

Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

January 2016



What we are seeing these warm days in front of the hives - bees carrying pollen and orienting.

The President's Message

The beginning of a new season....

Well, it is hard for me to wait. I am really excited about the solstice. As I write this, Monday, December 21st, marks the longest night of the year. I am sure right now is my favorite time of the year, but ask me again in February and I will tell you the same thing. The solstice marks the beginning of the 2016 bee season. Now begins a time of endless spring possibilities! What will our bees do? Will they survive? Will they be healthy? What will we learn and how will we manage them? A lot of what happens is dependent on the weather.

Our weather here lately in Atlanta has been challenging to say the least. As I am writing this (in December) it is 28 degrees, but the past couple of days - the temperature has been as high as 70. Most of the days in December have been warm. The girls come out in search of food. My personal choice is to supplement their winter food supply (the key word is supplement). I use sugar water loaded with Honey B Healthy additives. I leave a lot of honey on the hives in the summer when I harvest. I probably leave more honey than they need, and I do this because, unfortunately, I can not see the future. HAHA!

Several years ago here in Atlanta we had snow storms back to back in January and February. We all

know that the bees are in danger of starvation this time of the year, since they are ramping up for spring and have lots of little larvae mouths to feed. My bees did not starve since they had plenty of honey from the previous year's harvest. But some of my fellow beekeepers had a more difficult time and lost a few hives to starvation. Best wishes to you and your bees!

I am excited about the upcoming spring meeting. Reserve February 13, 2016! There are a lot of good speakers coming in to educate us with their knowledge. I hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday. Please keep your tool hive handy and your fire extinguisher near when you are lighting that smoker and hope to see you in Milledgeville in February.

Mary Cahill-Roberts
 President, Georgia Beekeepers Association.



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.

Spillin' the Honey sends emails to each club president and or a representative of each club as a reminder to send in your club meeting information for publication. Many of us have changed positions beginning this month and we don't have the proper contact for your club. Please send us your liaison's name and email so they are able to respond with the info from the categories in the table below. We would be delighted to have as much monthly information as is currently available - if your entire year is planned, you can send us just one email. Please send your club info for as many months as you wish.

Club Name	Speaker/Topic	When	Where	City
Forsyth	Keith Delaplane	Wed 1/20 6:30 - 8	University of North Georgia 300 Aquatic Circle	Cumming, GA
Heart of Georgia		Tues 1/19	Camp John Hope	Fort Valley, GA
MABA	Steve Page: Nectar Management	Wed 1/13	Atlanta Botanical Garden	Atlanta, GA
Tri-County Beekeepers	Tom Rearick: "Vital Signs of Your Hives" and "Noninvasive Hive Inspection"	Mon 1/11 7:00-8:30	Gillsville City Park Building	7864 Hwy 52, Gillsville GA
West Georgia	Dan Scales: Winter Feeding	Mon 1/25 7:00	American Legion	Douglasville, GA

Club News and Notes

Tri-County Beekeepers

At the our December 14th meeting the club provided a catered dinner for club members and guests. Thirty-six people attended and during dinner we viewed a powerpoint with photos submitted from our members. We also held our first Honey Show! There were 24 entries.

Honey Show winners were:

- Light Honey: First Place Desiree Tolar, Second-Place David Tolar, Third-Place Bobby Chaisson.
- Medium Honey: First Place Bobby Chaisson, Second-place Wade Dale, Third-place June Dale.
- Dark Honey: First Place David Tolar.
- Creamed Honey: First Place Bobby Chaisson.
- Black Jar Category: First Place Meghan Hill, Second-Place Chuck Norman, Third-place Wade Dale
- Photography: First Place Bobby Chaisson and Second Place Meghan Hill
- Honey Cake: First Place Francis Armour and Second Place Bobby Chaisson
- Best of Show: David Tolar

Our Welsh Honey Judge was Nicholas Weaver from UGA and the Show Steward was John Mitchell.

Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association closes out 2015 with exciting news! October was a great month for CEBA – Savannah was buzzing and our City Council FINALLY PASSED THE NEW ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE on October 29th – this allows bees (and chickens) to be kept LEGALLY within the Savannah City Limits. The same ordinance passed for Chatham County in 2013 and is a model for other cities to follow. All the beekeepers in Savannah who were formerly illegal are now LEGAL! The other side of this is that we are now required to register our hives and pay an annual fee.

October 10th saw CEBA's Annual Low Country Boil event at Oatland Island – accompanied by a talk from our guest speaker, Bill Owens, and a practical apiary session. Bill, a rather spectacular beekeeper, excellent lecturer and generally all around nice guy was the first to spot a baby gopher tortoise in our apiary, which had emerged from its den. Thanks Bill, these little guys get eaten by the lawn mowers if not collected.



CEBA's new home on Oatland Island has been exciting for the Club and for Oatland Island Wildlife Refuge. We have renovated a shed that will have sinks, hot and cold water, a freezer, shelves to store our equipment and a teaching venue for our practical apiary meeting every other month. The Georgia Master Gardener's Program has accepted the creation of our apiary's pollinator landscaping as a

project for their certification course and has given us a grant for plant purchases. The master plan for our apiary space includes native pollinator friendly landscaping design, a drip fountain with benches for the public to enjoy, a large gazebo with observation hives and educational displays, and a large covered deck next to our shed for Club and educational projects.



Heart of Georgia Beekeepers held our annual Pot Luck dinner and Silent Auction on December 15th at Camp John Hope near Perry. The highlight of the auction was a custom handmade observation hive by Jesse McCurdy. Our speaker for the evening was Stacy Rivera from Georgia Department of Corrections who spoke on the GBA prison beekeeping program, of which Heart of GA will participate at Dooley State Prison. Bear Kelly was awarded the second annual Jesse McCurdy Beekeeper of the Year Award, and Tim Smith was given a Distinguished Service Award for his two year tenure as club president.



West Georgia Beekeepers Association

Betty Cosgrove was awarded the Beekeeper the Year award at the West Georgia Beekeepers Association Christmas party in December. Congratulations to Betty for all the things that she does for the Association. Also, Russ King won the Logo contest with his entry. We had around fourteen really good entries.



The Pine Grove Middle School Beekeeping Club finished our second hive the first week of December! We were super excited and learned so much from building the hive ourselves! Our teachers were a little nervous, allowing middle schoolers to work with hammers and wood glue, but we were amazing. The entire hive was built in less than an hour.



GBA Spring 2016 Conference

February 13 (reception the night of the 12th)

Make your plans to attend the GBA Spring Conference 2016 on Saturday February 13th.

HEADLINE NEWS: The spring conference is now being held at **Milledgeville**, the same place where we had the conference in the fall - **Central Georgia Technical College**. Brutz English and Julia Mahood have worked very hard to find us a place that will work but when options fell through, Brent at CGTC came through for us and is willing to host our meeting again at Central Georgia Technical College. Please come - it's a quiet time in our beekeeping lives and a good time to gather with fellow beekeepers and enjoy talking about the insects we all love and support.

The meeting begins with a reception on Friday night, January 12 after the GBA Board meeting. The reception will be at the Hampton Inn in Milledgeville and will start about 8 PM. The Hampton Inn is again holding a block of rooms for us until January 29, but make your reservation quickly because they will sell out. They are under new management and this year the rooms will be \$90. The number for the Hampton Inn is **(478) 451-0050**. Be sure to tell them that you are with the beekeepers association.

The program begins at 8:30 on Saturday morning. We will send out an announcement via email when the program is up on the website. Meanwhile registration opens on January 1. The cost of the meeting is \$40 per person. Your lunch is provided on Saturday. **After February 7, the cost of the meeting will be \$65 per person so register and pay ahead of time to avoid the higher charge.**

To register for the GBA Spring Conference 2016, [click here](#).

Honey Show Rules for the Spring Food, Mead and Drink Show

We will be judging mead, beer (made with honey, of course) and non-alcoholic beverages. Along with that we will be judging the standard honey cake that is listed on the web site and the newest item will be the "Queen's Own Banana Bread." (That recipe was listed in the [Dec Spilling the Honey](#)).

To see the honey show rules, [click here](#).

The prize money is greater than in the past. Here are the categories and prize amounts:

Best in Show \$250

First places \$100 (For each category..mead, beer, non alcoholic beverage, honey cake and banana bread)

Second places \$30

Third places \$20

So far, we have Keith Fielder as Senior judge, Bear Kelley, Brutz English, and Kevin Baker. Gail Dean and Caleb Kidd will help out as stewards and Marybeth Kelley as show secretary.



Street Cred

Food Labeling sent from Dana Harris

<http://www.foodpackaginglabels.net/honey-labels>

for an interesting article on 17 ways to use beeswax, [click here](#).

And if you can't read the sign to the right, here's what it says:

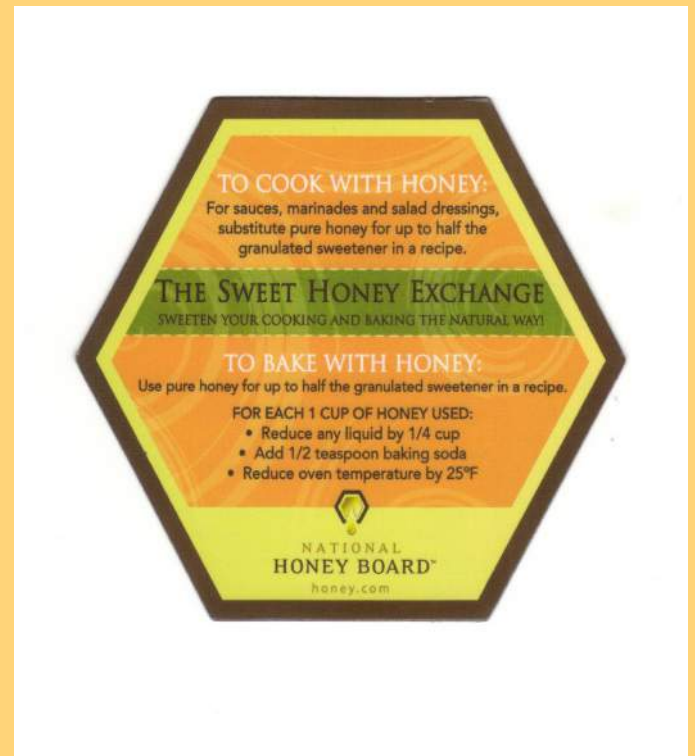
For sauces, marinades and salad dressings, substitute pure honey for up to half the granulated sweetener in the recipe.

To bake with honey:

For each one cup honey used:

- *Reduce any liquid 1/4 cup*
- *Add 1/2 teaspoon baking soda*
- *Reduce oven temperature by 25* F*

From the National Honey Board



Almost half of our GBA members (216 out of 527) have let their dues lapse. When you have not paid your dues, you become an inactive member. Those of you who fall into this category will find that you will have to pay your dues in order to register as a GBA MEMBER for the GBA Spring Conference at Milledgeville. If you want to take care of this before trying to register, [click here](#). You can set your membership for automatic renewals through PayPal. That way next year you won't have to deal with a lapsed membership next year!

Helpful info to use to renew your membership on our membership site:

1. Click link above and notice there are three buttons in grey
 2. Click on EDIT PROFILE to review and confirm or change your info
 3. Click on CHANGE MEMBERSHIP LEVEL where you can easily choose the type of membership and number of years of dues you wish to pay
1. Technical support available by writing: gabeesecretary@gmail.com

Upcoming Short Course Information

<p>Coweta Beekeepers Association / Introduction to Beekeeping Date: Saturday, January 23, 2016 8 am – 4 pm Address: 255 Pine road, Newnan, GA Cost: Advance \$50, additional family members \$10 / Door add \$5 www.cowetabeekeepers.org</p>	<p>Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association Fundamentals in Beekeeping class that is being held on February 27, 2015 from 8-4pm. Oatland Island Wildlife Refuge February 27th will see our annual Fundamentals of Beekeeping course, given at Oatland Island and presenting an impressive roster of speakers and courses for BOTH beginners and experienced beekeepers. It will include a Honey Judging Lecture and a Honey Contest. www.cebeekeeping.com</p>
<p>Forsyth Beekeepers Club will offer the following programs for 2016. March 12th---Bee school classroom study April 23rd---Bee school in the bee yard with on hands training in the hive. May 7th---certified Beekeepers exam May 14th---Queen rearing class with hands on grafting and up to 4 of your own grafted queens www.forsythbeekeepers.org</p>	<p>Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association Complete Beekeeping Short Course Saturday, January 16 7:45 AM - 5:00 PM Atlanta Botanical Garden 1345 Piedmont Ave. NE Atlanta GA 30309 \$95. includes lunch and parking www.metroatlantabeekeepers.org/</p>
<p>Cherokee Beekeepers Annual Bee School 2/20/2016 First Baptist Church Holly Springs 2632 Holly springs Parkway Holly Springs, GA 30142 www.cherokeebeeclub.com</p>	<p>This space is blank because we didn't get information from any club to fill this blank - next year, send yours in and your club could be featured here as well!</p>

Dear ***Aunt Bee***,

We are having such a warm early winter that my bees have continued to fly every day unless it rained a lot! The plants in our area look to be about one month early with crab apple and quince blooming Christmas week. The bees have three frames of brood, a few drones and they are bringing in pollen. I wonder what you think about making a split this early and getting a early start on a spring nuc?

Best Regards,
 Eager Beekeeper

Dear ***Eager***,

In order to make a split, you have to have a lot of available drones hanging out in the air in drone congregation areas. Most of the drones were kicked out of the hives to die on the ground at the end of September. During the winter the drones are a drain on the resources of the hive, so they are kicked out as soon as the bees begin the getting-ready-for-

winter process.

Remember, a drone is merely a flying sperm and the queen can lay a drone at any point. The drone is a haploid being and develops from an unfertilized egg. So during the spring buildup which is moving toward a peak at the end of February/beginning of March, the queen has laid drones who emerge in the hive just before swarm season begins. Then you can make a successful split because there are drones to mate with the virgin queens.

Now being eager would cost you the lives of the bees in the queenless half of your split.

Sorry,
 Aunt Bee



Beekeeper's Winter Work **by Jim Ovbey**

My recommendations for prepping your bees for winter: a honey house or nice warm place with a workbench and plenty of room and light and a nice glass/bottle of wine if you so desire.

Getting you and your bees ready for the winter months can be as simple or as time consuming as you wish. However, the bees are the most important aspect of this project. Hopefully you have fed them sugar water on multiple occasions and have checked them for stores (food that the bees have put away). This warm Atlanta winter has been kind of a teaser for them. If it is warm for several days, they break cluster and come out flying and looking for food. They are using up energy and coming back to the hive for food and eventual warmth.

The tools and equipment that you'll need to gather in your workspace: a smoker, brush, frame cleaner tool to clean and replace wax and clean propolis from the frames, hive tool, tack hammer, hive boxes (brood, shallow and deep supers), inner cover, and bottom board.

During the winter months, we need to install wax foundation in available brood chambers to prep for new bees that you may need to order unless you're fortunate enough to have a strong hive to last through the winter. If your hive does live through the winter, you can split your bees and make a new hive. If you are not so fortunate, you need to plan ahead to purchase nucleus hive or packages. These are not so easy to come by so start checking out your sources and saving your money.

Regarding storing supers with drawn frames (honey comb) I have taken them off the hive and have them in stacks of two (I have shallow shelving). I have a hive cover turned upside down for them to sit in and I will also utilize a inner cover for the top. I sprinkle a good quarter cup of moth crystals (not moth balls) into the slot of the hive cover and seal it with a plastic grocery bag. I can remove the bag several times during the winter in order to add more crystals as the originals dissipate. This process prevents the wax moths from congregating and creating havoc with the wax comb. Keep in mind that you do need to air the super out for several days before you use them again.

Knowing that brood frames need to be rotated yearly, I try to keep wax foundation on hand for just this purpose. Cutting out the old wax and scraping the frames is quite a process. I find it very therapeutic and it takes some time. By doing this in the winter months, you have the time to do a better job of fastening that sheet of wax securely in the frame. If you have space, you can freeze these frames to help keep the wax moths eggs in check. The moths are in your hive most of the time but a hefty amount of bees keeps them in check.

After cleaning all the hardware, and cleaning up the old wax and scrapings from the counter and floor, I take everything out of the tool box that I carry to the hives. There is usually sticky honey on everything and this is a great time to give everything a good scrub.

Cleaning the smoker is an outside project. If your smoker is like mine, there is an accumulation of crusty soot inside, especially around the conical top. I usually dump out all of the residue soot and pine straw. I use a small metal scraper to break away the residue. You will be surprised at how much you dig out. Kind of like a chimney sweep!

I hope that my advice will help you get your winter bee chores on the way. Good luck and have an enjoyable winter season!

2016 Good Food Awards from Virginia Webb

Georgia has four beekeepers who have made the finalist for the 2016 Good Food Awards. This is only the second year HONEY has been added to the competition. Below is a list of the finalists for the honey competition. You can find out more and information on the awards at [their web site](#).

The winners will be announced on January 15 in San Francisco, CA

HONEY

Ames Farm Limited, Honey Comb, *Minnesota*
Bee Girl, Bee Girl Honey, *Oregon*
Bee Local, Bee Local Sauvie Honey & Bee Local Coastal Mountain Honey, *Oregon*
Bee Squared Apiaries, Rose Honey, *Colorado*
Bees' Needs, Fabulous Fall, *New York*
BHealthy BHappy, Spearmint Infused Honey, *Arizona*
Bloom Honey, Orange Blossom, *California*
Gene's Sausage Shop, Raw Honey, *Illinois*
Gold Star Honeybees, Gold Star Honey, *Maine*
Hall's Honey, Honey, *Nevada*
Hani Honey Company, Raw Creamed Wildflower Honey, *Florida*
Honey Bean Farm, Wild Wetland Honey, *Massachusetts*
Mikolich Family Honey, Sage and Wild Buckwheat, *California*
MtnHoney, Comb Honey Chunk & Sourwood Honey & Wildflower Honey, *Georgia*
Organic Mountains, Sourwood Honey, *Georgia*
Posto Bello Apiaries, Honey, *Maine*
Sequim Bee Farm, Honey, *Washington*
Simmons Family Honey, Saw Palmetto Honey, *Georgia*
State Street Honey, Raw Honey Peninsula Blend, *California*
Swarm Chasers Apiaries, Comb Honey, *Georgia*
Two Million Blooms, Raw Honey, *Illinois*
UrbanBeeSF, Tree Blossom Honey Quince & Tree Blossom Honey Napa, *California*
Waxing Kara, Spring Honey, *Maryland*

Now in its sixth year, the Awards received a record 1,937 entries – 33% more than any other year - across thirteen categories, spanning 48 states. The judges were overwhelmed with the number of outstanding products and the Blind Tasting was characterized by tough decisions all around. The Good Food Awards recognize that *truly* good food—the kind that brings people together and builds strong, healthy communities—contains all of these ingredients.



Honey-Oat Granola Bars Recipe

Ingredients

- 4 cups quick-cooking oats
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 cup chopped salted peanuts
- 1 cup (6 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup sunflower kernels
- 3/4 cup butter, melted
- 2/3 cup honey
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl, combine oats, brown sugar, peanuts, chocolate chips and sunflower kernels. Stir

in butter, honey and vanilla until combined (mixture will be crumbly). Press into a greased parchment paper-lined 15-in. x 10-in. x 1-in. baking pan.

2. Bake 15-20 minutes or until browned and bubbly. Cool 15 minutes on a wire rack; cut into squares. Cool completely before removing from pan.

Yield: 3 dozen.

Originally published in
Reminisce August/
September 2008, p49



Prison Beekeepers Update

by Bear Kelley

Paul Peterson and I visited the Smith facility on 10 Dec 2015. We arrived at 09:00 and stayed until after 11:30. Paul is the new Ogeechee club contact person for this program.

We met with Mr. Lenwood Roberts and he escorted us to the classroom where about 20 inmates were already having a class on extracting honey. One inmate was demonstrating the use of an extractor. I was actually surprised to see the extractor, but did not ask where it came from.

After introductions, I presented a powerpoint class on honey with a lot of interactions with the inmates there. They all seemed very interested and many were taking notes. After the class, the inmates stayed and continued to ask questions about honey and beekeeping. During that time, I was able to talk with the inmate demonstrating the extractor. I asked him about the curriculum he developed for this program. He agreed to allow us to use it throughout the state and elsewhere to teach inmate beekeeping. I have obtained a copy of most of the program and will have to edit/organize it prior to distribution. I will need financial support from GBA for printing when I have finished editing.

The Smith Facility now has twenty working hives. These were the hives donated by Brushy Mountain and the shipping was paid for by GBA. The Ogeechee club continues to sponsor this facility and recently delivered a large amount of sugar for winter feed. We chose to stay inside and talk with the inmates rather than inspect the apiary, as that seemed to be the best use of the time we had. The Smith prison was the original facility with which GBA and UGA got involved about a year ago.

The success at the Smith facility is the reason we now have two more facilities beginning a beekeeping program with local GBA club sponsorship. Of the fifteen original inmates and personnel who were certified, only a few are left at Smith. Several have been transferred to other facilities and are interested in starting programs there.

I look forward to our continued work with them and any others that come on line.



The Final Buzz

Happy New Year to Everyone!

We wish you the best beekeeping beginnings for the start of 2016. We want to thank all the people who sent in info and ideas to get the first *Spillin' the Honey* off to a good start this year.

Keep your fellow beekeepers in mind when you are doing something in your apiary and share it here in the newsletter.

Best wishes for your bees in 2016!

Gina and Linda



HELP WANTED

Wanted: **SOMEONE** to edit or co-edit our *Spillin' the Honey* Newsletter.

Our term ends at the end of 2016 and we need to be able to hand off this position to the next team.

We think it would be a great idea for the new people to work with us during 2016 and we can show you what we have learned about being efficient with time and creative with content.

The time has arrived for new blood within this area of our club, and we are ready to answer questions regarding this contribution to GBA.

It's a fun project to do with a friend - believe us, we know!

All interested inquirers please email us at: gbanewsletters@gmail.com

Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

February 2016



Bear Kelley and Broadus Williams with a school bee club in Valdosta - see article page: 8

The President's Message

Our organization continues to move forward. We are working on the prison program, meeting venue, changing the Buzz fund and supporting our local clubs. There are three prisons involved with the prison beekeeping program. Bear Kelley, our past president, is coordinating this program. He will give a report on the prison program at the Milledgeville meeting.

A young high school student applied for a grant from our Buzz fund, and she has been approved. We look forward to hearing about her study and its results.

We need to set up clear guidelines for the Buzz Fund program and form a three-person committee to review any proposals. This committee could then make a recommendation to the board. There are other models for this in the beekeeping community. For example, Mann Lake offers a \$1000 scholarship which is designed to support a young person's attendance at the annual Eastern Apicultural Society meeting, this year to be held in New Jersey in July.

GBA has moved toward holding the meetings in the central portion of the state and we have gotten great reviews about the Milledgeville site. While we continue to look for some other venues, until we outgrow GCTC, we will continue to utilize the college and its beautiful facilities.

Jim Tew is one of our keynote speakers for next month's spring 2016 meeting. Many of you have probably read his column in *Bee Culture*, and I am really excited about getting a chance to meet him. He helped develop the Alabama Beekeepers Association Masters Beekeeping course.

Keith Fletcher, who is both a Georgia and an Alabama Master Beekeeper, is now head of that program. Keith presented for the GBA when we met in Columbus.

Because our honey show has become such a success we have moved our honey liquids: meads, beer and non-alcoholic beverages to the Spring meeting. We have also added the Honey Princess's recipe as a new category, per Bear Kelley's suggestion. Bear attends the American Beekeeping Federation annual meeting and brings back many ideas for our association. He is our GBA delegate.

We feel like we have a really good line up for the program and are excited about the presentation!

Hope to catch you all at the meeting,

Mary Cahill Roberts

GBA President

Honey Show Rules for the Spring Food, Mead and Drink Show

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Second places \$30

Third places \$20

Keith Fielder will be senior judge, assisted by Bear Kelley, Brutz English, and Kevin Baker. Marybeth Kelley will serve as the show secretary.

"Checkerboarding is a term used in beekeeping that describes a specific hive management technique to prevent swarming. The technique was developed by Walt Wright, a long time beekeeper from Tennessee."



To register for the spring conference at a good rate, [sign up before February 6](#) .



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

OFFICERS

President
Mary Cahill-Roberts

Vice President
Andy Bailey

Secretary
Linda Tillman

Treasurer
Roseanne Dorn

Newsletter Editors
Gina Gallucci
Linda Tillman

Past President
Clay "Bear" Kelley

Webmaster
Bill Owens

DIRECTORS

Arthur "Brutz" English

Derrick Fowler

Randy Rolen

Broadus Williams



Dr. James E. Tew

James Tew is the beekeeping specialist for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Auburn University and emeritus professor, The 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*, *Wisdom for Beekeepers*, and a chapter in *The Hive and the Honey Bee*. 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 is also a beekeeper.



David A. Westervelt

A native of Umatilla, Florida, David started keeping bees at age six and has kept bees for 46 years. In his time in the army, he had the opportunity to work with bees all over the world. For the last 22 years he has held various positions in the beekeeping community in Florida, including state bee inspector and environmental specialist. He works on research projects with USDA, FDA, and FSU on topics such as varroa mites, tracheal mites, AFB and SHB. He learns something new about bees every day.



Kerry Owen

Kerry and his family are the founders and operators of Bee Well Honey farm & Supply Inc. located in Pickens, South Carolina. He began his beekeeping as a career in 2000 and now has the largest beekeeping supply and honey packaging company in South Carolina. Bee Well Honey offers beginner and advanced beekeeping boot camps and focuses on wholesale and retail sales of beekeeping supplies, bee packages, and queens. Bee Well also has a complete line of cosmetics made with honey and beeswax. Bee Well Honey can be found in over 400 stores in the southeast.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, February 12

7:00 PM Board Meeting

8:00 PM Welcome reception for all conference attendees

Saturday, February 13

7:30-8:15 **President's Breakfast:** A meeting of all attending local club presidents to share ideas and connect with each other and with our GBA president, Mary Cahill-Roberts

8:30-8:45 **Opening remarks:** Mary Cahill-Roberts, GBA President

8:45-9:30 **Dr. Jim Tew:** *Managing Today's Colonies for Today's Issues*

9:30-10:15 **Roger Simonds:** *Analysis of Apiculture Samples – Challenges, Perspectives and Insights*

10:15-10:30 Break

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 **David Westervelt:** *Africanized Honey Bees – what we know and should we be concerned?*

1:45-2:30 **Kerry Owen:** *How Do We Really Keep Our Bees Alive? A group discussion on the subject*

2:30-2:45 Break

2:45-3:30 Afternoon Breakout Sessions C

3:40-4:25 Afternoon Breakout Sessions D

4:30 Show winners announced, Ad Auction, Closing remarks

HONEY FOOD & DRINK SHOW

Entries will be taken Saturday from 8:00 am until 12:00, in room 213.

Winners will be announced at the end of the day.

AUCTION *Saturday Afternoon*

Boost your sales by advertising on the GBA website! Only four ads will be sold. You must be present to bid.

BREAKOUT SESSION SPEAKERS



Keith Fielder

Keith is a Master Beekeeper and Welsh Honey Judge. He has around 30 colonies which provide extracted, chunk and comb honey. Employed by University of Georgia Cooperative Extension as the County Extension Coordinator for Putnam County, he is active in many beekeeping organizations.



Tom Hill

Tom keeps bees and makes mead in Otto, NC. Educated primarily in biological sciences, he spent some years teaching biology and chemistry at the high school level. He has been brewing meads and melomels since 2007. Tom was extremely fortunate to have professional wine maker Maria Peterson of Dalonega as his mentor for several years.



Julia Mahood

An Atlanta artist, Julia is a sideline beekeeper with hives in metro Atlanta and Blue Ridge, Georgia. As a Master Beekeeper, she enjoys sharing her passion for natural beekeeping as a mentor and speaker.



Holly Bayendor McConnell

Holly has been the Chair of MABA's Junior Beekeepers Program for the last 3 years. She and her husband Jeff have kept hives for 6 years in the Woodstock area. She is a Certified Beekeeper, and the current President of MABA.



Bill Owens

Bill is Georgia's only Master Craftsman Beekeeper. Having worked with honey bees most of his life, Bill is an entrepreneur, author, instructor, full-time firefighter, webmaster, beekeeper, entertaining speaker, and bee remover who (believe it or not) enjoys the simple life.



Nicholas Weaver

Nicholas works for the UGA Honey Bee Program as a research project supervisor, leading a team of technicians to carry out laboratory and field work. He also runs his own bee removal business and was instrumental in keeping beekeeping a lawful practice in Forsyth County, Georgia. At the age of 15, Nicholas was the youngest person in the world to earn the Welsh Honey Judge certification.

Site Map

Georgia Bee Removal

www.GaBeeRemoval.com

Mountain Sweet Honey
BEES FOR SALE
 MOUNTAIN SWEET HONEY
MountainSweetHoney.com

Jarrett Apiaries

 Bees - Equipment - Honey
www.jarrettbees.com

Home Town Honey
Home Town Honey
 Bee Removal
 Raw Honey
 Candles
 Brian & Kim Higgins
 Kennesaw, GA
www.honeytown.com

Ad placement won at GBA spring conference auction. Would you like to see your business here?

Every year at the Spring Conference, the right to advertise in these four spaces on the [GBA Website](#) is auctioned. The winners occupy these spaces for one year until the auction in spring 2017.

The auction is the last event at the Spring Conference and you must be present to bid and win.

Last year these were the winning bids:

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

Want to see your company here? Bid at the conference and be in it to win it!

Vendors who are coming to the Spring Conference:

The following bee equipment supply vendors have registered and are coming to the Spring Conference. All three companies will be glad to fill orders for you to bring to the meeting, saving you shipping charges.

Mann Lake is sponsoring the meeting and is coming.

Dadant

Rossman

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.

Spilling the Honey sends emails to each club president and or a representative of each club as a reminder to send in your club meeting information for publication. Many of us have changed positions beginning in January and we don't have the proper contact for your club. Please send us your liaison's name and email so they are able to respond with the info from the categories in the table below. We would be delighted to have as much monthly information as is currently available - if your entire year is planned, you can send us just one email. Please send your club info for as many months as you wish.

Club Name	Speaker/Topic	When	Where	City
Altamaha	Bobby Colson , B & G Honey Farm	Mon 2/1	Chatters Restaurant	Lyons, GA
Coastal Empire Beekeepers Assoc. -CEBA	Keith Delaplane Searching Evolution Clues of Good Beekeeping Management	2/13 1:00-3:00	Oatland Island Wildlife Center	Savannah, Ga
Coweta	Steve Page : Nectar Management, Less Swarming, More Honey	2/8 7 PM	255 Pine Road	Newnan, GA
Forsyth	Bear Kelley : Honey, Who Knew?	2/25 6:30 - 8PM	Univ. of N GA	Cumming, GA
Gwinnett Beekeepers	Bruce Morgan Topic- Speaker's Choice	Tues 2/9 7 PM	Hebron Baptist Church	Dacula, GA
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers	Heather Mattila : Nutritional Stress in Honey Bees	Wed 2/10	Atlanta Botanical Garden	Atlanta, GA
Ogeechee Area BK	Bill and Wendy Adams : Hive health and the use of bee venom	Thurs 2/25		
Tara	Steve Page : Sustainable Beekeeping & Nectar Management	Mon 2/15 7 PM	GA Power 752 Main St	
West Georgia	Steve Page : Sustainable Beekeeping	Mon 2/22 7 PM	American Legion Post	Douglasville, GA
Tara	Children's Short course	Sat, May 21	Reynolds Nature Preserve	5665 Reynolds Road Morrow, Ga. 30260
Alabama Beekeepers Assoc.	Queen Rearing: David Kelton 256-523-4767 honeybees60@gmail.com	April 15 & 16		

Club News and Notes

Lake Country Beekeepers Association Short Course Deflects Snow Armageddon

Interested individuals, friends and family braved the winter weather conditions in the lake country area on Saturday, January 23rd to attend the 4th Annual Lake Country Beekeepers Association (LCBA) Short Course in Milledgeville, GA. A group of 45 new and experienced beekeepers were kept warm, educated and entertained by Keith Fielder, Putnam County and Northeast District Extension Coordinator, and by Bruce Morgan of Morgan Apiaries and Past President of LCBA. Topics discussed included bee biology, getting bees, equipment and hive components, diseases and honey harvest. New beekeepers are encouraged to join a local club and to utilize the mentoring and expertise of fellow beekeepers. Feeding our bees along with disease education and prevention are key factors in reducing colony loss.

Useful beekeeping supplies were raffled during the program. The grand prize, an assembled cypress ten frame deep and medium super hive body donated by Morgan Apiaries, went home with Savannah Zawacki of Peachtree City, GA. Thanks to Brent Rosencrantz, Director of Central Georgia Technical College Conference Center, and members of LCBA who planned and hosted this event.



Coweta Beekeepers Association

We had another successful class for new beekeepers on Saturday, January 23, 2016. Total enrolment was 54. Since 2010, the first year we started offering the classes in January, 393 students have attended the class. The students enjoyed a day of learning while snow flurries fell outside.



Volunteers waiting to serve lunch

Traits of the Carniolan honey bee by Ray Civitts

Here is the short story of how I started raising Carniolan bees: I ordered about fifty Italian queens and was accidentally shipped fifty Carniolan queens. I decided that I would step ahead with these Carniolan queens and learn about these bees. This journey was very interesting.

The start of spring looked disastrous because the queens started slower compared to the Italian queens. The weather did not help with rain almost every day and cooler temperatures. Just as I was about to pull all the Carniolan queens out of the hives, I was shocked to see these new queens had shifted into “high” brood production. On an eight frame hive they were laying five full frames of brood in early May. Then came June and all frames in the brood box were full and stayed that way through late October.

Now let's take a look at what the strengths and weakness of this bee.

1. The Carniolan bee is more aggressive than the Italian bee. The positive part of this aggressiveness is that they manage small hive beetles more effectively than the Italian bee. What I found is the Carniolan bees defend the entrance more effectively and this helps keep pests out of the hive. I actually found several hives that propolized the small hive beetles on the top of the frames!
2. I also found that they are a little more aggressive to the beekeeper. Not really bad, but more aggressive than an Italian bee.
3. Due to high brood production, the bees go into winter with a healthy bee population.
4. During our trial period, which was mostly rainy weather, the Carniolan out-produced their Italian counterparts in honey production by 15%. This data was based on the same age hive for the Carniolan and Italian hives.
5. The beekeeper must manage their hives with this bee. Because the queen produces so much brood, the beekeeper must keep a constant eye on “bee space.” If you don't, they will swarm on you! To reduce this risk, keep your bee space to 80%.

This article is written by Ray Civitts, owner of Mountain Sweet Honey Company in Toccoa, GA



Dear Aunt Bee,

I am not sure if my bees have enough stores to make it to our first pollen and nectar flows. What do you think about giving them fondant?

Best Regards,
Hopeful Bee Chef

Dear Hopeful,

In the south where most of our GBA members live, we have small hive beetles who overwinter in the hive. Feeding fondant is akin to feeding pollen patties in the south and will really help your SHB grow and thrive.

If you are really worried about your bees and it's very cold where you are, you could put newspaper on top of your frames and just pour sugar on it.

Aunt Bee





Mann Lake Scholarship

The Mann Lake Scholarship was established to encourage a worthy young individual to pursue an interest in honey bees and beekeeping. The scholarship will provide financial assistance for the selected candidate (ages 18 - 25) to attend an annual EAS conference. In addition to the waiver of registration fees by EAS for the short course and the main conference, the scholarship will provide up to \$1,000 to the successful candidate to offset other conference expenses. Be sure to visit [this link](#) to assure that you meet the qualifications and then APPLY!

Please help us find worthy applicants from your area!

(continued from photo on page 1)

On January 27, Broadus Williams, GBA Director and Bear Kelley, GBA Past President, visited the Pine Grove Middle School in Valdosta. They were invited by Beth Baker, a teacher and bee enthusiast, who is forming a school beekeeping club there. They have already received a grant from a local source and started accumulating hive hardware.

Broadus gave a talk on basic beekeeping and the kids were very interested in learning all they could about bees. Bear helped guide the teacher about forming the club and electing officers from the students. Not only will this be a good lesson on bees, but on civics as well, since they will run the club by "Robert's Rules of Order." The principal and other staff were excited about the program and were on hand asking as many questions as the students. Bear stated that they will become one of GBA's affiliated clubs soon. And we welcome them!



Mark your Calendars:
THE FIFTH ANNUAL
WELSHfest
March 19, 2016.

On the third Saturday in March the [WELSHfest](#) will be holding their 4th Annual Honey Contest in Rockmart, Georgia. It is the only Welsh centered festival in Georgia and now includes a honey contest as well! Plan ahead and save those honey contest entries for extracted and chunk honey classes. Welsh Standard judging rules will be followed. Don't miss out! Also, added this year is a Baking with Honey Contest!!!

Cooking with Honey

Honey Sesame Chicken Recipe Super Bowl Party

Charlie and Joyce Pinson *Grilling & Tailgate, Recipes Appetizers, Main Course, Chicken Recipe, Grilling*

Ingredients

- 3 to 4 tablespoons of sesame seeds
- 4 cloves of minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon freshly grated ginger root
- ¼ cup rice vinegar
- ¼ cup of Bluegrass Soy Sauce
- ½ cup of honey, we used Tupelo honey a light honey known for its sweetness
- 3 lbs of chicken about 8 drumsticks (if local chicken is not available buy chicken without added hormones)

Method

1. Toast sesame seeds in a dry hot coated skillet until brown, tossing occasionally. Remove from heat.
2. In a heavy saucepan, combine all ingredients except chicken. Bring to a simmer.
3. In the meantime, grill the chicken on medium heat until juices run clear about **8 to 10 minutes**.
4. Brush chicken with honey mixture and turn several times over a **five minute** time frame, utilizing all sauce and being careful not to overcook chicken.
5. Chicken will start to turn a light brown but the skin and meat should remain very moist.
6. Roll in toasted sesame seeds, and serve warm.



Street Cred:



[New ARS Bee Genebank Will Preserve Genetic Diversity and Provide Breeding Resources](#)

By [Kim Kaplan](#)
January 26, 2016

Cryopreserved (frozen) semen, being collected from a drone honey bee in this picture, will form the basis of a new honey bee germplasm collection.

Photo by Stephen Ausmus.



[The Elephants and Bees Project](#)

sent in by Steve Page



Photo of starving bees by Mary Lacksen

On February
6, conference
rates for the
Spring
Conference go
up from \$40 to
\$65 a person.

[Sign up](#)
[TODAY!](#)

**Multiple Positions Open - Needed
as Quickly as Possible to begin
training!**

Not only does GBA need two new newsletter editors, we also need a new Webmaster. Bill Owens has done this job for years and years and needs someone to step up to the plate. In today's world, web pages are easy to manage - are you THE ONE???

Email gabepresident@gmail.com if you would like to take this position and be trained by Bill.

HELP WANTED

Wanted: SOMEONE to edit or co-edit our *Spillin' the Honey* Newsletter.

Our term ends at the end of 2016 and we need to be able to hand off this position to the next team. We've had the position for three years, but you could volunteer for a shorter term.

We think it would be a great idea for the new people to work with us during 2016 and we can show you what we have learned about being efficient with time and creative with content.

The time has arrived for new blood within this area of our club, and we are ready to answer questions regarding this contribution to GBA.

It's a fun project to do with a friend - believe us, we know!

All interested inquirers please email us at: gbanewsletters@gmail.com

The Final Buzz

We are excited about our Spring 2016 Conference and renewing friendships then. Please keep our newsletter in mind while you are there and do send us your notes, observations and photos.

Best wishes for your bees!



Gina and Linda

Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

March 2016



Photos by Rick Moore taken at the GBA meeting

President's Message

Spring...excitement...possibilities...anticipation...

A neighbor once told me to not plant anything until after March 17th. He said that I would be pretty safe to plant and my plants would be ok; no late freezes. However, I learned that that is not always the case. Several years ago, the day before Easter (end of March), I put all my seedlings into the ground, and I was very proud of myself. When Robin came home, she informed me that it was going down to 22 degrees that night and asked why I had planted the seedlings. After that I became an avid weather aficionado.

I start watching the weather on February 1 each year. I know what the next five day forecast is for my area. I can tell you barometric pressure, etc. I think this is one of the things that we as beekeepers keep our eyes on, but some of us are more focused than others. I have been in both camps.

The weather in my area has been staying a steady 50 degrees. Most of the days the bees are flying but it is pretty windy and relatively cool. I finally got into my hives on the 28th (with time and opportunity). I also was able to work them on the 29th. So far so good. This year I am trying a few

new things and will continue to let you know how it goes.

In the fall, I put probiotic in the hive and seven of nine survived in my backyard, three of three in the community garden and my one hive survived in my Smyrna apiary. So I am pretty excited. I have been a big believer in supplementing my bees. I use Honey B Healthy. This year I am supplementing (feeding) in the hives as opposed to open apiary supplementing.

I hope you all are able to get in the hive, work a little and make some plans. This is the really exciting time of the year to be a beekeeper.

Before I end, I want to thank all of the people who helped us have a successful spring meeting. Thank you to Jennifer Berry and Keith Fielder who invited the speakers. And thank you to Julia Mahood and Linda Tillman who organized all of the details of the event. Thanks to all the speakers and to our local breakout speakers: Jim Tew, Roger Simonds, Dave Westervelt, Kerry Owen, Keith Fielder, Tom Hill, Julia Mahood, Holly Bayendor McConnell, Bill Owens, and Nicholas Weaver. Hope to see even more of you at the fall meeting.

Keep your smoker lit, tool hive handy and fire extinguisher around....

Mary Cahill-Roberts

President, GBA



We asked **Randy Rolen, Master Beekeeper**, for his thoughts on a couple of items for March beekeeping and this is his response.

What is a common question asked at my “Intro to Beekeeping Classes?” I want to plant bee friendly plants close to my hives. What do you suggest? There are many bee friendly plants that will help your bees especially in bee pastures, but first you need to do a little research. Before you plant anything check with your county extension agent about bee plants in your area and their normal bloom times. This is really important.

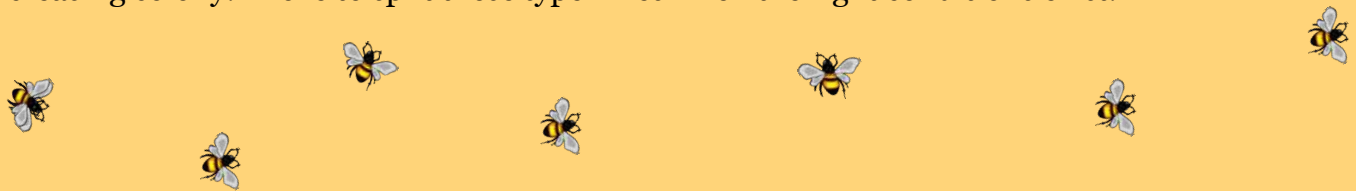
With a few exceptions in Georgia, spring and autumn produce the most flowering and nectar bearing plants. In order to overcome the midsummer dearth, plant those plants that bloom during the dearth times. By planting those type plants you have something blooming all summer long for your bees.

What are the main things you look for and or do in your hives toward March?

Entering March, my spring adrenaline is high from the excitement of the beekeeping year getting into full swing. I inspected my hives on a warm February day so I know which hives are weak or strong coming out of winter. There are many needs of each weak or strong hive at this time. I continue in March to inspect the hives on warm days estimating food stores and checking for the amount of brood is present. Feeding 1:1 sugar water and using pollen patties helps to boost the hive build-ups in advance of the nectar flow.

I equalize hives by moving frames of capped brood from strong colonies into weaker ones before the major nectar flow begins. In strong colonies this sometimes helps delay swarming and gives me an opportunity to build up those weak hives.

It is important for me to evaluate the brood pattern of each queen and decide if requeening may be needed. I keep an eye out for queen cells to replace a weak queen or to divide a rapidly increasing colony. I love to split these type hives when the right conditions exist.



Club News & Notes

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers held our monthly meeting in February at Camp John Hope with a record breaking number of people in attendance. Our speaker was Fred Rossman, owner of Rossman Apiaries in Moultrie, GA, who spoke on the equipment needed to become a beekeeper. John Sirmons won the door prize.



Hometown Honey of Kennesaw, GA., and crew attended this year's ABF conference in Jacksonville Florida. We submitted jars of honey in the light amber honey, amber honey, and the new gift box categories. We are proud to announce we placed 1st in the light amber honey, 3rd in the amber honey and third in the new gift box category.



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
Chattooga Beekeepers	Gary Raines: Spring Management	3/8 7:00 PM	Ag Building. 32 Middle School. Road	Summerville. GA
Chattahoochee Valley	Old Beekeepers sharing advice with new beekeepers	Mon 3/14 6 PM	Oxbow Meadows Environmental	Columbus, GA
Coweta Beekeepers	Buster Lane Installing Nucs and Packages	Mon 3/14	255 Pine Road	Newnan, GA
Coastal Empire	David Arnal	Mon 3/14	Oatland Island Wildlife Center	Savannah, GA
Forsyth Beekeepers	Bob Binnie: Tour of his facility and lunch	Sat 3/5	Bob Binnie's shop	Lakemont, GA
Forsyth Beekeepers	Bee School	3/12 9 - 4	\$45 National Guard Armory	Cumming, GA
Forsyth Beekeepers	Bob Binnie: Nucs and Splits	3/24 6:30 - 8:30	Univ of North GA	Cumming, GA
Gwinnett County	Steven Page: Sustainable Beekeeping	3/8 7:00 PM	Hebron Baptist Church	Dacula, GA
Heart of Georgia	Panel of Experts with at least 100 hive: nucs & beginning beekeeping	Tues 3/15	Camp John Hope	Fort Valley, GA
Lake Country	Nicholas Weaver - UGA Entomology Spring Management	Mon 3/21 7 PM	County Extension Office	Sparta, GA
MABA	Clarence Collison: Pheromones	Wed 3/9	Atlanta Botanical Garden	Atlanta, GA
MABA	Jr. Beekeepers	Sunday 4/17	Webb Bridge Rd,	Alpharetta, GA
SOWEGA	Steve Page: Queen & manipulations	Thus 3/10	Chehaw Park Creekside Center	Albany GA
Tara	Bobby Torbush: Teaching about nectar plants.....	Mon 3/21 7 PM	GA Power 752 Main St	Forest Park GA
Tara	Children's Short Course	Sat. May 21	Reynolds Nature Preserve	5665 Reynolds Rd. Morrow, Ga. 30260
West Georgia	Merry Cagle: Bee Essentials	3/28 6:30	Douglasville American Legion,	Douglasville, GA

Behind Bars Beekeeping:

Just a quick update: Yesterday, I received a call from Arrendale State Prison and we are a "GO." The Warden has told her staff to "make it happen." So they ordered everything needed (books, 25 beekeeping suits, three complete hives). There have been other donors including Blue Ridge Honey (Bob Binnie), Georgia Bee Removal (Bill Owens and Bobby Chaisson). My company, Mountain Sweet Honey, will provide three additional hives with bees.

I will be hosting the warden and her staff in our apiary in the coming weeks. They want to see beekeeping in action! I will actually deliver the (six) hive components late next week so they can be painted and ready for the bees to be delivered on April 4th.

Julia Mahood will be teaching the class. Virginia Webb and Julie Civitts will be assisting Julia in the classroom and in the apiary. Virginia and Julie will maintain the program on a year round basis. I will serve as the facilitator between the prison and the beekeeping community.

Let the learning begin!

Ray Civitts



Does your club have a phone number?



Your club contact information usually consists of a webpage, a Facebook page and an email address. Do you have a dedicated phone number for your club? No? Why not? Go to "Google.com/voice" and sign up for a free phone number. After entering your google account information, you choose from a list of available phone numbers in your area code. Select a cell phone you want this new line to ring on. After verifying that phone number, and within five minutes, you now have a free phone number, forwarded to the cell phone of your choice that you can personalize to your bee club.

Now, what tip can you share with us?

Rick Moore

Coming together as we do at GBA twice yearly is a good time to share stories, tips and secrets. But what about the rest of the year? GBA requests that clubs provide the local club President's contact information and/ or the meeting chairperson's contact information so GBA can share important information to the local club level.

Recently I had a situation where I'd like to have discussed it with other club Presidents; to see if my situation was unique, and if not, how other clubs had handled the opportunity. It would be so helpful if GBA had an ongoing up-to-date list of the important contacts in each club.

We presidents have been elected to lead our clubs, to provide information to our members, but if we have not provided contact information to GBA, how can that information trickle down to our local club members?

I am proud to be the President of my club. I want to get everything I can from GBA and other local clubs to offer to my members, to make their beekeeping experiences more pleasurable and profitable.

Please take a moment and email your club President's contact information to GBA, so we can communicate among ourselves. Together we make our clubs stronger, we make GBA stronger, and we make beekeeping in Georgia even stronger.

Rick Moore
President
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers
Perry, GA
478.238.8787



[Decline of Pollinating Species](#)

Decline of Species That Pollinate Poses a Threat to Global Food Supply, Report Warns

[Ancient wax: It came from bees!](#)

Ancient wax: It came from bees!

[Bee Virus Spread by humans](#)

Bee virus spread is humanmade, driven by European honeybee populations

[Parasite That Turns Bees Into Zombies](#)

Tracking a Parasite That Turns Bees Into Zombies

Beekeeping Tricks and Tips

Painting Hives

by Mary Lacksen

Getting ready for spring, we purchased assembled hive boxes and turned to YouTube to find an efficient method for painting these boxes. There are many, but this was the one we chose. By stacking the boxes upside down, using a roller brush and allowing for drying time between two coats of paint, we were able to complete this project in a day. Now we are ready for the spring nectar flow and hope the bees are too.



Homemade Swarm Trap Lure

by Linda Tillman

Spread this lure on top of frames, inside the entryway, around the opening in the inner cover and on landing board to help attract a swarm of bees.

- in glass measuring cup combine $\frac{1}{4}$ cup olive oil and a 1 inch by 1 inch square of bees wax
- place glass measuring cup into pan of water, bring water to boil, and stir mixture
- remove for heat, and stir in 15-20 drops lemongrass oil
- pour into small container with lid



Feeding Your Bees by Ricky Moore

It is difficult for new beekeepers sometimes to understand how much honey needs to be left for the hive during overwintering. They hear the words, but the mind continues to think there is a lot of honey here; it's ONLY November; the bees can make more; I'll just take a couple more frames of honey and THEN no more. Compound that thought and action process with leaving only sugar syrup on top of the hive the whole winter then into February, and then...what happened? Why are my bees dead? They couldn't have starved, there's plenty of syrup just above them.

This valuable and expensive lesson must be learned, and we experienced beekeepers must impress on those we mentor that 40-60 pounds of honey per hive means 40-60 pounds of honey per hive. It is not negotiable in November whether to take a couple more frames of honey. The answer is NO. That window has passed. No more can be taken. These sad pictures are offered as reminders that as much as we think we are in charge and the bees will feed off what we give them, just isn't so. They will starve with a food source just inches away.



It's almost March; it's almost spring; it's almost time for the spring bloom. But we're NOT there yet. Now is the most critical time for our bees. Their stores are low, and their numbers are building quickly. They can deplete their resources before the spring bloom. The entire hive can be lost, just as happened to my neighbor's hive. See all the dead bees, nose-down in the cells, and see all the

dead bees on the floor of the hive. Learn from this man's mistake. Feed your hives.

Not only was the monetary value lost which was upsetting, but the emotional toll of losing a hive is even greater. You will take it very personally if you lose a hive, especially if the hive starved. Feed your bees if they need it. And next year make sure you leave them enough honey for the winter.



Old German Honey Cookies

Ingredients

- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup shortening
- 1 cup honey
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger

Directions

1. In a saucepan over low heat, melt together sugar, shortening and honey. Let cool.

Aunt Bee will return next month after a much needed vacation!

2. Mix together eggs, vanilla, baking soda and ginger. Gradually add to cooled honey mixture.
3. Slowly add 4 cups of flour to mixture. Stir until well blended. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto cookie sheets about 2 inches apart. Bake at 350 degrees F (180 degrees C) until golden (about 12-15 minutes).

*Found on
allrecipes*



GBA Spring 2016 Meeting Comments

I really enjoyed the candor and honesty of Kerry Owen's presentation and open dialogue, surveying the audience on how they do things and their successes or failures. Kerry gave some thoughtful tips on bleaching the hive equipment and tools. Why not? The stories of various long time beekeepers being almost wiped out made me realize the risk of capital investment in the unpredictable bee business. It was comforting to have the expertise of others around when questioning the validity of using oxalic acid and purchasing a Varroa vaporizer. I don't like spending money and time on techniques that don't work.

Great location and meeting! Thanks for all the hard work by the committee, making it a wonderful meeting. - **Herb Baird**



I LOVED the meeting! I loved seeing SO MANY people all in one place, all sharing their hobby. I loved how supportive everyone was. The speakers were awesome. I feel like I walked away more confident, and I have a few ideas for my season this year. - **Kelley Campbell**

Note: Minutes from the GBA Board Meeting (held at the spring meeting) can be found in this newsletter on pages 10 -12. If you have any comments on the minutes or if you have comments about reading them in the newsletter, [send us an email!](#)



The GBA Board Meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM. In addition to the club officers and the directors, there were fourteen delegates from local clubs. President Mary Cahill-Roberts welcomed the members of the Board and the delegates.

The minutes of the fall GBA board meeting were read and corrected to include Paulding County as a member club.

Brutz English moved to accept the minutes.
 Bear Kelley seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Secretary’s report: Linda Tillman reported that Wild Apricot has worked well for registering members and for handling event registration. She noted that about half the membership has allowed their membership to lapse. She also reported that the existing GBA minutes and treasurer’s reports will be accessible to all the members on a Google document. GBA is missing the minutes from 2011, 2012 and the spring of 2013.

Treasurer’s report: Roseanne Fielder reported a summary of the holdings in the accounts.

General checking	\$19,337.93
Money Market	\$23789.33
Junior Beekeepers	\$ 9825.02
PayPal	\$1638.00
Southern Farm Bureau CD	\$16,927.48
Total Cash on Hand	\$71,517.76
Restricted Funds:	
GBA Buzz Fund:	\$ 6997.34
Jr. Beekeepers Fund	\$9825.02
Total Restricted Funds:	\$16822.36
Total Unrestricted Funds:	\$54695.40
Total GBA Assets	\$71,517.76

Roseanne was asked when the \$1 per member for Junior Beekeepers was collected. She responded that she adds \$1 to the Jr. Beekeeping fund when a member joins. She did this by the quarter through Jan 31. She noted that if your club has a Junior Beekeeping program, GBA will reimburse the club for expenses. Our regulations state that all four officers have to be GBA members to use Junior Beekeepers’ funds for local clubs.

We are supposed to have an audit of the books, and perhaps need a professional to do it. Bear mentioned that the VP is supposed to do a quarterly audit. Brutz English said we need the treasurer’s report to include both income and expenses, not just a summary of assets. Roseanne said that she will send it to anyone who wants to know. Linda suggested that everyone who belongs to GBA should have access to this type of report. Mary C-R said it would be helpful to all clubs to see how the budget is allocated and spent.

Brutz moved to approve the report as written.
 Melanie Maxwell seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The fall meeting will be on October 7 - 8 at Milledgeville. This particular year our meeting will conflict with the Perry honey show.

President’s report:

Mary Cahill-Roberts noted that GBA has the challenge of finding a location for meetings to support our growing numbers. She suggested that with larger numbers we could consider getting a professional meeting management company to set up and run the meetings. Cost could be from \$ 3-5,000 per year. Mary is looking into the possibility of hiring professional meeting management.

Old Business

Bear Kelley, past president, reported on the prison program. GBA started working with Smith State Prison one year ago. An inmate who was a beekeeper started teaching in the prison. This inmate also wrote a manual on teaching beekeeping. The prison had three hives that were donated by someone locally. A year ago Brushy Mountain donated money to send 15 more hives to Smith. Now Smith Prison

has 20 hives. Fifteen inmates were certified by the UGA program. They took the Young Harris test and everyone passed. Now there are three state prisons in the bee business and GBA has only spent \$300 to date. At Smith Prison, members of Ogeechee Beekeepers help the prisoners. Smith now has 20 working hives and 15 certified beekeepers in the program that started in 2015.

Several other prisons are in the pipeline. Heart of Georgia will offer classes at Dooley State prison. Prisoners numbering 195 signed up and ten were selected for the program. Classes will start in early March. Lee Arrendale, the women's prison, will also start a program soon. The Northeast Ga Mountain Beekeepers club with Ray Civitts will help and Julia Mahood will teach the class of twenty who have been selected.

Bear discovered that Smith was not putting the certified designation in prisoner's files, but with some work on his part, now the certification for beekeeping is listed as an educational qualification. Ware Facility near Waycross, where there is a beautiful woodshop, wants to start a beekeeping program. Bear wants that facility to build bee boxes and distribute them through the state. Kim Flottum donated 100 copies of Backyard Beekeeping. Bear is allocating them at ten copies per prison. The program used for training the prisoners is being edited to pass around the state to be used in other prisons.

Five other states have contacted Bear to find out how Georgia is managing this. The program has accomplished a lot in only one year. Some of the prisoners who reached certified level have been moved to other prisons and Bear is hoping they can teach at another prison. Stacy Rivera is the contact for the state in the south. Bear is very proud of the prison program.

Bear also reported on the beekeeping program in the state parks. This program started four or five years ago. Coastal Empire Beekeepers in Savannah have started a beekeeping program at Oatland Island. The bee course at the state park at Oatland has an attendance of up to 100 people in their state park apiary. At Oatland Island they have fruit trees and wildflowers growing to support the bees.

Mary asked for a volunteer to be the point person for the state park program. Arron Robinson volunteered to work on the state park tracking job. Mary would like to support implementing the pollinator program through the park system. We need a map on Wild Apricot in our web page to show the park programs with apiaries.

New Business:

Buzz Fund

Recently the board approved an applicant who was outside of the university system for Buzz Fund monies. We didn't have an application process or a review in place. Mary wants a committee of three or four people to review the application process. A committee was set up consisting of Gina Gallucci as chair, with Brutz English and Roseanne Fielder as committee members. Currently the Buzz Fund totals \$7000. Originally the Buzz Fund was set up for research on a long scale to support the University of Georgia. Roseanne expressed disagreement about using Buzz Fund money for the current recipient since she isn't associated with the university. The committee was instructed to set up guidelines. Dr. Wimbish suggested that many projects even for high school students may last longer than a year.

Georgia Grown: Anyone who wants to go should talk to Mary. White County is having an **Ag Day** and if you want to go, see Mary. See Mary if you want to invest in **Ukraine beekeeping**.

New club applications -

An application was given to the secretary for the approval of a new club in Valdosta. Broadus and Bear went to Valdosta and met with the Pine Grove middle school teacher who started a beekeeping club at the school. The club will be run by Robert's Rules so the kids are also getting a civics lesson. Bear and Broadus gave presentations about bees. The club devised by-laws and a budget. The teacher wrote a grant request and got \$1200 to support their effort. It is a wonderful club but we need to check about membership in GBA because they are students. Bear recommends that Pine Grove Middle School be approved as a beekeeping club.

Brutz English pointed out the need to establish a committee to set guidelines for new club membership.

Brutz English moved to support the new club at Pine Grove Middle School. The motion was seconded by Paul Kudyba and the motion carried.

Paul Kudyba will chair a committee to explore the current guidelines for new clubs. Broadus Williams will work with him.

Some concern was expressed about dispersing GBA funds if all schools and all extension agent offices decided to form bee clubs. (GBA gives money to new clubs to help with start-up.) David Shipp gave the example of a club at a Decatur school. The bees were at Panola Mountain state park. Then the teacher was transferred and her new school was not comfortable with bees so the club died. David pointed out that doing clubs in schools is totally dependent on the teacher sponsor. Bear commented that adult clubs also disappear.

Webmaster: Bill Owens is retiring. Harvest Hoffman sent an email saying she has interest. If Harvest can't do it, we may need to pay someone. Linda commented that Wild Apricot can manage the website. As of September we will not have a webmaster if Harvest does not take on the project.

Zika Virus: The legislature is supporting money to spray for mosquitoes. We need a letter drafted to Gary Black and to the governor about how we feel about spraying and keeping the safety of the honeybee in mind. Brutz English supported the need to act. Brutz volunteered to come up with a draft of a letter within the next month before the summer.

Registration fee for the meetings Can a student come to the meeting for reduced fee? Roseanne thinks that we should allow students 21 and under to come at a reduced fee or free. She also suggested that people 18 or younger could come for a lower fee with a paid adult. We could limit the number of spots that are available. If people can bring students at a reduced cost, we might interest more young people in GBA. Dr. Wimbish will head a committee to make a recommendation to the board about this. Julia Mahood and Melanie Maxwell will serve on the committee.

Nominations committee: Derrick Fowler and Randy Rolen, as directors on the board, will work on the nominations committee to find a slate to run for as new officers. Brutz English will also be glad to help again.

Beekeeper of the year committee:

Roseanne is the chair of the beekeeper of the year committee. Deadline for nominations will be announced shortly.

Newsletter - Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman have been editors for 3 12/ years. It is time for someone new to take over the commitment. Mary asked Gina and Linda to extend their editing commitment through October 2016 to cover the fall meeting. Then we will need a new team.

Brutz English commented that we have two very important jobs that are rotating off - webmaster and newsletter team. He emphasized that working as a committee is an important idea. People often take on things by themselves rather than bringing in new people. There's lots of talent everywhere throughout the clubs and we need to encourage more of the talented people in GBA to get involved. He would like to see people in the pipeline to take on such jobs as newsletter editors.

New Brochure: Julia Mahood has two thousand copies of the new GBA brochure. Club presidents and others may request them from her.

Honey Show: Bear supported the honey show remaining in the fall meeting. There will be more prize money this year beginning with the spring meeting. The spring meeting will be mead and honey edibles while the fall will be a honey show.

Brutz English moved to adjourn the meeting.
Bear Kelley seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Tillman
GBA Secretary

To read all of the minutes in the secretary's notebook, [please click here](#). We are supplying access to this so that our members can be well-informed about the organization. Note: we are missing all records of GBA proceedings, both minutes and treasurer's reports, from 2011, 2012 and the spring of 2013. If anyone has copies, please send them to us.

Walt W. Wright passed away on February 6, 2016.

Walt Wright died in Tennessee after a short illness. Walt's observation and analytical skills improved beekeeping management methods. He then wrote and taught extensively, sharing his knowledge to enable beekeepers to understand and manage honey bee hives better. Walt's knowledge will be passed along for generations and he will be listed with the other great names including Langstroth, Imrie, and Doolittle.



You can read more about Walt Wright by [clicking here](#). Among his many contributions, his method of “checkerboarding” his hives in spring to thwart swarming is well-known. His death is a great loss to the many beekeepers who have been influenced by his writing and thinking.

Thank you to all of you who have filled out the evaluation for the Spring Meeting. If you haven't yet, it's not too late so just [click here](#). We will publish the feedback in the April Newsletter.

THE FINAL BUZZ

We wish you all a lovely spring season and hope that your bees are thriving. We all are learning more and more from each other, especially at each of our GBA meetings. The meetings themselves are getting more enjoyable with all our new club members, our enthusiastic beekeepers, and our continuing great speakers. Good luck with your bees!

Linda and Gina

If you'd like to see a slideshow of photos by Linda Tillman and Rick Moore taken during the Spring Meeting, [click here](#).



Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

April 2016



Steve Esau captures a swarm from the side of a tree!

President's Message

The website is changing hands and we are getting a new webmaster. You will see some differences in the site but you should still be able to access information until all the information is migrated. I understand there will not be too much down time during this transition.

I want us to add a couple of maps on the website to include the state parks programs that clubs help sponsor and the prisons that have beekeeping programs. Again there are local clubs helping the prison program. All state parks have to have a pollinator garden by mandate of the Federal government and our state has a very good pollinator program. Some of the parks may be looking for bee clubs to help them. Please check to see if you are near one.

This prison community is growing and I am very proud of all those that are involved. Bear Kelley is the liaison and he has connected three prisons with clubs and apparently now it has gone viral in the Georgia Department of Corrections and a lot more prisons are looking at the program.

Bear has written an update in this newsletter to let you know what is going on and how to get involved.

During the spring meeting I asked people to step up and take part of the GBA. We formed a couple of

committees to investigate a few issues, you will be hearing more from them in the coming months.

One really important issue is our newsletter. As I had mentioned in the meeting in February, come October we will no longer have newsletter editors. I have asked for volunteers and have not heard a Buzz out of anyone. I have thoroughly enjoyed the information and hate to see it go by the wayside if we don't get a few people to step up and take Linda and Gina's place. I believe they have been doing this for four years now, and it is time to change hands. Please let me or them know if you are interested, and you can start now for training. If we don't get anyone then we will NOT have a newsletter anymore. I for one don't want to see that happen.

I am challenging all the club presidents to write something for the newsletter to let us know what your club is doing. I hear that we have a few more clubs that are interested in the children's education program the GBA offers and we are looking forward to support them. If your club is one of these please write a short paragraph and send into the newsletter so we all can hear about it.

Mary Cahill-Roberts

GBA President

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. Red print: beekeeping courses

Club Name	Speaker/Topic	When	Where	City
Beekeepers of Gilmer county	Linda Tillman: Wax and Facts - everything you ever wanted to know about wax	Mon 4/11 7:00 PM		Ellijay, GA
Coweta Beekeepers	Dave King: Reading Frames	Mon 4 /11 7:00 PM	255 Pine Road	Newnan, GA
Forsyth Beekeepers	Panel of experienced beekeepers	6:30- 8:00	Univ of North GA	Cumming, GA
Gwinnett County	Jennifer Tsuruda: Speaker's choice	7:00 PM	Hebron Baptist Church	Dacula, GA
Heart of Georgia	Panel of Experts, each with over 100 hives	4/19	Camp John Hope	Fort Valley, GA
Heart of Georgia	Beekeeping:101	4/2	Camp John Hope	Fort Valley, GA
Lake Country	Keith Fielder, Nectar Bearing Trees, Plants & Shrubs	Mon 4/19 7 PM	County Extension Office	Sparta, GA
MABA	Tom Rearick: Monitoring hive health	Wed 4/13 7:00 PM	Atlanta Botanical Garden	Atlanta, GA
MABA	Jr. Beekeepers	May 17	East Lake	Atlanta, GA
Tara	Jim Quick: What you need to look for in your hives right now	Mon 7 PM	GA Power 752 Main St	Forest Park GA
Tara	Children's Short Course	Sat. May 21	Reynolds Nature Preserve	5665 Reynolds Rd. Morrow, Ga. 30260

Club News & Notes

The **Beekeeper's Club of Gwinnett County** held its very first one-day beginner beekeeping course on Saturday, March 12th. The course was open to 40 attendees and every seat was accounted for, weeks in advance. The club members who were essential to the course's success had a lot of fun with the day. Hopefully, we answered some questions for folks, but more importantly, I hope everyone left with more questions yet to be answered as they pursue this beekeeping hobby.



Beginner course at Gwinnett County

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

Billed as a "**Panel of Experts, each with over 100 Hives,**" Dewayne Pitts, Bob Binnie, Broadus Williams and Dennis Billings answered questions for persons about to get nucs for the first time, as the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Assn held their monthly meeting on March 15, 2016 at Camp John Hope. Jonathan Hayes demonstrated a frame building jig, and Bear Kelley demonstrated a five gallon bucket decapper system in the monthly member section called **Show and Tell.**

Middle Georgia State University students in Cochran inspected hives Friday, March 18. MGA's hives are doing well, and students were able to move two nucs into bigger boxes. These students are currently doing research on how well honey and propolis kill bacteria.



Submitted by Kelley Campbell:

The Forsyth Beekeepers Club hosted its 19th Bee School on March 12. The club has grown tremendously in the past couple of years, and bee school had 60 in attendance for the classroom portion of the class. Some students were taking this class as a refresher course in preparation for their certification exam in May, and others were first time beekeepers, eagerly awaiting their packages/nucs. Club volunteers (Certified Beekeeper / Journeyman / certified Welsh Honey Judge) taught the different sections, including honeybee biology, equipment, and colony management. Breakout sessions taught us how to



wax
found
ation

and build hardware, and allowed participants to meet club mentors. Lunch was included on-site, which allowed everyone to mingle a bit and get to know their neighboring beekeepers. Overall it was a great success, and students are looking forward to the second day of the class. Day two of the club's bee school is hands on in the hives (lighting smoker, hive inspection, etc), and is April 23.



Prison Report:

As of 17 March, we have a total of four state prisons participating in the beekeeping prison program. They are: Smith State Prison in Glennville, GA sponsored by the Ogeechee Beeks, Paul Peterson; Dooley State Prison in Unadilla, GA sponsored by the Heart of GA Beeks, Rick Moore; the Arrendale Women's Prison in Habersham County sponsored by NE Georgia Mountain Beeks, Ray Civitts and Julia Mahood. The newest facility is the Ware State Prison in Waycross, GA with no club sponsoring yet. Jennifer Berry and I went down there in February and had a great meeting with the warden and several state officials. They are committed to starting a program as soon as their equipment and bees arrive (already ordered from Rossman's). One inmate who was certified with the original group last year was transferred there to help teach the program. They also have a wonderful "wood" workshop and will build bee boxes for the other facilities. Since we have caused the bee education program to become an official state education program, some state monies have now been allocated to support the program.

I really want to commend the folks and clubs who have stepped forward to support and work on this program. In the end, the bees will be the beneficiaries because each participating facility will wind up with 20 or so hives, and the inmates who continue beekeeping after their release will breed and cultivate many more hives. Furthermore, it give hope to the inmates. One has already written that he feels whole and worthwhile again since he started beekeeping. Everyone of us out in the "free world" certainly knows that feeling everytime you open our hives. On March 22nd, Jennifer Berry, and her UGA crew, Broadus Williams, and I will enter the Smith Prison with the intent of certifying 12-15 more inmates who have been working hard studying for the test. I will certainly keep you posted on their progress. Again, many kudos to all who have put fear and prejudice behind them and stepped up to this program. Many thanks also to Ms. Stacey Rivera, Inmate Services Division, GA Dept of Corrections for all her support and hard work.

Bear Kelley,

Past President

Dooley State Prison



On the wall is a poster of men in striped suits looking into a corn field. The caption says "This is not a field of dreams, this is a prison. Bringing contraband into the prison can cost you five years." The poster said tobacco, drugs and cell phones.

It's a good thing the deputy warden

and the prison warden had called the guard and advised her that I would be bringing a real, live, observation hive with thousands of bees into the prison this morning.

As you have read over the last year, Georgia Beekeepers Association in partnership with the University of Georgia has started a beekeeping class in several Georgia state prisons which will lead a select few inmates to becoming Certified Beekeepers.

I have the privilege to announce Heart of GA Beekeepers has joined other GBA clubs in sponsoring a prison intro to beekeeping class. Dooley State Prison started a class with 12 inmates who are eager to learn, and who had only had beekeeping books before I started teaching the class in March, 2016. These are very dedicated students. It is obvious by their attention to detail, and excellent questions that they have the desire to become Certified Beekeepers.

This past week I took an observation hive to class as a "show and tell." We spent most of the first hour looking, finding the queen, staring in awe, as many of the men had never seen inside a hive before, or been that close to so many honey bees. I was reminded of a small child looking into the candy store window. Excitedly they pointed to bees, and honey, and even found two small hive beetles. If your club does not have an observation hive, get one. It will enthrall all first timers and even a lot of us who have seen inside the hives. As we watched the hive we were visited by the prison warden, another deputy warden and a member of the clergy. Rank meant nothing standing in front of the hive. All were equally fascinated. We all marvel at the complex society within the colony.

In a few months when the class sits for their Certification

test, deputy warden who attends all classes and I will test with them. She had no idea she would become so interested in honey bees. She says she can't wait to get home on Thursday nights to tell her husband what she learned today. And the pictures she took of the observation hive will serve as her proof.

Admittedly we are in a prison, the inmates are there for reasons I do not know nor want to know. When we are in class, all I see are men hungry for knowledge, who cannot wait until we get bees for them. One of the inmates, Josh, learned beekeeping at Smith State Prison in the original prison beekeeping class. He will be of great assistance when we get into the apiary. He assures the other class members, the REAL FUN starts when you put on the suit and get to open the hives. Remember that feeling? Remember the feeling of excitement knowing you are about to open a box and put your hands inside thousands and thousands of potentially stinging honey bees?

It is my pleasure to share that feeling with these men, to teach them some of what I've learned from my mentors, to ignite a spark which can lead them into lifelong beekeeping. One of my students might get out of prison before our class is concluded, and he will take with him this training. No matter how you feel about inmates, prisons, second chances, I think this program is a worthwhile project which should spread to all prisons in Georgia and I believe the fever is rising. The success of Smith Prison and the fire being lit at the other prisons will be a positive influence on these inmates that hopefully will last the rest of their lives. I believe I am getting more out of this class than they are. That makes me want to do a better job, be more prepared, give them better knowledge. I am proud to be teaching a prison class. I am proud to be teaching a beekeeping class. Thank you UGA and GBA and Heart of GA.

Rick Moore

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Assn

Bill Owens is Leaving His Position as GBA Webmaster

Bill Owens has served GBA in so many ways, from holding offices, including president of the organization, to giving talks, to helping organize things, to being webmaster. After more than ten years of service, he is now stepping down from his role as webmaster. We thought we would ask him about his experience in GBA and share his answers with you.



1. How long have you been webmaster for GBA?

I actually started when I was president in 2005 although it was more just trying to keep it running etc. I don't feel I truly took the reins as webmaster until 2006.

2. Who was president when you started and did you volunteer or were you recruited?

In 2005 when I started, I was president but Robert Brewer was president in 2006 when I really took over the website. I volunteered for the job.

3. What has been your favorite part of running the website?

Back when I had time, I did and do enjoy designing the site. I remember how it was all messed up when I first took over. The products and services pages didn't exist. There was a list of members who sold honey. I started separating the different products and services that first year. Of course I added a lot more to the site. Finally, by working with other members of the association and through trial and error, I came to realize that the site should be catered more for the non-beekeeper. So I added the events page, local clubs page, Jr. Beekeepers, and so on.

4. I'm sure you've observed a lot of changes in GBA over the years. What change or changes stand out for you? *Well the meetings are much better and much larger than they use to be. I remember having 50 folks show up was a whopper of a meeting! I do like the interaction and socials we have now, and I believe we need more of those. In my opinion, we should make some changes with leadership roles and manage GBA more like a large organization.*

5. What has been the most challenging part of being webmaster?

Being fair to everyone. The big challenge has been trying to make sure I keep everyone else fair. You'd be surprised how often someone wants (sometimes demands) to be treated better than everyone else. It's hard to deal with but it's quite simple, if it's not something I can let everyone do then you're not going to do it either.

The other big challenge was deciding to throw in the towel after 10 years (or 11) of being webmaster. In the last few months I've been promoted to Assistant Chief/Chief of the fire department and I have little time to spare. I was burning the midnight oil 3-4 months ago trying to update some member's information on the site that I was weeks behind on and I just asked myself why I was trying to do something that I really didn't have the time to do anymore any may even being do a disservice.

Of course then there was the whole, "Who's going to take over as webmaster?" I was a little worried that

there wouldn't be anyone interested in doing the job and wondering if I might be stuck in this position providing a disservice to the association even longer. Then Harvest, (cool name) a beekeeper from Savannah volunteered. I've met Harvest several times and I think she will do a good job and help the website and association move forward which is what I really want.

6. Was it your idea to sell ads on the website? How many years have you won the ad auction? *I remember seeing ads on other websites and wondering if the association could make some extra money with ads. Then I was thinking who would pay for ads on our site. Which I answered "I would." I asked several people in the association if they thought it was a good idea and most said let's give it a shot. I think Bob Binnie was president when we did the first ads auction and it went off like a bomb. I was really happy that the ads worked and the association was able to make some extra money with them. I believe I've won every one of the auctions to date. While I can't speak for all the other bidders, I know it helps drive a good bit of traffic to their websites and it's a real help for my business.*

Thank you, Bill, for all your contributions over the years to GBA.



Welcome to Harvest Hoffman, our new GBA Webmaster

In GBA we are so lucky when someone is willing to step up and volunteer for a needed position. Harvest Hoffman has volunteered to take Bill Owens' place as webmaster and she has already begun to step into his very large shoes. We wanted you to know her better so we set up an interview with her. Here it is:

1. What made you decide to volunteer to be the GBA Webmaster?

It gives me a chance to do programming and web design away from my day job. I'm able to be more creative with my web design instead of designing how corporate wants it done.

2. What do you like about creating websites?

I've always liked the logic of computer programming. Web design allows me to write code, but use that skill to create

something that the public can use.

3. I believe you manage some other websites - what are they? Are they also about beekeeping? *While I've done several sites in the past I am only currently maintaining two others. My husband and I have recently started a small business to sell homemade soaps, candles, gifts, and of course, honey, which I created a web site for (www.hiveandhomestead.com). I also created and maintain the site for our local bee club (www.effinghambees.com).*

4. How long have you been keeping bees?

We attended CEBA's FUNdamentals of Beekeeping in 2013, and had ordered bees before the end of the day. We were hooked immediately.

5. How do you think having a GBA website can be helpful to the members?

I believe that a key part to beekeeping is having valid information. Regardless of how many opinions there are on a topic (and there are at least a few opinions in beekeeping) there is always concrete information that needs to be passed along. The GBA's site has in the past, for me, been a nice resource for some of that information as it pertains to us keeping bees here in Georgia. Aside from that, in today's technology-driven world, the internet is the first place our younger generation goes for answers. We can all hope that a part of the younger generation will become beekeepers, and if this site can help guide them or inspire them along the way, I think the site is doing its job.

6. What do you think will be the most challenging part of being the GBA Webmaster?

The initial re-design of the site is the biggest challenge. Bill has done a great job in the past incorporating so much important information, and covering a wide range of topics. I want to be sure the new site meets the GBA's needs without sacrificing that information.

7. What do you think you'll enjoy most about being the GBA Webmaster?

Webmasters are almost always the first to find things out because they have to post the new information for the public to see. I love to be "in the know". LOL

Plus, I really enjoy putting together a solid, functioning site where people can find information easily. I think the true enjoyment will arrive when I hear somebody say at a local club meeting that they found what they were looking for on the GBA's site.



Sentinel Project

Dear Georgia Beekeeping Organizations,

After a successful pilot in 2015, ***we are looking for beekeeping groups from across the country*** who manage 8 or more colonies and are interested to participate in the Bee Informed Partnership's (BIP) Sentinel Apiary Project. If you chose to participate, your club will receive monthly disease reports of *Nosema* and *Varroa* levels as well as colony health monitoring with hive scales. Data collected can be shared among those in your group, as your Sentinel Apiary will represent beekeeping conditions specific to your region. All personal data collected will remain confidential; however hive scale and disease data from Sentinel apiaries will be on a shared, public website.

This year we are offering to subsidize the cost of hive scales to qualifying groups.

However enrollment is limited, so please contact us soon!

Recruitment information is attached to this email or you can also go directly to our Sentinel Apiary webpage to join and read more: <https://beeinformed.org/programs/sentinel-hive-scale-program/>

I will be overseeing this project. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you for your support,

Dan Reynolds
Bee Informed Partnership
University of Maryland
Entomology Department
4112 Plant Sciences Building
College Park, MD 20742
Email: danrbrl@umd.edu

Poster led to a TV Interview

"This project is so top secret I cannot tell you what it is.

I need an artistic person who can hand draw something for me.

There is no pay, only years of admiration and gratitude for a single project well done.

If you have artistic drawing abilities and can keep a secret, contact me here ASAP. Speed is of utmost importance. This email will not self destruct, no matter how long you wait."

That was the email I sent to Heart of GA Beekeepers members. Two persons took the bait. My followup email was "What I'd like to have done is a poster for the Beekeeping:101 class. BUT I want it in the style of 1960s psychedelic poster, such as Grateful Dead or Fillmore East. I think this would be unusual, fun, eye catching, different, a conversation starter. Wild, but readable, lots of colors."

These are the two posters our members created. We used them as flyers to hand out at our March meeting, and to post on Facebook and in emails.

Fast forward - one of the posters was seen by a club member who was a Master Gardener who told others at their Gardening Club meeting about it. Another of those members was 13WMAZ Macon TV Anchor Suzanne Lawler who wanted to do a news story on our upcoming Beekeeping 101 class.

Ms Lawler came to my home and filmed and interviewed me about beekeeping and our class. You can see the TV story by [CLICKING HERE](#) .

Our class usually has 60-80 attendees. After the news story aired, Facebook traffic on our page went ballistic, I answered dozens of emails and spoke with 50 people who called for more information. As I write this, we have 160 registered to attend our free class.

Bottom line, media is always looking for a story, and you are it. You would not believe the people who called telling me they have been interested in beekeeping, ecology, and gardening, and did not know where to turn. You are the source to answer their questions.

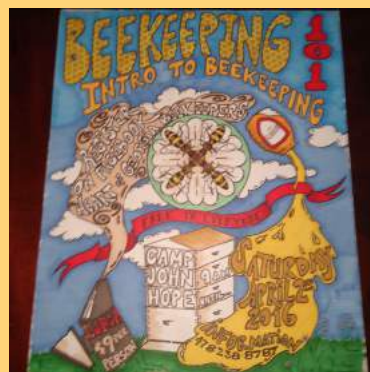
My little two minute interview in my own backyard generated much interest from people as far as fifty miles away.

You can publicize your club meeting and seminars, do the legwork, grow your club and educate the public. Isn't that why we are beekeepers in the first place?

Now, what do you have to share?

Rick Moore

Heart of GA Beekeepers



Beneficial Nematodes & Small Hive Beetle

by Phillip Tedders

Use Beneficial nematodes to control Small Hive Beetles (SHB) and other pest insects.

There are thousands of different type of nematodes, they maybe harmful, beneficial or their purpose unknown. Like the root knot @ ring nematodes they feed on the roots of agriculture causing poor yields in crops. Pin worms and hookworms are also harmful , and attack people and animals causing discomfort, sickness and even death.



Nematodes are typically 1/500th of an inch long

A very large group of nematodes are beneficial, these nematodes attack various insects and can be of great benefit when used to control pests. Beneficial nematodes are harmless to people, plants and animals.

They are so safe to handle, that their production, sale, and use by the public is exempt from federal regulation.

Southeastern Insectaries (SEI) produces three beneficial species know only by their Latin names. *Heterorhadtis bacteriophora* (H.b.) *Steinernema carposcapsae* (S.c.) *Heterorhabditis indica* (H.I.) Each species is recommended to control certain insects. In 2005 the original research on use of nematodes species against (SHB) was conducted by (SEI) and the University of Georgia . The most important species of nematodes were evaluated and the results were published in 2010. (SEI) believes that (Hi) is the best nematode for control of (SHB).

Each (SHB) killed by (Hi) can cause reproduction of up to 20,000 more nematodes in the soil. Some nematode species will not reproduce on (SHB) and should not be used. (SHB) originated in Africa and were first found in St. Lucie county Fl. In 1998

(SHB) survive in greater numbers around beehives located in forested areas than in open fields. For survival it is important that they enter the soil quickly after leaving the hive. Thus their quickness into the soil results in their close proximity to the hive reduce the chances of them being preyed upon by ants, birds and other predators.

Studies of (SHB) larvae leaving hives indicated that about 82% are within 24” of the hive and nearly 100% are within 36 inches. 95% of these larvae were found in deeps of no more than 4” to 6 “ deep. Such behavior makes them ideal candidate for control with nematodes.

(SHB) female may lay up to 1000 eggs. Eggs are laid in cracks and crevices inside the hive. These eggs hatch in about 3-6 days, larvae feed on honey, pollen and brood for about 14 days before exiting the hive. (SHB) larvae pupate, and a few days later emerge as young adults. Life cycle of (SHB) averages 27 - 30 days .

Control field studies in 2005 indicated that the mortality rate of (SHB) was 88 - 94% after one application of nematodes. Controlled laboratory studies in 2006 indicated that adequate control of (SHB) was maintained for 19 consecutive weeks after a single treatment of (Hi). A single package of (Hi) contains a min. of 5 million nematodes and is enough to treat at least 10 hives.

For more information. Just look us up, www.southeasterninsectaries.com

HELP WANTED

Our dynamic, volunteer organization needs someone to edit or co-edit our Spilling 'the Honey newsletter. Our term ends 2016 and we need to be able to hand this off and help the new person or people get started by working with us for a few issues to ease the transition. We know how to do this efficiently and want to share our experience.

This is a very rewarding and fun project to do with a friend. You can work at home and then together in person or by phone.

Please contact us and more information:

gbanewsletters@gmail.com



Plant a pollinator-friendly plant

The Pollinator Partnership has a website where you can get information about pollinator-friendly plants that will grow in your eco-region. Simply [enter your zip code](#) and you will be directed to a 24-page guide for your area. Each guide contains an overview of the planting region, a summary of the history and ecology of the area, and lists of plants that grow and attract pollinators in that region.



This year Earth Day is Friday April 22. Maybe you could plant pollinator friendly plants that day!

What is Propolis & How Do Honey Bees Use It?

By Julie Civitts

As beekeepers we literally have to pop open or pry open the top cover and the inner cover of a beehive with our hive tool. We also use our hive tool to separate the frames to be able to lift them up to check. Honey bees gather an amazing compound called propolis, better known as “bee glue,” from the sap of trees and buds. This sticky, brownish resin collected by the bees is used to seal cracks and drafts, repair their hive and possibly even to polish brood cells between brood cycles. This is a substance produced by the honey bee and used to seal the hive against predators and disease. It's made by collecting a sticky resinous substance collected from the buds and damaged bark of certain trees and mixing it with wax flakes, pollen and saliva. During this time of year, honey bees are working hard preparing their



homes and protecting themselves for the long winter months ahead, and propolis is that glue that holds it all together and provides the best defense for their immunity. On a side note, propolis is being used as a health aid with benefits dating back to the Old Testament times. The “Balm of Gilead” mentioned in the book of Jeremiah in the Bible may refer to propolis.



Home Buyers Keeps Bees from Gerald A. Bush

We got word that a Georgia Beekeeper was selling their home and with it their bees. Gerry Bush, an Atlanta beekeeper told us that the new owners said they had had thought about bees before, so this was their opportunity to get going. “I had considered moving them, but we have quite a lot of work to do in our new yard before I will place new hives. Most prospective buyers thought the bees were a great idea, although not all of them wanted to keep them. So he cleaned up each of the hives and added enough space for spring growth. The new owners said they would contact Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association for more information going forward.” In addition are also a few other beekeepers in the area I put them in touch with for help.

Dear Aunt Bee,

My bees swarmed last year and I wasn't sure what to do to keep them for myself. I want to be ready this year so I can catch them and keep them in my beeyard. What is the best method for getting my own swarm to stay in a different hive? ‘

Best Regards,

Swarm Catching Fool

Dear Swarm Catching Fool,

First of all, you need to have your equipment ready. In this instance the equipment needs to be as far away from the original hive as you can manage (another yard than yours would be the best). If you have to put it in your own apiary, change the orientation of the entry so the bees learn that they are in a different hive box. You could put lemon grass oil on the tops of the frames to make the box more enticing and you could lean some branches in front of the entry to force the bees to orient to the new location.

Good luck,

Aunt Bee



Swarm caught by Monte McDonald



Above swarms captured by Ricky Moore

Note from Gina Gallucci,
Swarm call manager for MABA: "Swarms are always higher (much, much higher) than the caller tells you."

from **Steve Page**

This video is beautiful...

Transylvania is one of the few areas in Europe where nature is little affected by agricultural pesticides, infrastructure and urbanization. To find answers on what we can learn from Romanian beekeepers to maintain and preserve our bee population, Valentijn Studios travelled to Transylvania.

'The bees of Transylvania' is part of 'het Huis van Vriendschap Cinema Project'

(To have the best viewing experience, make sure to turn on HD and let the film buffer before playing.)

<https://vimeo.com/111727990>

Kirk Webster has a new article on his web site ***FERAL AND MANAGED COLONIES***

After nearly twenty years of personally confronting, watching, and **eventually embracing tracheal and varroa mites as essential friends and allies**, a few things have become clear. The first is that in order to move a productive apiary back toward health and balance, and away from miticides, adaptations must be made in both genetics (breeding) and methods (management). There are no bees you can introduce into your colonies that will solve all their problems and allow you to return to the beekeeping of the 1970s and early 80s; and there are no management schemes that will maintain productivity in an untreated apiary without stock that already has some ability to co-exist with varroa and other pests, and which is capable of further improvement.

<http://kirkwebster.com/index.php/feral-bees>

Cuba's lack of access to pesticides has helped their honey bees.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/09/organic-honey-is-a-sweet-success-for-cuba-as-other-bee-populations-suffer>

Thanks for this to **Steve Loftin**
Henry County Beekeepers



“The acceptable level of varroa has been dropping. We are now just about at the point where we believe any varroa is too much in a colony of bees.” **Dr. Keith Delaplane of UGA**

“Workers forage on average only five days in the nectar flow.” **Dr. Heather Mattila of Wellesley College.**



THE FINAL BUZZ

We wish you all an easy and lucky swarm season and hope that you are able to share your honey bee adventure with someone new. Maybe invite them to join you at a meeting and meet our creative beekeepers as they develop their art and science. We are wondering if anybody tried Ricky Moore's idea and got a free Google phone number for your club? Let us know.

Good luck with your bees!

Linda & Gina



PS: Please someone volunteer to take over this job. We are DONE with the October issue. If you volunteer now rather than later, we can train you. Please, please, please.....

Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

May 2016



Monte McDonald took these photos and wrote: Bees are swarming everywhere here. I came home Monday just as this hive started to swarm. They are a new package we got March 1st. They had enough room as we had added a 2nd box not long ago. They swarmed to a Pear tree about 15 feet away so they were easy to get. We moved them to another yard.

President's Message

The state is getting ready for the fall meeting. Just like your hives, you should be planning for the fall and managing your hive as such. We have a full lineup of speakers with outside talent such as Dr. Jamie Ellis from Florida, Shane Gebaeur from Brushy Mountain about commercial aspects, Dwight Stiles on sideliners issues, and some of your other local favorites. It is promising to be a good program. The honey show is getting revved up and we are changing the format, since we have two meetings we are officially breaking out the liquid portion of the show and moving to spring. This year if you bring mead, beer or other liquid honey drinks we will not officially judge them. We will post the prize monies as they have gone up!

Around the state, lots of clubs are working hard on educating the public. Most clubs have short courses for adults and I encourage every club to put on a short course for the kids, too! Remember

that they are the future keepers. Dr. Wimbush has a committee about the youth program and will have recommendations for the Board this fall regarding how we can outreach to the kids. There are several more schools that are starting gardens and putting bees in them around the state. If your club is close to the school this is a great outreach project for the club.

I have not heard from the state what the plan is for the Zika virus. If anyone has any news about this please let us know. I know that many are concerned about inclusive spraying and we want to be safe, but killing all insects is not in anyone's best interest. Let us know what your club is doing by sending something to the newsletter.

Here in Mableton, the bees are really working. I am working my job, graduate school and the bee hives. I have been very busy. For me, as a beekeeper, January through June is the most exciting time of the year. This year I suddenly have more hives than I want or need, from swarms and splits (because if you don't split them they are going to split themselves). I really want to have more time to enjoy it. I hope we all have this problem!

A couple of new things for me:

I used probiotics last fall and this spring and my hives seem to be pretty healthy. Right now my mite counts are really low and I have a few hive beetles.

I am trying queen excluders again this year and have had only one queen "escape." She somehow got past the excluder and is laying in all the boxes. I did look for a second queen in that hive but did not see any. So, I just took that excluder off and will live with it. I have pulled a lot of old frames and need to clean them otherwise the wax moths will do it for me and that is just one big mess, in addition to trying to keep up with supering. The flow here started a little earlier since we had warmer weather and we have not had a lot of rain like last year so it might be a good honey crop (fingers crossed). I might have to harvest twice, which is fine, but again who has the time? I was in 16 hives over the weekend and could pull some supers off but am waiting to see what happens with the honey flow.

Keep your smoker near, tool hive handy and fire extinguisher close!

Mary Cahill-Roberts

GBA President



***Beehives in
Morningside
community garden -
photo by Linda Tillman***

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
Chattahoochee Valley	Q&A for all new beekeepers with answers from experienced members	Mon 5/9 6 PM	Oxbow Meadows Environmental	Columbus, GA
Coastal Empire Beekeepers Assoc.	Steve Nofs: speaker's choice	Mon 5/9	Oatland Island Wildlife Center	Savannah, GA
Coweta Beekeepers	Steve Page: Raising Queens and Making Splits	Mon 5/9 7 PM	255 Pine Road	Newnan, GA
Effingham	Bear Kelley: Honey	Thurs 5/12	Fellowship Bible Church	Springfield, GA
Forsyth Beekeepers	Paul Arnold: Honey Bee Botany	Thurs 5/26 6:30	Univ of North GA	Cumming, GA
Lake Country	Steve Page: Coweta Sustainable Beekeeping Method	Mon 5/16 3 PM & 7PM	County Extension Office	Sparta, GA
MABA	Jeff Pettis: Problems with failing queens	Wed 5/18 7 PM	Atlanta Botanical Garden	Atlanta, GA
MABA	Jr Beekeeping	Sat 5/7	East Lake Commons	Atlanta, GA
MABA	Certified Testing \$50	Sat 5/7 9 - 1	Atlanta Botanical Garden	Atlanta, GA
Tara	Mary Cahill-Roberts: Hive Inspections	Mon 5/16 7 PM	GA Power 752 Main St	Forest Park GA
Troup County	Bobby Torbush: Varroa Mites	Mon 5/16 7 PM	856 Vulcan Materials Rd	Lagrange, GA
West Georgia	Winkey Brinson: Planting for Honey Bees	Sat 5/21	Triple Creek Nursery	Douglasville, GA



If you'd like to see your club information here and it is not currently here, consider volunteering to be the person for your club who sends in program information to the newsletter! We contact club presidents and program chairs each month but they are busy people and can't always get the information to us. VOLUNTEER!

Club News & Notes



Heart of GA Beekeepers held their Beekeeping 101 class on April 2nd at Camp John Hope. A TV interview on 13WMAZ with anchorwoman Suzanne Lawler the week prior resulted in 180 persons in attendance. Master Beekeeper Steve Nofs and GBA Director Broadus Williams led the morning powerpoint presentation and the question and answer sessions. Jesse McCurdy brought his observation hive for all to see.

The afternoon session of this free event was in the apiary: opening hives, learning to split hives, moving nucs to deeps and there was even a swarm in the trees!



Heart of GA will repeat this FREE class in November so attendees can order nucs for Spring 2017.



We are privileged and fortunate in Heart of GA Beekeepers to have six Master Gardeners in our club. The April speakers were three of those Master Gardeners, Kathy Shelton, Emily Heath and John Wingfield, speaking of trees and plants that attract honey bees and other pollinators. Over 100 people were in attendance.



Lake Hartwell “Junior” Beekeepers

By Kathy Bourn

How do you define a “Junior Beekeeper”? Is it a person who is a “junior” in age or interest?

The Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association wanted to put on a workshop for Junior Beekeepers but found out that the knowledge presented was of interest to people of all ages. Even 80+ year old Delores Gresham considers herself a “junior” beekeeper.

The April 23rd workshop gave the juniors a chance to learn from Lake Hartwell’s most experienced beekeeper, Condle McKenzie. As a former science teacher and beekeeping mentor

to all, he gave the juniors both the science and the fun facts about the life cycle of the honey bee.

The club also got help from Lena Franklin of the Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers. She came with her teaching hive filled with hive frames that have pictures in them to show what you'll find in a hive. Everything is included from seeing eggs to American foulbrood.

The young juniors also got a chance to play queen bee with her attendants. Kathleen Bourn demonstrated

some of the choices and uses for all the beekeeping equipment that's out there.



After some snacks and beekeeping chatter, the participants suited up and headed to the hive. The juniors got a step by step introduction to the bees from Randall Kerlin. He talked about everything from the best technique for approaching and opening a hive, to the most likely place to find the queen. All eyes were on those frames as the "junior beekeepers" took their first steps into the mesmerizing world of beekeeping.

Forsyth Beekeepers Club held their annual hands-on bee school on April 23. With over 50 students, we were very fortunate to have so many experienced keepers helping out and answering questions. Reading books and searching videos are very helpful ways to learn the art of beekeeping, but nothing beats interaction with veteran keepers. Students learned to light their smoker, capture a swarm, do a complete hive inspection, identify trouble with the queen, and even correct problems often encountered. Lunchtime offered a great opportunity to chit chat with other local beekeepers.



Being completely immersed in beekeeping for the majority of the day really calmed some fears

with some, helped others feel more confident going through their new hives on their own, and offered a chance for experienced beekeepers to brush up on their skills in preparation for their certification exam next month.

(Article submitted by Kelley Campbell)

Upcoming Forsyth hands on classes include Queen Rearing (May 7) and Disease & Disorder Day (July 16). Check out the [club calendar](#) for more information.

([Photos by Joe Bannister](#))



Troup county Beekeepers (submitted by Brad Myers)

We are having a hive painting contest. The contest is open to our members and a local art group will paint four hives for us. We will have prizes donated and the display will be at the LaGrange Farmers market in June. The public will get to vote for a winner.

The ***West Georgia Beekeepers Association*** will be having our annual Members picnic at Triple Creek Nursery on Saturday, May 21st. The workshop for May will be a hive inspection at the University of West Georgia. This is for members only and you will need to sign up early because of limited space.

Chattooga Beekeepers

Bill Burchett, Karl Eagle and Cam Anderson talk bees and meeting info at the Outdoor Expo April 24, 2016.



A Quote from Mark Winston:



“Being a good beekeeper then (1970s) meant being in tune with the seasonal cycle of both bees and flowers, manipulating colonies to peak in population just before the honey flow. You had to respect your bees and know the flowering patterns in the meadows and fields they visited, in a way that made you and the bees partners more than your being just their keeper.”

You Should Know About the DANGERS of Club Raffles:

Important Notice to all Local Club Presidents and Boards of Directors:



Steve Page, President of Coweta County Beekeepers and Bear Kelley, Past President of GBA, have both been looking into the issue of clubs holding raffles at club meetings. They have found some disturbing information and we wanted to make sure all club presidents and boards of directors know about this.

Gambling is not legal in the state of Georgia (this is why people go out of state to Cherokee, NC, or to Biloxi, MS, to the

riverboat for gambling). Raffles are considered a form of gambling. And gambling is a FELONY. However, many clubs sell raffle tickets and use raffles as fundraising sources for the club.

Know that if you are holding raffles at club meetings, you are possibly breaking the law and putting your club and your board of directors at risk. [This article](#) explains the law. As it seems to read, if your club (and this includes GBA at our two meetings each year) conducts a raffle without applying for a license ahead of time, then the club is breaking the law and is subject to a hefty fine (up to \$10,000). Each county has applications to fill out to apply for such a license.

Steve has pointed out that some counties do not enforce the law, nor do they take applications for licenses. This does not make it acceptable to break the law, however, and clubs without a license are still liable even if it is impossible to get a license in your county. If you are driving 45 mph in a 35 mph zone in Atlanta and there isn't an obvious speed limit sign beside your speeding car, you are still breaking the law.

[Further reading](#) brings to light the issue that if you do have a license to have a raffle at a club meeting in Georgia, you can only hold one raffle per day. The license to hold a raffle must be visible in the room. There are tax laws that apply and the profits from a raffle must be reported as such on the club's tax form. And if you raffle a large ticket item like an extractor which your club purchased for the purpose of raffling it off, the ticket sales must at least equal the cost of the extractor to the club or all money must be refunded to the ticket purchasers. And on, and on, deeper and deeper into complications.

Each club certainly will make its own decision about how to address raffles at club meetings, but the officers and the board of GBA wanted you to know about the possible legal consequences. If your club chooses to continue to hold raffles, we encourage you to consider consulting a lawyer or getting a legal license to hold your raffles.

Maybe we should all be holding beehive washes or honey ice cream socials as fundraisers instead?

(This article was written by Linda Tillman who isn't a lawyer and doesn't want to be one. She encourages you not to take her word as law, but rather read the linked articles for yourselves.)

What I Learned at The University of Florida 9th Annual Bee College

By Mary Lacksen

The Whitney Laboratory near St. Augustine, Florida, is a spacious convenient facility with easy parking, a great beekeepers' congregation area. Registration at the bee college included two full days and each participant was given a spiral book collection of each speaker's presentation slides. Two of the honey judges were brought in from Georgia: Mr. Keith Fielder and Mr. Robert Brewer. GO GBA!

Over 26 speakers covered 44 topics appealing to beginners with hands-on and how-to as well as topics for experienced beekeepers and research enthusiasts looking for statistical and chemical analysis of disease effects and controls. A few of my favorite speakers included Dr. Zachary Huang, Jennifer Holmes, Ashley Mortensen and Caroline Efstathion.

Dr. Huang is an entomology professor at Michigan State University and a darn good photographer whose photos have appeared often on the cover of popular bee magazines. Check out cyberbee.net and beetography.com. Jennifer Holmes is a UF/IFAS Master Beekeeper, a Welsh Honey Judge, operates an apiary business plus is an active member of Treasure Coast Beekeeping Association. Both Mortensen and Efstathion are students at the University of Florida Bee Lab.

Bee-bearded student at UF

Dr. Huang spoke on characteristics of honey bee pheromones and their impact on foraging, development, queen acceptance, honey production, orientation, and swarming. His research on how a worker bee's pheromones are used to mark a visited flower and how a queen deposits pheromones to inhibit queen cell construction continues. He has evaluated the transportation effect on honey bee glands and how travel lowers food consumption and reduces the bees resistance to nosema and pesticides.



Jennifer Holmes offered a class on queen rearing for beginners. She explained supplies needed and offered many resources for getting started. Ashley Mortensen spoke on honey bees as superorganisms and proposes that research on the individual bee versus the superorganism becomes two very different questions. Wax and propolis are bee products, but each can serve as an immune system to combat disease for the entire colony. Caroline Efstathion made a clear presentation on the sometime dry, often complex taxonomy of the bee. According to Dr. Jamie Ellis, there are nine *Apis* species. At one time there were 170 species! Why? Because the taxonomist used to classify drones and workers as separate species.

This was a great conference for me. Look around for conferences or resources to help you learn, understand and stay informed about bees and beekeeping.

The **American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) Research Committee** has developed a program to support small research projects conducted by beekeepers and members of the beekeeping industry. Resources from the ABF's "Friends of the Bee" fund have been earmarked for this purpose. The amount for the small research project(s) will not exceed \$1500. You do not have to be an ABF member to apply. The submissions will be accepted from April 4, 2016 through May 15, 2016. The winner(s) will be contacted by June 15, 2016. If you have any questions or want a copy of the application, please contact Regina K. Robuck at reginarobuck@abfnet.org or 404.760.2887

Dear Aunt Bee,

Last year this colony added comb in the hollow section of its concrete block stand. In the fall I removed the comb and even turned the blocks 90°. To no avail, I think they are doing the same thing this spring. What to do? The photo is from last year.

So, things have gotten weirder. Tonight I got home and the mass of bees that was clustered is completely gone. Perhaps they moved inside.

Dazed and Confused

Dear Dazed and Confused,

Of course you are. Bees are supposed to build comb in the nice boxes we provide for them.

I can't know what inspired them to start building under the hive last year. Perhaps they ran out of space and needed a new super and while they were waiting for you to give them space, started building in the cinder block. However, they laid down a line of wax and the smell of comb and even if you scrape it off, some wax will remain and the smell will remain. So this year they think it's part of the architecture of this particular hive to build comb in the cinder block.

Simply scraping off the comb isn't going to do the trick and turning the blocks wouldn't change the basic problem you have - the smell and guidelines for the comb remain. I can think of several solutions - the first one is better than the second one. The first is to buy a new cinder block and replace this one. The second would also be to remove the cinder block and pour boiling water over the guidelines until they are completely melted and washed away. Then put it back under the hive and see what happens. In order to do option two, you'll have to support the hive with something while you are cleaning the block, so you might as well go with option one. The third option would be to clean the cinder block or replace it and then stuff the opening with something like the plastic bubble wrap used for shipping so the bees would not have open space down there.

No matter what, the only use they will make of this comb would be to store honey since the queen will not be venturing outside the hive to lay in it.

Good luck with your coloring-outside-of-the-lines bees,

Aunt Bee

Submitted by MABA member, Curt Barrett (this is happening at his hive!)



Bee Educated

By Sophia Price

Our beekeepers recently had the pleasure of participating in the first Outdoor Expo ever held in Chattooga County. The first question everyone asked is what is going to be there? The Outdoor Expo was designed to promote outdoor activities of all kinds. Beekeeping is an outdoor activity, but most of all, participation gave us an opportunity to connect with our own and the surrounding communities.



It gives me pleasure when one of our oldest members provides an observation hive. I enjoy pointing out life inside the hive to the passersby who cringe. I like to show observers various aspects of the hive. Sometimes we even see the queen.

We have an opportunity to share our passion with the community. We can educate visitors with tidbits about honey, honeybees and how they live. Perhaps something they see or hear will help them to use pesticides more conscientiously. Maybe some will plant bee friendly forage. Maybe some would like to become beekeepers and we can help them know where to start.

As beekeepers we have a responsibility to ourselves and to the community. Beekeeping is about more than just our hives. It is about the next beekeeper growing up and loving what we do. It is about educating the neighbor who was just trying to make the yard look better and didn't mean to kill the bees. It is about having fun doing what we love and helping others along the way.

Bee Fun at the World Famous Hyatt Regency

by Gina Gallucci

Executive Chef, Thomas McKeown and Pastry Chef, James Gallo of the Hyatt Regency Atlanta, hosted a honey and honey bee inspired breakout for Hyatt personnel visiting from all over north and south America. Cindy Hodges, Master Beekeeper, was asked to share her knowledge and bring her observation hive to discuss the Hyatt Regency's rooftop beekeeping. Cindy asked me to tag along. To add to the excitement, the Hyatt staff found a swarm that morning on their building (not Hyatt bees) and we were able to capture it and install it in the Hyatt's apiary!

This recipe was generously shared and was one of our favorites from a beautiful selection of many honey bee themed treats.

Gluten Free Granola Bars

4 C. GF Rice Cereal (2 boxes)
 1 1/4 C. Pumpkin Seeds
 1 C. Sesame Seeds
 1 C. Pecans
 1 C. Coconut
 1 C Sunflower Seeds
 1 C. Pistachios
 1/2 tsp. Cinnamon
 3/4 C + 1/8 C. honey
 1/4 C. Oil

3 Tbls. Maple Syrup
 3/4 C. Gluten free Flour

Mix together all the nuts and cereal. Combine all the liquids in a small pot, and heat until hot, but not boiling.

Combine together the wet and dry ingredients. Mix very well with a spoon.

Mix in the gluten free flour (if the mix is cool enough, you may use your hand. Place into your desired baking pan, and press the mix together. Bake at 325 degrees for 16 minutes, or until they are firm when pushed on. Remove from the oven and place a piece of parchment on top.

Street Cred

[Bob Binnie to speak at Bee Culture conference:](#) (Sent in by Ricky Moore)

GBA member Steve Page was [featured in a blog.](#) (Sent in by Steve Page)

Coweta Sustainable Beekeeping now [has a Facebook page.](#) (Sent in by Steve Page)

Everything we thought we knew about royal jelly is backward. <http://www.wired.com/2015/09/royal-jelly-isnt-makes-queen-bee-queen-bee/>

Audacious Visions for the Future of Bees and Beekeeping”! (Bee Audacious, for short.) Mark your calendars for the



panel discussion that will be live streamed at 7:00pm PST on December 14, 2016 and fund raiser. <http://beeaudacious.com/>

[Ortho to eliminate neonics](#) (Sent in by Ricky Moore)

GBA member James Shepherd has made a YouTube video of a [discussion of how to install a package.](#) He discusses package installation but doesn't actually install the package on the video. We support the efforts of our members to educate others about beekeeping and wanted to give you the opportunity to watch it.

Monthly Questionnaire to Honey Producers for the USDA Specialty Crops Market News. Please fill in the fields and fax or email it as an attachment to: marcial.rafanan@ams.usda.gov Office: 404-366-2748 Fax: 404-363- 2523

Month and Year:

Name of Honey Producer:

Location of Hives:

1. What condition were the bees and hives in during the month?
2. Any problems with the bees or hives, such as beetles, virus, bacteria, etc.
3. Any treatments needed?
4. Any weather-related conditions affecting the bees and production of honey (such as moisture, heat, rain, cold temps etc)?
5. Any honey produced during the month, demand, quality and price?
6. Any supplemental feeding needed, if so what type used?
7. What plants are the bees collecting food from and what sources of pollen/nectar are coming up in the next month?
8. Any preparations/treatments, etc. to be done for the next month?
9. Any upcoming events to note: (or anything of concern that needs to be addressed?)
10. Prices for honey (please include type of honey, wildflower, tupelo, etc.):

Wholesale or Retail?

Requests for GBA Assistance

A GSU law student has asked for the assistance of GBA members. All this student needs is for you to fill out a survey that is only nine questions. If you are willing to participate in her research, please get in contact with the student to get a copy of the survey:

Yeliann Valle
760-681-7928



Someone submitted this photo of a hive about to swarm. We try to be organized but we lost the name of the submitter, so thank you, whoever you are.

SAVE THE DATE

Georgia Beekeepers Assoc. Fall
2016 Meeting:

Our fall meeting will be held again in Milledgeville GA on **Friday and Saturday, Oct. 7th and 8th**. We will provide you with more information in the coming months.

We hope your swarms are few and your supers are many. Please keep us up to date about what you are doing in your apiaries and your bee clubs. We need your photos as attachments and your articles in Word. Try to keep articles to around 500 words or less.

Many of you have collected swarms. We would love to have your swarm photos for our June Swarm edition.



Linda and Gina

Be sure to visit our [renovated website](#) and then thank [Harvest Hoffman](#), our new webmaster, who did so much hard work to create it.

Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

June 2016



Buckhead swarm captured in a holly bush by Linda Tillman

President's Message

All, just got back from the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute that started 25 years ago. It was very worthwhile and educational. Bear Kelley made sure we had our table out so that anyone could get information about GBA. The four directors were there and two of your officers. We learned more about nutrition and the environmental factors that are working against our bees.

I gave my talk on safety and learned a few things that my "students" brought up. I got to hear about someone who put his hot smoker in the back of his truck after pulling supers all day and when he had to stop fast, the gas tank fell over and suddenly he had a fire. He was lucky he did not

lose his truck, he did lose his supers.

Here around Atlanta we have had a fair share of swarms. I personally had the largest swarm I have ever had at fifteen frames of bees. The queen left the hive full and took half of the bees with her with her. Just fantastic. I "control" my swarming by trying to let only certain of my hives swarm...but this year I have been really busy with school and not had the opportunity to get in there as much as I need to do inspections.

The clubs are active and I have heard about two more new clubs organizing. Miracle grow is removing some of the ortho pesticides from its products which is a step in the right direction. Got a call yesterday from Broadus about a politician who was interested that the tags on those plants are really small and if you weren't looking for them you would miss that they contain neonics. I hope that we can change that by not buying them, so plant producers will change their methods.

Remember if we stop buying it they will stop making it. You have power with your spending. You all try to have a great summer, remember nutrition for your bees and enjoy your holiday. Hope to see you at the meeting, keep your smoker lit, hive tool near and your fire extinguisher handy!

Mary Cahill-Roberts

President, Georgia Beekeepers Assn.
404 388 3427

GBA ANNUAL OFFICER ELECTIONS

Fellow Members our annual officer elections will take place at the October State Meeting in Milledgeville, GA. If you are interested in serving as an Officer or Director, or want to discuss the duties involved, please contact one of the Directors listed below. Thank you for considering serving in the GBA.

Randy Rolan

randyrolan@hotmail.com

Derrick Fowler

dfowler1965@hotmail.com



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
Amicalola	Keith Fielder: Splits	Wed 6/15	Dawson County Extension Office	Dawsonville, GA
Clarks Hill	Berman Kent: Bee Biology 101	Mon 6/13 7 PM	Columbia County Extension	Appling, GA
Coweta Beekeepers	Damon Wallace: Lotions and Potions	Mon 6/13 7 PM	255 Pine Road	Newnan, GA
Coastal Empire	Jamie Ellis: Honey Bee Biology	Mon 6/13 6 PM	Oatland Island Wildlife Center	Savannah, GA
Forsyth	Keith Fielder Mites & more	Thur 6/23 6:30	UNG	Cumming GA
Gwinnett County	Annual Picnic	7:00 PM	Rancho Alegre 2225 Givens Road	Dacula, GA
Heart of Georgia	A frank and earnest discussion about your new bees	Tues 6/21	Camp John Hope	Fort Valley, GA
MABA	Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda	Wed 6/8 7:00	Atlanta Botanical Garden	Atlanta, GA
MABA	Jr Beekeepers	Sat 6/25	Dunwoody Nature Center	Dunwoody Ga
Troup County	Terry Williamson, methods for foundation	Mon 6/20 7:00	856 Vulcan Materials Rd	Lagrange, GA



Some of the entries from the LaGrange Beekeeper Club hive painting contest.

Club News and Notes

Coweta Beekeepers

All aspects of queen rearing and making increase colonies (splits) were discussed at Coweta Beekeepers Association's May workshop on Sunday, May 22, 2016. Topics covered: selecting good genetics, assessing the strength of a colony, finding the queen, notching, making splits, and feeding.



Effingham Beekeepers

Bear Kelley was invited to speak to the Effingham Beekeepers.

In photo left to right:
Treas. Carol Andrews; Bear; secretary,
Harvest Hoffman; vp, Tim Hoffman; pres.
Robert Quarterman

Forsyth Beekeepers

On May 7, Forsyth Beekeepers Club held its annual Queen Rearing class at the Armory in Cumming, GA. Bill Dunn, a successful queen breeder and amazing contributor to the club's knowledge, led the group in learning more in-depth about queen rearing and what to look for / avoid when rearing a queen. Lunch and all materials/supplies were provided. Many volunteers who had taken the class previously were available to assist new students. All participants in the class had a chance to graft four of their own queens, with the option to bring the capped queen cells home to an awaiting queenless hive, or bring a split to Bill's drone yard for mating flights.

The Forsyth Club is offering a hands on "Disease & Disorder Day" July 16. During the class, different diseases will be discussed, as well as disorders of the hive. Ways to treat and prevent these problems will be explained and practiced. Participants are invited to bring a frame of their own to test for hygienic behavior, and/or to bring a jar of their nurse bees to do a mite check. Non-members are welcome and encouraged to come join us.



Beekeeper of the Year

It's time to submit your nominee for Beekeeper of the Year. If you know of a GBA member who you feel has made a significant contribution to GBA and the beekeeping industry in Georgia, we need to hear from you. Nominees should be someone with beekeeping experience and have been active in GBA. Send in their name with a listing of their experience as well as their accomplishments and contributions to promoting beekeeping to other beekeepers and the general public. Entries can be emailed to rad243@earthlink.net or mailed to:

Rose Anne Dorn
Attn: Beekeeper of the Year,
243 Folds Rd,
Eatonton, GA 31024

Members of the Beekeeper of the Year Committee include the most recent beekeepers of the year:

Rose Anne Dorn (rad243@earthlink.net)
Bear Kelley (beecat108@gmail.com)
Bruce Morgan (rbmorgan@hughes.net)

Congratulations to all who received the next level of certification!

Thanks to Jennifer Berry, U. of Georgia, Young Harris Beekeeping Institute for providing this list.

Journeyman

- Barry Bolling
- Danny Culbreth
- Todd Foster
- Daniel Goodridge
- Roger Kicklighter
- Barbara Phillips
- Clinton Ready
- Keif Schleifer
- Tom Watson

Master

- Paul Berry
- Brutz English
- Paul Snapp

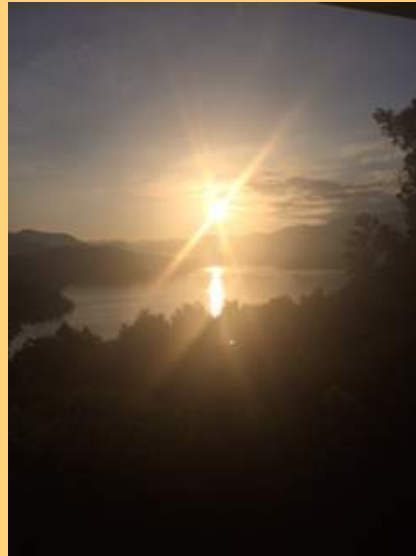
Master Craftsman

- Michael Steinkampf



New certified Welsh honey judges

Views from Young Harris



Photos on this and on page 5 from Gail Dean, thanks!

Modified AZ Hive

We have begun the manufacture of the 'modified AZ' hive we call the Drebbieville Hive, first displayed at the GBA conference last fall. These hives are being made by a local commercial cabinet company, one of whose owners is a beekeeper. We are the first to commercially manufacture such a hive in

America. We shipped a special pre-production run of eight to a bee sanctuary in rural New York.

This is our story: <http://www.drebbievillehives.com/our-story.html>

Visit us on FaceBook at "Drebbieville Hives." email us: drebbievillehives@gmail.com

Call or contact:
Brian Drebbier 404 210-4844

Bee-INSPIRED



The new USDA-funded Bee-INSPIRED (INtegrating Service Projects Into REsearch and Design) started on Monday, May 23. Undergraduate students from around the region will be spending 10 weeks at Georgia Tech conducting research in labs and volunteering with the Georgia Tech Urban Honey Bee Project at community gardens and urban farms around Atlanta.

From left:: Michael Ngahane, Jackson State University; Olivia Williams, Kennesaw State University; Valerie Washington, Kennesaw State University; Terri Alexander, University of Georgia; Dilani Patel, University of Alabama Birmingham; Deborah Postma, University of Georgia; Hannah Smith, University of Georgia; Aaron Johnson, Savannah State University . Martine Williams of Spelman College is not pictured.

Jennifer Kraft Leavey, Ph.D.

Director, Georgia Tech Urban Honey Bee Project

jennifer.leavey@cos.gatech.edu



Plant Labels for Plants that have been Treated with Substances Poisonous to Bees

by Broadus Williams

I'd like to inform everyone about a call that I received from State Representative, Debbie Buckner of Columbus, concerning plants with labels that say ***poisonous to bees*** in very small print. Her husband just got into beekeeping and has a few hives. They went shopping to buy plants for their bees and took them home to plant. While reading the labels they discovered in very small print that the plants were poisonous to his bees. She wants to adopt a law requiring plant growers to put it in big bold letters so it can be easily seen and noticed by buyers. We look forward to learning more about what GBA can do to help.

Food for thought from Bear Kelley

The Honey bee (*Apis Mellifera*) makes honey through the process of ingesting the nectar, sending it to her honey stomach, mixing it with enzymes from there, then passing it on to a house bee who uses does the same process, before storing it into the cell for final fanning and capping.

We know honey naturally contains the following:

- Organic acids,
- Protein,
- Nitrogen elements
- Vitamins (All of the B-complex, A, C, D, E, and K)
- Fructose
- Glucose
- Enzymes
- Beneficial antioxidants
- Antimicrobial properties
- Gluconic acids
- Hydrogen peroxide



All of these ingredients are necessary for the honey bee to sustain life as designed by nature. We know that the reason honey bees make an abundance of honey is to plan for the future, by ensuring an adequate food supply for brood building and themselves over the winter and periods of no honey flow to stay healthy.

Above cartoon from
the Facebook page:
[Occupy the EPA](#)

We know that the natural make up of sugar cane and sugar beets (the two basic products from which granulated sugar is made) contains many of the above ingredients before these are processed into granulated sugar. And we know that after sugar cane and sugar beets have been processed into granulated sugar, all but the sucrose (not broken down to simple sugars) is cooked out thereby leaving a sweetener only.

Wouldn't it stand to reason, that by taking most of the honey from the bees before winter sets in and feeding them sugar water throughout the winter, we cause them to weaken their immune system, not be as healthy, and therefore more likely to have a winter die off? They can't possibly be as healthy as bees that have consumed mostly honey over the winter.

Bear Kelley, Past President, GBA

News from GBA Prison Program

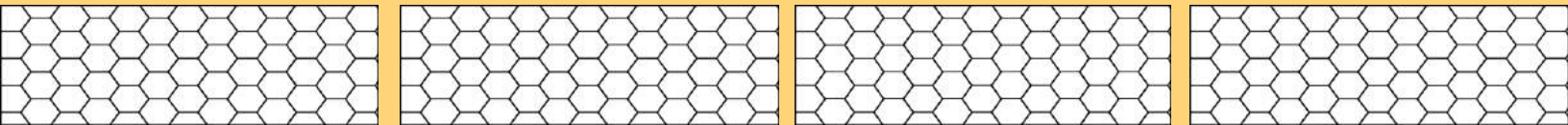
"We have a swarm!" That's what the officer said as I was leaving Dooley State Prison after teaching my weekly class to the inaugural class of beekeepers there.

When I asked to see it, the officer walked me through the 1700 inmates on various walks and across the recreation field. As we got closer, I could see a cantaloupe sized swarm hanging on the chain link fence. "We've got to get my guys and come get this swarm" I told him. Word was spreading among all the inmates about a bee swarm. The chatter everywhere we walked were inmates commenting or asking about the swarm.

I asked for three guys from my class; six showed up. It was the easiest swarm catch anyone has ever seen. Not having or needing a bee brush, one of the inmates used his hand and pushed the bees gently loose from the fence into the nuc box he held in his other hand. He did a great job, got the queen on the first sweep and it was over very quickly. Most of the bees that did not fall into the box soon followed. Fifteen minutes after it started the swarm was relocated into the Dooley State Prison Apiary to join the original five hives there.

Excitement, pride, confidence: these are but three words to describe the smiles and gloating these inmates expressed, having captured their first swarm. I am getting as much or more than the inmates by teaching this class. I urge all of you reading this to get involved with a middle school, church, youth organization or state prison. There are many people who would love to become beekeepers if only they had the opportunity. YOU can give them that opportunity. Get involved.

Rick Moore
Heart of GA Beekeepers

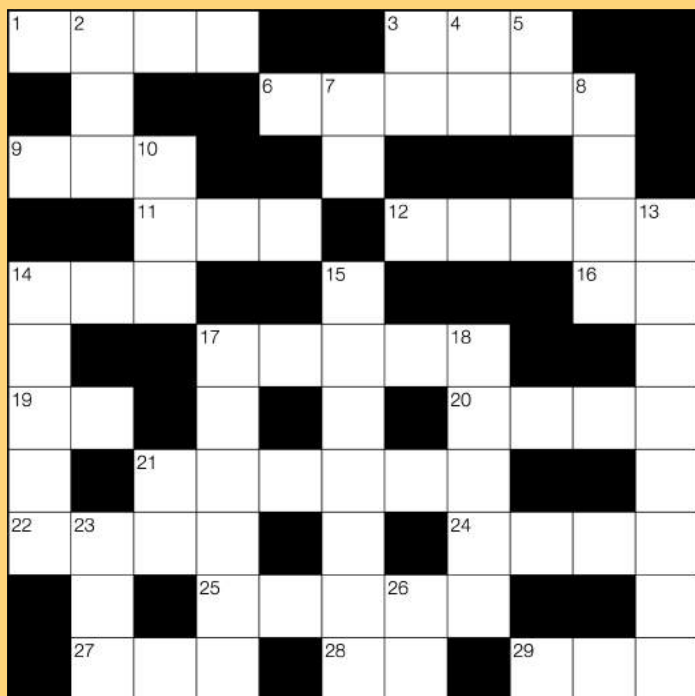


Broadus Williams and I visited the Ware State prison in Waycross on April 27th and met with Warden Tom Gramiak, Billy Carter and Debbie Johnson along with nine or ten inmates who are enrolled in the beekeeping program. I presented a basic beekeeping class with the power point prepared by the Florida Inmate program. I was able to leave them with their own copy so that they may continue with the program. An inmate who was one of the original inmates certified at Smith last year was there and has taken the lead on schooling the new beeks. There was a lot of interaction, questions and good conversations during the almost two hour class. Afterwards, we moved outside to check out the new bee hives recently installed. Both seemed to be in good shape, with the original hive already topped with a honey super. Warden Gramiak had tasted the honey (finger dipping) and proclaimed it the best honey in South Georgia!

We were glad to see this program well underway and supported so well not only by the local management, but by the state representatives as well. Stacey Rivera, from the GA Dept. of Corrections Inmate Services Division has been with us every step of the way, and our progress could not be possible without her help and coordination.

Until we can involve some local beeks to oversee this facility, Broadus and I will continue to visit them when we can and help them along.

Bear Kelley,
Past President, Georgia Beekeepers Assn.



Hive inspections

Across

- 1 Seeing these on an inspection lets you know without having to see her that the queen is alive and doing well
- 3 What it feels like a ten frame deep full of honey weighs
- 6 Used to make the bees think there is a forest fire
- 9 If the temperature outside is under 60 it is probably too ___ to open your hive for an inspection
- 11 What's left in the smoker when the pine straw is all burned up
- 12 Sometimes you need to use this tool to get the bees off of a frame for easier observation
- 14 Another name for a hive super
- 16 Some beekeepers just use one puff of smoke at the hive entry to greet the bees and say ___
- 17 If you see a small hive beetle, ___ it with your hive tool!
- 19 In an inspection you place the top cover upside down on the ground so you can stack the boxes ___ it as you remove them from the hive

- 20 Really thick honey does not pour quickly out of the cell but is more likely to do this
- 21 When the beekeeper sees this in the cells, he/she feels great if there are multiple colors
- 22 A term to describe how bees make honeycomb on foundation
- 24 This or other varieties of this substance can be used to refill small hive beetle traps during an inspection
- 25 If you use hive drapes, you should pick tightly woven material. Bees have hair all over their bodies and are likely to get caught in the material if it is nappy or ___.
- 27 The drone is not a girl. Instead the drone is a ___
- 28 State that is the largest source of package bees in the country
- 29 The last three letters of the protective headgear worn during an inspection

Down

- 2 Description of slime left by small hive beetle
- 3 Bees typically land in the entry and walk in ___ their hive
- 4 We want to find in our inspection that the hive is ___

- 5 It's better for your hive to face east or southeast than this direction
- 7 What the queen is to the bees in the hive
- 8 When you hurry and ___ through an inspection, you are likely to miss something important or to make a costly error like dropping a frame
- 10 Collect this to melt and make hive products
- 13 An essential implement to do a hive inspection
- 14 Term for larvae
- 15 If you only see drone brood in an inspection, you may have a ___ queen
- 17 The key to a successful hive inspection is to move ___.
- 18 Delicious product of a strong hive
- 21 The drone is not the Mama of the bees but when he mates with the queen, he becomes the ___.
- 23 If you break open a lot of honeycomb during an inspection, you invite other bees to do this to the hive you are inspecting
- 26 An abbreviation for Tennessee apiary! Or when you close up the hive at the end of an inspection, you might say, ___dah!

Have fun with this crossword - if you finish it and want the answers, email gbanewsletters@gmail.com and we'll send you the answers.



If this puzzle inspires you, please visit YouTube to see a beautiful hive Inspection lead by Steve Easu with video production by Shannon Henson https://youtu.be/_yPqz69_25g

Dear Aunt Bee,

Can you please tell me what exactly is a survivor queen?

Dead Hive Dolly



Dear Dead Hive Dolly,



Many people today are trying to have hives that can survive the winter, despite the presence in the world of the varroa mite. These people don't want to use poisons or treatment in the beehive. If a hive survives the winter without treatment by the beekeeper, then that hive is known as a survivor hive.



Sometimes I will have a hive that survives one winter, but not two. I am much more confident that a hive that can survive two winters contains bees that can live with the varroa mite.

If you have a hive that survives the winter(s) without treatment, then we can hope and assume that the genetics of that queen has something to do with the hive's survival. Maybe she breeds daughters that are more hygienic; maybe something in her genetics can withstand virus vectored by the varroa mite. Whatever the reason, that hive is one whose queen I would term a survivor queen. I want splits from that hive. I want new hives generated by that queen.

Tom Webster, [who spoke to my local bee club about a year ago](#), strongly recommended splitting hives that are survivors to up the beekeepers' chances of not needing to treat your bees. Dr. Webster is an entomologist at Kentucky State University.

In my opinion splitting survivor hives ups the natural backyard beekeepers' chance of beating the varroa mite.

Good luck with your bees, ***Aunt Bee***



"A queen reared in a box she never has to leave will last alot longer."
Dr Jeff Pettis

"Queens from colonies in poor health had a lower sperm viability than queens from healthy colonies."
Dr Jeff Pettis

Swarm Photos



Boy Scout Merit Badge

by Rick Moore

There is a lot of buzz on Facebook and the internet about reinstating the Boy Scout Beekeeping merit badge.

Recently I emailed the BSA Merit Badge Maintenance Task Force asking what locally and statewide clubs could do to help get the merit badge reinstated.

During the days of the Beekeeping merit badge, I learned that very few Scouts explored bees and problems they face. To the BSA, it was wisely decided in 2011 first to update and then to integrate the old beekeeping badge requirements into six existing merit badges, including one Eagle Scout required badge: Environmental Science. The others are Forestry, Plant Science, Nature, Insect Study, and Gardening. Nothing was lost. This way, Scouts learn about the plight of the honeybee and those who wish to, could still learn how to keep bees and get merit badge credit.

By including honeybees in six badges instead of just one, Scouts can become better stewards of protecting this benevolent insect - the honeybee. BSA feels this integration strategy is consistent with our merit badge plan as well as today's focus on sustainability.





Jekyll Island Swarm Rescue
by Su Schwenck

This past March, all the stars aligned for a unique swarm rescue by beekeeper friends, Jim Gertis (Jekyll Island, GA) and Keif Schleifer (Decatur, GA). During Keif's annual visit to the island, Jim got a call about a large swarm of honeybees in the Jekyll Island Historic District. The swarm was almost 40 feet above the ground, clustered between the branches and spanish moss of a live oak tree. Luckily, construction workers had an aerial lift nearby for a restoration project and Keif has international certification to operate such lifts. Jim provided equipment and woodenware; Keif maneuvered the pair into the treetop; and once they were within reach, they easily recovered the swarm. The bees have now joined the other hives in Jim's island apiary. Go Team!



The Final Buzz

We appreciate all of your contributions to *Spillin' the Honey*. Preparations are underway for our fall meeting. Please save the date.

GBA Fall 2016 Meeting Oct 6th, 7th and 8th 2016 in Milledgeville.
Registration is open now at last year's rates - [register soon before the rates go up.](#)

As you harvest your honey, bear in mind our up coming honey show and its awards.

2016 Honey Show Prizes:
Best in Show.....\$250

- 1st Place award 100.00
- 2nd Place award \$30.00
- 3rd Place \$20.00



Bottle beautifully and we hope you enter and win.
Linda and Gina



Spilling the Honey

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman



Curt Barrett and Linda Tillman of MABA were lucky to get a photo with Mrs. Rosalynn Carter at the Carter Center Discover Day on June 18. Other MABA members there were MABA president, Holly Bayendor, her husband Jeff McConnell, Keif Schleifer, and Bruce Harlan. (photo by Dr. Ben Tillman)

President's Message

Wow! I can't believe July is already here. I have been so busy and unable to harvest, which makes me a little apprehensive because right now all my girls are pretty defensive, so I am praying for rain and a little tolerance in two weeks when I go through the hives. I have had so many things to do that the bees have taken a back seat this year. Good thing they can forage.

I am hearing good things about outreach by clubs. Many people are getting more involved and speaking to groups about honeybees and native pollinators. This past spring was beautiful and I was really happy with it other than lack of rain which for us up equates to lack of nectar, but I got a couple of great opportunities to speak to two different kids groups about honeybees and play some pollinating games. I encourage everyone to try to reach out and speak to a gardening clubs, summer camps and the local business community. I read in the *Patch* online that the mayor of Sandy Springs

was called to get a swarm in late May or early June. What a great time to educate!

Please remember if you want to present to kids, Dr. Wimbush is a chair of education and will help you or your club create a program targeted to various ages. Dr. Wimbush came to one of our clubs and did a couple of hands on experiments charming the adults. We need to keep thinking about how to attract a younger crowd for future beekeeping.

The fall meeting is shaping up nicely. Look soon for the agenda and bulletin. We are going to continue the tradition of the President's breakfast, honey show - check out the new rules - and beekeeper of the year! I hope that we get a chance to get some of that honey ice cream again this year. I look forward to a fun filled auction like we had last year and meeting old friends again.

If you have any news, please send to the newsletter editors. Linda and Gina work very hard and they are now in the swan song as we near the end of the GBA year. They have worked very hard and we all should make sure we tell them as they have been keeping us connected and providing a great instrument for our education. I believe their last issue will be October or November, 2016.

Keep your smoker lit, hive tool handy and fire extinguisher near!

Mary Cahill-Roberts
GBA President



Club News and Notes

Lake County Beekeepers Association

By Mary Lacksen

Lake County Beekeepers Association hosted speaker Rodney Garner at the June meeting in Sparta, GA. Rodney is a Welsh Honey Judge, Journeyman Beekeeper and member of Forsyth Beekeepers Association. He offered tools and tips on preparing honey and honey products for honey sale. His #1 suggestion is to prepare a clean product - inside and out. If you have never entered a honey show, consider entering honey in a black jar category at the Georgia Beekeepers Association Fall Meeting in October. We enjoyed Rodney's visit to our club.



Club News and Notes (cont.)

Troup County Association honored Terry Williamson for his six years as president of TCAB at our meeting Monday June 20th. We presented him with a plaque which had a hive tool mounted on it and an embroidered shirt which said Bee Keeper. Thanks to Terry and Alecia for all their hard work over the years.

—Brad Myers

Scholarship Awarded by Chattooga Beekeepers

The Chattooga Beekeepers honored the memory of Carolyn Kilgore by awarding a memorial scholarship on June 14, 2016. Carolyn was a charter member and frequent volunteer for any community project. She took every opportunity to educate others about bees even while in the hospital waiting for a lung transplant, where she lost her battle to breathe. Many of the hospital staff are wiser about the honeybee world because of her. The scholarship awarded was based on achievements in school and community and future aspirations for a career in an agriculture related field. The award was presented to Alyssa Bumbalough by Sophia Price and Denise Elliott. A quote from Alyssa's essay: "...no machine could replace the job they do at making honey".

Scholarship to Young Harris Awarded to Paulding County Beekeepers

The Paulding County Beekeepers set up and awarded scholarships to four deserving candidates. The applications were due in January and the awards were announced at the March meeting. The scholarship paid for the Young Harris registration, testing fee and \$100 toward gas, food, and lodging. An additional number of members also went. Eight of the attending members formed a study group and all eight passed the level for which they were studying.

**Views of a New Beekeeper**

By Al Shackelford

Forsyth, GA

I just started keeping bees about three years ago after retiring as a police chief. My grandfather was a beekeeper and I grew up helping him with the bees. After reading that there was a shortage of honey bees, I thought that I would like to become a beekeeper too. However, I did not know that there was so much to learn and keep up with. I don't think my grandfather had the problems that beekeepers are facing today. I started out with two hives and now have five. Seems like each year I lose a hive to hive beetles, moths or swarm. Makes me feel like I am not a good parent! I found the best way to improve my beekeeping skills is to learn as much as I can from joining local bee clubs, attending meetings, read books and journals. I also have come to conclusion that if you ask twenty experienced beekeepers the same exact question - you may get as many as twenty different answers. As one old beekeeper told me - if those bees could just talk to me, we would not have the problems we are experiencing.

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
Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers Association	Questions from newbees with oldtimers	Mon 7/11 6:00	UGA Extension Service meeting room, 420 - 10th Street	Columbus, GA
Chattooga Beekeepers	Nicholas Weaver: TBA	Tues 7/12	Chattooga Ab Bldg.	Summerville GA
Coweta Beekeepers	Dr. Vanessa Corby-Harris: Honey bee nutrition	Mon 7/11 7 PM	255 Pine Road	Newnan, GA
Coastal Empire	Steve Page: Raising Queens, and Making Splits	Mon 7/11 6 PM	Oatland Island Wildlife Center	Savannah, GA
Forsyth	Jennifer Berry: Speaker's choice	Thur 7/28 6:30	UNG	Cumming GA
Gwinnett County	Annual Picnic	7:00 PM	Rancho Alegre 2225 Givens Road	Dacula, GA
Heart of Georgia	Bazaar and Swap Meet - sell your extra beekeeping stuff	Tues 7/19	Camp John Hope	Fort Valley, GA
Lake Country Beekeepers	Panel of experienced beekeepers	Mon 7/18 7 PM	UGA 4-H Extension Office	Sparta, GA
MABA	Cindy Hodges: Varroa and SHB Holly Bayendor: Giving Bee Talks	Wed 7/13 7:00	Atlanta Botanical Garden	Atlanta, GA
Paulding County		Thurs 7/14		
Tara Beekeeping Assn	Buster Lane- Feeding your bees	Mon, 7/18 7:00	Georgia Power Building	Forest Park, Ga. 30297
West Georgia	Buster Lane: Feeding Bees	Mon 7/25	American Legion	Douglasville, GA

“Honey bees have two strategies for surviving a dearth season, hoarding and absconding.”

Mark L. Winston, The Biology of the Honey Bee

Junior Beekeepers - Children have a Way with Bees by Holly Bayendor

We teach children about bees to encourage a new generation of pollinator-friendly people. It's part of our club's mission, and while we are teaching the children, they are eager and fascinated, and ready to learn more.

During our sessions the children learn the bee basics from a presentation led by an experienced beekeeper. It's usually Melissa Bondurant and Cindy Hodges, both Master Beekeepers, who love to talk to children about bees. Then the children see the Show and Tell items we have for them: Everything from honeycomb, rendered wax, insects – wasps, hornets, bees (dead, of course), and a demonstration of how (an empty) bee hive works. This prepares them for the upcoming activities of making their own frame, and looking inside a live beehive.

At our Alpharetta location the children planted pollinator friendly seeds in small seed pots to take home. The new East Lake Commons venue afforded the children a tour of the organic farm, demonstrating the cycle of how pollination is vital for plants to grow fruits and vegetables.

After lunch, the beekeeper volunteers and program leaders bring out the bee suits and get the children ready for their hive inspection. A leader demonstrates how to light the smoker, and we are off to the hives.

Each child is given the opportunity to hold a frame full of bees – and most do. Melissa Bondurant had the children dip a gloved finger into some honey from a broken comb, encouraging the bees to land on their fingers and sip the honey. The children were thrilled.

It is a joy to see the children light up at the sight of the open hive. Very few back away, by the time we



individual photos by Cindy Hodges

get to the hive the children are so keen to see the bees they forget to be afraid of them.

Back inside and suits off, it's time to uncap and extract honey. Spinning the extractor is usually one of the children's favorite activities. To finish up, we invite the children to taste honeys from different apiaries, seasons, years and countries to encourage them to taste the difference and the uniqueness of each one. The children go home with an envelope full of bee literature, pamphlets, word puzzles, bookmarks, a certificate of participation, and a two ounce jar of local honey.

This year Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association is expanding its Junior Beekeeper Program to four sessions, each at a different location. This is thanks to the work of Junior Beekeeper Program Chair, Ed Hoehn. Thank you to all our volunteers who make this program so enjoyable and memorable for the children and their parents, they are: Cindy Hodges and Melissa Bondurant (program developers), Ed Hoehn (program chair), Daniel Goodridge, Jeff McConnell and Megan Kilinski.

New Buzz Fund Guidelines

Buzz Fund Committee: Brutz English, Gina Gallucci, Roseanne Fielder

The Georgia Beekeepers Association has had a Buzz Fund for a long time. The fund was generously given over the years by fellow beekeepers to support research in the beekeeping community. We have updated the grant guidelines and application. Harvest Hoffman, our webmaster, has uploaded them and they are available on the GBA web page. Please [click here](#) to look over the guidelines. If you or a friend have a beekeeping project in mind, we want to help you to accomplish your goals and then to share your knowledge with all of our members. Our new guidelines are clearly presented and uncomplicated. Our Buzz Fund Grant committee members are eager to hear what you think and to review your applications!



In 2016, a Buzz Fund grant was awarded to Courtney Wadley, a junior at a Marietta high school. Working with Julia Mahood as her mentor and with access to Dr. Jennifer Leavey's assistance and bee lab at Georgia Tech, Courtney has completed her project with interesting results. She shared her results with the Atlanta Beekeeping Meetup in June and will present her results in PowerPoint at the GBA Fall Meeting.



Georgia Beekeepers Association Fall 2016 Meeting Oct 6th, 7th and 8th 2016 in Milledgeville

Registration is open now at last year's rates - [register soon before the rates go up](#). As you harvest your honey, keep in mind our honey show and its awards.

2016 Honey Show Prizes:

Best in Show.....\$250

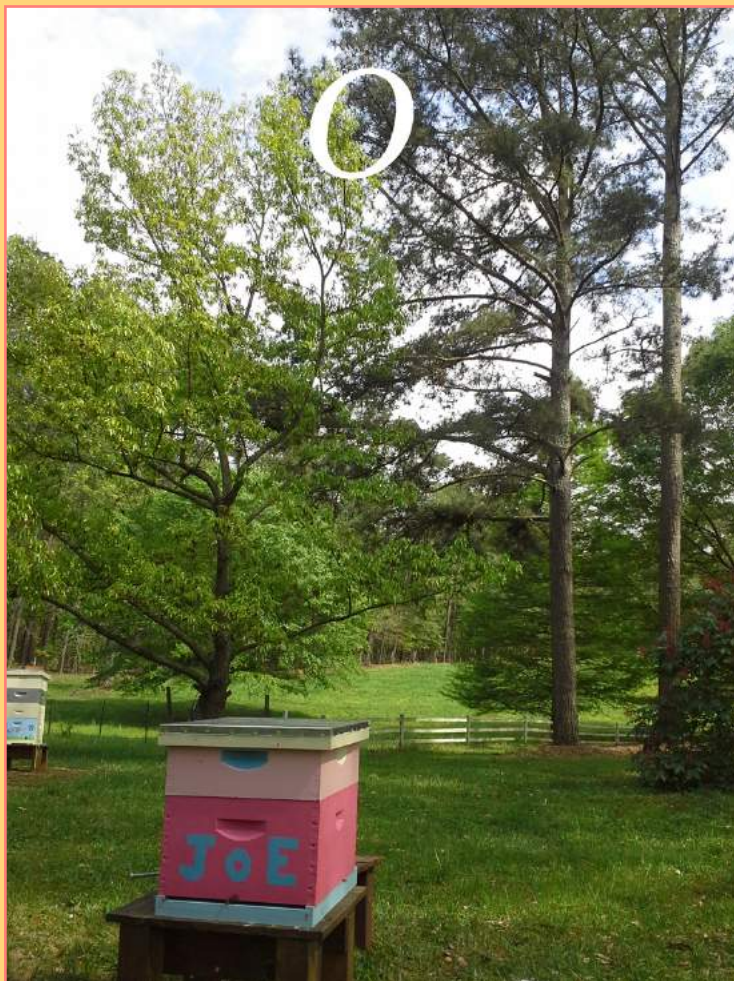
1st Place award 100.00

2nd Place award \$30.00

3rd Place \$20.00

How to Retrieve an Extremely High Swarm 40 Feet Up ... Safely (Do Try This at Home)

By Rita Buehner, MABA member



In late April, a matronly beekeeper was in the apiary when a huge swarm rose from a hive and settled 30-40 feet up in a pine tree nearby. The weather was cloudy with a slight wind. True to the forecast, the next three days included off-and-on storms and gusty winds with quiet overcast periods in between. The beekeeper had already said goodbye and good luck to the swarm on Day One even though she wondered why in the world bees would pick that blustery day to swarm.

When the swarm was still way up in the pine tree on Day Two, she put a 'lure' hive on the lawn with nearly empty drawn frames, a little honey and queen lure inside. Knowing the odds of success were next to nil, this seemed to be another no-cost learning experience in what does and doesn't work.

The next day, Day Three, the beek was so disappointed not to see the hive in the pine tree. But, life goes on and the matronly beekeeper

tended to a few things in the still overcast apiary until ... she noticed a plethora of bees BETWEEN the bottom board and the hive stand of the lure hive that was still on the lawn. The swarm had resettled ON the lure hive BUT 90% of the swarm was UNDER the screened bottom board! What? It took 'me', I mean, it took 'her' 30 seconds to decide Queenie must be UNDER the bottom board, too.

Simple Solution: She unassembled the hive, flipped the bottom board, put it on a new hive stand and reassembled the rest of the hive. By flipping the screened bottom board, the queen and much of her retinue were now INSIDE the hive. When the original hive stand was butted up against the hive entrance, those bees remaining on the stand reaffirmed that Queenie was inside by marching into the reassembled hive. VOILA! The swarm retrieval was completed with no risk to life or limb.

The hive is now called the FEMA hive, FEMA being an acronym for Fortunate Emergency Management Activity. Cautionary Statement: This method of swarm retrieval may only work when the weather is so dire and the bees so hungry that they'll settle for a FEMA trailer any day!



What is the definition of local or raw honey?

By Steve Page

Knowledgeable consumers purchase raw, unfiltered, local honey. Raw honey is not heated higher than temperatures in the hive, preserving all the enzymes and flavors the honey offers. Honey may be filtered or screened in the harvest process. A screen is used to remove wax and other debris from the honey while leaving the pollen; it does not require heating nor does it damage the honey. Beekeepers using extractors employ screens to take debris out of the honey. Beekeepers who use crush and strain as their harvest method use 600/400/200 micron screens to filter their honey. None of these screens require heating the honey.

Filtering requires heating the honey, enabling it to flow thru filters as fine as one-micron, removing pollen and sugar crystals. Heating honey kills enzymes and changes the honey. Filtering prevents the use of pollen to identify the country of origin enabling honey laundering. Some countries are prone to filter, masking the identity of the country. They can then send honey which can be contaminated or is imported via another country to avoid an import duty. Filtering prevents the honey from crystallizing for a year or more, resulting in an attractive presentation on the store shelf.

When is local not local? Some beekeepers purchase honey from other beekeepers and then bottle and label the honey implying that it is local honey. The source of the honey may be from other locations in the United States hundreds of miles away. The beekeeper may not know the source of the honey or if the honey was subjected to heat, killing enzymes and creating hydroxymethylfurfural(HMF).

The consumer may not know enough to ask about the location of the hives assuming the honey is locally produced when it is only locally bottled. There is no legal definition of local. Local honey is important to alleviate allergy symptoms because it contains local pollen. Local pollen includes an area that contains the same plants. For example, the Piedmont of Georgia contains plants that grow throughout the area. A different group of plants grows in the mountains or coastal plain resulting in honey containing different pollen.

Beekeepers should label their honey containers with the location of their hives using a county name or zip code enabling the consumer to determine if the honey is local. Beekeepers can educate the consumer explaining the significance of local honey and the location of their hives. The consumer should understand the honey harvest is limited resulting in local, raw, unfiltered, honey, selling out each year.

“Stands the Church clock at ten to three?
And is there honey still for tea?”
– **Rupert Brooke,**
The Old Vicarage, Grantchester



That seems to be what most people in southeast Georgia are in need of at this time of year. New beekeepers have either accidentally killed their queen; the packaged bees didn't accept their assigned queen; a lucky brown thrasher enjoyed a virgin queen for lunch; or a rainstorm prevented a mated queen from making it back to her colony. Whatever the case may be, I get a lot of calls and have been of no help as I don't raise queens that can be caged and sold.

Well, that is about to change thanks to a smart, funny lady named Jennifer Berry. I believe people learn when they laugh, and Jennifer and I share the same wacky sense of humor. When I discovered that Jennifer incorporates that sense of humor into her teaching, I knew I could learn a lot from her. When I found out that Jennifer was hosting a queen-rearing class in June, I immediately contacted her. We just made the cut, so my best friend and I packed it up and headed to Honey Pond Farm.

Honey bees, butterflies, bumbles...you name it! If it pollinates, it was there since Jennifer only plants pollinator plants. There were beekeepers from Georgia, NC, SC, Seattle, Washington, and Nebraska. They have beekeepers in Nebraska? Who knew? Anyway, it very quickly became hands on queen rearing and it was amazing.

Everyone had to grab a grafting tool, a frame of eggs and young larvae, and a light and start practicing. I felt more like a gymnastics spotter than a queen grafter as I kept flipping the darn larvae. Well, Jennifer won't let you give up and was right there coaching us all through it. Each student then had to graft two larvae (no more practice) and place them in queen cups to then be transferred to the starter/finisher hive to be checked the next day.

At the end of day one, Jennifer and her awesome husband, Mark, treated everyone to a very nice "happy hour." I also forgot to mention that on both days, Jennifer provided us with a gourmet lunch. Amazing!

Well, then came day two. More hands on in Jennifer's apiary learning more about starter/finisher colonies, drone mother colonies (and yes, I saw drone anatomy that I never expected to see in my life. Jennifer swears he died a happy fella), along with many other things. A full 24 hours after we all grafted, it was time to check to see how we did with our grafts and if they were accepted by the queenless starter colony. I was so happy to say that both of mine were accepted and already being

drawn out (along with 90% of my classmates which tells me we had one heck of a great teacher).

The entire experience was incredible and I feel like I am on my way to becoming a new queen source for Savannah, Ga. I can't wait to go again next year.



Dear Aunt Bee,

When pollination bees travel across state lines, they do so only after a departing state inspection. What about on the trip back home? Does the pollinated state also have to inspect bees returning to Georgia?

If our Georgia bees travel to Florida to pollinate, does Florida inspect for Africanized bees before allowing them to return to Georgia? What does the inspection include?

Thanks,
Thinking Of Pollinating in Far Away Lands

Bob Binnie was kind enough to give us his thoughts:

Dear Thinking,

Your question has a mixed answer. Not all states are the same and I am not familiar with all states. These are the states I have had experience with. If your bees travel to California from Georgia, California requires an Apiary Inspection Report from Georgia to enter, but Georgia does not require one from California to return, and California does not require an inspection in their state for the bees to leave.

A similar process occurs in Washington, North Dakota, South Dakota, and North Carolina. In contrast Florida and South Carolina do require an inspection in their state for the bees to leave and return to Georgia. I also know that I have not had to have an inspection to enter or leave Wisconsin. I would suggest anyone leaving the state with bees contact that state to become educated.

Good luck in Far Away Lands,

Aunt Bee  (Thanks, Bob!)

I was removing some of the drone comb from one of my hives. It had been there too long and the drones were emerging. I am glad I got it out of the hive as it was full of mites. Some of the cells had 5 mites in them. As soon as the honey is off the hives I will be treating them.

Rodney Garner
Dahlonega, GA



**John Tarrer:
Eagle Scout Honey Bee Project at Blue Heron Nature Preserve in Atlanta, GA.**



John built an informational sign at Blue Heron to teach visitors about honey bees. His project covers the three types of bees in the hive; bee development; how bees contribute to pollination of our food. Below is an interview with John:

Why did you choose this subject for your project? I chose a pollinator education project after my father began beekeeping in 2015, and I began learning about the declining bee population. I decided that I wanted to help by creating a project that would educate others about bees/ pollinators, and their importance to the ecosystem.

Are you a beekeeper or have you helped with beekeeping? My father has two hives and I help him maintain and perform hive inspections. My first experience with bees was helping my father install the first nuc in our hive last year. The bees were really angry and we didn't yet have all the proper protective gear. We had veils, but that was pretty much it. We wore long pants, long sleeve shirts, and work gloves, and we duct taped the cuffs over our work gloves to keep the bees out. We were quite a sight. My father called it redneck beekeeping. It was quite an interesting introduction to bees. We now have all the correct clothing so it is

much easier, but not quite as exciting.

How long did it take you to complete this project? The project took me about ten months to complete from concept to completion. This involved various approvals, art work, building, and installation.

Where did you get the materials? I harvested the frame material from Black Locust trees growing in the backyard of my home, and purchased the bolts and tin from Home Depot. I searched the internet for the artwork and where necessary, I contacted and received permission to use them from the artists. I worked with a local sign company who printed the sign.

Where do you live and what year are you in school? I live in Atlanta and I am a rising 10th grader at The Classical School and Metro Academic Studies, two homeschool hybrid programs.

What if any plans do you have for college and scouting ? I plan on continuing my education and plan to continue as a leader in Scouting. I have just completed serving as the Senior Patrol Leader for Troop 197, at the Westminster Schools.

Overall, I hope my project teaches and educates people about honey bees and other pollinators and their importance to the environment. It is my hope that the visitors to the Blue Heron Nature Preserve, including schools, daycare centers, and other visitors, will enjoy the information and will be inspired to help preserve the environment for future generations.

***Great News from ABF Vice President, Tim May
Ortho to phase out neonicotinoids in eight of its pesticides***

Submitted by Bear Kelley
Past President

Tim May reported in the May/June issue of the *American Bee Federation News* that Ortho (a division of Miracle-Gro) has decided to phase out neonicotinoids in eight of its pesticides by 2021. It will eliminate neonicotinoids in three products by next year and reformulate the others in the future.

Home Depot has also begun to phase out neonicotinoid pesticides. They have already removed 80% of their flowering plants containing neonics with a complete phase out planned by 2018. Home Depot has also begun to phase out “off the shelf” pesticides that contain neonicotinoids. Following this commitment by Home Depot, Lowes announced that it will do the same for products containing bee-harming neonicotinoids. This is a start and will take some time to complete.

As I have gone to various clubs and discussed “Why Join GBA?” this is what I have been saying. Organizations like GBA, EAS and ABF work toward results like this. The officers and staff try hard to support the members and the work that each of you do as an individual beekeeper. This is a tremendous “win” for the Honey Bee!

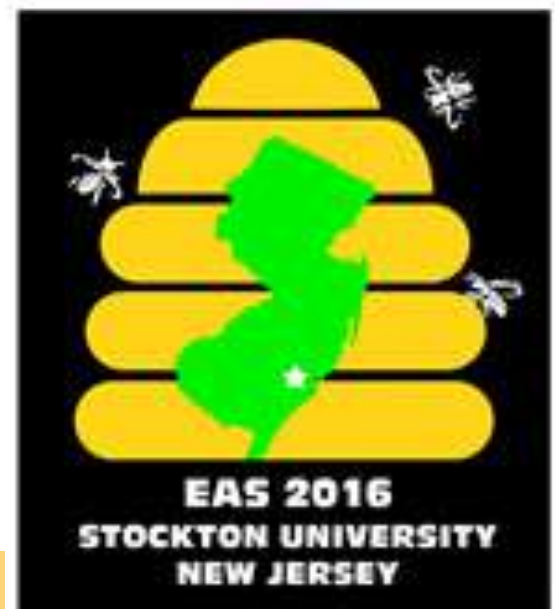
So, the next time someone asked you to join ABF or GBA, don't ask what is in it for me; ask “what is in it for the Honey Bee”?

“Well,” said Pooh, “what I like best,” and then he had to stop and think. Because although Eating Honey was a very good thing to do, there was a moment just before you began to eat it which was better than when you were, but he didn't know what it was called.”
– A.A. Milne, *Winnie-the-Pooh*

Eastern Apicultural Society
2016 New Jersey, Richard Stockton University
Galloway, NJ

Short Course July 25-27, 2016
Conference July 27-29, 2016

Click on “register” to :REGISTER BEFORE JULY 10TH



Christine Farnbauer

Never underestimate the productivity of a hived swarm!

This was just 5 days after dumping 6-7 lb. swarm into box. The top frames were pollen, honey and brood to entice them to stay....



Street Cred

Thanks to Steve Page for:

[Bee Fence](#)

David Brannon sent this:

[Plant Portrait - Sourwood](#)

Gina Gallucci found this:

[Bees Learn While They Sleep](#)

The Final Buzz

We wish you a Happy Independence Day!

Many thanks to all our new contributors for this issue. Remember if you see a honey bee or bee-related story please write or photograph it for distribution here. (Send photos as ATTACHMENTS to your email.) Publishing your articles and photos is the best way for us to share with beekeepers all over Georgia.

Best wishes to all the bees this summer!



Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

August 2016



Gorgeous photo by Jody Christenson, a friend of Gina's

President's Message

This is August and the year has flown by. The weather is hot and humid and right now I am in waiting mode. I am making sure that the beehives are strong and have enough food supplement. I took very little honey this year as compared to past years, since I had so many swarms and they did not bring a lot in. The rain did not happen although it was a beautiful spring this season. Some of my club members just 30 miles south of the I-20 line had a banner year. Reminds of several years ago when I had a great year and my club members were complaining. It shows that microclimate is very important.

The October meeting is just about a go. The meeting committee members have put together an excellent program for this fall. Our headliners are Dr. Jamie Ellis, Shane Gebauer, Dwight Ellis, Tammy Horn and Michael Palmer. We have heard Dr. Ellis a couple of years ago and he was excellent. The reviews from our members were astounding and there was a lot of support to get him for our fall meeting and here he comes. I have only heard some of the other speakers at the Eastern Apiculture Society meeting or on YouTube. I am excited to get a chance to hear them.

We also have our own Georgia speakers presenting and will give the meeting a well rounded panel of

people from which to glean knowledge, including both the academic arena and practical experience. We will have the bee yard for the third year in a row and there will be sign up time for everyone who wants to participate. We have tried to staff the hives with Georgia Master Beekeepers so that you can ask questions that you have wondered about when in your own hives.

The honey show will be in full swing. This year the honey room will be monitored and you will sign in and out your entries. This way we will have everyone retrieve their own entries. Our Beekeeper of the Year will be announced and we will have our annual elections at the business meeting on Saturday. Randy Rolen and Derrick Fowler have done a great job chairing the elections process. We will be using a paper ballot this year and will share more details in an email to members and in our September newsletter.

I hope to see all my old friends and meet some new ones as well in October. I think that this will be an outstanding meeting and a great time to learn some helpful tips for my bees.

Mary Cahill-Roberts

GBA President



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
Effingham County Beekeepers	Jane Quattlebaum	Thurs 8-11 7 PM	Pot luck Dinner at 6p Fellowship Bible Church	Springfield, GA
Forsyth Beekeepers	Rodney Gardner: Honey Judging	Thurs 8/25 6:30 PM	UNG	Cumming, GA
Heart of Georgia	"Bear" Kelley - Honey, The Inside Story	Tues, 8/16 7 PM	Camp John Hope	Fort Valley, GA
Lake Country Beekeepers	Mary Cahill Roberts- Hive inspection and what to expect	Mon, 8/15 7 PM	UGA 4-H Extension Office	Sparta, GA
MABA	Julia Mahood - Tips & Tricks of Beekeeping	Wed 8/10 7 PM	Atlanta Botanical Garden	Atlanta, GA
SOWEGA	Linda Tillman: Fun and Facts about Wax	Thurs 8/11 6:30 PM	Chehaw Creekside	Albany, GA
Tara	Keith Fielder: 10 Mistakes Made by Beekeepers	Mon 8/15 7 PM	Georgia Power Bldg	Forest Park, GA
Tri County Beekeepers	Cindy Hodges Varroa mites	Mon 8/8 7 PM	Gillsville City Park 7864 County Line Road	Gillesville
West Georgia	Alan Bradd: Varroa, pests, and winter prep	Mon 8/22 7 PM	American Legion	Douglasville, GA

Club News and Notes

Forsyth Beekeepers Club

The Forsyth Beekeepers Club hosted their annual Disease and Disorders Class on July 16. Students learned how to collect bees for testing for multiple disorders (varroa and nosema), as well as identify disorders of the hive (American foulbrood, European foulbrood, wax moths, etc.) Those who attended did a sugar shake and completed a mite check, and dissected the gut of some honeybees to look for nosema spores in a microscope. Infected frames of AFB, EFB, and wax moths were shared to give students a visual of what we've heard so much about. This short course better educates our local beekeepers with hands on instruction and allows time for discussion and questions. For more information on the Forsyth Club and upcoming events, please see the website and/or Facebook.



Photos Credit: Joe Banister

To see more photos from the event, [click here](#).



Lake Country

The Lake Country Beekeepers Association hosted a club member panel at the July meeting. Bruce Morgan of Morgan Apiaries, Roger Kicklighter of Tip Top Honey Bees, and Dave and Angie Larson of Whiskey Creek Farm, shared their insights, mistakes and knowledge on beekeeping. LCBA is a 4 year old club with over 60 member families.

This is the first time a panel format was tried. The panel addressed issues concerning hive health and management, splitting hives, queen rearing and replacement, mite treatment, feed supplements and safety in the bee yard. These four members, each of whom is a GBA member, represent over 30 years of beekeeping experience and have played a vital role in the LCBA mission of promoting the interest of beekeeping.

GBA ANNUAL OFFICER ELECTIONS

Fellow Members,

Our annual officer elections will take place at the October State Meeting, October 7 - 8 in Milledgeville, GA. If you are interested in serving as an Officer or Director, or want to discuss the duties involved, please contact one of the Directors listed below. Thank you for considering serving in the GBA.

Randy Rolen randyrolen@hotmail.com
Derrick Fowler dfowler1965@hotmail.com

Fellow Georgia Beekeepers,

We are fortunate this year to have quite a number of officer candidates willing to serve the GBA. In order that you can better know the candidates, the Nominating Committee is publishing a short bio of each for your review. In addition, we asked each candidate to answer the question "What improvements should we make to improve our Georgia Beekeepers Association?"

All Candidates are listed in alphabetical order using last name.

Candidate for the office of **President**: **Andy Bailey**



Andy Bailey is passionate, knowledgeable, experienced, and a leader in his beekeeping hobby. He is highly respected in the community, easy to talk with, and gives his time willingly to help others. In 2008, he was elected president of the Forsyth Beekeepers club and served thru 2009. Beginning in 2010, he began serving as a director on the club board and still holds that position. In 2013, he was elected secretary of the Georgia Beekeepers Association and served until 2015, when he was elected the current vice-president of the association. Andy is a sideline beekeeper who began his hobby in 2005 with only five hives and has grown to manage approximately fifty colonies. As a member of the Forsyth Beekeepers club, he is very active in the club's annual spring bee school, queen rearing class, and the disease and disorder class. In addition, Andy mentors club members when called upon.

GBA: "What improvements should we make to improve our Georgia Beekeepers Association?"

Answer:

I believe the best way we can improve the Georgia Beekeepers Association is to support and unify all beekeepers. Hobbyist, sideline and commercial beekeepers all have a common goal of enriching one's personal beekeeping knowledge and educating others about the importance of honeybees.

Candidate for the office of **President**: **Linda Tillman**



Linda Tillman is a beekeeper, a grandmother, a bread baker and a recently retired clinical psychologist. She has served as the co-editor of the GBA newsletter for the last four years and is secretary of GBA. She co-founded the Atlanta Beekeeping Meetup and is a member of MABA, where she served on the board for many years. Linda began keeping bees eleven years ago and worked through the UGA/Young Harris certifications, earning her Master Beekeeper. She keeps bees in her backyard, at community gardens, at an Atlanta inn, and in the mountains. Linda runs a blog that she started

at the beginning of her beekeeping. Her blog (www.beekeeperlinda.com) is widely read by followers from all over the world. She's made videos about skills like harvesting honey and melting wax, and has written about lots of beekeeping adventures. Linda loves sharing her beekeeping fun with friends, children, grandchildren, new beekeepers, bee clubs and anyone who will listen.

GBA: "What improvements should we make to improve our Georgia Beekeepers Association?"

Answer:

- Establish structured communication between clubs and GBA officers through regional meetings with local club presidents
- Target Georgia towns for honey bee-awareness opportunities
- Support and expand current GBA programs in parks and prisons
- Keep openness, good communication, and transparency with members through Facebook, website, newsletter and emails

Candidate for the office of ***Vice President***: **Gina Gallucci**



Gina Gallucci continues to learn and love beekeeping after 11 years. She joined the Tara and Metro Atlanta clubs. She served on the MABA board and then was president of MABA. Working on the MABA short course, chairing the swarm calls and answering the MABA phone gives her the opportunity to interact with beekeepers and the public, sharing knowledge about the fascinating honey bee. Gina keeps bees at her home and a nature preserve. She moved to Georgia from Washington State, and began a career in recruiting. Married 28 years, Gina has stepchildren, and a large, close extended family. Reading for pleasure introduced her to beekeeping, for which she is forever grateful, not only for learning the art and science of beekeeping, but especially for the many friendships which have developed along the journey. Gina currently serves as co-editor of our GBA newsletter.

GBA: "What improvements should we make to improve our Georgia Beekeepers Association?"

Answer:

- Promote increased beekeeping in public areas such as city, county, state and national parks, nature preserves, government buildings and privately owned properties, where apiaries can be viewed by the general public
- Increase intra-club communication with more informal meetups, and group discussions involving club's leadership, GBA's state Directors and officers within regions in Georgia

Candidate for office of ***Treasurer***: **Rose Anne Dorn**



Rose Anne Dorn currently serves as our Georgia Beekeepers Association treasurer. One of her proudest moments was 2015, when the membership voted her the "2015 GBA Beekeeper of the Year." She is a member of the GBA since 2002. Rose Anne is the first to volunteer at meetings doing whatever needs to be done. Whether it is assisting with registration, serving food or assisting with the final cleanup, she is always helping. Rose Anne has served as secretary of the GBA honey shows numerous times and served as the GBA newsletter editor. In serving the beekeeping community she taught classes at the Young Harris/UGA Beekeeping Institute and served as the secretary of its annual honey show. She supports local beekeeping associations by making numerous educational presentations. Rose Anne promotes the GBA association and beekeeping industry through school programs, and local Farm Bureau Commodity promotions.

GBA: "What improvements should we make to improve our Georgia Beekeepers Association?"

Answer:

Among my goals as a board member of our association is to promote harmony between the ideological factions that have risen in beekeeping in recent years. We must stand together in our support if the GBA is to remain a viable and trusted voice for the beekeeper of Georgia.

Candidate for office of ***Treasurer***: **Bear Kelley**



Bear Kelley is retired from the US Army after 30 years as a logistics management officer. He is a Certified Beekeeper as well as a Certified Welsh Honey Judge. He earned a Master's Degree from Michigan State Univ. and is the past president of the Georgia Beekeepers Assn. His other offices include GBA vice-president, president of the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Assn, Education Board of the American Bee Federation. He serves on the board of directors of several national organizations. He has been beekeeping for about 10 years and operates a small apiary in South Georgia. Bear was selected as the 2014 GBA Beekeeper of the Year and 2015 Heart of Georgia Beekeeper of the Year.

GBA: "What improvements should we make to improve our Georgia Beekeepers Association?"

Bear Kelley's Answer:

Continue ongoing work to support the entire state in our beekeeping and pollinator efforts. Reach out to schools to attract more junior beekeepers and include them in our state level programs. Work closer with our members by visiting clubs and providing experts from the state and national beekeeping organizations.

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Candidate for office of **Secretary: Jane Quattlebaum**



Jane Quattlebaum started beekeeping four years ago after hearing a 45 minute presentation on beekeeping and, subsequently attending the "Fundamentals of Beekeeping" hosted by Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association (CEBA). She was swarmed, one might say, and hasn't looked back. She currently is on the board of directors of CEBA, mentors about 10 beekeepers, and is the go to person for Savannah Bee Company when a bee removal needs to be done. Although she lives in Georgia, she is a Certified Beekeeper in South Carolina where she

attended college at Furman University. She is also an active member of Beaufort/Jasper Beekeepers Association and the South Carolina Beekeepers Association. Her love for honeybees has infected those she mentors and her goal is to make people great bee "keepers" not just bee "havers." When not tending bees, she works full-time for Teva Pharmaceuticals as a senior executive sales specialist. Vote Yes! J

GBA: "What improvements should we make to improve our Georgia Beekeepers Association?"

Answer:

Continue education leading to better beekeeping. We need a push to encourage mentoring of new beekeepers. Beekeepers need to learn to share more and not be in a competition. God has given us an amazing assignment and we need to help each other in that assignment.

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Candidate for office of **Director: Brutz English**



Brutz English has served on the GBA board of directors since 2013, and would very much like to continue to serve in this capacity. He currently serves as president of both the Henry County Beekeepers Association and the Potato Creek Beekeepers Club. Brutz earned a Master Beekeeper Certification as well as a Certified Welsh Honey Judge through the Young Harris/UGA Beekeeping Institute. He holds a commercial beekeepers license and a honey house license from the Georgia Department of Agriculture. In 2009, Brutz began keeping bees and over the following years his apiary has grown to over fifty colonies. The primary focus of his

beekeeping operation is honey production. However, he also does agricultural pollination. He is active in several local bee clubs in the middle Georgia area. Brutz enjoys volunteering and public speaking almost as much as he does beekeeping.

GBA: "What improvements should we make to improve our Georgia Beekeepers Association?"

Answer:

As a GBA Board member I have witnessed the importance of continuity of leadership. For years essential information has been lost as officers have come and gone. I would like to see the GBA establish a formal procedure to facilitate and insure a more seamless transition for officer successions.

Candidate for office of **Director**: **Tim Hoffman**



Tim Hoffman has been a beekeeper for five years. He is a Certified Beekeeper living in Effingham County, GA. During the early part of 2015 he helped form the Effingham County Beekeepers Association. Along with helping start the Effingham Club he was elected as vice-president for 2015. Tim and his wife keep 10+ hives in their backyard. Not scared of a power tool, Tim enjoys building a lot of his own equipment including boxes, inner and outer covers, as well as screened bottom boards. His latest build was a simple top bar made from some scrap wood in the garage and says the bees are just booming in it. His next challenge in the wood shop will be an AZ hive, if he can only find the time. For a day job Tim is a professional instructor and teaches his fellow technicians how to maintain and repair airplanes.

GBA:

"What improvements should we make to improve our Georgia Beekeepers Association?"

Answer:

I would like to see an educational advertising campaign to raise honeybee awareness in areas outside of venues directly related to bees. For example: landscaping, agriculture, even home improvement venues, etc. The vast majority of people I've spoken with outside of beekeeping have no idea we exist as an organization.

Candidate for office of **Director**: **Terry Moore**



Terry Moore is a member of the Lake Country Beekeepers and the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers. He is a Certified Beekeeper by the Young Harris Bee Institute. As a beekeeper, Terry does a lot of public speaking to local garden clubs, public school classrooms, and in churches for the Gideons. Terry is 68 years old, and been married to Joyce, for 47 years. Terry and Joyce are Master Gardeners. After retiring from Southern Nuclear Company in 2005, they moved to Gray, Georgia. There they grows blueberries, muscadines, figs, apples, pears, plums, strawberries, blackberries, flowers, and maintain a large vegetable garden. A USAF veteran, Terry served during the Vietnam War. He holds a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering and a master's degree in business administration. He was also licensed as a senior reactor operator by the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

GBA:"What improvements should we make to improve our Georgia Beekeepers Association?"

Answer:

I would like to see us find ways to encourage manufacturers and vendors to take known and dangerous bee toxins off the shelf. I would like to see us do this in a very cooperative and supportive manner, advising the Ag Chemical companies and showing appreciation for their efforts.

Candidate for office of **Director**: **Robert Quarterman**



Robert Quarterman and wife Liz started the Effingham County Beekeeping Association in February of 2015 with a friend. The club joined GBA in September of the same year. He was the charter president and re-elected president for the 2016-17 year. Robert is a Certified Beekeeper in Georgia and South Carolina and is working on his Journeyman certification in both states. Robert is currently mentoring 30 plus local beekeepers. He is continually enamored by bees and beekeepers. Robert

(Robert Quarterman, cont)

became interested in honeybees in 2014 and bought one hive in the spring of that year. Enthusiastically he grew his apiary from 8 hives to 50 in his next year. Robert is a sustainable beekeeping advocate as is proven in his apiary. He is currently pastor of Fellowship Bible Church since 2006 and is married to Liz who grew up in Thomson, Georgia since 1997. They have four children and 13 grandchildren.

GBA : "What improvements should we make to improve our Georgia Beekeepers Association?"

Answer:

I don't have much to say about changes now.

Candidate for office of **Director: Dale Richter**



Dale Richter has served as a Director for the GBA several times over the past forty years and looks forward to the opportunity to serve the beekeepers of Georgia and neighboring states once again. Dale, 59, is a resident of Leesburg, GA and is a second generation beekeeper with over fifty years of beekeeping experience. He has been a Georgia Master Beekeeper since 1987, and owns and operates The Buzz Fuzz, a honey bee and stinging insect removal business. Dale is a media consultant/contact for honey bee related information and is active in education and advisory activities for several local schools, industries, and associations. He has been an emergency

responder for honey bee related incidents for several years. On October 11, 2011, Dale became the first beekeeper to encounter Africanized honey bees in Georgia while responding to an incident in which a Dougherty County resident was fatally stung.

GBA: "What improvements should we make to improve our Georgia Beekeepers Association?"

Answer:

One improvement I would like to see by GBA is more proactive policies regarding possible negative incidents involving honey bees in Georgia. For example: AHB incidents, overturning of bee trucks, and killing by pest control companies. Also, I would like to see more public education on bees.

Candidate for office of **Director: Broadus Williams**



Broadus Williams has served on the GBA Board of Directors for the past two years, and would very much like to continue to serve in this capacity. He has played an active part in the success of the GBA prison beekeeping program. Broadus is a leader in Beekeeping 101 courses. Most recently he helped the Heart of Georgia club in its April beekeeping course. He is always found helping those new beekeepers getting started with their nucs or speaking in schools to our future beekeepers. Broadus is vice-president of the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association.

NOTE: In order to vote in the election of officers for GBA, you must be a member whose dues are paid. If your dues are scheduled to renew on October 1, be sure to pay your dues before the meeting so that you can vote as a member in good standing. The vote this year will be with a ballot, not by show of hands, so you will not be able to get a ballot to vote if your dues are not paid up. To check on your dues renewal date, [click here](#) and log in with the email address where you received this newsletter.



FIRST YEAR FLASHBACKS AND MENTORING

By Jane Quattlebaum
Savannah, GA

When I think back on my first year as a beekeeper, I'm amazed that I am still keeping bees. I took a one-day class, purchased two nucs from someone I thought would be a great "go to" guy (not), and was totally clueless. My best friend and I started this journey together and quickly became very frustrated. Despite attending local bee meetings, we weren't getting answers to our "newbee" questions. Also, very few beekeepers were willing to come to a first-year beekeeper's apiary to help them check their hives. Thankfully, we did have one neighbor who knew just enough to get us through until the next spring. That is when my world changed. I met two amazing beekeepers who both had been keeping bees for a very long time. Rob Potts was the first knowledgeable beekeeper to take an interest in me and my desire to learn how to be a successful beekeeper (as opposed a "bee-haver") and to offer his time to answer phone calls and naïve questions. Rob then gave Harold Ward my

Make your plans now to come to the fall meeting. Registration is open and the hotel is waiting for your reservations. To register for the meeting, [click here](#). We are using a new hotel this year, the Fairfield Inn. When you register, your confirmation email will give you contact information to make your reservation there. We will be having our reception after the board meeting on Thursday night at the Fairfield Inn. The main meeting, speakers, honey show, etc. will take place on Friday, the 7th and Saturday, the 8th. Be sure to come to talk to your beekeeper friends and to learn from our great speakers, both from across the country and from our GBA membership.

phone number because Harold needed help with a bee removal. Harold called and I said yes. Well, these two men have helped me and my best friend become very good beekeepers. I made a promise to myself at the end of my second year of beekeeping that I would never forget what it was like to be a first year beekeeper! I also decided that I would be as available as possible to any beekeeper that needed a mentor.

My question has always been: Why are some beekeepers so secretive about their methods? Aren't we all in this together? Don't we all want honey bees to survive and thrive? Well, I made a decision to share with others everything these two great men have taught me! God has given us a wonderful responsibility in taking care of one of His most amazing creations, and I feel like every beekeeper with any time under their belt should mentor at least one new beekeeper each season. Thankfully, over



the past few years, I've had the opportunity to mentor quite a few. Some succeed, some don't. Interestingly, I find out quickly that those who succeed are those who fall in love with bees more than the honey they produce. Honey is the beautiful by-product the Lord gives us as being the keeper of the bees. Please never forget those times of "is my queen alive...what is that brown beetle...why are there a huge amount of bees hanging from my hive entrance...is that honey or brood...Is this honey ready for harvest...should I feed my bees?" Never forget! Always teach and help fill the world with better beekeepers. Lord, thank you for bringing honey bees into my life. And Lord, thank you for my two great "Bee-Dads."

(Todd Foster did also come out to check that we still had queens. Thank you, Todd).



Hive Loss

By David Shipp

While I don't pretend to be an expert I wanted to share some thoughts on hive loss. Every year we talk about winter loss and preparing for winter then we lose more hives in the summer than the winter? What gives?

Last year Georgia had a loss of 34.9% of its hives. Nationally the rate was 44%. So way to go Georgia. The interesting thing is summer losses exceeded winter losses. While it is not scientific, common sense tells us the problem is queen loss after swarming. This time of year we are checking our hives, shrugging our shoulders that we cannot find the queen. We might even see some larvae (being fooled by a laying worker).

Time is not on our side. Some of the hive flew off with Momma; some are dying off fast, the rest are wondering what to do. Most of the time when we finally figure out there is a big problem, the other hives have robbed them out (it is a summer dearth) and wax moths have moved in.

The other part of the story is we open the hive, we notice less bees and we find a capped queen cell. Now we know they swarmed but, now what? We hope the queen cell hatches, mates and starts laying, right? Well, yes, but what are the odds? I have read studies that say 10-20% of queens are lost in mating flights but in talking to commercial beekeepers in south Georgia, they are saying more like 30%.

One said as soon as I put out the nucs, the robins line up to have dinner.

I tend to believe the higher number because that is what is correlating to hive losses.

So let's do a little calendaring. In the good case, we see a capped queen cell and we can say she has about a week before hatching. Since we have no idea when it was capped it could be one to ten days before she hatches (big range). Then once hatched, there will be five to ten days before she starts mating flights (another big range). Mating flights could be two days up to eight-ish (another big range); then up to two weeks before she starts laying (another big range). So adding all of the ranges up three to six weeks before we can actually (with old man eyes) see something.

The point is that we like to say "Bam, this is the time," and the bees don't agree. I am, like many,

guilty of hurriedly buying a queen just to go put her in and then to see brood. The problem happens when we sit back and say the bees will take care of it. We might put in a frame of larvae from another hive. If they have been too long without the queen, they will have a laying worker and they will not make a new queen no matter how much we pull down cells.

The crux of the problem is we have to be in the hives at least every other week seeing what is happening. (In this heat not fun). When we see a problem, we need to do something and then follow up. When we see they are queenless, we have to act. Without a queen too long, go ahead and combine them with a strong hive. Manage the loss. If you combine, you have strengthened the hive and protected the hardware and comb from predators.

Don't worry about numbers of hives. Split more. Follow The Coweta Method. Steve Page's ideas on splits and queens are great. But get into your hives!

Dear Aunt Bee,

I have 2 hives in my backyard. One hive swarmed, and my neighbor showed me a hive in his tree in his front yard. The tree was struck by lightning years ago, and there is a nice split in it where the bees seem to have nestled. From the activity, it seems to be quite strong. Without cutting down this beautiful tree, how can I get my bees back?

Thanks!

Lonely for my bees

Dear Lonely,

It's so frustrating when a hive swarms and you can't collect the swarm. Sounds like your bees found a natural home and are happy there.

It's possible to get the bees (but not usually the queen) by doing what's known as a trap-out. I have never done one, but many beekeepers have. It takes time and patience. You make a funnel exit from the hive in the tree from # 8 hardware cloth and cover the opening into the tree so that all of the bees leaving the tree have to go out of the funnel. Place a hive box very near the opening to the funnel and put in the hive box a frame of brood and eggs from another hive.

If you are lucky, the bees will leave the tree and when

they can't return through the funnel, they will move into your box and raise a queen. Michael Bush who spoke to GBA at the last fall meeting says that he has never gotten the queen to leave the hive and move to the capture box in a trapout.

If you want to try to do a trap out, there are many sites on the Internet with photos and explanations.

I think I would just try to get excited that at least my bees were in a tree near me where I could watch them and I would hope to get a swarm from them next year.



Good luck with the tree,

Your Aunt Bee

(thanks to Priscilla Summers for the question)

“Every saint
has a bee in his
halo.”

– Elbert Hubbard

Honey Bee Day August 20, 2016 in the USA

National Honey Bee Day is observed on August 20, 2016. National Honey Bee Day (formerly National Honey Bee Awareness Day) is an awareness day started by beekeepers in the United States to build community awareness of the bee industry, through education and promotion.

According to its organizers, the National Honey Bee Day program started with a simple concept: "Bring together beekeepers, bee associations, as well as other interested groups to connect with the communities to advance beekeeping. By working together and harnessing the efforts that so many already accomplish, and [by] using a united effort one day a year, the rewards and message is magnified many times over. We encourage bee associations, individuals, and other groups to get involved. The program is free and open to all."

The event was started in 2009 by a small group of beekeepers who petitioned for and obtained a formal proclamation by the USDA honoring honey bees and beekeeping. (With material from: Wikipedia)

Where is the event?
Nationwide
USA

When is the event?
Saturday, the 20th of August 2016

-submitted by Bear Kelley

My bees and Pesticides by Rick Moore

A few weeks ago the pecan grove which surrounds my subdivision sprayed their trees with the tractor drawn jet engines that push a mist into the tops of the trees. The noticeable chemical smell was distinctive. Soon I noticed a very steep drop in bee activity around my hives. A few days later, I'd lost 50% of my hives. There were no bees in the hives; no dead bees, no invading pests, no visible reason for the multiple colony deaths. After finding the pecan grove office in the next town, I visited the owners of to find they had used the pesticide [Chlorpyrifos](#) on their pecan trees. In part the article at Wikipedia concerning bees says:

"Bees

Main article: Pesticide toxicity to bees

Acute exposure to chlorpyrifos can be toxic to bees, with an oral LD₅₀ of 360 ng/bee and a contact LD₅₀ of 70 ng/bee.^[22] Guidelines for Washington state recommend that chlorpyrifos products should not be applied to flowering plants such as fruit trees within 4–6 days of

blossoming to prevent bees from directly contacting the residue.^[63]

Risk assessments have primarily considered acute exposure, but more recently researchers have begun to investigate the effects of chronic, low-level exposure through residue in pollen and components of bee hives.^[64] A review of US studies, several European countries, Brazil and India found chlorpyrifos in nearly 15% of hive pollen samples and just over 20% of honey samples. Because of its high toxicity and prevalence in pollen and honey, bees are considered to have higher risk from chlorpyrifos exposure via their diet than from many other pesticides.^[64]

When exposed in the laboratory to chlorpyrifos at levels roughly estimated from measurements in hives, bee larvae experienced 60% mortality over 6 days, compared with 15% mortality in controls.^[65] Adult bees exposed to sub-lethal effects of chlorpyrifos (0.46 ng/bee) exhibited altered behaviors: less walking; more grooming, particularly of the head; more difficulty righting themselves; and unusual abdominal spasms.^[66] Chlorpyrifos oxon appears to particularly inhibit acetylcholinesterase in bee gut tissue as opposed to head tissue.^[66] Other organophosphate pesticides impaired bee learning and memory of smells in the laboratory.^[67]"

Because I had not spoken earlier with the grove owners, I lost ten hives to a sprayed pesticide. When I met with the owners they explained the chemical to me and told me they had changed their pesticide to [INTREPID](#) which states on the label: "*Registered methoxyfenozide insecticides have not been found to cause any threat to aquatic environments, birds, fish, or bees when used according to label instructions.*"

Three weeks later the grove owner called to say they would be spraying the Intrepid the next morning. I thanked him for the call and his consideration. I have bees, he has trees. We are locked together as neighbors who because of the dialogue opened, communicate and will peacefully get along with each other. That night I locked my bees in their hives for 36 hours, the trees will be sprayed, and hopefully, I will not lose any more bees.

Do not think another person knows what you have, or is concerned about you. I do not blame the grove owner for running his business; he did not intentionally kill thousands of my bees, he is protecting his business. Because of communicating with him I can protect my business also. One short visit (and I will give him honey when I extract) and we both are happier. Know what is being sprayed where your bees not only forage, but the areas they pass through on the way to their foraging areas. We need to ask questions. Know what is being sprayed near your bees, and the route they take to water and forage.

The Final Buzz

Gina and I are looking forward to seeing many of you at the fall meeting - October 6 - 8 in Milledgeville, GA. Be sure to register so you can go and have a great time with your fellow beekeepers.

Thank you for all of your contributions to this newsletter. Keep the articles and photos coming. We want to hear from more clubs about who is speaking and what you are doing with your meeting times.

Deadline for the next newsletter is August 21st at midnight, so get your material in to us!

Linda and Gina



Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

September 2016



Outgoing GBA President Mary Cahill-Roberts speaking on summer hive inspections to the Lake Country Beekeepers in August, 2016

President's Message

Excitement is building up for the fall meeting. This lineup of speakers is fantastic. I have had the pleasure of hearing one of our speakers, Michael Palmer, at Eastern Apiculture Society and on the Internet. I am eager to hear his take on the sustainable apiary and see what he has changed over the past few years.

I am also happily anticipating Phyllis Stiles and her talk on the pollinator garden. For my birthday a few years back we planted a pollinator garden in the backyard. I have seen more types of pollinators out there and it is amazing. Two days ago I saw a hummingbird trying to get one of the butterfly bush flowers. It was an interesting sight.

Jennifer Berry from UGA will be coming to counterbalance Dr. Ellis from Florida. Hopefully we will not have too much football rivalry going on. They both are going to give us good information about the current state of affairs in academia.

I am really excited about the speakers panel on Friday afternoon that will feature our main speakers for

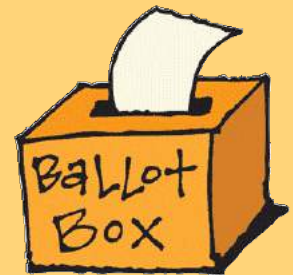
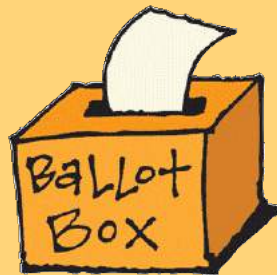
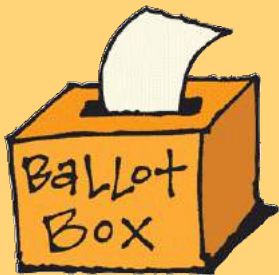
an open question and answer session until we finish that day. We will then return at 7pm for the ice cream social and awards show.

We are instituting a Honey Judge's Council, almost like continuing education. This was a brilliant idea from Bear Kelley. He has been keeping the list of the available judges who are graduating from Young Harris and this is a great way to talk about problems, issues, concerns and generally fun ideas from the honey show. This year our best of show prize has gone up so I encourage everyone to bring your products. Check the rules!

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting! Come to the board meeting Thursday night, to see how we do things. Everyone is welcome. After the board meeting we will have a reception at the Fairfield Inn.

Mary Cahill-Roberts

GBA President



We are changing the voting process for our GBA elections!

Every year at the fall meeting, GBA elects officers for the next year. Our by-laws require that you may only vote for officers if you are present at the annual meeting for the vote. At the upcoming meeting, the vote will be held on Friday, October 7.

In the past, we have presented a slate of people who had agreed to serve in each office and the members voted to approve the slate. This year we have some changes in the election process. In several positions, we have two candidates or more running for the office. This is a GREAT thing. We need people involved who want to move the organization forward. We can have that when we have people who actually want to contribute!

This new ballot voting system will go into effect this meeting. Please be patient with us.

This is how the system will work:

When you check in at the registration table on Friday, you will receive a ballot. To get a ballot you will have to be a member whose dues are paid up to date. You will decide who you want to vote for; mark your ballot; then proceed to the ballot box and check in. Your name will be checked off of our list, you will put your ballot in the box, and you'll receive your nametag and meeting program.

Voting will close at 4:15 pm on Friday.

The votes will be counted, and at the end of the business meeting on Saturday we will present our new board. If you have questions please let us know (randyrolen@hotmail.com or dfowler1965@hotmail.com).

SAMPLE BALLOT



Georgia Beekeepers Association

OFFICIAL ELECTION BALLOT
ANNUAL OFFICER ELECTION

<p>GBA President Vote for one</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Andy Bailey</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Linda Tillman</p> <p>_____ Write – In Candidate</p>	<p>GBA Treasre Vote for one</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rose Anne Fielder</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bear Kelley</p> <p>_____ Write- In Candidate</p>	<p>GBA Director Vote for two</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Brutz English</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tim Hoffman</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Terry Moore</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Robert L. Quarterman</p>
<p>GBA Vice President Vote for one</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gina Gallucci</p> <p>_____ Write – In Candidate</p>	<p>GBA Secretary Vote for one</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jane Quattlebaum</p> <p>_____ Write – In Candidate</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Dale Richter</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Broadus Williams</p> <p>_____ Write – In Candidate</p> <p>_____ Write – In Candidate</p>

Please review this **sample** ballot of members running for office. It is only for your review. At our state meeting official ballots will be made available to members. State dues should be paid up to date in order to receive official ballot for voting.

For those who need to pay their membership dues and/or check and see if you are a paid member, [click here](#). Login with the email used for your GBA newsletter and your password. In order to vote your dues must be paid up to date.

Thank you,

The Nominating Committee
Derrick Fowler, Randy Rolan

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, October 6

7:00 PM Board Meeting

8:00 PM Welcome Reception at Fairfield Inn: For all conference attendees

Friday, October 7

7:30 - 8:30 President's Breakfast A meeting of all attending local club presidents. Location: Fairfield Inn

Honey Show Entries: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM in Room 106

GBA Officer Elections: Ballots may be cast by GBA members between from 8:00 AM-4:15 PM at the registration table

9:00-9:15 Opening remarks: Mary Cahill-Roberts, GBA President

9:15-10:00 Jamie Ellis, PhD: *What's Happening to Our Bee*

Colonies? An overview of stressors impacting managed honey bee colonies and a discussion of what the colony loss numbers really mean.

10:00-10:45 Michael Palmer: *The Sustainable Apiary*

We all lose bees in the winter, and replacing those bees can get expensive. I suggest we use the brood and bee resources in our non-productive colonies to make mid-summer nuclei, which are over-wintered, becoming our replacement bees, come spring. The presentation includes theory, history, and management of nucleus colonies.

10:45-11:00 Break

11:00-11:40 Breakout Sessions A

11:45-12:00 Bear Kelley & Jennifer Berry:
Georgia Prison Beekeeping Programs

12:00-1:00 LUNCH

1:00-1:45 Phyllis Stiles: *Bee City USA & Bee Campus USA*

While three-quarters of the world's plant species rely on pollinators to reproduce, honeybees and other pollinators are in decline. The Bee City USA and Bee Campus USA programs engage large and small cities and counties in converting to PC (pollinator conscious) landscaping on public and private land.

1:45-2:00 Break

2:00-2:40 Breakout Sessions B

2:45-3:30 Shane Gebauer: *Beekeeping Ain't Easy*

The amount of information given to novice beekeepers can be daunting, overwhelming, and many times a sufficient barrier to one getting started. Let's distill it down and focus on the basics so that we can be successful.

3:30-4:15 Dwight Wells: *The Importance of Honey Bees*

Nutrition Honey Bees require adequate protein and carbohydrates to maintain excellent health year round. This presentation explores why the queen, drones and workers need proper nutrition to be able to keep the colony healthy. Beekeepers will receive info on how to monitor and feed their bees.

4:15-5:00 Q&A Speaker Panel Jamie Ellis, Michael Palmer, Bear Kelley, Jennifer Berry, Phyllis Stiles, Shane Gebauer and Dwight Wells will answer your questions.

Dinner on your own

7:00 Friday Night Social: *Distinctions and Desserts*

Honey Show Winners, Georgia Beekeeper of the Year Award, Auction

Saturday, October 8

9:00-10:15 GBA Annual Business Meeting

10:15-10:45 Courtney Wadley:

Report of GBA Funded Research Project

10:45-11:00 Break

11:00-11:45 Breakout Sessions C

11:45-12:30 LUNCH

12:15-12:30 Raffles and Announcements

12:30-1:15 Michael Palmer:

A Successful Annual Management Plan

I present my annual colony management plan, in a climate where the bees can be buried under snow for months at a time, with no opportunity for winter cleansing flights.

1:15-2:00 Shane Gebauer: *Keeping Bees Alive*

The challenge for any beekeeper is to keep their hive healthy and alive. To be successful we must understand why they are dying and then we can take steps to prevent it. Being attentive to just a few management tasks will profoundly increase the hive's chances of survival.

2:10-2:50 Breakout Sessions D

2:50-3:05 Break

3:05-3:55 Jennifer Berry: *Let's talk Oxalic*

3:55-4:40 Jamie Ellis, PhD:

The Amazing Honey Bee: Design and Function

Honey bees are marvelous creatures. In this lecture, you will discover how honey bee bodies complement their function and lead to highly developed insect societies.

4:40 Safe Travels

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Friday, October 7 • Breakout Sessions A

Minimizing the impact of pesticides on honey bees - Jamie Ellis, PhD
Have pesticides got you down? In this lecture, Jamie discusses the steps you can take to lessen negative interactions between your bees and pest control products. **Location: Main Conference Room**

Identifying the apiary as the super-organism - Jennifer Berry
Location: Room 202

Experiences and Journeys as a Small-Scale Commercial Beekeeper - Slade Jarrett
Experiences, journeys, hardships, and rewards of making beekeeping a main stream income and understanding the necessary equipment needed to migrate bees without breaking your back is all a part of becoming successful. In order to have a thriving commercial operation it requires hard work, tirelessly long days and nights. **Location: Room 216**

Insurance for the beekeeper - Alan Bunch
Do you have the protection you want and need? What are the financial risks you face? How to protect the risks you face by using insurance as a risk management technique. **Location: Room 217**

How to prepare honey for a show - Keith Fielder
Location: Conference Room-B

Friday, October 7 • Breakout Sessions B

Queen rearing in the Sustainable Apiary: Part 1 - Michael Palmer
Brother Adam said, many times, "Let the bees show you." No truer words have ever been spoken. Let me show you how I use a variation of Bro. Adam's cell building method, to grow quality queen stock in my sustainable apiary. **Location: Main Conference Room**

Creating pollinator habitat gardens - Kim Bailey
Examine habitat needs of our native bees, butterflies, moths, etc. plus learn ways to entice those delightful dynamos of the garden, ruby-throated hummingbirds. Invite monarchs to lunch by growing milkweed and discover how to attract a variety of other fascinating pollinators and beneficial insects by providing a succession of blooms. **Location: Room 202**

Your bees made it through the winter, now what? - Shane Gebauer
Many new beekeepers focus on the first season and then scramble to in early spring after the colony successfully overwintered. The management and beekeeping is different for an overwintered colony versus starting a new one. Understanding those differences can set the stage for success in year two. **Location: Conference Room-B**

Creating and managing nucs - Dwight Wells
The how & why of creating nucs using local adapted honey bee stock with locally adapted queens mated with healthy drones will be discussed. A detailed procedure that is easy to follow that provides the proper age of bees, successful queen introduction and proper management of the nuc for future use. **Location: Room 216**

How to use club management software - Linda Tillman
Find out how simple computer software can manage your club membership, get people to pay their dues, collect dues, help with publishing a newsletter, set up your club honey show or short course or picnic. GBA uses Wild Apricot so we will demonstrate using that program. **Location: Room 217**

Saturday, October 8 • Breakout Sessions C

Queen rearing in the Sustainable Apiary: Part 2 - Michael Palmer
Location: Main Conference Room

Pollinators, A Vital Key to Our Planet's Resiliency - Phyllis Stiles
Until they started declining, pollinators were taken for granted. Now elite national and international task forces are producing pollinator status reports and strategic plans to sustain them. This talk is a snapshot of the invaluable ecosystem services they provide—it's much more than honey. **Location: Room 202**

An effective varroa mite management plan: Part 1 - Dwight Wells
What beekeepers need to know about varroa mites. Watch bees killing mites! The anatomy and biology of the varroa mite. The problems mites cause, what happened to our 300 years genetic drone gene pool. How to monitor mite populations. The seven stages of beekeeping grief because of mites. **Location: Conference Room-B**

Teaching Kids about Bees & Pollinators - Kim Bailey
Wondering what to do when your club is invited to provide an educational program at a school, camp, festival, or fair? We've got you covered with a wealth of ideas and teaching resources for large group presentations, fun outdoor games, and in-depth learning projects plus displays and interactive activities for exhibit tables. **Location: Room 216**

Honey Show Council Meeting - Bear Kelley
All judges, stewards and show secretaries will be interested in attending this session as we are forming a "Judges Council" similar to the Presidents council. The purpose is to review the rules of the honey shows and share information about how each show will be conducted. **Location: Room 217**

Saturday, October 8 • Breakout Sessions D

An effective varroa mite management plan: Part 2 - Dwight Wells
Using mite tolerant and resistant bee stock. Purdue University mite grooming honey bees. How to control mites using the different levels of Integrated Pest Management practices to help maintain year long colony health. Threshold levels and graphs of bee and mite dynamics. How to prevent mite bombs. **Location: Conference Room-B**

Swarm management - Slade Jarrett
Swarm control should be part of every beekeepers management system. Regular inspections gives beekeepers the opportunity to check for signs that a colony is preparing to swarm. The goal is to have healthy strong hives at the start of a honey flow while preventing swarming to maximize the honey crop. **Location: Main Conference Room**

Alternate Hives: Beekeeping Outside the Box - Kathy Bourn
As ingenious as the honey bees themselves are the beekeepers who house them. We take a look at the origins of the honey bee hive and the many designs that can be used to keep bees. It's what puts the "keep" in "beekeeper". **Location: Room 217**

Four ways to harvest honey without an extractor - Linda Tillman
The backyard beekeeper can enjoy a delicious harvest without using an extractor. Come and learn how to harvest your honey with only a pan and a few utensils to wash! You'll also discover how to package your special honey to win prizes. **Location: Room 202**

Training honey show secretaries - Keith Fielder **Location: Room 216**

Show Me the Honey, and win you some money!

By Julia Mahood

To encourage more participation in the fall honey show, GBA is raising the stakes this year. Winner of the **Best in Show** will walk away with \$250! Additionally, in each of the categories winners could receive the following awards:

\$100 First \$30 Second \$20 Third

Note that above it says “could” receive. That’s because the Welsh honey judging system compares each entry to a certain standard, and not just compares the entries to each other as in other judging systems. You may have noticed at other meetings that there have been several entries in a category but only a second place ribbon was awarded. That entry met the criteria for second place, but not first.

Besides the cash, why should I enter the honey show?

- Try something new! Never bottled chunk honey before? Been wanting to try to make creamed honey? Give it a whirl and you may find some new products that you enjoy offering to friends, family and customers. Categories other than “extracted” generally have far fewer entries, so entering these give you a higher chance of winning.
- You will learn what you did well and what you need to work on—the judges fill out comment cards on every entry. Since judging is “blind” the judges don’t know which entry is yours so you can be assured that you will get honest feedback.
- Even if it was not a productive year in your apiary there are categories that don’t require honey: candles, photography, crafts, and art.
- It costs you nothing to enter the show... but time. And there’s a category that doesn’t even require time: the black jar category. Every member who extracted at least a few spoonfuls of honey should enter this contest. There are no requirements for container size or anything else as this category is judged on taste alone. To quote a certain honey judge whose initials are Keith Fielder, “I don’t care if there’s a dead cockroach floating in the jar, if it tastes the best, it wins”.
- Paying attention to detail and cleanliness as required for award winning entries trains us to maintain high standards when producing honey products.
- Competition is fun!

Tips for a successful honey show

1. Read the show rules. [Follow this link](#) for a detailed description of all categories
2. Read the show rules again. The GBA requirements may be different from your local club’s—don’t get disqualified because you made your wax block the wrong size.
3. Register for the fall meeting and... read the rules again!

Need help?

The internet has lots of resources to help you prepare. GBA members Linda Tillman and Virginia Webb both have numerous videos and tutorials available to read and watch.

Links:

Linda Tillman’s blog:

- [Chunk Honey](#)
- [Making Cut Comb Honey](#)
- [Creamed Honey](#)
- [Wax and Honey for Competition](#)

Virginia Webb’s videos

- [Strained Honey](#)
- [Chunk Honey](#)
- [Beeswax Candles](#)
- [Beeswax Block](#)

Entries will be received in room 106 on Friday morning, October 7, until noon. Winners will be announced at the “Distinctions and Desserts” on Friday evening at 7:00 PM.



CALLING ALL DONORS!

Hopefully the title got your attention. No I don't need a kidney, but we do need your donations for the Fall Meeting Silent Auction. This is a huge contributor to the GBA funds and the more donations we can get, the more money goes back into our funds to enable us to bring in top quality speakers for our meetings, scholarship funds, etc. Donations can range from a hive tool you have never used to a complete hive body. Those items over \$100 in value will be added to the live auction. Please go through your equipment, your pantry, your local bee supplier and find it within yourself to donate to the greatest bee association in the Southeast (and the USA). Bring your donations to the October meeting in Milledgeville and drop off information will be forthcoming. Thank you for your contribution to our great organization.

Jane Quattlebaum



MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION TODAY

The Fairfield Inn in Milledgeville is holding a block of rooms for our GBA meeting. The manager will **only hold the room block until Sept. 6th**. Please make arrangements today!

GBA Supports Local Clubs with Fall Meeting Breakouts

One of the missions of our GBA is to support our local clubs. As the meeting is planned, we make an effort to include topics and speakers who might provide help in operating your local club and in supporting your members.

This year there are four talks on Saturday which are designed to help local clubs.

1. **Joey Shipp** will give a presentation on insurance and the beekeeper. His description of his talk: *Do you have the protection you want and need? What are the financial risks you face? How to protect the risks you face by using insurance as a risk management technique.*
2. **Kim Bailey** will give a talk on how to teach kids about bees and pollinators. This should help with Junior Beekeeping programs. Her description of her talk: *Wondering what to do when your club is invited to provide an educational program at a school, camp, festival, or fair? We've got you covered with a wealth of ideas and teaching resources for large group presentations, fun outdoor games, and in-depth learning projects plus displays and interactive activities for exhibit tables.*
3. **Linda Tillman** will give a talk on how to manage your club using a computer software program (like GBA does for our members). Her description of the talk: *Find out how simple computer software can manage your club membership, get people to pay their dues, collect dues, help with publishing a newsletter, set up your club honey show or short course or picnic. GBA uses Wild Apricot so we will demonstrate using that program.*
4. **Keith Fielder** will do a training for honey show secretaries which should help clubs in their efforts to put on honey shows.

We hope your club will send a representative to each of these talks to take information back to your members.

Minutes from Fall Meeting 2015

Andy Bailey, Secretary, 2015:

The minutes from the GBA Membership meeting last fall will not be read at the fall meeting. Instead we offer them to you here. They are available on the web with the minutes from past years. You can [find them here](#).

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
CEBA	Bear Kelley	Mon 9/12 7pm	Oatland Island	
Effingham County Beekeepers	Cyndi Ball "Treasures from the Hive"	Sat 9-17, 8:30am	841 Old Dixie Hwy	Springfield, GA
Forsyth Beekeepers		Thur 9/22 6:30	UNG	Cumming, GA
Heart of Georgia	"Bear" Kelley - How to prepare honey for judging	Tues, 9/20 7 PM	Camp John Hope	Fort Valley, GA
Heart of Georgia	Beekeeping 201: How to keep your bees alive during overwintering	Sat, 9/10 10am	Camp John Hope	Ft Valley, GA
Lake Country	TBA	Mon 9/19 7 PM	UGA 4H Extension office	Sparta, GA
Ogeechee Area BK	Broadus Williams	Thur 9/29 5:00 PM	RJ's Seafood & Steak	Statesboro, GA
Paulding County Beekeepers	"Beekeeping College"	Sat, 11-5	Chattahoochee Technical College – Paulding Campus	Dallas, GA
Tera Beekeepers	Debbie King, RN	Mon 9/19 7:00	Georgia Power Bldg.	Forest Park, GA
Tri County Beekeepers	Amanda Browning: home made cough syrup, making Jewel Weed salve	Mon 9/12 7 PM	Gillsville City Park 7864 County Line Road	Gillesville
West Georgia	Jennifer Leavey: Urban Beekeeping/ Honey Show Prep	Mon 9/26 7 PM	American Legion	Douglasville, GA

Club News and Notes

Heart of Georgia

by Rick Moore

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers held their monthly meeting on August 16. "Bear" Kelley gave his presentation *Honey: The Inside Story*. The next meeting will be September 20, when we hold our annual black jar honey tasting contest.

On Saturday, August 20, members participated in National Honey Bee Day at the Jimmy Carter Boyhood Farm in Plains, GA. The Sam Short Line Railroad brought over 225 people to the farm who visited the homestead and the dozen honey and beekeeping booths that were set up.

Jesse McCurdy brought his observation hive which was the hit of the day. Members from the Albany club were also present and had displays for the guests.



Lake Country Beekeepers Association

by Mary Lacksen

The Lake Country Beekeepers Association welcomed Mary Cahill-Roberts, President of Georgia Beekeepers Association, to the August club meeting. We had standing room only for members and guests who came to hear Mary's talk on "Summer Hive Inspections." Mary is a Georgia Master Beekeeper and manages ten hives in the Mableton, GA area including hives at a local community garden. She shared her good and bad beekeeping experiences with emphasis on quality bee nutrition. Her feeding supplement includes Honey Bee Healthy mixed with 2:1 sugar water syrup with an in-hive feeder. In late fall and early winter, she adds probiotics to this mixture. As a result, her hives are not chemically treated for varroa mites. We can expect to see varroa mite populations to increase in the last summer as the bee population declines. Removing the queen from the hive, or caging her for three weeks, serves to reduce the mite population as there will be no brood to support mite egg development. Mary encouraged GBA membership and registering for the October 7th-8th, 2016 fall meeting in Milledgeville.



Hives on Soybeans

by Mary Lacksen

In July, I placed two hives on a soybean field in Washington County Georgia. This photo shows the one hive with one full medium super of honey. The weather conditions were very dry and the farmer did not spray any fungicide. I would be interested in knowing about other beekeepers' experience with hives on soybeans.

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers

by Kathy Bourn

Last month The Lake Hartwell Beekeepers got great advice for putting more pennies in their honey pots. Lena Franklin demonstrated various ways to use all the products from the honey bee hive. Salves, lip balms, and creams are her specialty.

Lena is following in her grandfather and dad's footsteps. They kept bees back in the day in North Carolina and, obviously, she paid attention. She is known to many school children as the Bee Lady and is a certified beekeeper. She has been keeping bees for about 20 years with her husband Donnis. They have about 13 hives at present in Winder Georgia.



Paulding County Beekeepers

The Paulding County Beekeepers will be hosting "Beekeeping College" on Saturday, November 5, 2016 at Chattahoochee Technical College – Paulding Campus, in Dallas, Georgia. The one day event is 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM and features Dr. Brett Nolan as keynote speaker.

Attendees will get to select from a beginner, intermediate, advanced, or general audience block of sessions that will include three classes and a plenary speaker.

Session topics include: Beekeeping 101; A Year in the Apiary; Honey Harvesting & Packaging; Splitting Colonies; Queen Rearing; Lotions, Potions, and Oils; Nutrition for Bees; Advanced Bee Biology; Varroa Control; Planting for Pollinators; Pests and Diseases; First Aid in the Apiary; and the Business of Beekeeping.

Registration opens September 1, 2016. Cost of attendance is \$40 for club members, \$50 for non-members, and \$25 for students ages 14-18. Space is limited to 150. Registration closes October 30, 2016 or when capacity is reached.

Lunch will be provided. Many vendors are offering door prizes and literature. A photography contest; Arts & Crafts Exhibit; and Honey Show will be offered for paid registrants. For more information visit www.PauldingBeekeepersClub.com



Dooly State Prison

by Rick Moore

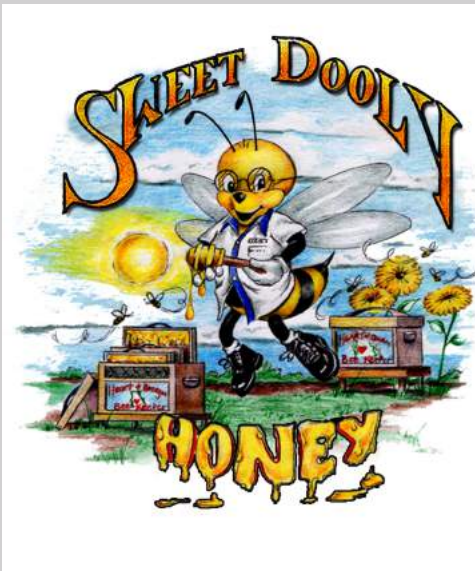
Dooly State Prison in Unadilla, GA, harvested honey for the first time since the inception of the beekeeping class in February.

The 12 inmates in the program started with three packages of bees and two nucs, and have grown them into eight producing hives. 130 pounds of honey thrilled not only the inmate students, but the prison staff and 13WMAX Macon TV personality Suzanne Lawler, who was there filming the event. The feature segment as seen on the news can be seen by [following this link](#).

At Dooly, 198 inmates signed up, hoping to be selected for the first class of 12. The second class which starts in September has even more candidates for the 12 seats. Heart of Georgia President Rick Moore, who is teaching the class, said the first class of inmates will act as mentors one on one with the inmates in the second class, thus spreading the knowledge base and keeping the first class involved.

Dooly inmates designed the honey label logo which incorporates the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers logo in it as a thank you to the club for sponsoring this program.

The Dooly beekeepers are looking forward to entering their honey in the special prison category at the Fall GBA meeting in Milledgeville in October.



"We all make bad decisions in life. Some worse than others..."

Admittedly we are in prison because of those bad decisions. No matter how you feel about inmates, we all need a second chance in life.

The Georgia Beekeepers Association, University of Georgia, and the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers are giving us that second chance. This program is a positive influence on us. It gives us something to be proud of. That means more to us than you think. Every one that I talk to said the same thing: that we just need some help, the chance to show the outside world that change is starting from the inside.

Only a handful of prison staff take the time to get to know us. Those people show us that some people do care about us, and do want to see the best for us. Just like Rick Moore stated, he was reminded of a small child looking into a candy store window as we were looking for the queen in the observation hive. Beekeeping does more than you would ever think. Over 200 inmates signed up for this program, all from different backgrounds, religions, races, and even gangs, brought together by this small bee. We forget everything and nothing matters except the bees. We work together, and learn from one another.

Prison is a complex society, much like a beehive. But with no true opportunity to better ourselves we remain a burden on our families and society. With this program I see the hope in the other inmates' eyes and see how proud they are by doing something that matters in the world. Georgia has one of the largest prison systems in the US with over 52,000 state prisoners. And this program gives us hope and a feeling of worth. It is helping to change our lives and to bring us together."

by Josh Layman, Inmate at Dooly State Prison

Dear Aunt Bee,

Why is honey sticky?
signed,

It's on everything

Dear It's on Everything!

We often ask GBA experts to answer Aunt Bee questions. This time we turned to Bear Kelley who gives talks all over the state on honey and its qualities. Here is what Bear replied:



Honey is so sticky because.....

of hydrogen bonds.. Unlike other some bonds, hydrogen bonds form between molecules instead of between atoms in a compound. The attraction between honey and your fingers is due to hydrogen bonds in the honey attracting molecules in your fingers.

Honey is water, fructose, and glucose. The last two are simple sugars, also known as monosaccharides. These three ingredients make up 86% of honey, with other sugars making up the bulk of the rest. Sugars bind well to water. The 17% of honey that is water has nearly all of the molecules bonded (with hydrogen bonds) to sugar, so that little water remains to support bacteria or molds. This is why honey needs no refrigeration. The hydrogen bonds between the sugars and the water make the honey viscous, so it pours slowly and feels thick. Those same bonds make it stick to your fingers. But water also bonds to your fingers with hydrogen bonds, but doesn't feel sticky. What is the difference?

When your fingers get wet, they do tend to stick to one another a little bit more than when they are dry. But water does not stick very well to itself, so when you pull your wet fingers apart, a little water remains on each finger. The water sticks to your fingers more than it sticks to itself.

Honey sticks to itself far more than water does. You can see this when you pour the two liquids out of a cup. The honey takes a long time to pour out. When the honey sticks to your fingers, it also sticks to itself. You have to use more force to pull your fingers apart than when they were just wet with water.

We call that feeling "sticky."

Bear Kelley,

Welsh Honey Judge

Aren't we lucky to have so many experts in the Georgia Beekeeping Association? Thank you, Bear.

Don't forget to wash up!

Aunt Bee



Street Cred

This just in from [Coin Update](#)

Now we need to do the same in the USA.

Submitted by Rick Moore

Insecticide Can Cut Bee Sperm by Nearly 40 Percent, [Study Finds](#)

Submitted by Philip Dreger

"Not a single bee has ever sent you an invoice. And that is part of the problem - because most of what comes to us from nature is free, because it is not invoiced, because it is not priced, because it is not traded in markets, we tend to ignore it."

Pavan Sukhdev, United Nations report, The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity

Was swarm season extra long this year?

We started seeing swarms in Middle Georgia in late February and lasted up into the summer. That's not long you say, but wait. I had a swarm on August 20 (I caught it as they crawled across the ground, go to Facebook - Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Group Page for video) and had phone calls of swarms on August 21 and 22!

But I'm not complaining.

Rick Moore

There's so much going on in August. Bee season is ending. We are busily preparing for the conference in Milledgeville in October (have you registered? [Click here!](#)) (Have you made your hotel reservation? Call: (478) 452-5202)

It always takes a village -

Many, many thanks to all of you who contribute to making an exceptional meeting. Thanks to 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. We hope that everyone can put faces with names at our Fall GBA meeting so we can both cheer and learn from each other. We are looking forward to seeing you in Milledgeville,



Linda and Gina

Spilling the Honey

GBA Monthly Newsletter

Editors: Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman

October 2016



GBA Conference attendees listen attentively to a speaker

President's Message

Fall is in the air. I woke up this morning after the wonderful thunderstorm last night and found that there was a crisp coolness to the air, although it was 64 degrees outside. My bees have been flying looking for the goldenrod and my hives are taking on that typical odor that they have in the fall.

I am excited about the meeting, which is less than two weeks away and we are going to have some really good speakers, from throughout the nation and locally. I expect I will learn something over the course of the conference. We are going to have a Friday night social and our **Beekeeper of the Year** announcement which I look forward to every year.

There are a lot of activities throughout the state and the clubs are becoming much more involved and active in educating our neighbors about honey bees, pollination and pesticides. More research has come out about the pesticides that bees pick up when foraging. Kim Flottum wrote in *Bee Culture* about the amount of pesticides that bees are exposed to when collecting resources. I will be interested to hear what the other experts tell us. I think we really need to get out and educate our neighbors on pesticides and stopping the madness! Really what does a green lawn provide for the

environment? As we become educated, we should be educating others.

This will be my last message as I am handing over the reins to our new president. This year we have several people who are running for officer positions so you, the members, will be required to choose the persons who you think will be a good fit and keep our organization running well. I have been involved at the state level for five years and I believe in term limits. It is always a good thing to involve more people so we can have fresh, new ideas for the club.

I will continue to support the new president when she or he may need my services and I will continue to work at the local level to educate people about honey bees, pollination and the environment.

Thank you for giving me the privilege of serving as president over the past year and on the board the previous four years.

Mary Cahill-Roberts
GBA President



If you don't read anything else in the newsletter, read THIS:

Desserts! Desserts! Desserts!

Show off your baking skills! Bring a dessert to share with your fellow beekeepers on Friday night at our *Distinctions and Desserts* social gathering. We'd love cookies, cakes—any yummy goodies that you would like to donate. We'll supply honey ice cream to go with your delicious contributions. You may drop off your goodies when you register, or bring them on Friday night.



Silent and Live Auction items needed

Our meetings are expensive. We have great speakers, good facilities, nice lunches. To provide all of that for you takes **\$\$\$\$\$**. Help us raise the funds to cover our event costs by bringing a bee item to give to the silent or live auction. Jane Quattlebaum is in charge. You can [email her](#) with any questions. And of course, plan to come to the auction with your wallet and bid, bid, bid!



GBA Fall Conference

It's not too late [to register for the GBA fall conference](#) in Milledgeville, GA. The conference is on Friday and Saturday, October 7 - 8. The speakers are outstanding.

- Jamie Ellis, always entertaining and full of information, is coming to talk to us from the University of Florida.
- Michael Palmer, a beekeeper from Vermont who has a program on sustainable beekeeping, will be sharing his knowledge with us.
- Dwight Wells, a well-known Ohio beekeeper, will talk to us about managing varroa with mite-tolerant stock.
- Shane Gebauer, from Brushy Mountain Bee Company, will help us know how to handle our colonies that make it through the winter.

In addition to these speakers, we have breakouts and other talks by Phyllis Stiles who chairs Bee City, USA; Kim Bailey from North Carolina, who will teach us how to help children grow their interest in bees; and a number of well-known Georgia beekeepers: Jennifer Berry, Slade Jarrett, Bear Kelley, Linda Tillman, Kathy Bourn, Keith Fielder. If you want to see the entire program, [click here](#).

The meeting begins with the Board of Directors meeting on Thursday night. Anyone is welcome to attend and each local club is encouraged to send a representative to vote on issues. Following the board meeting, a reception will be held at the Fairfield Inn.

Election of officers and board members will be held on Friday. When you register for the meeting, if your dues are up to date, you can vote by paper ballot. The new GBA officers and board will be announced at the business meeting at the beginning of the day on Saturday.

In addition to education and gathering information, our meeting includes a honey show with monetary prizes (Best in Show: \$250, first place winners: \$100). On Friday evening after we break for dinner we'll have *Distinctions and Desserts*—a fun social event featuring

live and silent auctions, where winners of the honey show will be awarded and the Beekeeper of the Year will be announced. Feel free to contribute anything bee related to the auction!

Please bring a dessert to share with your beekeeping friends on Friday night, and we'll also serve delicious honey ice cream, made with Georgia honey.

Last year we awarded a Buzz Fund grant to Courtney Wadley, who put the money to good use and did an outstanding bee project, with the mentoring help of Julia Mahood and with the cooperation of Jennifer Leavey and the Ga Tech beehives. Courtney will report on her use of the Buzz Fund grant at the Saturday meeting - maybe when you hear her report, you'll be inspired to apply for a Buzz Fund grant yourself!

Meetings like this don't just happen. Jennifer Berry invited all of our speakers, organized their topics and arranged the schedule; Julia Mahood and Linda Tillman set up the registration and organized the way the event happens at the college (ordered your lunches, assigned the rooms, printed the name tags, etc.); and Julia Mahood also designed the program. Others who have helped include Randy Rolen and Derrick Fowler who set up the election; Kathy Bourn and Brutz English who worked on the raffle; Jane Quattlebaum who set up the live and silent auctions; and all of the honey show judges and helpers.

Does all of this make you want to come to the meeting? It's not too late to register. [Just click here](#).



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.

As you can see, only a few clubs sent in their information this month. Please help the new editors feel successful by sending in your information every month. It is not only good for the newsletter, but helps other clubs get ideas about speakers and topics.

Club Name	Speaker/Topic	When	Where	City
Clarks Hill	Nathan Beach: Beekeeping in the 60's	Mon 10/3 7 PM	Columbia County Extension	Appling, GA
Forsyth	TBA	Thur 10/27 6:30	UNG	Cumming GA
Gwinnett County	Annual Honey Show: Nicholas Weaver, Welsh Honey Judge	Wed. 10/11 7:00	202 Hebron Church Rd.	Dacula, GA
Heart of Georgia	Officer nominations & new club	Tues 10/18 7:00	Camp John Hope	Fort Valley, GA
MABA	Jennifer Berry: TBA	10/12 Wed 7:00	Atlanta Botanical Garden	Atlanta, GA
Tara Beekeeping	Annual Picnic	Sat. 10/15 11:00	Rick & Joann Minters Farm	
West Georgia	Chuck Mills Candle making/ Honey Show	Mon 10/24 7:00	American Legion	Douglasville, GA

Dear Aunt Bee,

Why do honey bees not reuse wax when there is so much available?

Best regards,

Hoping to recycle

Dear Hoping,

Mark Winston, author of the *Biology of the Honey Bee*, writes that bees, while they don't typically re-use wax, do recycle in the sense that the cells are used over and over. When a bee emerges, the cell is then cleaned and polished and re-used for another bee. In addition the wax cappings over the larvae and honey can

sometimes be recycled by the bee by thinning them prior to uncapping and then using the thinned wax flakes for construction elsewhere. He refers to a study which supports this.

So our bees are more green than orange sometimes! Our bees can be good stewards!

Aunt Bee



Club News and Notes

Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett member Jeremy Brown won this t-shirt in Heart of GA Beekeepers monthly raffle. The clever shirt was donated by Dale Richter of the Buzz Fuzz Bee Removal of Albany, GA.



Master Gardeners of Middle Georgia held their Fall Plant Sale in Macon recently. Heart of GA Beekeepers were invited as special guests to show our observation hive and educate viewers about honey bees and beekeeping. Jack Floyd and Rick Moore represented our club.

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers:

It was a busy month at Heart of Georgia Beekeepers, we held our first ever *Beekeeping 201: How to keep our bees alive during overwintering* on September 10 to a class of 75 people.

We plan to hold our Beekeeping 101 - Intro to Beekeeping, and to create a queenrearing class, both to be held in the Spring 2017.

At our September meeting, the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association held three events at the same time. While Bear Kelley instructed members on the proper way to fill honey jars for competition in ring one, in ring two we held our annual Black Jar Honey Tasting competition, or as we like to call it, the People's Choice Award, and in ring three many of the more experienced beekeepers met individually and in small groups to answer all the members' beekeeping questions.

The event was a huge success within all the confusion and moving around at the same time, members enjoyed themselves and learned too.



Bear Kelley won the Black Jar contest, Anita Curry won second place and Jonathan Hayes won third place. Congratulations to all our winners and the 20+ entrants who brought their honey.

At the request of the local Farm Bureau who held agriculture days at some of our elementary schools recently, Heart of Georgia sent representatives to speak with the youth about honey bees and beekeeping. C. J. Holmes made his presentation at Morningside Elementary in Perry, while Jackie DeFore spoke to children at Eagle Springs Elementary in Centerville, GA.

Beekeeping is dependent on educating our next generations. We encourage your clubs to get involved with the schools and youth programs in your area.

CHATTOOGA BEEKEEPERS ATTEND HONEY HARVEST DAYS

The Creative Discovery Museum of Chattanooga TN hosts two days celebrating and educating during Honey Harvest Days. The Chattooga Beekeepers volunteered again this year and had the pleasure of helping all ages make soap, lip balm, live flower collages, roll candles, assist with a honey tasting and answer questions of all kinds concerning honey and honeybees. There was more interest this year in becoming a beekeeper and those questions were answered too, directing people to their local clubs. This year a honey show and a pollinator speaker was added which was a delight to all beekeepers attending.



Thea Chesley and Vivian Davis enjoy the observation hive at the Chattooga Agricultural Fair, never too young to learn about honey bees.

Live bees, free honey straws and a hive give away kept everyone buzzing at the Chattooga County Agricultural Fair. The observation hive fascinated passersby of all ages. The honey straws created sparkles in eyes and those who chose recipes or pamphlets also left with a prize.

Charlene Timmerman was one of more than 200 people placing a ticket in the barrel hoping to win a free hive set from the Chattooga Beekeepers. Charlene has never had bees before but wants to learn and start her first hive this spring.



The Beekeeper's Club of Gwinnett County has had a busy few weeks.

First there was the Annual Honey Bee Festival at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center on August 28th. The club has supported this event as community outreach for several years and members find it the perfect opportunity to engage folks interested in honey bees and beekeeping. Then jumping ahead a couple of weeks, the club has just wrapped up an 11 day presence at the Gwinnett County Fair. The club maintains a double booth in the exhibit hall and draws crowds with a question to ask, or tell of a memory of a family member that "kept bees," all

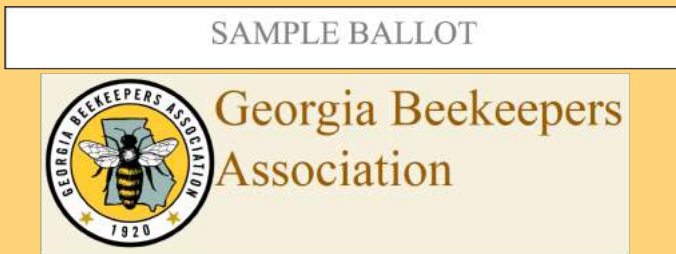


while trying to find the queen in the observation hive. The attention is steady and often times the crowd can be several rows deep. Staffing the booth is all voluntary and we have a great time filling those time slots.



**VOTE FRIDAY
OCTOBER 7 AT
GBA CONFERENCE**

**(only registered dues paid members
can have a ballot)**



OFFICIAL ELECTION BALLOT
ANNUAL OFFICER ELECTION

Please review this **sample** ballot of members running for office. It is only for your review. At our state meeting official ballots will be made available to members. State dues should be paid up to date in order to receive official ballot for voting.

For those who need to pay their membership dues and/or check and see if you are a paid member, [click here](#). Login with the email used for your GBA newsletter and your password. In order to vote your dues must be paid up to date.

Thank you,

The Nominating Committee
Derrick Fowler, Randy Rolen

GBA President
Vote for **one**

Andy Bailey

Linda Tillman

Write – In Candidate

GBA Vice President
Vote for one

Gina Gallucci

Write – In Candidate

GBA Treasure
Vote for **one**

Rose Anne Fielder

Bear Kelley

Write- In Candidate

GBA Secretary
Vote for one

Jane Quattlebaum

Write – In Candidate

GBA Director
Vote for **two**

Brutz English

Tim Hoffman

Terry Moore

Robert L. Quarterman

Dale Richter

Broadus Williams

Write – In Candidate

Write – In Candidate

Roman Honeyfingers From Epicurious**Ingredients**

- 2/3 cup plus 3/4 cup flour
- 1 cup whole milk (goat or cow)
- Olive oil
- 2 tablespoons cooking sherry or sweet wine
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/3 cup pine nuts, finely chopped
- Cinnamon to taste
- Ground black pepper to taste
- 1 cup honey, or more if needed
- Chopped pine nuts for garnish

**Preparation**

1. In a medium saucepan, whisk the 2/3 cup flour a little at a time into the cold milk so that there are no lumps. Add 1 tablespoon of the oil and the sherry, and cook on medium-high heat, stirring constantly, until a thick porridge forms. Remove the pan from the heat and continue to stir briskly to cool the mixture.
2. When the porridge is lukewarm, add the egg and stir briskly until it is blended. Stir in the pine nuts and a dash of cinnamon and pepper. Stir in the remaining 3/4 cup flour to make a dough that is sticky but can still be handled.
3. On a floured board with floured hands, press the dough out to a 1/2-inch-thick rectangle; cut it into finger-size strips.
4. Cover the bottom of a frying pan with a layer of olive oil about 1/2 inch deep. Heat the oil and fry the strips of dough until they are golden brown and crispy. Remove the fried strips to a plate covered with paper towels to drain. Dip them in honey and sprinkle them with cinnamon and pine nuts.

Street Cred

[REPORT A BEE KILL: Pollinator Stewardship Council](#)

Sam Alston [fall swarm video](#)

“For better or worse, honeybees are often much too busy to be bothered with personal reflection.”

Susan Brackney, Plan Bee:

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Hardest-Working Creatures on the Planet



Meet Your New Editors for the Newsletter:



Julia Mahood

I've been keeping bees since 2004 when I installed an observation hive in our family room and became the coolest mom in the neighborhood. Beekeeping fits in with my love of gardening, science, and art. I became a Georgia master beekeeper in 2012 and have enjoyed being an advocate for bees and beekeepers. A sideliner beekeeper, I enjoy making and selling hive products and honey. When I'm not sweating in a beesuit, I work as a graphic designer, calligrapher, and illustrator.

The job of GBA newsletter editor is a commitment that I don't take lightly. I believe that this organization has a responsibility to serve all beekeepers—hobbyist, sideliner, and commercial— as well as to support the local clubs where these beekeepers spend time learning, mentoring and enjoying the beekeeping life. The newsletter is the monthly connection within our membership, and it continues the job of education and club support that happens intensely at our two annual meetings.

Rick and I have some pretty huge shoes to fill—Linda and Gina have done a fantastic job of putting together a wonderful newsletter each and every month for four years, encouraging contributions from the GBA membership with creativity (Aunt Bee) and fun (puzzles and recipes). Bravo, ladies (but I wish you hadn't set the bar quite so high!)



Rick Moore

Having kept bees for four years I finally feel comfortable in what I'm doing and teaching. As President of the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association the opportunities to mentor and teach are nearly endless. I am proud to be the beekeeping instructor at Dooly State Prison, the author of the powerpoint "Beekeeping 201: How to keep our bees alive during overwintering," and a frequent contributor to *Spilling the Honey*.

As the Co-Editor with Julia, I look forward to working closely with all the Georgia beekeeping club presidents, to encourage and facilitate the bilateral flow of information. I

hope to glean from the mine of knowledge that is our membership, and share it monthly, thus educating and entertaining all with beekeeping.



A farewell to our Editors who have carried the ball for the past four years!

This is the last issue of the *Spilling the Honey* newsletter that Linda and Gina will produce for us. They took on this task four years ago when Jerry Edwards asked them to help out. Of course they don't just do things at half speed or just to get by. They have actually set the standard for this periodical and the standard is high.

Gina and Linda have been at every gathering GBA has had for these years and reported on all the happenings. They have dug into the local clubs and often had to pry out of them what they are doing for their communities and reported it for all to see. They created Aunt Bee and answered so many questions for our membership. Their technical articles were spot on, useful and very interesting.

In the few years I have been involved we have enjoyed dedication, professionalism and friendship unmatched in the past. Their work has been a major contributor to our rising membership numbers over these years. When you see them at the upcoming fall meeting, shake their hand, give them a hug and say thank you for all their hard work.

Thank you "Glinda" for all you have done for us!

***Bear Kelley,
Past President***

THE FINAL FINAL BUZZ

Thank you for letting us serve as your newsletter editors for the last four years. We have had so much fun. We've enjoyed getting to know you and getting to learn what the clubs across the state are doing. We've had fun sorting through your photos, reading your club news, answering Aunt Bee questions, reading about your swarms, learning more about beekeeping from your articles, and just putting the newsletter together.

We've loved meeting so many of you. We've come to every meeting for the last four years and have taken photos of you, interviewed you and generally covered the GBA news that occurs at those conferences. One year we handed out stickers to everyone who had written an article or sent us a photo. Another year we wore hats with PRESS passes stuck in the brim. Another year we ran a booth to drum up enthusiasm for submitting articles and information to us.

We've had a great time and have become really good friends as a result. We get together once a month and put the newsletter together. Sometimes we chat while we do it; sometimes we go out to dinner afterward. We always talk the next day when the dust has settled, and we then find many things that need correcting before the newsletter gets emailed. We always have fun and have become quite a well-functioning team.

We have full confidence that Julia and Rick will do a great job and wish them the best!

We hope you have enjoyed reading the newsletter as much as we have enjoyed putting it together! Thank you for your support through these four years,

Linda and Gina

Last Edition as Co-Editors

October 2016





Spilling *The* Honey

NOVEMBER 2016

GBA FALL MEETING OCTOBER 7 & 8, 2016



Thanks to these folks for contributing photos: Gina Gallucci, Rick Moore, Bill Owens, and Linda Tillman



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you for the very great honor of electing me to serve as your president. The Georgia Beekeepers Association is a vibrant, growing organization with 760 members. In this year's election for officers, I was excited to see that so many people wanted to serve GBA by running for office.

Our election slates included Andy Bailey, me, Gina Gallucci, RoseAnne Dorn, Bear Kelley, Jane Quattlebaum, Brutz English, Tim Hoffman, Terry Moore, Robert Quarterman, Dale Richter and Broadus Williams. What a fantastic selection of people from all over the state! Thank you all for running. Randy Rolen and Derrick Fowler did a great job managing the election. For those of you who did not get elected this time, your willingness to run shows your support for GBA. I hope each of you will find a place in GBA to contribute this year, and I hope each of you will consider running again.

For our fall meeting, Jennifer Berry invited dynamic speakers, Julia Mahood organized the meeting to perfection, and many people helped. The board meeting on Thursday night was well-attended and most of the committees appointed by Mary Cahill-Roberts, our past president, had completed their assignments. At the business meeting, after years of working tirelessly for GBA, Bill Owens was named Beekeeper of the Year.

Jamie Ellis' talk on honey bee biology ended our fall meeting. When he finished, I wanted to jump up and cheer. The passion he communicated was felt throughout the room as people stayed past the ending time of the conference to hear what he had to say. He shared what unites us all - our love for the honey bee.

My wish for GBA going forward is for the clubs in our organization to become more connected. When you've had a good speaker, please communicate that to other clubs so they can invite that speaker. If your club discovered something that helped with your short course, please share it so another club can try it too. If you've come up with a fund-raiser that worked for your club, please tell us about it.

The key to feeling like a part of GBA is to get involved. Although a member of GBA for years, I didn't really commit to the organization until four years ago when Gina and I began to edit the newsletter. Now I have taken on several different jobs in GBA, and each one increases my investment in GBA. I have made many new friends in GBA, and I love seeing you at your clubs when I come to speak, or at our two annual meetings.

If you would like to get involved with GBA, watch for ways to help. Maybe it will be something on the local level, like sending items to the newsletter for your own club. Maybe it will be on a larger level, like serving lunches at the annual meetings or helping at the registration desk. Maybe you'd like to work on GBA's 100th birthday celebration in 2020.

We will invite you to help every chance we get, so please, say YES!

Linda Tillman
GBA President



DID YOU NOTICE THIS GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE GBA FALL CONFERENCE?

These AP Biology students from the Georgia Military College and their teacher, Ms. Emily Boylan, are interested in learning more about bees and making plans to start a bee club on their Milledgeville campus. The Lake Country Beekeepers Association is assisting in the planning and wants GBA to know that their support makes a difference.

They are so grateful to Mary Cahill-Roberts and the GBA for allowing them to attend the Friday morning session.

Did you know that all students can attend GBA meetings for the cost of lunch? GBA supports the education of young beekeepers!

★ ELECTION REPORT 2016 ★

The GBA election for officers was held by secret ballot at the fall conference. Thanks go to Randy Rollen and Derrick Fowler, GBA directors who worked diligently to run a proper election in accordance with the by-laws.



President: Linda Tillman

Linda Tillman is a beekeeper, a grandmother, a bread baker and a recently retired clinical psychologist. She has served as the co-editor of the GBA newsletter for the last four years and as secretary of GBA. She co-founded the Atlanta Beekeeping Meetup and is a member of MABA, where she served on the board for many years. Linda began keeping bees eleven years ago and earned her Master Beekeeper in 2010. She keeps bees in her backyard, at community gardens, at an Atlanta inn, and in the mountains. Linda runs a blog that she started at the beginning of her beekeeping. Her blog (www.beekeeperlinda.com) is widely read by followers from all over the world. She's made videos about skills like harvesting honey and melting wax, and has written extensively of beekeeping adventures. Linda loves sharing her beekeeping fun with friends, children, grandchildren, new beekeepers, bee clubs and anyone who will listen.



Vice-President: Gina Gallucci

Gina Gallucci continues to learn and love beekeeping after 11 years. She joined the TARA and Metro Atlanta clubs. She served on the MABA board and then was president of MABA. Working on the MABA short course, chairing the swarm calls and answering the MABA phone gives her the opportunity to interact with beekeepers and the public, sharing knowledge about the fascinating honey bee. Gina keeps bees at her home and a nature preserve. She moved to Georgia from Washington State, and began a career in recruiting. Married 28 years, Gina has stepchildren, and a large, close extended family. Reading for pleasure introduced her to beekeeping, for which she is forever grateful, not only for learning the art and science of beekeeping, but especially for the many friendships which have developed along the journey. Gina currently served for four years as co-editor of our GBA newsletter.



Treasurer: Bear Kelley

Bear Kelley is retired from the US Army after 30 years as a logistics management officer. He is a certified beekeeper as well as a certified Welsh honey judge. He earned a Master's degree from Michigan State Univ. and is the past president of the Georgia Beekeepers Assn. His other offices include GBA vice-president, president of the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Assn, education board of the American Bee Federation. He serves on the board of directors of several national organizations. He has been beekeeping for about 10 years and operates a small apiary in south Georgia. Bear was selected as the 2014 GBA Beekeeper of the Year and 2015 Heart of Georgia Beekeeper of the Year.



Secretary: Jane Quattlebaum

Jane Quattlebaum started beekeeping four years ago after hearing a 45 minute presentation on beekeeping and, subsequently attending the



“Fundamentals of Beekeeping” hosted by Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association (CEBA). She was swarmed, one might say, and hasn't looked back. She currently is on the board of directors of CEBA, mentors about 10 beekeepers, and is the go to person for Savannah Bee Company when a bee removal needs to be done. Although she lives in Georgia, she is a certified beekeeper in South Carolina where she attended college at Furman University. She is also an active member of Beaufort/Jasper Beekeepers Association and the South Carolina Beekeepers Association. Her love for honeybees has infected those she mentors and her goal is to make people great bee“keepers” not just bee“havers.” When not tending bees, she works full-time for Teva Pharmaceuticals as a senior executive sales specialist.



Director: Brutz English

Brutz English has served on the GBA board of directors since 2013, and would very much like to continue to serve in this capacity. He currently serves as president of both the Henry County Beekeepers Association and the Potato Creek Beekeepers Club. Brutz earned a master beekeeper certification as well as a certified Welsh honey judge through the Young Harris/UGA Beekeeping Institute. He holds a commercial beekeepers license and a honey house license from the Georgia Department of Agriculture. In 2009, Brutz began keeping bees and over the following years his apiary has grown to over fifty colonies. The primary focus of his beekeeping operation is honey production. However, he also does agricultural pollination. He is active in several local bee clubs in the middle Georgia area. Brutz enjoys volunteering and public speaking almost as much as he does beekeeping.



Director: Broadus Williams

Broadus Williams has served on the GBA Board of Directors for the past two years. He has played an active part in the success of the GBA prison beekeeping program. Broadus is a leader in beekeeping 101 courses. Most recently he helped the Heart of Georgia club in its April beekeeping course. He is frequently found helping those new beekeepers getting started with their nucs or speaking in schools to our future beekeepers. Broadus is Vice-President of the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association.

GBA HONEY SHOW AWARDS



Gail Dean with her blue ribbon

LIGHT EXTRACTED HONEY
Commendable: James Ritchie
Highly Commendable: Randy Rolan
Very Highly Commendable: Marilynn Parker
3rd place: Virginia Webb
2nd place: Kelley Campbell
1st place: Gail Dean

MEDIUM EXTRACTED HONEY
Commendable: Brutz English
Highly Commendable: Gail Dean
Very Highly commendable: Marilynn Parker
3rd place: Heather King
2nd place: Cindy Hodges
1st place: Randy Rolan

DARK EXTRACTED HONEY
Commendable: Heather King
Very Highly Commendable: Julia Mahood
2nd place: Timothy Hoffman

BLACK JAR: Heather King

CREAMED HONEY
Commendable: Heather King
Highly Commendable: Annette Jackson
Very Highly Commendable: Ann Shelton
3rd place: Bobby Chassion
2nd place: Julia Mahood
1st place: Randy Rolan

CUT COMB
1st place: James Ritchie

CHUNK HONEY
3rd place: James Ritchie

ARTWORK RELATED TO BEEKEEPING
Commendable: Randy Rolan
Highly Commendable: Bear Kelley
Very Highly Commendable: Lisa Hogue
3rd place: Janet Phillips
2nd place: Julia Mahood
1st place: Denise Elliott

PHOTOGRAPHY RELATED TO BEEKEEPING
3rd place: Denise Elliott
2nd place: Daphney Glass
1st place: Jennifer Berry

MOLDED ORNAMENTAL CANDLES
3rd place: Heather King
2nd place: Cindy Hodges
1st place: Brutz English

CANDLES
2nd place: Michael Hogue
1st place: Virginia Webb

WAX BLOCK
Commendable: Michael Hogue
Highly Commendable: Jonathan Hayes
Very Highly Commendable: Heather King
3rd place: RoseAnn Fielder
2nd place: Virginia Webb

CRAFTS RELATED TO BEEKEEPING
Commendable: Lisa Hogue
Very Highly Commendable: Daphney Glass
3rd place: Virginia Webb
2nd place: Bobby Chassion
1st place: Annette Jackson

PRISON HONEY
3rd place: Dooly State Prison
2nd place: Lee Arrendale State Prison
1st place: Ware State Prison



*Far Left-Warden Tom Gramiak
 Center Holding the Award-Education Officer Billy Carter
 Right-Deputy Warden for Care and Treatment Edwina Johnson
 And the Beekeeper Inmates of Ware State Prison*

BEST IN SHOW
Randy Rolan for creamed honey



Head judge Keith Fielder presents the Best in Show award to Randy Rolan



Beekeeper of the Year

Bill Owens is this year's recipient of the Beekeeper of the Year award. Bill has been a tireless volunteer for GBA and many other organizations in our state.

Congratulations, Bill!



NOVEMBER CLUB CALENDAR

Club Name	Speaker/Topic	When	Where	City
Appalachian Beekeepers Association	Linda Tillman, Beekeeping the Simple Way: Tips and Tricks	Thurs, Nov 10, 7pm	Senior Center, 400 Stegall Dr	Jasper, GA
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Assn	Slade Jarrett of Jarrett Apiaries	Mon Nov 7 7pm	965 Austin Rd.,	Winder, Ga
Gwinnett Beekeepers	Ray Civitts, Winter/Spring Management	Tues Nov 8 7 PM	Hebron Baptist Church	Dacula, GA
Heart of Georgia	2017 officers election, and Darlyn Davis will speak	Tues 7pm Nov 15	Camp John Hope	Fort Valley, GA
Lake Country	Dr. Jamie Ellis The Humorous Honey Bee: Design and Function	Mon Nov 21 7 PM	Hancock County Library 8984 East Broad Street	Sparta, GA
N Macon Bee Club	New club formation	Thurs Nov 3	Wellness Center	3797 Northside Dr Macon, GA
TARA	Short Course	Sat Nov 5 8a-4p	Georgia Power Building	752 Main Street Forest Park, Ga. 30297
TARA	Honey Show and Elections	Mon 7pm Nov 21	GA Power Bldg	752 Main Street Forest Park, Ga. 30297
West Georgia	Barry Bolling: Beekeepers Calendar	Mon 6:30 Nov 28	Douglasville American Legion,	Douglasville, GA

Please email your upcoming club events to us for future newsletters!

gbaneletters@gmail.com





Dear Aunt Bee,

A bunch of beekeepers and myself have experienced unusually aggressive bees. The hives have a laying queen with lots of brood, plenty of honey stores and frames of available drawn comb. Why in early October are they so aggressive?

Signed,

Repeatedly Stung

Dear Repeatedly,

It is frustrating when the very creatures we care for seem to turn on us and “bite the hand that feeds them” so to speak. From your description, they seem to be healthy hives so I would rule out internal causes such as queenlessness or starvation. It could be that a nectar flow has suddenly stopped. This can make hives temperamental when they find the grocery store shelves are suddenly empty with winter approaching. Another likely cause is external predators trying to stock their own pantry. Repeated attempts to rob the hives can put them in a constant defensive posture going after anything that comes near – including beekeepers. Likely culprits are skunks, yellow jackets, or even honeybees from other hives. You might try severely reducing the entrance size down to an inch or so making it much easier to defend. Hope this helps.

Signed,

Aunt Bee

Aunt Bee reaches out to experienced beekeepers for answers many times. This answer was provided by Master Beekeeper Steve Nofs in Macon, GA.



Dear Aunt Bee,

Do you think that God made Goldenrod honey smell bad so beekeepers would leave it for the bees to eat over winter?

Signed,

Goldenrank

Dear Goldenrank,

Who says goldenrod smells bad? And it is a great honey for bees to eat when overwintering.

Signed,

Aunt Bee

Wanted: Physical therapist or physician who is also a beekeeper and hopefully a GBA member.

We want to talk to you about a breakout idea for the spring meeting.

Please get in touch with Linda at gabepresident@gmail.com



STREET CRED

A team of students in Slovenia are working on a project based on bees and beekeeping.

They are asking beekeepers worldwide to complete a brief survey to help them.

If you are willing to share some anonymous information, click this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/e7y33yCbDAGZdQAn2>

“An overwintered nuc is a queen with support staff”

—Michael Palmer

PERRY NATIONAL FAIR HONEY SHOW



Show judges and stewards

The Heart of Georgia Beekeepers sponsored the Perry National Fair Honey Show on October 14, 2016. There were 14 exhibitors with 33 entries to the show. This show featured light, medium, dark extracted honey, and black jar.

The winners were:

Light Extracted: 1st Heather King, 2nd Jonathan Hayes, 3rd Gail Dean, Very Highly Commendable Annette Jackson, Highly Commendable, Virginia Webb, Commendable Barbara Phillips.

Medium Extracted: 1st Jonathan Hayes, 2nd Heather King, 3rd Brutz English.

Dark Extracted: 1st Virginia Webb, 2nd Gail Dean, 3rd Heather King, Very Highly commendable David Tolar.

Black Jar Heather King.

Best in Show: Heather King.

Each first place winner received \$100, and the Best in Show also received \$100.

Judges were Brutz English, Sean Massey, Bear Kelley, and the Senior Judge was Virginia Webb. Steward assisting the judges; Gail Dean, Barbara Phillips, Marybeth Kelley. Secretaries were Marybeth Kelley and Barbara Phillips. Broadus Williams was the chief organizer of the event.

Respectfully submitted,

Marybeth Kelley

Show Secretary



Darlyn Davis and American Honey Princess Tabitha Mansker at the GA National Fair

Is your raffle Legal?

Many of you may remember the article in the May 2016 Newsletter about raffles. We reported concerns about the possible legal problems a club or the state meeting might run into if a raffle were held. The organization holding the raffle could be in big legal trouble if a license had not been obtained before holding the raffle.

We were worried about the issues of whether or not we could legally hold the raffle at the fall GBA meeting. Brutz English took on the task of finding out what was needed to hold a raffle at Milledgeville.

Brutz's first step was to contact the Baldwin County sheriff's office to find out what we should do in order to hold a raffle within legal bounds at the college. He played phone and email tag for several days but finally got the forms to submit for a license.

Rose Anne, our GBA treasurer, needed to fill out the forms, so all of the officers sent information to her. Before the forms were delivered to the sheriff's office, Brutz got a last-minute call (on October 4) giving us permission to have a raffle without obtaining a license.

We had a great raffle with wonderful prizes, including a nuc from Mountain Sweet Honey, a whole hive box from Rossman, and a ticket for admission to Young Harris (which came with a Broodminder and an OxVap treatment). GBA took in almost \$1000 toward the cost of the meeting from selling raffle tickets. We appreciate everyone who participated and bought a \$1 ticket. And many thanks to Gina Gallucci and Tim Doherty who promoted and sold the tickets.

We encourage your club to contact your local sheriff's department, secure the license if needed, and offer great prizes in your fund-raising raffle. It really works!

HONEY CONTEST

The best tasting honey in the world will be awarded at the 6th annual, 2016 Black Jar Honey Tasting Contest located at the Center for Honeybee Research in Asheville, NC. Judging will be held in late January, 2017. Registration must be postmarked by November 15, 2016.

Grand Prize is \$2000 U.S, blue ribbon, name added to trophy and Center website, and bragging rights for the whole world. We will also award \$150 each to winners in ten categories - which will be determined based upon the qualities and quantity of entries received.

To read more about it, go here:
<http://www.chbr.org/2016HoneyContest.aspx>

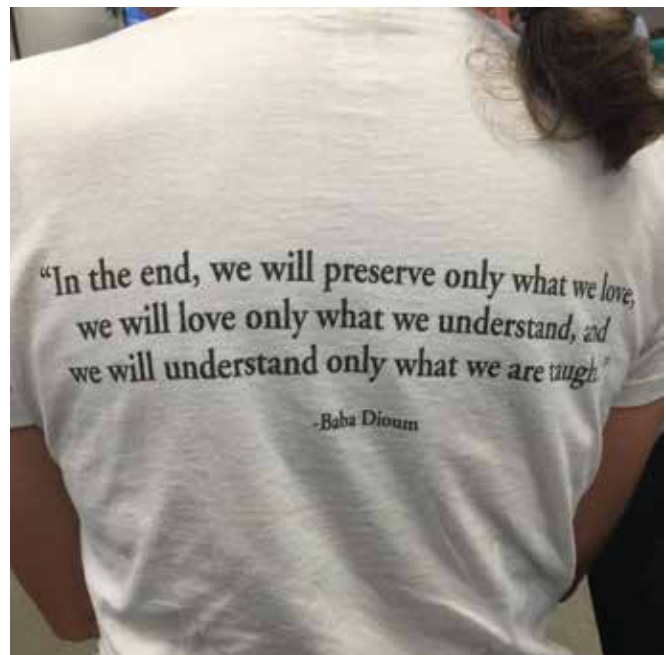
“When buying a queen, ask the queen breeder how long they left the queen in the nuc after she started laying. Many take her out and sell her within a day or so and she is not a viable queen because of it.”

—Jennifer Berry

GBA Board of Directors meeting at the Fall Conference minutes are available.

Go here to read the minutes:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qzf-KgYqF3-TJ_TKDNfxcUphvyLDY YCq5vr9yGw71nI/edit?usp=sharing



**Please email your submissions for the December newsletter!
We need your tips, your recipes, your questions, and your news.
Send them to gbanewsletters@gmail.com**

Rick Moore and Julia Mahood, *GBA newsletter editors*



Spilling *The* Honey

DECEMBER 2016



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Because I've never been president of a state organization before, I decided to call each of the presidents of the bee organizations in the surrounding states as a way to learn how to do this. I've learned a lot from each president to whom I have spoken.

I was shocked to find out that we are the smallest state organization in the southeast. Every state has a membership at least double ours. For example, [Alabama Beekeepers Association](#) has over 1400 members; [South Carolina Beekeepers Association](#) has 1600 members; [Tennessee Beekeepers Association](#) has 1700 members. The Georgia Beekeepers Association has only 760 members and 200 of those have allowed their memberships to lapse. We need growth. Increased membership means better conferences, better speakers, better food at the meetings, and more friends to meet and know in beekeeping.

I would like to have at least 50% of the membership of each local club become members of GBA. I plan to talk about this in the clubs I visit and I encourage all of you to try to add members to our GBA list.

Advantages of membership include two great conferences a year, speakers that most local clubs can't afford to bring in, this wonderful newsletter to read each month, and access to a ton of beekeeping resources around the state. If you know about activities in other clubs, you can share short course ideas, find out about good speakers, and maybe plan some inter-connected activities. As the holidays approach, consider giving a GBA membership to one of your local club members who does not yet belong. [An individual membership is only \\$15.](#)

Also in the holiday spirit, consider donating honey to a local homeless shelter as an outreach. You could begin the tradition in your local club of giving honey every year to bring something special to people in shelters. In this way you can spread the joys of beekeeping.

While we are celebrating the holidays, remember our upcoming spring meeting. The spring meeting will be on Saturday, February 18th at the UGA Griffin campus in Griffin, Georgia. [Marla Spivak](#) of the bee lab at the University of Minnesota will be our special guest speaker. We are planning a dinner and talk on Friday night with Marla, so plan to come on Friday afternoon to hear her as well as on Saturday at the conference. Watch for details coming soon!

Everyone have a happy holiday season and cheer your beekeeping friends on to become GBA members.

Linda Tillman
GBA President

The spring meeting will be on Saturday, February 18th at the UGA Griffin campus in Griffin, Georgia. Marla Spivak of the bee lab at the University of Minnesota will be our special guest speaker.

DECISIVE DANCING IN HONEY BEES

by *Rachael E. Bonoan* Ph.D. Candidate, Tufts University • @RachaelEBee, www.rachaelebonoan.com

Decision-making is hard. Decision-making in a group is even harder. While we struggle with group decision-making, honey bees are so good at it that their colonies are referred to as a superorganism. In this superorganism, each individual is analogous to a cell, and the colony works as an organism. For this reason, studying decision-making in superorganisms can help us better understand decision-making within both groups and individuals.

An example of an important decision honey bees make together: choosing a new home.

In European honey bees, we know a lot about this process. When it gets too cozy in their hive, half of the workers leave with the old queen and swarm to an intermediate location. There, scout bees lead the search for a new home. Until recently however, we didn't know how Asian honey bees made this important decision.

Unlike European honey bees, Asian honey bees, nest in the open; their colony's population size is not constrained by a nest cavity. As such, Asian honey bees tend to swarm to find a home with more food rather than to find a home with more room for all those bees.

created Asian honey bee swarms which were released on a swarm board. Equipped with a video camera, the researchers filmed the scout bees as they searched for new home sites and made their decision. To get an idea of individual behavior, the researchers labeled scout bees with colored paint.



Swarm board and video camera set up.

Photo: Makinson et al. 2014



European honey bees nesting in a natural cavity. Also called a "bee tree." Photo: Alex Wild



An Asian honey bee swarm that has been marked with colored paint so individuals can be identified.

Photo: James C. Makinson



Asian honey bees nesting on a tree branch.

Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Asian honey bees are much quicker at deciding on a new home than European honey bees (hours vs. days respectively). How do Asian honey bees make this group decision so quickly?

Recently, James C. Makinson, a post-doctoral research assistant in the Bee Sensory and Behavioral Ecology Lab at Queen Mary University of London, and colleagues investigated this question. The team

Like European honey bees, the duration of an Asian scout bee's dance is directly related to the quality of the new home site. Unlike European honey bees however, Asian scout bees do not exhibit dance decay when narrowing down their choice. In European honey bees, a scout visits a potential new home multiple times. Each time, the duration of her dance shortens. Another scout follows the dancer's directions and checks out the site herself. This recruited scout will also visit the site multiple times. She too will shorten the duration of her dance with each visit. Since scouts do longer dances for more favorable homes from the start, scouts dancing for higher quality homes will continue dancing even after dances for lower quality homes have ceased. Eventually, dance decay results in only dances for the most favorable home site. This is when the bees take off.

Asian honey bees use a different means of coming to a consensus. Makinson and colleagues found that scouts dancing for a "non-chosen" location change their dance direction after observing the dance

of a “chosen” location. Asian scout bees switch their dances—or change their minds—without visiting the potential new home themselves. These “switchers” simply trust what the other scout bees are telling them. This is likely how Asian honey bees make their decision so much faster than European honey bees. It also suggests that checking out the site for themselves isn’t as important to Asian honey bees as it is to European honey bees. Based on their nesting behavior, this makes sense. Since European honey bees nest in cavities, the bees check out the cavity to make sure it’s the right shape, size, height, etc. Since Asian honey bees nest in the open, they have less factors to debate about when making their decision.

It seems that Asian honey bees are efficient at group decision-making because they pay attention to only the pertinent information. They don’t let irrelevant factors (in their case, shape, size, height, etc. of the home site) get in the way. They stay focused on the specific task at hand: find a new home.

For more information about this research and decision making in honey bees:

Makinson JC, Schaerf TM, Rattanawanee A, Oldroyd BP, Beekeman M. 2016. How does a swarm of the giant Asian honeybee *Apis dorsata* reach consensus? A study of the individual behavior of scout bees. *Insectes Sociaux* 63: 395-406.

Makinson JC, Schaerf TM, Rattanawanee A, Oldroyd BP, Beekeman M. 2014. Consensus building in giant Asian honeybee, *Apis dorsata*, swarms on the move. *Animal Behavior* 93: 191-199.

Seeley TD, Visscher KP, Passino KM. 2006. Group decision making in honey bee swarms. *American Scientist* 94: 220-229.



Dear Aunt Bee,

What is a varroa bomb and how do I know if I have one?

Signed,

Varroa Bummed

Dear Bummed,

A varroa bomb occurs when a colony suddenly experiences a massive increase in varroa, according to Jennifer Berry of the UGA Bee Lab,

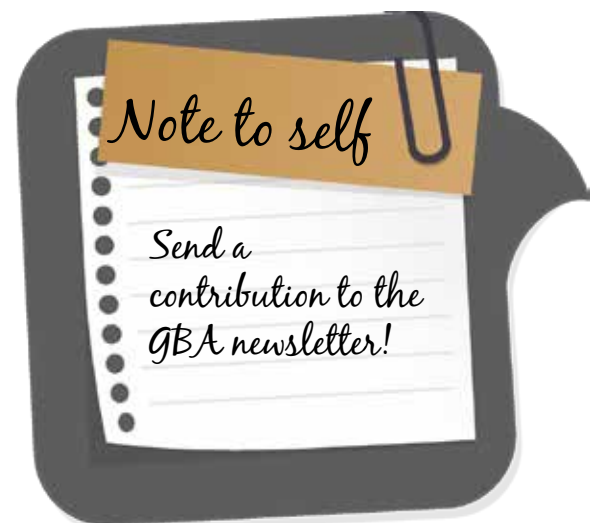
This can be the result of a weak colony crashing from the mite population, being robbed by another stronger colony, which not only robs the honey but picks up varroa in the weaker colony and take them back to the stronger colony. It can also occur when a colony heavily infected with varroa drifts or evacuates into another close by colony. Either way, the recipient colony can go from a small amount into an explosion of perhaps thousands of varroa within a short time.

This usually occurs in late Summer, early Fall (August to October) when colonies are suffering the most from over population of mites. Varroa can crawl around inside a hive, but they need a bee to transport them from one colony to another.

Ms Berry suggests backyard beekeepers monitor the colonies for mite load monthly during that crucial time period, and if any colonies show an increase in varroa, treat the entire apiary as a superorganism instead of an individual colony. Varroa is a threat at 1 mite per 100 bees because of the other stressors and viruses affecting honey bees.

Signed,

Aunt Bee



We would like to introduce a new segment to the newsletter, entitled “Note to self.” This is the opportunity for you to send in those little things you’ve learned about beekeeping, that you certainly want to remember for future use.



SEX, BUGS, AND ROCK 'N' ROLL by Noah Macey, Master Beekeeper

Beehives are like dreams—outwardly sleepy, but internally chaotic with the power of flight, the fear of falling, raucous celebrity sex, lavish banquets, and Freudian imagery. A visit to an apiary is like a visit to a room full of sleepers; everything is silent. I once worked at an apiary in midtown Atlanta atop a skyscraper below the Coca-Cola building, surrounded by traffic, and when I walked among the beehives the sound fell out of the air like rain from a cloud, leaving only a silky buzz. All apiaries are alive with the sense of solemnity that accompanies repeated rituals—donning a protective veil, lighting the smoker (smoke keeps the bees a bit sluggish), failing to light the smoker, the eventual success, puffing the contraption, watching the translucent tendrils leak forth to waver in front of the hives, hearing the crack that accompanies opening one for the first time in a long while, and the ensuing whine of bees exposed to the outside air.

Apiaries crop up in every place imaginable—teetering on windy skyscraper roofs, nestled in quiet suburban backyards, on the periphery of rickety wooden playgrounds, overlooking sprawling community gardens, supervising verdant nature reserves, perched on 30th story balconies of the Four Seasons—but they all feel about the same, air pungent with smoke and anticipation. My family's first apiary was in our acid-green living room. The hive was a roughly pizza-box shaped, glass-and-wood number with a clear plastic tube running outside that inhaled and exhaled bees. That situation was abnormal; most apiaries, wherever they're situated, resemble poorly laid out miniature apartment complexes—a series of windowless towers, composed of smaller boxes stacked atop one another. Often, the hives are scattered in strange spots wherever the beekeeper could find level ground, like petals strewn by a flower girl, or Starbucks franchises. Occasionally, the hives are lined up with care like a ticky-tacky, prefab subdivision, all entrances facing the rising sun to help wake their inhabitants, boxes fastidiously level and uniform. Bees hate this. It confuses them, and they end up toting the day's nectar and pollen back to the wrong hive, a phenomenon called drift. My grandfather once got in the wrong car and drove it around for a week before opening the glove box and realizing he'd switched with someone; this is how I imagine a bee feels when she drifts.

Sometimes, beekeepers paint the sides of the boxes—technically termed supers—with elaborate, mandala-like patterns of warm colors. Sometimes, they paint tiny pictures of bees on the outside, or Rothko-esque blocks of color, or they paint all the boxes deep-sea blue or baby-poop green. Once, my mother painted a super with an exact copy of the Mona Lisa, gazing at a jar of honey, with the caption, "Why she's smiling." Some beekeepers put foam stickers on their hive fronts to help the bees remember which hives are theirs; these stickers are aesthetically reminiscent of yard flamingos. Some beekeepers don't decorate their hives at all.

Bees don't care much about their hives' exteriors. Honeybees will live large in state-of-the-art, laser-cut hives decked out with viewing windows and a landing board just as happily as they will squat between your walls. They'll build vertically in a lighting-hollowed oak, or horizontally in a cobbled together trough-like structure made from pallets found behind a Whole Foods, a hive style popular among broke beekeepers. Their apathy about the hive's exterior counterbalances an ardor for interior decoration, about which they are meticulous.

A beehive's only furniture is honeycomb, which quadruples as a pantry, crib, bed, and dance floor (eat your heart out, IKEA). Combs hang in long, opalescent, white sheets from the top of whatever space the bees occupy. Beekeepers use hollow, thin

frames to make the comb movable—they resemble rectangular billiard ball racks. Young bees fill these frames by festooning off each other; they hang from the top of the frame, using four or five of their six legs to cling to the bees above and below them, and excrete wax from their abdomen. They stick the gooey wax flakes onto the next highest bee, who adds her own gobs and sticks it on the bee hanging above, up and up and up to the top bee, who adds wax to the growing comb. The process looks so majestic—bees hanging in arcs and clouds, loops and swirls, trapezing using only other bee bodies—that it's easy to forget that they're slathering each other with warm secretions. The glamorous, fragile, intricate final product is a testament to communal effort that would make Lenin green with envy.

The comb they make is two-sided, each side covered in thousands of hexagonal cells, in which bees spend large parts of the day dozing. Bees nap so often that "to be as busy as a bee" isn't saying much at all. Honey, too, goes in these cells, and is capped by a thin layer of white, bumpy wax that vaguely recalls stucco. Perhaps most importantly, the queen bee uses them to lay eggs.

People have misconceptions about queen bees. To clear up the biggest whopper: she rules nothing. The queen is just an egg-laying machine; she has more in common with a Dugger than Elizabeth II. Every bee in the hive—all 80,000—is her child. On good days, she gives birth over 1,000 times, prompting the question, "Good day for whom?" She reeks, and her smell oozes all over the hive, escorted by fanning wings and scurrying legs, to let the bees know she's still there, that mom is okay, and that the hive is poised to live (or, at least, die of something other than queenlessness). If the queen scent disappears, the hive knows within hours, and the hive goes into crisis mode.

The queen is just an egg-laying machine; she has more in common with a Dugger than Elizabeth II.

Deadbeat, fat, and nymphomaniacal drones (male bees) and their worker sisters compose the rest of the hive's citizenry. Drones are all but superfluous to hive function. Their time is spent

1. Eating
2. Having sex.

Due to the peculiarities of honeybee biology, drones fall dead from the sky after the second item, and if their libidos don't kill them, their siblings will. The workers gnaw off their brothers' wings at the root and eject them, flightless, from the hive every autumn. Otherwise the drones would gorge themselves on too many of the winter honey stores.

Though ostensibly aggressive with their brothers, worker bees are the most selfless entities in the animal kingdom. Workers feed the hive's wriggly larvae, clean up their peers' feces, and drag out each other's rotting corpses. They will vibrate together for warmth like penguins, or spill out the hive entrance to keep cool like loitering teenagers on a stoop in August. They'll take on yellow jackets, bald-faced hornets, rats, skunks and bears to protect their hive, and they'll die doing so—a worker bee's stinger rips from her body, along with her internal organs, when she stings. Thus, in exchange for a crack of orange-yellow pain in a potential hive intruder, she gives her life.

Worker bees die for their hive, but they also dance for it. Parallels between the beehive and the nightclub abound—both are dark,

crammed with bodies, filled with dancers trying to entice others, and both often prompt dissatisfaction from locals when they set up shop in a neighborhood. Bees use dances to communicate the location of food sources, employing a complicated jig involving symbolic representation of the sun, its location in the sky, and the angle from it to blooming flowers. The entire routine has the innocuous name of the “waggle dance,” which sounds like a kindergarten recess activity. New variations come in and out of vogue as different patches of flowers bloom through the season. We humans move from Foxtrot to Electric Slide to Duggy to Wobble while bees move from red maple to tulip poplar to nasturtium to goldenrod. Bees also have the freedom to literally dance like nobody’s watching; in the complete darkness of a beehive, the dancing bee’s peers must detect her movements solely through vibration.

There are wild beehives, but their numbers are weakening. Increasingly, honeybees rely on us humans to take them on as tenants. Many beekeepers do consider themselves landlords, who take rent in the form of honey in return for supers and maintenance. I, for one, have a problem with this characterization of the human-bee relationship because most tenants pay rent semi-willingly, without kamikaze-style attacks à la bee sting. To keep a beehive isn’t a transactional relationship between human and honey machines; rather, it’s a symbiosis, a powerful demonstration of the dramatic, entertaining, mesmerizing, cycles of nature that take place when we make room for the natural world in our man-made one. An elderly Englishman with a long white ponytail once told me, “When you’re in the thick of keeping bees, holding a frame, watching them go, a murderer could walk up in front of you and stab you before you’d even notice he was there.” I disagree; the murderer would have to gaze over an open hive of honeybees, and even Jack the Ripper wouldn’t be able to draw blood without asking a few questions first.

Bee Shirt Gallery



Brian White shows off his Middle Georgia state University bee t-shirt



Lena Franklin—busier than most bees!

TREASURER UPDATE

Our new Treasurer is Bear Kelley. Please send GBA checks to him at this address:

Bear Kelley
108 Formosa Dr
Cordele, GA 31015

PICTURE THIS

“Visitors from beyond” submitted by Mary Cahill Roberts

Send us your bee-related photography for the next newsletter.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We want your submissions— photos, articles, questions , recipes, club news— and we also want your feedback and suggestions for how we can make your newsletter better!

Drop us a line:
 gbanewsletters@gmail.com



COWETA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

2017 Officers and Directors

President: Daniel Scales, Vice President: Debbie King, Secretary: Marilynn Parker,

Treasurer: Andy Anderson, Previous President: Steven Page

Elected Directors Elected three-year terms, staggered, electing two per year.

2015-2017 Bobby Torbush, 2015-2017 Mike Dixon, 2016-2018 Kara Bassett, 2016-2018 Griff Jones, 2017-2019 Dave King, 2017-2019 Peter Lorincz

Raffle Coordinator: Mike Dixon, Web Master: Steve Page

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Ogeechee Area Beekeepers, The Altamaha Beekeepers, and the Dublin Beekeepers Association will have a joint Christmas lunch on December 3 at the UGA Research Center, 8167 Hwy 178 Lyons GA

The Ogeechee Area Beekeepers will announce their Beekeeper of the year. Come and join us

TROUP COUNTY BEEKEEPERS



Recently Troup County Beekeepers decorated a table with one of their painted hives for a luncheon fundraiser at the Lagrange Symphony Guild. This was a spinoff from their painted hive contest and created awareness for their club and for pollinators.



Troup County Beekeepers also participated in Youth Field Day held at Marvin Jones Memorial Outdoor Learning Center. Equipped with their observation hive, they educated 287 students on the importance of pollinators. The bees were the stars of the day as far as students and coordinators were concerned! This will be an annual event.

HEART OF GEORGIA BEEKEEPERS

2017 officers for Heart of Georgia Beekeepers were elected in November. The new officers are:

President: Rick Moore, Vice President: Jonathan Hayes, Secretary: Hazel McCurdy, Treasurer: Emily Heath, Director: Broadus Williams, Director: Marybeth Kelley.

Congratulations to our new officers.

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers participated at the E.L. Greenway Welcome Center Complex to educate and entertain up to 90 kindergarten children on November 17 at the historic Railroad Station Welcome Center in Warner Robins, which is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.



Bill Willford and Joe Gaggin joined Rick Moore in demonstrating the observation hive and telling the children about honey bees.

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers will hold their Silent Auction and potluck dinner on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at Camp John Hope. The club will furnish the meat, members are asked to bring a covered dish or dessert.



DECEMBER CLUB CALENDAR

Club Name	Speaker/Topic	When	Where	City
Appalachian Beekeepers Association		Thurs, 7pm	Senior Center, 400 Stegall Dr	Jasper, GA
Coweta Beekeepers Assn	Christmas Party	Dec 12, 6:30pm	Coweta County Fairgrounds	
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Assn		Mon, 7pm	965 Austin Rd.,	Winder, Ga
Gwinnett Beekeepers		Tues 7 PM	Hebron Baptist Church	Dacula, GA
Heart of Georgia	Silent Auction and Potluck Dinner	Tues, Dec 13, 7pm	Camp John Hope	Fort Valley, GA
Lake Country		Mon 7 PM	Hancock County Library 8984 East Broad Street	Sparta, GA
The Little River Beekeepers		Tues, Dec 27, 6:30pm	Cook County Ag Extension Office	
N Macon Bee Club		Thurs	Wellness Center	3797 Northside Dr Macon, GA
TARA	Christmas Dinner	Mon, Dec 5, 5:45pm	GA Power Bldg	752 Main Street Forest Park, Ga. 30297
TARA	End of the year social/beekeeper of the year and baked potato bar	Mon, Dec 19, 7pm	GA Power Bldg	752 Main Street Forest Park, Ga. 30297
Troup County Beekeepers	Christmas Party	Sat, Dec 3, 5-7pm	Brad Myers house	
West Georgia		Mon 6:30	Douglasville American Legion,	Douglasville, GA

DREBBIEVILLE HIVES TO EXHIBIT AT ABF

By Brian Drebbler 404 210-4844 • bedrebbler@aol.com

Drebbieville Hives will be an exhibitor at the ABF Conference in Galveston TX January 10-14. They will display a sample bee house complete with the modified Slovenian AZ style bee cabinets called the “Drebbieville Hive” produced in Dawsonville, Georgia by Artisan Millworks, LLC.

An early version of this modified Slovenian AZ hive was introduced at the GBA Fall Conference in 2015. This October a complete new production Drebbieville “bee cabinet” was donated to the live auction and was the highest priced single item, raising \$375 for the GBA.

“Many beekeepers, even experienced ones, are unaware that this design has been around as long as the Langstroth. They see it as something newfangled and different. Different and in some ways... better! But certainly not new — until we made a few changes” says Brian Drebbler.

It involved a complete redesign to better suit the needs of the North American market. In 2014, changing the size of the frame to match the dimensions of a Langstroth deep solved two problems: commonly available foundation fits, and the frames themselves fit in any extractor designed to accept Langstroth deep frames — neither being the case until now.

The entire hive was then constructed around this one modification, which vastly improves the interchangeability between the two methods of beekeeping.

While this century-old design is used by commercial beekeepers in Slovenia and elsewhere, the real appeal is to new beekeepers and hobbyists. We have coined a few terms like “the heaviest thing you’ll lift is a frame of honey” among others, said Brian Drebbler.

Mary Cahill-Roberts put it another way as they loaded two of them in her truck in Milledgeville. “I’m looking for less schlepping!”

Beginners can discover the joy of beekeeping — minus the heavy lifting. Experienced beeks can apply their skill and knowledge in a refreshing new way. Beekeepers inclined to give up their hobby for physical reasons can extend the experience. Those who have been forced to abandon beekeeping altogether can rediscover its pleasure and benefits. The physically challenged can approach the idea of being able to perform beekeeping duties — even from a wheelchair, for instance.

Aaah, but the real fun comes from designing the shelter in which the hives need to be placed. Because they open from the rear much like a kitchen cabinet, hives must be at least protected under a roof. These shelters can range from a simple “doghouse roof” to an elaborate honey house. Many striking images (and ideas) can be found online. An image search for “Slovenian AZ beekeeping” produces thousands of pictures. An apiary can become an attractive garden accessory and not just a collection of boxes!

Come visit Drebbler at Booth 415 and for more information visit us at www.drebbievillehives.com or on Facebook.

Brian Drebbler 404 210-4844 • bedrebbler@aol.com • <http://youtu.be/NsIq2TOjhBU>



Film Fest

Check out these very interesting videos by Mukibrain, [“Morning Bees”](#) and his most recent work [“Insects Before Winter”](#)

GBA PRISON PROGRAM

By Clay "Bear" Kelley

November 2, 2016, Jennifer Berry along with her crew from the UGA Bee Lab went to the Dooly State Prison to administer the certification test to 12 inmates and two staff personnel. Assisting her was Broadus Williams and Bear Kelley. Rick Moore has been teaching the Dooly inmates on a weekly basis most of this year, and thus was allowed to test as well. The results are: 14 tested, of which 8 scored 100% and the lowest score was 96. The average test score was 98%! No failures again.

The inmates all received their certificates and were extremely grateful to a part of the beekeeping program. Rick Moore is to be commended for his untiring efforts to ensure the success of this program. He has already started a second class of a dozen new inmates. The certified inmates will be mentoring the newbees.

Jennifer Berry from UGA Bee Lab has approval to expand the prison program to a higher level, Journeyman, but some details are yet to be worked out. The success of this program has gone above and beyond original expectations.



**EASTERN
APICULTURE
SOCIETY**

by Linda Tillman, GBA President and EAS Director

The [Eastern Apiculture Society](#) is the umbrella covering the beekeeping associations in the eastern part of the country. As President of GBA, I am sitting on the board of directors for EAS, representing GBA. When the board meets, I will attend and report to our membership. I attended the board meeting virtually on Saturday, November 12.

[Erin Forbes](#) who spoke at GBA when we met at Lake Blackshear is the current chairperson of the board. In the meeting, I was confirmed as a new director along with the directors from several other states. I was interested to discover that some states are not represented at EAS, including Tennessee, Mississippi, Vermont. I was proud of Georgia for having representation at EAS.

The biggest items on the agenda were the upcoming conferences. The 2017 conference will be held at the [University of Delaware](#) on July 31 - August 4, 2017. Speakers will include Michael Young, Tom Seeley, Michael Palmer, Marla Spivak, Jay Evans. Every day will have breakout workshops run by people like Jim Tew and Tammy Horn. If you read the bee magazines, most of those names will be recognizable to you.

Every evening at the conference will have intriguing activities like Bee Jeopardy and Dancing on the Green. Tours away from the conference will be available to places like the [Nemours Gardens](#) (famous gardens belonging to the Dupont family) and [Mount Cuba](#). The EAS meeting has a great honey contest as well. I hope we'll have a number of GBA members in attendance.

The 2018 conference will be held in Virginia. Obviously planning is still in the early stages. But Jamie Ellis, Keith Delaplane, Julianna Rangel, and Randy Oliver are already lined up to present.

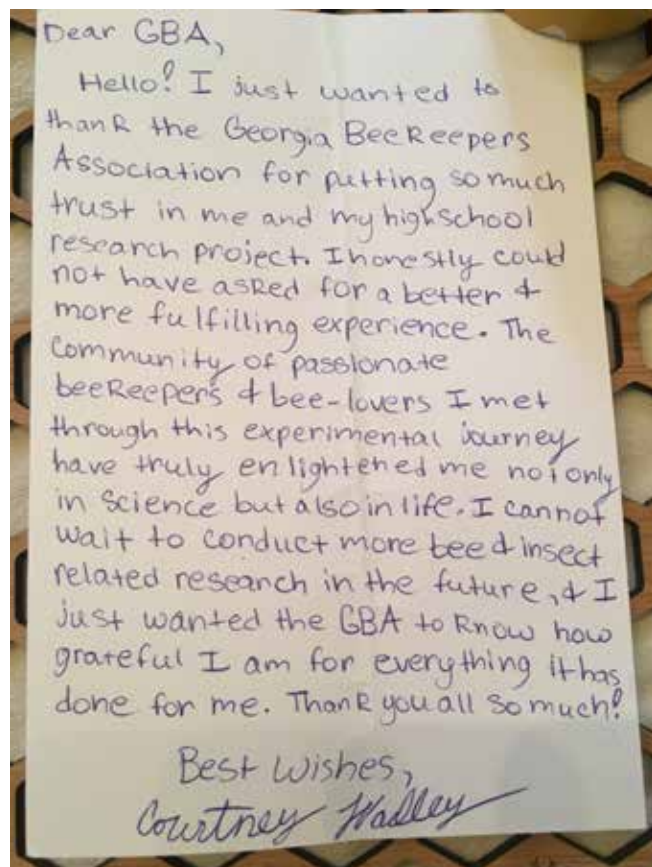
I'm hoping GBA members will take an active interest in EAS as it is a way to expand our horizons as beekeepers and as a state association.

Thanks, GBA!

GBA awarded a Buzz Fund grant to high school student Courtney Wadley for a research project she did with honey bees. Courtney presented her findings at the Fall Meeting.

Our Treasurer, Bear Kelley, shared this note that Courtney sent along with a check for \$285.00, the unused portion of the grant money.

We will look forward to seeing what Courtney does in the future!





The colorful spot you sometimes see on a queen's thorax is actually a code. The color denotes the year of the queen's birth. So with a just a quick look, you can tell how old she is. The International Color Chart works like this:

Years ending in 0 or 5 are blue.

Years ending in 1 or 6 are white.

Years ending in 2 or 7 are yellow.

Years ending in 3 or 8 are red.

Years ending in 4 or 9 are green.

Since queens normally live just a year or two, the color chart repeats every five years. Besides dating her, the bright paint spots makes it much, much easier to find her majesty among the tens of thousands of workers and drones.

A good idea building on this color system is to color code your nametags for your club meetings. Match the color of the tag to the corresponding year color above, and everyone will know who has paid dues for that year.



GBA STANDING COMMITTEES

by Linda Tillman, GBA President

Our by-laws require that the president set up the following standing committees. I am listing the committees, their chairs and the committee members. The president serves ex-officio on all standing committees except the beekeeper of the year committee.

Legislative Committee

Co-chairs: Tim Doherty
Gail Dean
Members: Brutz English
Gina Gallucci

Beekeeper of the Year Committee

Chair: Bill Owens
Members: Rose Anne Dorn
Bear Kelley

Nominating Committee

Co-Chairs: Brutz English
Broadus Williams
A third member will be appointed six months before the election in October

Meeting Committee

Chair: Gina Gallucci
Members: Jennifer Berry
Julia Mahood
Linda Tillman
Brutz English
Bear Kelley

In addition to the above standing committees, the following committees are also in existence and are currently working on projects:

Farm Bureau Liaison: Rose Anne Dorn

This liaison position reports to the board about the relationship of GBA with the Farm Bureau

Buzz Fund Committee

This committee processes applications for Buzz Fund grants
Chair: Brutz English
Members: Gina Gallucci
Rose Anne Dorn

Prison Program Committee

This committee consists of the people involved in teaching in the prisons and reports progress to GBA

Chair: Bear Kelley
Members: Jennifer Berry
Julia Mahood
Virginia Webb
Rick Moore
Brutz English
Broadus English

New Club Committee

This committee reviews applications of new local clubs who want to be certified by GBA

Chair: Paul Berry
Members: Broadus Williams
Bear Kelley

Honey Show Committee

This committee is in charge of arranging the honey shows and running them. They establish the entry table, judge the show or arrange judges, and hold GBA members to a high standard of production..

Chair: Brutz English
Members: Mary Cahill Roberts
Marybeth Kelley
Keith Fielder (Liaison to the Young Harris program)
Barbara Phillips

MARY'S MUSINGS: WAXMOTHS

by Mary Cahill-Roberts, Master Beekeeper and GBA Past President

Today's discussion begins with a common simple "pest". That is how we beeks view the opportunistic beast. Wax moths invade our supers and lay their eggs, which hatch and then eat our comb. Our hard earned drawn comb. The unsung GOLD of the bee season. The drawn comb that we need and want to reuse to help our early spring hives thrive.

Lifecycle:

Wax moths' life cycle consists four stages: egg, larva, pupa and adult. (sound familiar?). There are two species that infect our comb: the larger and the smaller wax moth (the Latin names *Galleria Mellonella* and *Achoria Grisella*). Both of the species eat wax, honey bee larval castings, pollen and honey bee silk cocoon. These are a few reasons why the wax moth prefer the drawn comb that has been used as brood comb. The honey super comb they will infest but not as much.

The wax moths depend on temperature for reproducing and pilfering, preferring 82-86F degrees. They like little light and no ventilation. It can take 3 days but up to 5 months for the eggs to hatch and the larva to grow. The adult female lives 12-18 days. The male lives longer. The female lays the eggs 5 days after maturing for about the next 7 days then she dies. She can lay 300-600 eggs throughout the hive. In an active strong hive the bees can clean the eggs out and decrease the amount of time the adult gets into the hive. In stored supers the female moth has hit the lottery. Depending on the temperature it can take only 3 days for those eggs to hatch. But since the hatching can occur several months later we can have problems with stored equipment.

Why waxmoths? Nature needed a way to clean out the old hives and allow new colonies to move into trees and or nesting sites of colonies. When a feral hive is in the tree and moves either by swarming or just because they leave. The bees leave behind old wax, honey and pollen stores. The wax moths job is to go in lay eggs in this old site and let the larva do the work. The larva would essentially eat everything and then leave behind an empty chamber for the next swarm looking for a new home.

If the waxmoth is able to invade a weak hive, then its job was to "Darwin" the weak hive so that it would die out. The wax moth will lay the eggs, the eggs hatch and the larva will eat the comb, disturbing the brood. Older bees in the hive will uncap the honey bee pupa causing balding of the young bees, leg or wing deformity. This makes weaker new bees causing more problems with increased wax moth infestation subsequently helping to kill the hive. The wax moth has a natural role in the honey bee life. We just don't like it.

My experience:

Into my second or third year of beekeeping I had extra equipment including drawn comb. I had to store them so I put them in my garage. The garage is warm and dark. A couple of weeks later I noted a few moths in the garage. About 3 weeks later we were infected and infested. My wife about killed me. There were hundreds of moths. I ended up throwing out about 50 frames and a couple of boxes as I could not get the frames out of the box from the wax moth cocoons. They ate into the wood in the boxes and they left behind a nice compost pile. My extra drawn comb for the following year was gone. They really caused a lot of damage and to top it off it was really gross.

Every year I try to make sure that I am careful and I would say that every other year I have a wax moth problem in one or two of my supers. Rarely do I have a problem in an active hive that I have managed well, key word well. If the hive has gone queenless and I have not intervened then I will have wax moth and beetles.

In the spring when I try to find comb I can use for the swarms or to help the hive out, I am mad at myself for not making sure that I stored the boxes appropriately. But then I give myself a break and remember that this is all about how much time you actually have and can put into the management of the bees (I have a real job that pays the mortgage).

Things to consider:

My philosophy on beekeeping is to keep my hives strong and healthy. I do not take all the honey they make in the spring. I make sure that I supplement feed them. I pull extra boxes that the bees cannot cover the frames of or the comb, (put the boxes in the freezer) and make sure that there are enough bees and honey in each box for the winter. I make sure the pollen traps are closed, so no new pollen gets in the trap in the fall and winter, as I am not going to check the trap. If the hives are strong then the wax moths will not be able to infest them.

When you extract your honey, put your supers back on your hives and have the bees clean out the honey that is still in the boxes. When the bees are done, take off the boxes and put them in the freezer. This will help kill off any eggs that might be in the comb, box or on the frames. I usually put mine in the freezer for 48 hours. Some of the resources I have read say a couple of hours at -15C (which is 5 F) is sufficient to kill the eggs. (I sometimes might forget they are in the freezer and get them out when my wife hollers). Then when I do pull the boxes out of the freezer I stack them on their side and make sure they have plenty of ventilation. I sometimes let them sit outside in the sun for a few days.

When you harvest honeycomb, make sure that you pack it in a way that wax moths cannot get to it. A jar with honey in it is a great deterrant. If you have whole frames make sure they get plenty of air, wherever you store the frames.

When you are scraping off burr comb don't leave it around the hive. When you put it in a pail and are "saving it for" later, make sure that you store it in a cool area that is well ventilated. I had a pail of scrapings that they just loved. Then I had a pail of cocoons.

If you are collecting pollen which everyone should do in Georgia, make sure that you check the traps every 2 days. You should empty the pollen and freeze it, because the wax moth has laid eggs in it and they will destroy your pollen supply quickly. Remember they can hatch in 3 days. The adults apparently like pollen also.

If you have an infestation and like to fish, use the larva as bait. If you don't fish put them in a jar and sell them. At least they are a natural product of the hive and they are good for something.

If the hives are strong then the wax moths will not be able to infest them



New location, UGA Griffin Campus!

The Spalding County Tourism Board is putting together a promotional package for our group including discounts on shopping, restaurants and activities. More details coming in next month's Spilling the Honey.



FEATURING
Marla Spivak, PhD
Michele Colopy
Charlie Parton

Dinner and lecture by Marla Spivak on
Friday evening, February 17
Conference all day **Saturday, February 18**



MAY YOUR DAYS BE

MERRY
>>>>> AND <<<<<
BRIGHT



*We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and
Happy Holidays!*



*Julia Mahood and Rick Moore,
Spilling the Honey Editors*

