long side of the strip you just cut.

And if you do it wrong, (I DID!) it will have one long, unusable cell. See the pictures for yourself. The first picture is what I was making. The second picture shows the right and the wrong way to cut the sign.



So today's lesson is, check twice, cut once. But had I listened closely, I'm sure "my guy" probably told me that.

## Letter to the Editors

Dear Linda and Gina,

I was glad to see the article about the box stores and the neonics! I almost purchased a couple of plants a few weeks ago and saw the tags. I showed them to the cashier who was in shock. A young guy was there who wanted to know more. Took this today to share with all my friends on Facebook. **Every flowering plant that I saw had them.** I keep sharing and making people aware!!

Thanks,  
Sue Kilgore



## The Final Buzz

There's so much going on in August. Bee season is ending. We are busily preparing for the conference in Milledgeville in September (have you registered? [click here!](#)) Gina and I just couldn't seem to be in town at the same time to work on the September newsletter so we are very, very thankful to Gail Albrecht who stepped in to help edit this edition. It always takes a village - this time Gina edited and organized articles early on, Gail and I copy-edited the articles and I put the newsletter together and sent it to Gail and Gina for a last edit before sending it out. Thank you so much, Gail, for the extra help.

Many, many thanks to all of you who contribute - the club people who send in meeting information and write-ups of your club's activities, people who write articles, people who ask questions of Aunt Bee, people who send in photos. You are the BEST! Keep the articles, recipes, photos and thoughts coming.

If your club has a newsletter, bring it to the fall conference. We want to display all the GBA local club newsletters so we can both cheer and learn from each other.

See you in Milledgeville,

**Linda and Gina**



Deadline for the October edition of the Newsletter is **Sunday, September 27 at midnight.** Please submit your articles (500 words or less) with photos to us by that time in order to be used in the Newsletter.

Club meeting information about upcoming programs and speakers must be in no later than **Tuesday, September 29 (and please don't depend on us to remind you).**

The American Beekeeping Federation Bee Conference and Trade Show is January 5 - 9 in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. For more information, [click here.](#)

# Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

September 2015



**Bear Kelley handing over the Presidential Gavel to Mary Cahill-Roberts**  
photo by Marybeth Kelley

## *The President's Message*

To introduce myself, I am your new Georgia Beekeepers Association President. On September 18 and 19 we had one of the best conferences in Milledgeville. If you were there and attended I hope you found it to be to your liking. If you did not attend, we hope you will come to the next conference in February of 2016.

I have been keeping bees since 2008. I had just read an article about keeping bees in your backyard and said, "You can do that?" I have attended Young Harris Beekeeping Institute, GBA meetings and EAS conventions. I have sat in on classes about a lot of different beekeeping topics. After some I said, "I will never do that;" and after others I have said, "Yea, that works for me." I have spoken to a lot of different people and heard a lot of stories about beekeeping. I have watched a lot of YouTube videos and have read a lot of books. I haven't tried everything and certainly am open to new ideas. Oh, and I run about 15 colonies.

GBA has faced many challenges over the past few years. The by-laws needed updating; the newsletter

needed leadership; the board needed to come together and meet; we needed to discuss how to bring the club together. Those things all happened, and now we are on a great track toward success for our association. GBA has been influencing beekeeping and beekeepers all over the state.

As we all know, beekeeping is integral to Georgia. Beekeeping plays a pivotal role in our state through producing honey bees. Our Georgia commercial beekeepers sell packages and nucs all over the country. The beekeeping industry has a huge impact on Georgia crops. Today Georgia still is a largely agricultural state. Interestingly farmers in Georgia are looking to grow "more gourmet" crops. The newspaper had a big spread about Georgia agricultural where I read that we are the fourth largest producer of blueberries in the US. Blueberries need honey bees to grow blueberries. As our state agricultural landscape is changing so are we.

In the next year, I hope to visit with some of you to ask you what you want the GBA to do for you. I would like to help GBA make that happen. So welcome to the GBA and I hope we can work together to keep moving forward. We do have different needs and wants, but we all want what is best for our girls.

Keep your hive tool handy, your smoker near, and your fire extinguisher close by when you are out with the bees.

Mary Cahill-Roberts  
President, Georgia Beekeepers Association

*Editors' Note: Our new president is both a Master Beekeeper and a Welsh honey judge. To read her bio on the Master Beekeepers page, [click here](#).*



photo by Marybeth Kelley

***Beekeeper of the Year  
2015  
Roseanne Fielder***

A letter nominating Roseanne said, "Roseanne has spent many years of tireless service to help beekeepers and to promote the education of beekeeping. Her service includes involvement in the Georgia Beekeepers Association, Young Harris/ University of Georgia Beekeeping Institute, Putnam and Jones County communities and schools, and the Lake County Beekeepers Association."

## ***State of the Colony Address***

*This is Bear Kelley's final address as President given at the GBA Conference*

As my time as your president comes to an end, it is time once again to let you know the status of your state beekeeping organization.

I appointed Dr. Margo Wimbish as the Chairperson of the Junior Beekeeping program shortly after the 2014 fall meeting and since then she has travelled about, teaching clubs how to work with children and has kept the interest of the program going. The Tara club took advantage of our special funding and expects to do it again this coming year. I want to encourage others to do that as well.

Slade Jarrett and I attended the American Bee Federation meeting in California in January. Again we both were overwhelmed by the information flow and reported on that in the February Newsletter. If you have never been to one, this coming January, the ABF Conference will be held in Jacksonville, Fla. I promise, your beekeeping education will be on steroids by the time you leave.

Our spring meeting was held in Cordele at the Lake Blackshear Resort in February. We were taken by surprise by the attendance, but in spite of the problems that causes, 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 we had to change rooms for the more popular speakers. We had some great speakers as you have asked us to do.

Our Facebook page seems to be very popular as it is receiving tons of hits. Thanks to Brutz for keeping it up. Speaking of the technical aspects of how we do what we do, we changed the expiration date of your membership time. The board approved multi year memberships for 3-5 years instead of just one year. This allows you to join or re-up and not worry about missing the expiration date if you don't attend the next fall meeting. We now have management software to help us take care of our growing membership numbers. You will get an automatic email reminding you when it becomes time to re-up.

For the past year or two, I have been talking about establishing a Bee HAZMAT policy for Georgia. The purpose was to establish an emergency response when a big rig loses a load of bees while driving through Georgia. Well, this is one program that I have failed to accomplish. It seems that I can't bust through the red tape and government jibber-jabber. I thought I was about to close in on it earlier this year when I organized a GBA committee to meet with the state committee, but unfortunately it has never come to be. The new administration may want to continue the effort.

Along with the Fall meeting honey show, we continued to sponsor and conduct the annual Honey Show at the Georgia National Fair with David Tolar taking top honors as Best in Show with his black jar entry. There were 27 entries this time with all signs that this show is growing. The Fair management is really behind us now and this year's show is scheduled for 10 Oct 2015.

Together with the Beekeeping institute from Young Harris (that is Jennifer Berry and her crew), Rhett Kelley and the Ogeechee club, we were able to school and certify 15 prison inmates from Smith State Prison in Glennville. They all passed with flying colors; no failures that day. They continue to operate a



ten hive apiary on the prison grounds. Our work with the state prisons will continue. I am not sure to what degree, but Jennifer and I have already touched base with a state representative and two more facilities.

Our lines of communication with you continue to be a priority. Facebook, web site, “Spilling the Honey” Newsletter, Honey Judges and club Presidents hotline as well as the new Wild Apricot messaging system should keep you informed as long as we have the correct email, telephone info. Linda Tillman even established a Twitter account for the President. I tried it a couple of times and the five people I reached did not seem too impressed with what I had to twitter. I like the Council of Presidents that we established, as I think the club Presidents feel that they have a more sense of belonging than before. We have also established a list of Georgia speakers with a wide variety of topics. You can find the list on our web site and a link in each newsletter.

We as members of the GBA represented you at numerous meetings throughout the year: 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. You should know that when we attend these meetings, we represent the interest of “all” Georgia beekeepers throughout our state and will continue to do so. We continue to strive for professionalism, representation and recognition as we conduct our associations business.

During the past two years, Marybeth and I have tried to get around to as many clubs as possible. Although we were not able to visit every one, we did visit and speak to 16 clubs. Needless to say, we met so many wonderful people and made some new friends along the way. Until today, that was over half of the Georgia clubs. We still have a couple more scheduled and are willing to come to speak at your club at your request. It is estimated that there are in excess of 3,000 beekeepers in Georgia and last year I wrote that our membership rose above 300 members with 29 affiliated clubs. Well this year I am very proud to report that we have 500 members and the number of affiliated clubs is 36! Two years ago we were at less than 180 members and less than 20 clubs. This significant rise is all due to the hard work of the folks you have entrusted to look after the Georgia Beekeepers Association. I have thanked them in my Presidents message that was published in the September newsletter and want say thanks again for all the hard work they have done.



As far as the State of the Colony, it is doing exceptionally well and getting better with each passing month. Thank you all for your support, your input and patience with us as we continue to strive for excellence.

***Bear Kelley,***

Past President, Georgia Beekeepers Assn.



**Our Past President with some of his adoring fans.**

photo by Marybeth Kelley

## ***Meet our New GBA Officers***

We asked our four new officers a few questions so you could get to know them a little more. Here are the three questions we asked:

**Why or how did you get into beekeeping and how long have you kept bees?**

**What career do you have in your non beekeeping life?**

**Why do think GBA is such a dynamic club?**

### **President: Mary Cahill-Roberts**



I started beekeeping in 2008 after reading an article about a guy who had a hive in his backyard. I thought, "You can do that?" So I did.

I am a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in my other full time job.

GBA has become a dynamic club over the past several years. I think that the officers that are involved really listen to the members and attempt to offer something for everyone. The past president, Bear Kelley, made it a point to communicate with the presidents and the local clubs. We are continuing in this vein. We want everyone to take a part, be involved in GBA, send an article into the Newsletter, help with a short course, mentor a new beekeeper, be an officer in your local club or just attend the GBA meetings. Hope to hear from you soon.

### **Vice-President: Andy Bailey**



The way I came into beekeeping is probably different than the way most people have come across beekeeping. It was late winter 2004 and my best friend had just lost his dad to brain cancer. In the spring of the same year he asked me to come help him get his dad's bees ready for spring, and like I know he would do for me, I agreed to help him. I did not know what I was in for, or the the journey on which the bees would take me. So, for 11 years the bees have been part of my life.

My job that supports my beekeeping habit: I do facility maintenance for the Atlanta Athletic Club.

I think the GBA is dynamic because of the diversity in the group. We all come from different walks of life but come together because of the honeybee. While we each have different ways of keeping bees, none of us are wrong in how we choose to go about keeping bees.

### **Treasurer: Rose Anne Dorn Fielder**



I have gotten increasingly more involved since Keith (Fielder, Rose Anne's husband) got back into bees about 15 years ago.

My work is as an Office Manager at Ace Hardware of Gray, GA.

The variety of people involved gives members a wealth of information to use in their "bee life."



**Secretary: Linda Tillman**

I wanted to keep chickens, but my children said they would not babysit chickens when I went out of town. One day I heard a Walter Reeves show where the visiting beekeeper mentioned several short courses and thought, "Bees, not chickens!" I went to a short course in 2006 and have been involved with the bees ever since. I started keeping a beekeeping blog ([www.beekeeperlinda.com](http://www.beekeeperlinda.com)) when I began beekeeping. My blog has kept me in touch with beekeepers around the world.

I am a clinical psychologist in private practice in real life, but I am retiring at the end of 2015 so I will have more time with my bees, my grandchildren, and my baking.

GBA has become a great organization because the leadership of GBA has been open to and supportive of all the many possibilities within the art and science of keeping bees. I value the welcome attitude toward all points of view. That is what makes the organization vibrant and strong.

***GBA Fall Conference***  
***Central Georgia Technical College***  
***September 18-19, 2015***  
***Opening Reception***



The opening reception was hosted by the Lake Country Beekeepers.



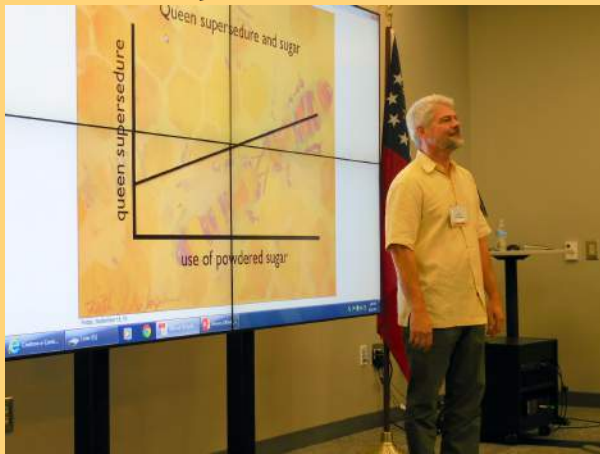
# Great Speakers



Dewey Caron



Michael Bush



Keith Delaplane



Rachael Bonoan



Dean Stiglitz on Raising Queens



Laurie Ramona Herboldsheimer



Honey, Who Knew? Bear Kelley

## *Links for GBA speakers*

If you missed the conference, here are some links to help you learn about the speakers you didn't get to hear. And if you came to the conference and are hungry for more, below are links that the speakers mentioned or that we thought would help you know more:

**Dean Stiglitz** <http://beeuntoothers.com> At his talk on raising queens, Dean provided this link: [beeuntoothers.com/queennotes.pdf](http://beeuntoothers.com/queennotes.pdf)

**Laurie "Ramona" Herboldsheimer** <http://www.BeeUntoOthers.com/>

Laurie gave a very thought-provoking talk on the microbial environment in the hive. [Here's a paper she wrote on the topic](#)

**Michael Bush** <http://bushfarms.com/bees.htm>

Michael's talk on Lazy Beekeeping [can be found here](#) as well as many of his other presentations.

**Dewey Caron** [dmcaron@udel.edu](mailto:dmcaron@udel.edu) <https://beeinformed.org/>

**Rachel Bonoan** [Rachael.Bonoan@tufts.edu](mailto:Rachael.Bonoan@tufts.edu)

She wrote [a special post about her time at the GBA meeting](#)

Below are some links offered by our breakout speakers:

Bill Owens <http://www.gabeeremoval.com/>

Keith Delaplane [www.ent.uga.edu/bees](http://www.ent.uga.edu/bees) Here's [a paper](#) from his time in England.

Steve Page This link is a [pdf of his beekeeping method](#).

Ray Civitts who talked about the challenges of commercial beekeeping [can be found here](#).

Jay Parsons offered [this link on the small hive beetle](#).

Many thanks to the honey judges at the GBA Fall Conference. They worked hard and missed all of the Friday speakers in order to work on the honey show judging. The judges were:

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Keith Fielder     | Sr Judge       |
| Robert Brewer     | Sr Judge       |
| Brutz English     | Show Secretary |
| Randy Rolen       | Judge          |
| Rodney Garner     | Judge          |
| Kevin Baker       | Judge          |
| Caleb Kidd        | Steward        |
| Gloria Huddleston | Steward        |

Be sure to enter your honey next year and you could be among the winners.



Bobby Chaisson won many ribbons along with others who turned in honey of merit. Honey show ribbon winners also received cash prizes.

Jay Parsons won Best in Show for his award-winning mead.



## Sack Mead

*If you like your meads sweet, light, and true to their heritage, you'll love sack mead. The flavor is so full of honey, you can almost hear the bees buzz! Because this mead is flavored only with honey, the tannin is an essential part of the recipe. Leave it out, and you may find the end result a bit insipid. Budding wine connoisseurs often choose sack mead for a little Renaissance flair.*

1/12/13 (x3)

YIELD: 1 GALLON (3.8 L)

- 3 pounds (1.4 kg) ~~orange-blossom~~ honey
- 1 teaspoon (5 g) acid blend
- 1 teaspoon (5 g) pectic enzyme
- 1 Campden tablet (optional)
- 1 package (5–7 g) Montrachet yeast
- 1 teaspoon (5 g) yeast nutrient
- 1½ cups (360 ml) orange juice, at room temperature
- ¼ teaspoon (1.25 g) grape tannin

1. In a large enamel or stainless steel pot, boil the honey in water (1 part honey to 2 parts water) for 10 to 20 minutes, skimming off any foam that forms. (The foam will contain water impurities and beeswax residue.)
2. Let cool, and then transfer the honey mixture to a 2-gallon (7.6 L) plastic container. Add the acid, pectic enzyme, and enough water to make 1 gallon (3.8 L). Add the Campden tablet, if desired, and let the mixture sit, well covered, for 24 hours.
3. In a jar, make a yeast starter culture by combining the yeast, yeast nutrient, and orange juice. Cover, shake vigorously, and let stand 1 to 3 hours, until bubbly; then add to the must.
4. Add the tannin and allow the mixture to ferment. We recommend racking meads after the most vigorous fermentation; siphon the wine into a 1-gallon (3.8 L) airlocked fermentation vessel. In about three months, rack into another airlocked container. In about six months, rack once again. Rack a final time right before bottling — about a year after fermentation started. Then bottle and cork the finished mead, and store it in a cool cellar.
5. Age for at least six months before opening a bottle.

Jay generously shared his recipe for the Best in Show Mead. The recipe came from *Making Wild Wines & Meads* by Pattie Vargas & Rich Gulling



Distinctions and Desserts - Honey Ice Cream and wonderful desserts contributed by GBA members - thanks, everyone. We also had an auction - live and silent and raised about \$3000 toward the cost of holding the fall meeting. Thanks to all who bid and all who won.



To see all of these and more photos, we've created a photo journal and slideshow on our [Spilling the Honey](#) website.



**STREET CRED: Important Links that may help you**

-- Perry, GA Honey show information and rules [can be found here](#).

-- Coastal Science Labs Honey analysis costs and how to submit samples [can be found here](#).

**-- Pollen Testing**

Vaughn M. Bryant, PhD can test the pollen content of honey. The cost is \$60 and takes about a week.

[vbryant@tamu.edu](mailto:vbryant@tamu.edu) (pollen testing link sent in by Gail Dean)

For club speaker ideas, GBA maintains a speaker list. If you would like to speak to clubs, [click here](#) to be added to the list. As a speaker, plan to know what your honorarium request will be if you are asked to speak. If you have invited speakers for your club, [click here to read an article](#) first published in *Bee Culture* about how to treat your speakers well.

| Club Name                  | Speaker/Topic                                                                       | When                     | Where                                    | City                                      |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Altamaha                   | <b>None:</b> Fun and Fellowship                                                     | Mon<br>10/5              | Chatters<br>Restaurant                   | Lyons, GA                                 |
| Chattahoochee<br>Valley    | <b>Bud Champlin</b>                                                                 | Mon<br>10/13 6 PM        | Oxbow<br>Meadows<br>Environmental        | Columbus, GA                              |
| Clark's Hill<br>Beekeepers | <b>Jonathan Hanger</b><br>Honeybees and Flight                                      | Mon<br>10/12 7 PM        | Columbia<br>County<br>Extension          | Appling, GA                               |
| Coweta<br>Beekeepers       | <b>Steven Page</b> Review of GBA<br>meeting, planning for next year &<br>honey show | Mon 10/12                | 255 Pine Road                            | Newnan, GA                                |
| Gwinnett<br>Beekeepers     | <b>Silviu Gavriiliuc:</b> Natural<br>Beekeeping                                     | Tues<br>10/13 7 PM       | Hebron Baptist<br>Church                 | Dacula, GA                                |
| Henry                      | <b>Linda Tillman:</b> Simple Ways to<br>Help your Beekeeping                        | Tues<br>10/8 7 PM        | 100 Babbs Mill<br>Rd                     | Hampton, Ga                               |
| Heart of Georgia           | <b>Steve Page:</b> Nectar Management                                                | Tues 10/20               | Camp John<br>Hope                        | Fort Valley, GA                           |
| Lake Country               | <b>Bear Kelley:</b> Honey, Who Knew?                                                | Mon<br>10/19 7 PM        | County<br>Extension Office               | Sparta, GA                                |
| Lake Hartwell              | <b>Bobby Chaisson:</b> Getting Our<br>Bees Ready to Survive the Winter              | Thurs<br>10/1 7 PM       | Lavonia Baptist<br>Family Life<br>Center | Lavonia, GA                               |
| MABA                       | <b>Cyndi Ball</b> How to make Beauty<br>Berry Salve                                 | Wed<br>10/14             | Atlanta<br>Botanical<br>Garden           | Atlanta, GA                               |
| Oglethorpe                 | <b>Short Course</b>                                                                 | 10/24                    | ocbeeclub.org                            |                                           |
| Tera                       | <b>Annual Picnic</b>                                                                | Mon<br>10/10<br>11:00 AM | GA Power<br>752 Main St                  | 283 Hills Bridge Rd<br>Fayetteville 30215 |
| Troup County               | "Understanding the Decline and<br>Build-up in the Colony"                           | Mon 10/9                 | Ag Center on<br>Hamilton Road            |                                           |
| West Georgia               | <b>Bobby Torbush:</b><br>"The Making of Mead"                                       | Mon 10/26<br>6:30        | Douglasville<br>American<br>Legion,      | Douglasville, GA                          |



## Club News and Notes

### Honey Harvest Days

This year the Creative Discovery Museum in Chattanooga TN hosted the 15th Honey Harvest celebration. The Chattooga Beekeepers had the privilege of helping visitors to the museum learn about honeybees and bee products by assisting in the manufacture of lip balm, soap, and fresh floral collage.

Beekeepers Derick Forester and Alan Nix answered questions about bees and how to get started in beekeeping.



(Photos by Sophia Price)

In more news, the Chattooga Beekeepers hosted their first honey show in conjunction with the Chattooga Agricultural Fair. It was the first honey show to be held in the county. Myrna Warren won Best in Show with her needlework, and Billy and Joan Williams won the Black Jar and Photo ribbons.



### Heart of Georgia

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers held our monthly meeting on Sept 15, 2015 at Camp John Hope near Ft. Valley, GA.

Bear Kelley spoke about getting honey ready for the upcoming Honey Show at the GBA Fall Conference and the 2nd annual Heart of Georgia Beekeepers sponsored Honey Show at the Georgia National Fair in Perry, GA. All honey producers are encouraged to compete for the \$250 Best in Show prize.

Jesse McCurdy spoke on what we need to do in order to get our bees ready for winter.

To conclude our meeting we enjoyed tasting 11 different samples of members' honey. Leonard Day won for Best Tasting Honey. Congratulations to Leonard (standing near the table wearing the long sleeve blue shirt), and his honey will be displayed at Jesse McCurdy's honey booth at the Georgia National Fair in October.

The Heart of Georgia Beekeepers club has donated \$250 to be awarded to the winner of the Best in Show award at the Perry fair honey show. Yea!

Our next meeting, will be October 20th at Camp John Hope. All are welcome to attend!

## East Metro Beekeepers Short Course Saturday, October 17, 2015



Rockdale County Cooperative Extension,

1400 Parker Road, Lobby A Conyers, GA 30094

Short Course speakers include: Buster Lane, Fran Lane, Greg Zechman, David Shipp and David Bigham. For further information, please call: David Shipp at 770-843-0313 or email:

The7shipp@aol.com

## Four Coweta Beekeepers now Certified



The Coweta Beekeepers Association offered the Certified Beekeeper exam in the Georgia Master Beekeeping Program on August 29, 2015. Four beekeepers; Kara Bassett, Adam Montgomery, David Robertson and Phil Mitchell took the exam and all passed.

Congratulations



## Honey Show at the Georgia National Fair

Everyone is encouraged to enter the Honey Show on Friday and Saturday, October 9 & 10, 2015. Online registration is preferred, but if you cannot get the registration to complete properly, bring your honey and registration form to the Fair on Friday or Saturday. The Fair parade is Saturday at 10 a.m., use any entrance to the fairgrounds. One adult will be admitted to the fairgrounds without charge when bringing honey to the competition.

Go [HERE](#) to see the official rules. And you can download the [ENTRY FORM](#) from this link. Bring your honey and participate for a \$250 prize and bragging rights for 2015.

**Saturday, September 26** is the **Georgia State Parks Volunteer Day**. Volunteers are encouraged to participate in building the "pollinator's garden" and/or other projects (assembly of two beehive boxes and picnic pads and paths at two of the cabins) at Gordonia Alatomaha State Park in Reidsville. You will earn a free t-shirt and free parking for the day. Also there will be a door prize given. Come out and support Al Alford, Park Manager, as a fellow beekeeper! Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Park Office.



## Altamaha:

Our chapter meeting was informative last month with a great presentation of a "bee vacuum" that was built and demonstrated to us by Denny Thigpen. Thank you, Denny! Also, there was good discussion centered on recent bee colony disappearances experienced by several of our members, as well as planning ahead for our next order placement for nucs and/or packages. We also have some great activities coming up. Please try to get as many of these on your calendar as possible:

**Saturday, October 3** is the facility tour at **Wilbanks Apiaries in Claxton**. The tour will begin at 10:00 a.m and is expected to last about 2 hours. If you wish to ride together as a group, meet at Chatters Restaurant in Lyons at 9:00 a.m. Monty Usher will lead the caravan to the apiary. Please call Monty 293-0310 to confirm your attendance so that Wilbanks will know how many are planning to attend.

Bring your cameras to the events and be ready to share snapshots with the chapter at our next meeting on **Monday, October 5**. Please 'bee' there!



## Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center's Honey Bee Festival.

The Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center held their Annual Honey Bee Festival on September 27, 2015. The intent of the Festival is all about raising awareness and developing an appreciation of the honey bee and its impact on Georgia's agriculture and economy.

Various invited beekeepers and clubs were well represented with educational displays and a myriad of products from the hive, all available for purchase thus extending the memory of the day. The Beekeeper's Club of Gwinnett County members were asked to speak to the guests in attendance. Tommy Bailey, past President and Founder of the club and Derrick Fowler, current President spoke of "Honey Bees and Man: Forever Linked" The brief history discussion led to the modern era of beekeeping and the tools required for successful beekeeping.

Tommy and Derrick fielded questions from the groups and quite possibly sparked an interest in those fascinated with the world of beekeeping.

### **Center for Honey Bee Research Holds Annual Black Jar Contest**

*Greetings Fellow Beekeepers,*

*Now is the time to carefully bundle and ship your entry, if you haven't already.*

*Don't forget there are (10) category winners of \$150 each in addition to the Grand Prize of \$1500 and even if you don't win this year it goes for a good cause. Last year's Winner entered for three years before finally breaking through so don't under-estimate your chances.*

*[The Center for Honeybee Research](#) is an IRS recognized and all volunteer 501-C (3) charitable organization.*

*Deadline Oct. 15, 2015*

*Thanks and good luck!*

*Carl Chesick  
Director*



[Facebook Page](#)

Dear Aunt Bee,

If I want to relocate a beehive less than 50 yards to over winter and try it in a new spot, what is the best way to ensure success?

Regards from  
***Hopefully Moving on up***

Dear Hopefully Moving,

Foraging bees orient to their hive location and need the hive to stay put so they can return each day. If you want to move a hive within the same yard, and if you have the time, move the hive a foot or less toward the new location each day so the bees can gradually adjust.

If the hive will be facing a different way, you can slightly turn it with each move until you position it where you want it. It's a slow dance across the bee yard, but allows the bees to know where home is.

If you move the hive fifty yards all at once, expect to see some very confused bees returning to the old location. With each day's slight move, put some branches or debris in front of the entry which makes the bees think they need to re-orient before flying off for the day.

Good luck,

***Aunt Bee***



## ***How to Renew your GBA Membership***

Now that GBA is over 500 members strong, we are operating our membership through a membership management software called Wild Apricot. This is a software also used by the South Carolina Beekeepers Association as well as the Eastern Apicultural Society.

Many of you have received recent notices in your email inviting you to renew your membership. To renew your membership, here are the steps to take:

1. Login to your GBA account - to do this, **you must use the email address that you used to sign up for GBA** (some people have multiple email addresses and have had a hard time logging in because they were not using the address they used when they signed up).
2. Once you have logged in, click on your name on the right of the page to take you to your profile
3. The title of this page is Membership Details. Just under that you'll see **CHANGE MEMBERSHIP LEVEL**. If you want to change your level, click on this button to change your level to one of the ten possible below:
  - Individual membership that does not automatically renew (\$15 for one year, \$30 for two, \$45 for three, \$60 for four years)
  - Individual membership that DOES automatically renew (\$15) - in this level, you allow the software automatically to renew your dues through PayPal each year, saving you the time and effort.
  - Family membership that does not automatically renew (\$25 for one year, \$50 for two, \$75 for three, \$100 for four) - this can cover up to five family members
  - Family membership that DOES automatically renew (\$25) - in this level, like the individual membership, your renewal happens automatically through your PayPal account each year.
4. After you've chosen your membership level, choose **NEXT** at the bottom right of the page.
5. At the upper left, click on **EDIT PROFILE**
6. On the page that shows up, you can edit and change your name, your address, your email address, your phone number.
7. When you've made those changes, click **CONFIRM**
8. Now you'll find yourself on a **BALANCE DUE** page. Here you'll see a **PAY ONLINE** button just under the treasurer's address. If you want to pay by PayPal, click on this button.
9. **You are now a renewed member of GBA.**
10. You can also pay your dues by mailing a check but your membership won't be renewed until the check is received and entered into the program.

If you have any problems with this process, please contact Linda Tillman ([gabeeseecretary@gmail.com](mailto:gabeeseecretary@gmail.com))

## **Working the Bugs Out**

By Kathleen Bourn

We all know our loved and admired honey bees will pretty much live wherever they want. We appreciate their construction and home-making abilities, but there are times when their choice of real estate location isn't all that good for us (especially non-bee lovers).

That's where relocation teams like Georgia Bee Removal come in. Bill Owens along with his wife Lisa and partner Bobby Chaisson get the bugs out. They run their operation out of Owens Apiaries in Monroe as a full-time bee removal company. Bill is the highest certified beekeeper in Georgia -- holding the title of Master Craftsman Beekeeper.

The pictures here show Bobby doing a "cut out" for a lady in Snellville last spring. The bees found a nice snug home in the second story (of course, it's the second story) bay window roof. On the day Bobby worked on the home, Channel 11 in Atlanta captured him with the bees. The TV station had been getting a lot of calls from viewers about swarms, as they do every swarm season, and reported on what Georgia Bee Removal suggests people do about the problem.

Bee removal is often either the next step for beekeepers starting out or a big part of expanding a bee operation. Next month Bobby will educate members of the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association on the delicacies of bee relocation. There are a lot of considerations if you want to get into this game. It's hard work; you

need an assortment of equipment; and the customers (and the bees) have to come away happy.

The LHBA meeting is Thursday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> at 7p.m. and all are welcome. It's held at the First Baptist Church in Lavonia at 95 Bowman St. Lavonia, Ga. 30553.



One of our favorite snacks that we make when the grandchildren visit is honey butter popcorn. I like to use the kernels of white corn and pop them in a pan the old fashioned way, but microwave popcorn is fine too.

1 stick of butter melted  
1/4 to 1/3 cup of honey  
1/2 tsp salt

Just melt the butter with the honey and salt in a small sauce pan. Drizzle over a large bowl of warm popped corn.



Margie Loftin  
Henry County Beekeepers



### Upcoming Events:

**Varroa Field Day** October 17 at  
Liberty Hill Honey Co, Milner,  
GA

**East Metro Short Course**  
October 17, Conyers, GA

## The Final Buzz

As we turn the last corner of this year, we are glad to have had our time together at our GBA Fall conference last month. We had a record number of over 200 for our fall meeting attendance! We hope that you enjoyed getting together and learning more about keeping bees. And we hope you had fun hanging out with other beekeepers.

Thanks to everyone who sent in articles, recipes, photos, and club meeting information. If your club has a newsletter, consider adding our email to your subscriber list:

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

And special thanks to Gail Albrecht for copy-editing, Rick Moore and Marybeth Kelley for photos,

*Gina and Linda*



Deadline for the November edition of the Newsletter is **Sunday, October 25 at midnight**. Please submit your articles (500 words or less) with photos to us by that time in order to be used in the Newsletter.

Club meeting information about upcoming programs and speakers must be in by **Wednesday, October 28**.

# Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

November 2015



Honey Judges for the Georgia National Fair Honey Show held in Perry Georgia in October. Left to right: Marcy Cornell, Bear Kelley, Brutz English, Rozalyn Todd and Kevin Baker

## *President's Message*

It's Turkey month and Thanksgiving will be here soon. In October the third annual honey show was held at the Georgia National Fair in Perry, Georgia. We had a great turnout with over forty entries. The show just keeps growing. I'd like to give a big thanks to the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers who donated \$250 prize money for the show. Next year I challenge all of the clubs to donate money. If the prize money were \$1000, I wonder how many people would enter.

Thanks to the hard work of Brutz English, we have found a great location for the spring GBA conference at Gordon State College in Barnesville, Georgia near Griffin. At the spring meeting on February 13, we are expanding the mead and beer show to include baking. You'll find that information in this edition of the Newsletter. The spring meeting is shaping up to provide us with a lot of good beekeeping information and the opportunity for networking with fellow beekeepers.

I am closing up my hives for the winter and trying something new. I will let you know how it works out in the spring. The weather reports indicate that *El Nino* is going to give us a wet gray winter. I hope our bees will get some flight time and that we beekeepers will have some time to intervene if we need to make changes to help them survive the winter.

Keep your hive tool handy, your smoker lit and your fire extinguisher nearby when you are out with the bees.

***Mary Cahill Roberts, GBA President***

## Varroa Field Day

by John Wingfield

The first Varroa Field Day was held on October 17th at the Liberty Hill Ranch. This event was hosted by Brutz English of Liberty Hill Honey and his family. It was originally scheduled for September 26th, but this date had to be cancelled because of bad weather. Brutz invited us to visit his new honey house while we waited on those who were delayed by traffic. He explained the process of building a honey house to the twenty-five beekeepers gathered there. He made visits to many other honey houses to get recommendations of what to do and what not to do when building a honey house. He had to determine how to make certain it would pass state inspection. His new honey house did pass. He stated that the inspectors were very helpful. He added that if you are constructing a honey house, build it larger than you need as you will later need the extra space. We had a good lunch of hot dogs and hamburgers, drink, chips, and a cookie.

After lunch the varroa mite presentations began. Brett Nolan, a UGA doctoral candidate, started with the varroa history, biology, and life cycle. Nathan Beach, a UGA Bee Lab employee, made a presentation on the approved methods for treating varroa. He discussed each of the hard and soft chemicals approved to treat Varroa and also non-chemical methods.

After his presentation we were divided into three groups and walked several hundred feet to the demonstration areas near the honey house. Each of the three areas had about ten hives with supers. This was the main event of the program. Here we saw each of the chemicals installed in an active hive. My group was led by Nick Weaver, a UGA Bee Lab employee. He described each treatment along with several methods for determining the percentage of varroa in the hive. His favorite was the powdered sugar method:

- Shake 300 bees into a glass jar.
- Scoop 1 tbsp. of powdered sugar into the jar.
- Close the jar with a screened lid. Roll jar until all bees are white and then let the bees sit for a minute.
- After one minute shake the mites and sugar out through the screened lid onto a white surface (1 full minute) Threshold: 7-19 mites

If you'd like to see photos of Noah Macey, youngest Master Beekeeper in Georgia, employing this same process at a hive inspection at Chastain Park in Atlanta, [click here](#).

**Happy Thanksgiving**

Many GBA members have not renewed their dues. If you haven't paid yours just before or since the fall meeting, **YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS LAPSED!** We are a great bargain - only \$15 for an individual membership and \$25 for a family membership. Pay your dues today and continue to enjoy this newsletter and the other benefits of membership.



# Club News and Notes

## Altamaha Beekeepers

On Saturday, October 3rd, members of the Altamaha Beekeepers Association visited the facilities of Wilbanks Apiaries in Claxton, Ga. Seventeen members, spouses, and kids were given a tour of the operating offices, warehouses, assembly areas, and syrup canning facilities. Reg Willbanks, the third generation of the Wilbanks family to run this business, hosted the visit and gave members a history of the apiary.



Wilbanks Apiaries is one of the largest honey-bee package businesses in the world, each year delivering up to 20 thousand bee “packages” and 60 thousand queen bees. A bee package is a box containing up to 30 thousand individual honey-bees and one queen bee, used to start one new hive of bees. Individual queen bees

are sold to replace dead or non-producing queens in an established hive. Wilbanks helps supply the needs of the 2000 commercial beekeepers in the United States, and also ships to buyers in other countries. There are approximately 3.2 million honey-bee hives in commercial use in the United States contributing \$14 billion dollars to the economy each year.



Wilbanks started business in Claxton in 1948, moving there after a fire destroyed the family home in North Georgia. Starting from four hives given as a wedding present to Reg’s grandfather, the business has grown to 7 thousand hives and 15 thousand queen mating boxes, employing up to 20 workers during the busy spring mating season.

The Altamaha Beekeepers Association is an educational organization dedicated to the promotion of the art and science of beekeeping to hobbyist beekeepers, commercial beekeepers, and the general public in the area of southeast Georgia through member cooperation and information exchange via meetings, programs and projects. The ABA has members from Toombs, Tattnall, and surrounding counties and meets on the first Monday of each month at Chatters Restaurant in Lyons at 6:00 p.m. For more information on the club contact President Holly Nielson at [nielson.holly@gmail.com](mailto:nielson.holly@gmail.com) or visit their Facebook page.



**Heart of Georgia Beekeepers** held our monthly meeting on October 20th at Camp John Hope between Perry and Fort Valley. The guest speaker for the evening was Steve Page of Coweta Beekeepers from Coweta County, GA.



Steve spoke extensively on nectar management, aka, checkerboarding. He brought a hive and supers of frames to provide a hands on demonstration, making it easier to grasp the concepts. Steve also spoke on rearing queens and making splits. The powerpoint presentation was thorough and informative. The packed audience was anxious to put the principles into action.



**Blue Ridge Honey Company Field Trip**

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association members were treated to a tour of Blue Ridge Honey Company's commercial operation in Lakemont, Georgia, on Saturday, October 31. Bob Binnie was our host and tour guide.

We were taken from the store front where gifts from the hive, and beekeeper supplies are sold, to the bottling room, the extraction area, and the hot comb and wax rendering rooms are. We also saw the storage areas where the nucs and woodenware, and honey barrels are kept.

Bob answered lots of questions and shared stories of how he came to set up his shop as he has, and we all got to see for ourselves how a commercial beekeeping operation works, the equipment and scale of the venture, and the bottling, labeling and packaging aspect as well. Bob's extensive 30-plus years of experience in the industry makes



him a valuable resource for any beekeeper, and it was a privilege to see behind the scenes as we did. Thank you, Bob!

**Holly Bayendor McConnell**  
 Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association  
 Board of Directors



**Jonathan Hayes:** After placing third in the GBA honey show I entered in the Georgia National Fair and won second place in the medium honey category. Jonathan belongs to Heart of Georgia Beekeepers.



**Pine Grove Middle School** in Valdosta Georgia is starting a Beekeeping Club! We have had SO much support from the community of beekeepers so far! The students will be doing 100% of the work while the teachers facilitate. So far we have 30+ members.

~~~~~

**CANDLE MAKING CLASS:** Bob Binnie's Blue Ridge Honey Company will offer a two hour class in Candle Making on December 5th at 1:00 PM at his new facility in Lakemont, Georgia on Highway 441.. Call Diana at 706 782- 6722 to reserve your seats!! (There is no charge.)



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### Chattooga County Beekeepers

Bee My Honey won second place in the Whimsical Category of the Chattooga County Scarecrow contest. Sophia Price of the Chattooga County Beekeepers made this scarecrow.



### GBA SPRING 2016 MEETING

The spring meeting of GBA will be held in Barnesville, GA (near Griffin) at the Gordon State College campus on Saturday, February 13th. The evening before there will be a reception near the host hotel after the GBA board meeting. The members of our speakers committee (Andy Bailey, Jennifer Berry, and Keith Fielder) are working hard to get speakers and breakouts arranged. Among the speakers who have agreed to come are Jim Tew, Roger Simonds, Kerry Owen and David Westervelt.

Save the date and look for more information about the meeting in next month's newsletter.

### GBA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

After much thought and information gathering by meeting committee, the GBA board has decided to have our Spring and Fall meetings on the same weekend and hopefully at the same place every year. We are doing this to keep impact to individual clubs own programs at a minimum, to avoid the large state Bee schools dates and help our GBA Conference management team have the tools necessary to make these meetings better than ever. Please mark your calendars.

In 2016 the spring meeting will be on the second weekend of February, the 13th. Going forward spring meetings will be held the third weekend in March and we hope to secure the Barnesville location for this meeting. Our fall meetings will be held the first weekend in October in Milledgeville.

## Upcoming Club Meetings

For club speaker ideas, GBA maintains a speaker list. If you would like to speak to clubs, [click here](#) to be added to the list. As a speaker, plan to know what your honorarium request will be if you are asked to speak. If you have invited speakers for your club, [click here to read an article](#) first published in *Bee Culture* about how to treat your speakers well.

| Club Name           | Speaker/Topic                                                                 | When                  | Where                         | City            |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Altamaha            | TBA                                                                           | Mon 11/2              | Chatters Restaurant           | Lyons, GA       |
| Coweta Beekeepers   | <b>Bobby Torbush:</b> Nectar Plants                                           | Mon 11/9<br>7:00      | 255 Pine Road                 | Newnan GA       |
| Effingham County    | 2015 Honey Tasting and discussing                                             | Thur 11/12<br>6:30    |                               |                 |
| Gilmer County       | <b>Bud Champlin:</b> That Amazing Bee                                         | Mon 11/9<br>7:00      | Gilmer County Civic Center,   | Elijay GA       |
| Gwinnett Beekeepers | <b>Sergey Volzhskiy:</b> Apitherapy                                           | Tues 11/10<br>7:00    | 202 Hebron Church Road        | Dacula, GA      |
| Heart of Georgia    | Elections for 2016                                                            | 11/7                  | Camp John Hope                | Fort Valley, GA |
| Lake Country        | <b>Bruce Morgan:</b> Beekeeping Throughout the Year                           | Mon 11/16<br>7 PM     | County Extension Office       | Sparta, GA      |
| MABA                | <b>Dr. Keith Delaplane:</b> Analysis of Neonicotinoid Effects on Bees & Crops | Wed 11/11 7PM         | Atlanta Botanical Garden      | Atlanta, GA     |
| Tara Beekeepers     | Honey Show and Tasting Honey Contest                                          | Mon 11/16<br>7 PM     | GA Power 752 Main St          | Forest Park, GA |
| West Georgia        | <b>Richard Littleton:</b> Pests in the Hive/Varroa                            | Mon 11/ 23<br>6:30 PM | Douglasville American Legion, | Douglasville GA |

## Georgia Beekeepers Association Spring Honey Show

Welsh Judging rules will apply

**Categories Include:** Mead, Beer, Non-Alcoholic Beverages, Honey Cake, and the Queen's Own Banana Bread Recipe

**When:** February 13, 2016

**Where:** Georgia Beekeepers Spring Meeting, Gordon State College

**Time:** Entries due in between 8 AM and 12 noon

## Street Cred

Purdue bees biting off the legs of varroa mites:

<http://www.onearth.org/earthwire/backyard-honeybee-breeders-fighting-varroa-mites>

from Steve Page

Apimondia 2019 announced:

<http://www.apimondia2019mtl.com/>  
<http://www.apimondia.org/>

## Honey and Rosemary Sweet Potatoes

Prep 15 m Cook 1 h Ready In 1 h 15 m

Recipe By:Coco

### Ingredients

2 tablespoons olive oil  
1/4 cup honey  
2 tablespoons chopped fresh rosemary  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
3 large sweet potatoes, peeled and cut in 1-inch cubes

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) Line a baking sheet with foil or parchment paper.
2. Mix the olive oil, honey, rosemary, salt, and black pepper together in a large bowl, and stir the sweet potato cubes in the mixture to coat. Remove sweet potato cubes with a slotted spoon, and arrange in a single layer on the prepared baking sheet.
3. Bake in the preheated oven until tender,



about 45 minutes. Turn oven heat up to 450 degrees and bake until browned, another 15 minutes.

## Hive Notes

by Ricky Moore

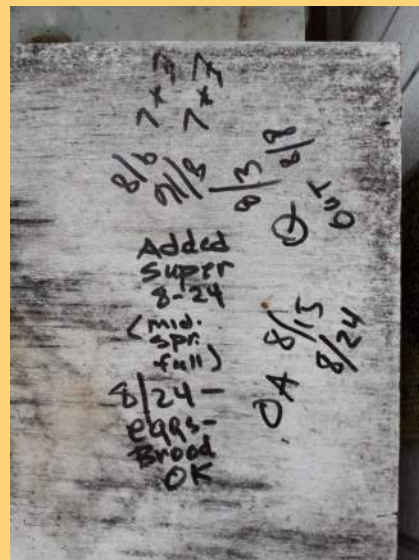
Whether you have three hives or thirty-three, it can be difficult to remember the conditions of each hive and what tasks you did on each hive on each work day. I use to keep a journal, but it was hard to remember what I saw in each hive to write it down. I thought the next natural progression was to use my smartphone and leave myself a voice message detailing each hive. But that required transcribing all those notes.

What to do,  
what to do...

My latest step backwards, is the easiest and most satisfying to

date. I write on the telescopic cover the details I want to remember. Then when I'm back to inspect or open a hive, all the pertinent information is right on the lid.

When the hive changes, or the lid fills up, simply repaint the top and start over!



## *Georgia National Fair Honey Show*

by Bear Kelley

The show was organized by Brutz English and Broadus Williams. The show was held on Saturday, 10 October, 2015. Entries were accepted on the 9th and 10th. There were 41 entries this year (up from 27 last year). Judging began at 1 pm. The show Secretaries were Broadus and Marybeth Kelley. Senior Judge was Bear Kelley and other judges were: Brutz English, Kevin Baker, Rozalyn Todd and Marcy Cornell. There were 4 categories: Light Extracted, Medium Extracted, Dark Extracted and Black Jar. The winners were:

### **Light Extracted**

1st - Melissa Bondurant  
 2nd - David Tolar  
 3rd - Gail Dean  
 Very Highly Commendable – Johnathan Hayes  
 Highly Commendable – Jay Parsons

### **Amber Extracted**

1st – Jay Parsons  
 2nd – Johnathan Hayes  
 3rd - Brutz English  
 Highly Commendable – David Tolar  
 Commendable – Melissa Bondurant

A check in the amount of \$250 (donated by the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers) was awarded to Melissa along with the best in show award. Ribbons were awarded for all other categories. (It should be noted that the Georgia National Fair donated the ribbons and judging room.) The winners are displayed in the Heritage Bldg at Jessie McCurdy's honey booth.

### **Dark Extracted**

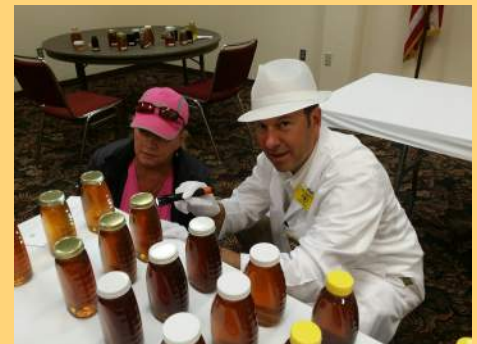
2nd – Jay Parsons  
 3rd - David Tolar  
 Highly Commendable – Broadus Williams

### **Black Jar**

1st – Jennalee Bruce

### **Best of Show -**

Melissa Bondurant (Light Extracted)





Linda Tillman's dog, Hannah, dressed up as a bee for Halloween!

### ***Dear Aunt Bee,***

I'm trying Warre style quilt boxes on my Langstroth hives this year. I have #8 hardware cloth "inner covers" on my hives that I use year-round. In the winter it allows me to use it as a feeder for syrup or bricks. This year I put weed block material within a super and then filled it with cedar shavings. This allows me to still use it as a feeder and I'm hoping it will draw moisture from the hive. There is also a small upper entrance on the inner cover. I have the drain pipe in there so I can remove the jars without dealing with the shavings. I'm also hoping it keeps the syrup warmer.



My question is, is the weed block OK to use considering they have to suck on it to get the syrup out of the jars? I'm not sure what it's made of but it's standard garden weed block that allows moisture through.

If I put sugar bricks on, I'll put them in between the weed block and the hardware cloth.

Any suggestions are appreciated!

***Out of the Box Thinker***



### ***Dear Out of the Box Thinker,***

I had no idea how to answer this, so I consulted my friend, Steve Esau, who researched this question and came up with this response:

*From what I have researched, the typical weed block fabric that can be purchased at your home improvement center is made from polypropylene. Polypropylene is a synthetic resin that is a polymer of propylene, used in fabrics, ropes, and molded objects. We come in contact with polypropylene everyday in our daily lives.*

*This product appears safe and does not leach any chemicals into the soil or water that it comes in contact with. This would also hold true when used as described between the feeder and the #8 hardware cloth to where it would not leach chemicals into the hive or syrup.*

*The purpose of the cloth being used in a Warre Hive is to allow the bees to control airflow by use of propolis and thus controlling temperature and moisture in the hive. If weed block fabric works for you and your bees, I would not be afraid to continue to use. Only caution I would throw out would be to make sure the fabric does not "wick" the syrup out of the feeder faster than the bees can consume to avoid syrup dripping on the cluster and chilling your bees. Remember as the syrup chills below 50 degrees F, consumption of the syrup will drastically decrease. As we move into cooler nights using a sugar brick may be a better feed alternative to a hive that is short on winter stores.*

Thanks to Steve Esau, we have an answer!  
Hope that helps,

***Aunt Bee***





Young summer queens lay prolifically into the fall resulting in a strong colony entering winter.

From Steve Page

## Lazy B Farm Beekeeping

Hard to believe but we are getting ready to start our seventh year of teaching the Lazy B Farm Beekeeping Series! When I look back over the years and think of all the women and men who have been introduced to the incredible world of honeybees, I'm overwhelmed.

I remember my very first hive 12 years ago and I was scared to death to "check my bees", and also wishing there was someone to go into the hive with me. It's been amazing to watch our students progress from timid and a little scared to confident and no gloves!

I think the biggest positive from this series is the privilege I've had to work with Bill Owens. I've listened to him teach in our series for 6 years and every time I learn something new :-)

We love our bees and we love introducing new students to them!

<http://thelazybfarm.com/beekeeping-series-2016>



## City of Dunwoody Accepts the Legality of Beekeeping in your Backyard

Frank Self, Atlanta beekeeper who lives in Dunwoody, meticulously researched the laws before he got his beehives. An active participant in the hive inspections offered by his local bee club, he started beekeeping by babysitting a neighbor's hives for a summer. Frank attends GBA meetings, the Beekeeping Meetup in Atlanta, MABA meetings and the Beekeeping Institute at Young Harris. He is a Certified Beekeeper. He has tried to learn everything he can about the bees to be a good steward of his hives.

Recently Frank was notified by the City of Dunwoody that a complaint had been lodged about the legality of his hives in his backyard. He was caught by surprise and shocked, given all the research he had done. Frank's case created a community uproar and resulted in a new ruling that beekeeping is an allowed use in the City of Dunwoody, with a few common sense restrictions.

Cindy Hodges, Master Beekeeper and President of Metro Atlanta Beekeepers, and Julia Mahood, Master Beekeeper, contributed greatly to the effort to support the voice of the beekeeping community. We congratulate and thank Frank, Cindy and Julia for their leadership.



## Honeybee research and educational activities – January 2015 to September 2015

In mid February the Middle Georgia State University honeybees started to emerge from their winter dormancy. Since then, Dr. Gloria Huddleston and Dr. Clint Ready have inspected the beehives approximately every two weeks. Two of the six hives didn't make it through the winter.

Later in the spring, fearing the loss of a third hive, they experimented with ways to save it. The hive did not have a queen or brood but did have workers. Dr. Ready and Dr. Huddleston transferred young brood and bees from other vigorous hives to the queen-less hive in the hopes that the bees would turn one of the young larvae into a queen. They did. That hive is now one of the strongest hives.

Students from the art department kindly agreed to decorate hive boxes, and the current students will be painting additional boxes. A queen name and corresponding images have been and will be painted on each of the boxes, such as Queen Amidala (Star Wars), Queen Beatrice, Queen Elizabeth and Queen Cleopatra.

In August, Dr. Huddleston recruited some of her students to work with the bees. They helped with the honey harvest from preparing the honey to be removed from hives, to extracting and jarring it. Another faculty member, Tina Mahaffee has generously donated her time and effort to help the honeybee program be successful.

Soil testing on unused land near the beehives showed that the soil should be ready for planting flowers for the bees and other pollinators. In August, Mr. Keith Lockerman (Multi-campus Plant Operations Director) arranged for an acre of that land to be plowed. In September, Dr.



Photo by Julia Mahood, Master Beekeeper in Atlanta. She says:

*I tried this propolis trap a few years ago when I first got it, but didn't have any luck. Thought I'd try it on this hive because they are such prolific propolizers and wow— did they ever use it! I put it in the freezer and then gently flexed the plastic, most of the propolis fell right off. Much easier than using scrapings since it's relatively clean.*

Huddleston, Dr. Ready and Ms. Mahaffee planted Durana clover seeds by hand. Hopefully the honeybees will have clover nectar and pollen to feed on in the spring and summer.

Middle Georgia State University's bees are doing great – making honey, collecting a variety of pollen and producing new bees.

Also in October, Dr. Ready and Dr. Huddleston held a formal class for MGSU students, taught them about beekeeping, life in a bee hive and problems associated with beekeeping. Afterwards, they took students for an inspection of MGSU's bee hives.



**Wanted:** all of your articles on any aspect of your beekeeping - 500 words or less!  
gbanewsletters@gmail.com



## Upcoming Events

**Sat, February 13 , 2016**

**GBA Spring Meeting at Gordon State College in Barnesville, GA**

**Sat, March 19 , 2016**

**Welsh Honey Show, Rockmart, GA (part of the Welshfest)**

## Honey-and-Spice Cranberry Sauce

by Bonnie Bennett, Westerly RI [Bon Appétit](#) November 1998

Yield Makes about 2 1/2 cups

### Ingredients

- 1 12-ounce bag cranberries
- 1 3/4 cups apple cider or juice
- 3/4 cup honey
- 2 cinnamon sticks, broken in half
- 1 tablespoon grated orange peel
- 6 whole cloves
- 1 bay leaf
- Pinch of salt

### Preparation

Combine all ingredients in heavy large saucepan. Bring to boil over medium heat. Simmer until berries burst and sauce thickens, stirring occasionally, about 15 minutes. Remove cinnamon sticks, cloves and bay leaf. Refrigerate sauce until cold. (Can be made 3 days ahead. Cover and keep refrigerated.)

## The Final Buzz

*We are very sorry for the lateness of this edition. We are quite a team and one of us can't function well without the other. Linda's mother died on November 4, the day before we planned to put the newsletter together. While she was in Mississippi taking care of family matters, we were no longer a functioning unit. Please forgive us and enjoy this edition now that you finally have it.*

*We are very **thankful for all your contributions** and sharing in the **Spilling the Honey** newsletter. It really "takes a village" to make it turn out well. A special thanks to **Gail Albrecht** for her help as copy editor.*

*Next month we are going to list all our clubs offering one day **Beekeeping Short Courses** so please make sure to get that info to us.*

*Happy Thanksgiving to all!*

**Linda and Gina**



# Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

December 2015

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

## *President's Message*

It's the holiday season and right now you can get great deals on equipment. The main manufacturers are enticing us with soap making kits, lip balm kits, extractors, bee suits and wooden ware. This is the time of year that I take inventory of my "stuff." Looking at the catalogs I see lots of stuff I'd like to buy, but I try to balance between what I already have and what I see in the catalogs that I cannot live without.

We are preparing for our spring conference in February and are starting to put the final touches on all the things that need to happen so you can sit back and relax and enjoy the education our conference provides for you. Andy Bailey, your vice-president has been working with Julia Mahood, Linda Tillman, Brutz English, Jennifer Berry and Keith Fielder to get the spring meeting set up. One highlight for this conference is that our neighbor from Alabama, Jim Tew, will be one of our keynote speakers. I know that our speakers will provide us with updated information and a lot of practical advice on how to take care of the bees better.

Please take a moment this year just to reflect about your bees and beekeeping. I like to watch the flight pattern on these warm days we have been having, and think about all the things I did well with the bees. I try not to worry about all the things I have not done well. We only have so much time in the day. Unless we quit our full time jobs and only work with the honeybees, we all are doing the best we can. Just remember why you keep bees, enjoy the holidays, order your new equipment and keep your tool hive handy.

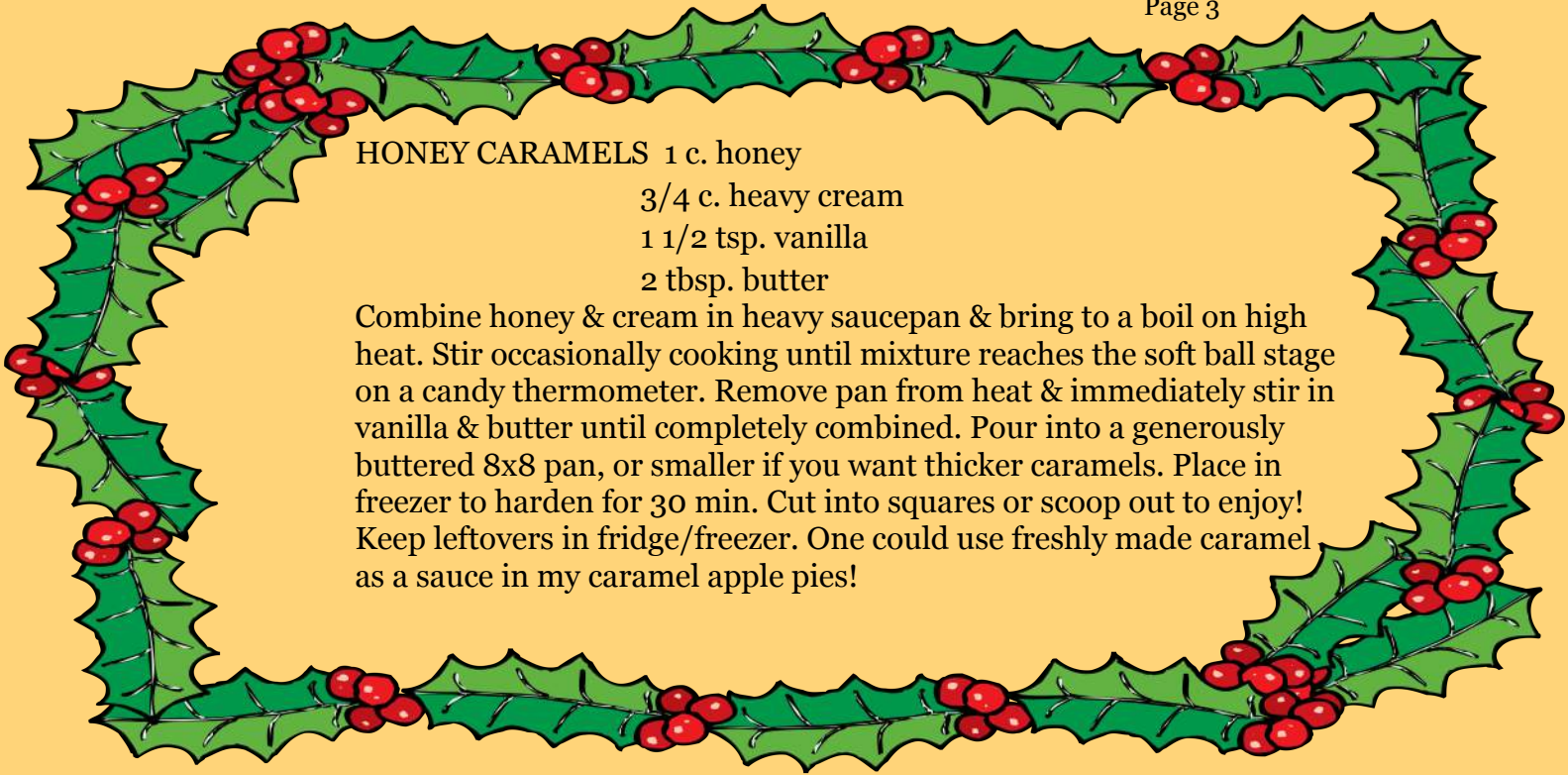
Mary Cahill-Roberts  
President, Georgia Beekeepers Association  
404 388 3427

## Upcoming Club Meetings

For club speaker ideas, GBA maintains a speaker list. If you would like to speak to clubs, [click here](#) to be added to the list. As a speaker, plan to know what your honorarium request will be if you are asked to speak. If you have invited speakers for your club, [click here to read an article](#) first published in *Bee Culture* about how to treat your speakers well.

| Club Name               | Speaker/Topic                             | When                                        | Where                                                 | City                |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Clark's Hill Beekeepers | Christmas Celebration & Black Jar contest | 12/7 Mon<br>7 PM                            | Columbia County Extension                             | Appling, GA         |
| Coweta Beekeepers       | Christmas Party: Food Fun & gifts         | Mon 12/14<br>6:30                           | 255 Pine Road                                         | Newnan, GA          |
| Gilmer County           | HONEY WHO KNEW: Clay "Bear" Kelley        | Mon 12/14<br>5:30 Meet & Greet, 7:00 Dinner | Gilmer County Rec. Center                             | Ellijay, Ga.        |
| Gwinnett Beekeepers     | <b>Annual Christmas Party</b>             | Mon Dec 7<br>7 PM                           | Hebron Baptist Church Bldg A 3rd floor                | Dacula, GA          |
| Henry                   | <b>Annual Christmas Party</b>             | Tues, Dec 8<br>7 PM                         | Bethany Baptist Church<br>4 N Bethany Road            | McDonough, GA 30252 |
| Heart of Georgia        | Pot Luck                                  | Tues 12/15                                  | Camp John Hope                                        | Fort Valley, GA     |
| Metro Atlanta           | No meeting                                | Wed                                         | Atlanta Botanical Garden                              | Atlanta, GA         |
| Potato Creek            | <b>Annual Christmas Party</b>             | Dec 17 7 PM                                 | Pritchett Memorial Baptist Church<br>496 Jugtown Road | Meansville, GA      |
| Tara                    | <b>Christmas Party</b>                    | Mon, Dec 7                                  | GA Power<br>752 Main St                               | Forest Park, GA     |
| Tri County              | Christmas Party and Honey Show            | 7 - 7:30                                    | Gillsville City Park                                  | Gillsville, GA      |





**HONEY CARAMELS** 1 c. honey  
 3/4 c. heavy cream  
 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla  
 2 tbsp. butter

Combine honey & cream in heavy saucepan & bring to a boil on high heat. Stir occasionally cooking until mixture reaches the soft ball stage on a candy thermometer. Remove pan from heat & immediately stir in vanilla & butter until completely combined. Pour into a generously buttered 8x8 pan, or smaller if you want thicker caramels. Place in freezer to harden for 30 min. Cut into squares or scoop out to enjoy! Keep leftovers in fridge/freezer. One could use freshly made caramel as a sauce in my caramel apple pies!

## ***Club News and Notes***

### ***Ogeechee Area Beekeepers***

The Kiwanis Ogeechee Fair was held Oct 19-24 in Statesboro GA .The Kiwanis 4-H building holds about 100 mini displays with 17 of them being honey bee displays .The Ogeechee Area Beekeeping Assoc members did the judging on the bee displays and chose the top five. All the bee displays were very good making it hard to make a decision.

For the second year, the Kiwanis Club had a honey show. Mr Brutz English, Welsh honey judge was called in to do the honors. We had about 25 entries with Gary Weaver coming away with two first, a second and overall champion. Bobby Colson got two first, a second and a third place. Several other beekeepers received other ribbons.

A note of interest:

The Kiwanis Club budgeted monies for four beehives to go to local schools with the Ogeechee Area B.K. mentoring them. A middle school in Sylvania GA received two hives with Gary Weaver doing the mentoring. They also entered honey in this year's honey show. Paul Peterson is working with a middle school in Evans County with hives. Plans are to put more hives in other local schools in 2016.

***Heart of Georgia Beekeepers*** held our monthly meeting on November 17 at Camp John Hope near Perry and Ft. Valley. The officers elected for 2016 were Rick Moore, President; Broadus Williams, Vice President; Hazel McCurdy, Secretary; and Kelly Hillus, Treasurer.

Ballots were cast for the Beekeeper of the Year Award, named the "Jesse McCurdy Award", which will be presented at the December meeting. The December 15 meeting will be a potluck dinner. All beekeepers and wanna-be beekeepers are encouraged and welcome to come.



***The West Georgia Beekeepers Association*** celebrated their first full year! We began small as most clubs do, with 14 members and now have 75. We had to move from the Douglas County Extension office to the new location, which is the Douglasville American Legion.

We held our first Beginning Beekeeping Course. Our picnic was great, despite the rain and we even have "our song" sung on a ukulele by Steve Ayers. We had a very successful Welsh Honey Show with 45 entries! We are very grateful to Mary Cahill-Roberts for her expertise in the Honey Show but also her willingness to provide programs and to help our fledgling association. We have had a program speaker for every meeting and an educational mentoring session just prior to each meeting. There are many exciting things that we are looking forward to such as workshops and field trips for our club.

I would like to thank our officers and board of directors for all that they have done for this new association. We are looking forward to our Christmas Party on December 7th as we will be finalizing our logo and awarding our first Beekeeper of the Year then.

Photos above from West Georgia Beekeepers' Honey Show:

[Article](#) about GBA and UGA and the state prison beekeepers

Bee Companies with current sales going on (that we know about - there may be others):

[Mann Lake](#)

[Brushy Mountain](#)



## ***Dear Aunt Bee,***

We've learned that we need a top entrance on our hives to allow the bees free access from above and to allow the moisture to escape the hive. Now I have three questions: What is the correct size of the top entrance hole? And should it face the front or the back of the hive? How many top entrances are ideal?

## ***Chimney Lover***

## ***Dear Chimney Lover,***

I have heard PN Williams, one of our GBA life members, speak about upper entrances so I asked him to comment on your question. Here's what PN offered:

*Upper entrances are usually used in the North where there is extremely heavy snow fall. The snow will completely block the normal entrance and remain in place for weeks on end.*

*Sometimes the outside temperature will rise enough for the bees to go on cleansing flights, and they can use the upper entrance. In the South an upper entrance is simply another entrance that the bees will have to guard.*

*You do definitely need a means for moisture laden air to exit the hive. This is achieved with the hole in the inner cover which is normally used to accept a bee escape. Also some inner covers come equipped with a notch in the rim. Sometimes this is not enough ventilation and beekeepers will add a small block of wood on top of the rim to raise the outer cover even more. Put this on the front of the inner cover so the outer cover is tilted to the rear causing rainwater to run off and not onto the entrance.*

Thanks to PN for sharing his wisdom and knowledge gained from years of experience raising bees in central Georgia.

Good luck, Chimney Lover,

***Aunt Bee***



***Dear Aunt Bee,***

When you check on your bees in December or January, for what are you looking? When do you NOT open up and look into the hive? When do you open the hive? What types of things do you do in the early winter to help your bees along? For instance, Do you cover up the bottom screen or place insulation around the boxes?

Sincerely,

***A Worried Beekeeper***

***Dear Worried,***

The bees work hard all summer to build up their supplies for winter and to propolize the cracks and openings into their hive boxes. This propolization helps them keep the hive draft-free for the winter months. So the best thing to do in the winter is NOT open the hive. When you do, you break the propolis seal and the bees cannot repair it.

In the south it is not necessary to close off the screened bottom board, although many beekeepers do. Closing off the screened bottom board helps protect the hive from cold drafts - there isn't a screened bottom in a tree!

Placing insulation around the boxes is also not necessary in the south. One of my neighbor beekeepers does wrap his hives in insulation and they are bursting at the seams in the spring. He is running the risk, though, of building up moisture in the hive, resulting in an unhealthy atmosphere for the bees and providing a nice, warm home for SHB over the winter.

However, you might consider making sure your hives have some sort of windbreak. One beekeeper I know in the northern Atlanta suburbs keeps bales of pinestraw around his hives to break the wind. My hives are located in my backyard with high fences on each side of my postage stamp yard serving as windbreaks.

Generally winter is a time to lift your hives from the back every few weeks to make sure they feel heavy enough with honey to keep going. Other than that, it is an interesting time to watch what the bees do on days warm enough to fly - Are they carrying out the winter dead? Are they bringing in pollen in early January? When are they active and when are they not? It's a great time to learn more about your bees.

Wait until late, late February on a day above 60 degrees or a warm day in early March to open your hives and do a hive inspection. Use your winter bee time to build equipment, repaint old equipment, and read your collection of bee books.

Warmly,

***Aunt Bee***





## GBA Spring 2016 Meeting Update

\*\*\*\*\*Save the Date: February 13, 2016 at Gordon State College in Barnesville, GA\*\*\*\*\*

Among the speakers for our spring meeting are these three keynote speakers:



**Dr. James E. Tew** is the beekeeping specialist for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Auburn University and emeritus professor, Ohio State University. Jim has taught classes, provided extension services, and conducted applied research on honey bees and honey bee behavior - specifically pollination behavior. Additionally, he continues to contribute monthly articles for national beekeeping publications and has authored: *Beekeeping Principles, Backyard Beekeeping*, a chapter in *The Hive and the Honey Bee*, and *Wisdom for Beekeepers*. He is a frequent speaker at state and national meetings and

has traveled extensively to observe beekeeping techniques.

### Roger Simonds

Roger Simonds is the Chief of the USDA-AMS-National Science Laboratory in Gastonia, NC. He is an analytical chemist with 24 years of experience performing pesticide residue analysis on agricultural commodities and has been involved with apiculture pesticide residue testing since 2007. Roger has a particular interest in wax because he is also a beekeeper.

### David A. Westervelt



A native of Umatilla, Florida, David started keeping bees at the age of six. He and his father John founded D & J Apiary. He has been working with bees for over 46 years, mainly in Florida, North Dakota and New York. During his ten years in the US Army, he had the opportunity to work bees in Germany, Austria, Spain, France, Costa Rica and Peru. After retiring from the Army, he has worked for 22 years for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. In the FDACS David has been Bee Inspector, Environmental Specialist I, Protection Specialist Supervisor of Region I and Chief Apiary Inspection Section Agriculture & Consumer. David has worked on numerous research projects with USDA, FDA, Florida State University and other countries on varroa mites, tracheal mites,

American foulbrood, small hive beetle, Nosema and viruses associated with honey bee. Even after 46+ years of beekeeping, he's still learning something new about bees every day!

\*\*\*\*\*

“Maybe Christmas, the Grinch thought, doesn’t come from a store.”

Dr. Suess



## *Upcoming Short Courses*

| Club name/Short course Name                                                                                                                                 | Date                                               | Address                                                                  | Cost                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chattooga County Beekeepers<br>"Introduction to Beekeeping"<br>Randy Rolen 423-304-2714<br>pre-register by Jan 13                                           | Saturday,<br>January 16,<br>2016                   | 32 Middle School<br>Road, Summerville,<br>Georgia 30747                  | \$35/person \$45/couple<br>includes lunch                                                                       |
| Lake Country Beekeepers<br>4th Annual Beekeeping Short Course<br>Mary Lacksen at 478.456.1049<br><a href="mailto:mlacksen@gmail.com">mlacksen@gmail.com</a> | Saturday,<br>January<br>23, 2016<br>8 am - 4<br>pm | Central Georgia<br>Technical College in<br>Milledgeville GA              | \$40 preregister/\$45 at<br>the door. Each<br>additional adult \$10<br>includes book, lunch,<br>club membership |
| Metro Atlanta Beekeepers<br>Complete Beekeeping Short Course<br><a href="http://www.metroatlantabeekeepers.org">www.metroatlantabeekeepers.org</a>          | Saturday,<br>January 16,<br>2016<br>7:45 - 5:00    | Atlanta Botanical<br>Garden<br>1345 Piedmont Ave. NE<br>Atlanta GA 30309 | \$95. includes lunch<br>and parking                                                                             |

These are all the short courses that were sent in to us for this edition. If you would like your club's short course information in the January issue of the newsletter, [send it to us right away.](#)

### **The 2015 American Honey Queen's Banana Bread Recipe**

2 cups whole wheat flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/2 Cup sugar free applesauce

3/4 Cup Honey

2 eggs beaten

3 mashed overripe bananas

Preheat oven to 350. Lightly grease a 9x5 inch loaf pan. In a large bowl, combine flour, baking soda, and salt. In a separate bowl, mix together applesauce and honey. Stir in eggs and mashed bananas until well blended. Stir banana mixture into flour mixture; stir just to moisten. Pour batter into prepared loaf pan.

Bake in preheated oven for 60 – 65 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Let bread cool in pan for ten minutes; turn out onto a wire rack.

Created by 2015 American Honey Queen Gabrielle Hemesath



## *Working with Volunteers*

By Bear Kelley, Past President

All of us involved with the Georgia Beekeeping Association are volunteers and many have volunteered at various other activities at some time or another. In doing so, we have encountered leaders and workers who were not as easy to get along with as you might have liked. Here are some points to ponder when dealing with volunteers in your clubs.

1. Be clear about what is expected in terms of time commitment and the type of work to be done. (Be specific about the job description). Nothing is worse than telling someone they have five activities and then adding another ten to their plate. That's a sure way to get them to drop out the following year, or worse, sooner. Ambiguity of their role is also a sure way to make them feel burnout and confusion.
2. Find out why the person is volunteering, and think about ways you can help them meet their goals. Are they volunteering in order to help the cause, develop their own abilities, achieve personal growth, learn new skills or meet new people?
3. Keep your volunteers in the loop about decisions being made. I recently heard a leader of a volunteer organization say "it's just easier if I make the decisions." This may be easier, but the volunteers will feel like they have nothing to contribute and will pull away.
4. Allow them to show some of their creativity and talent. Embrace a diversity of ideas.
5. Make sure leaders are available for support or guidance if it is needed. Provide contact info and times that you can be reached and then respond in a timely way.
6. Common courtesy counts. Using "please," "thank-you," and "great job" are certainly more motivational than holding an official swearing in ceremony.
7. Make sure you are aware of the team dynamics among volunteers. Some clubs or organizations have more politics, drama and backstabbing than people have at their work places. Who needs that kind of stress? I don't mind volunteering my time as long as it is still fun. When the fun stops, so do I.
8. Let people know they are appreciated by providing small perks and rewards.
9. Make sure all volunteers get a chance to meet the others in the group. This builds a sense of community.
10. Recognize volunteers for their time and effort. Thank them by name in the newsletter, the web site or at an event. Positive public feedback means a lot.
11. Show your volunteers how their work is having an impact on others.

In summary, a tremendous amount of work is being done on a daily basis across the United States by unselfish folks like you. Neither the Georgia Beekeepers Association nor the local clubs could operate without volunteers pulling the load. Since 1920, people have stepped forward to keep our organization running and to promote educating the public on the importance of keeping honey bees. Whether you are a leader or worker bee, treat each other with respect, courtesy and kindness, and remember why you chose to volunteer in the first place.



“It’s fantastic we have a national Pollinator Strategy” and “It’s unprecedented,” said jjClaire Kremin, Professor of Conservation Biology and Entomology UC Berkeley

Regarding Mr. Obama’s June 2014 Presidential Memorandum on pollinator health to the heads of federal agencies requiring action to "reverse pollinator losses and

help restore populations to healthy levels." The President is directing agencies to establish a Pollinator Health Task Force, and to develop a National Pollinator Health Strategy, including a Pollinator Research Action Plan.

### ***The Final Buzz for 2015***

We wish all of GBA Happy Holidays and a wonderful new year. Thanks to Gail Albrecht for helping with the editing. Here’s hoping all our bees survive the winter. **Don’t forget to tell us about your winter adventures making things with wax, cooking with honey and reading bees books.**



Your Editors,  
Linda and  
Gina

**Wanted:** all of your articles on any aspect of your beekeeping - 500 words or less!  
[gbanewsletters@gmail.com](mailto:gbanewsletters@gmail.com)

### **HONEY TURMERIC PORK WITH BEET AND CARROT SALAD**

1 & 1/4 boneless pork shoulder (Boston butt), fat trimmed to 1/4" cut into 4 pieces  
Kosher salt & pepper  
2 garlic cloves, finely grated  
1 1/2 tsp. finely grated peeled turmeric or 1/2 ground turmeric  
1/2 c. plain whole-milk yogurt  
1/4 c. honey  
2 tbsp. fresh lemon juice, divided  
2 tbsp. vegetable oil  
3 small beets, scrubbed, thinly sliced  
3 small carrots, preferably with tops (reserved), scrubbed, cut on a diagonal  
2 tbsp. finely chopped fresh chives  
2 tbsp. olive oil  
flaky sea salt

Pound pork between 2 sheets of plastic wrap to 1/4" thick; season with salt & pepper. Whisk garlic, turmeric, yogurt, honey & 1 tbsp. lemon juice in a small bowl; season with salt & pepper. Place cutlets in a large bag. Add yogurt mixture, seal bag & toss to coat. Let sit at least 10 min.

Remove cutlets from marinade, letting excess drip off. Heat 1 tbsp. oil in large skillet over med-high heat; cook 2 cutlets until browned and cooked through, about 2 min per side. Transfer pork to a platter. Repeat with remaining cutlets. Toss beets, carrots, carrot tops, chives, oil and remaining tbsp. lemon juice in a small bowl. Season with salt, pepper and more lemon juice if desired. Serve pork topped with salad and sprinkled with sea salt.

Serves 4. Pork can be marinated 12 hours ahead. Chill.  
(thanks to Gail Albrecht for this recipe)

